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Opposition Leader files No-Confidence motion against PM Briceño

By Michelle Sutherland

Leader of the Opposition Moses "Shyne" Barrow has filed a no-confidence motion against Prime Minister John Briceño, which will be tabled at the next sitting of the House of Representatives.

Barrow submitted the document on Tuesday, August 1st, to the clerk of the House of Representatives and is now hoping to get not only the support of his colleagues but from sitting PUP

members.

On Tuesday, Barrow outlined what he hopes to achieve.

"Well, we hope that the many Cabinet ministers that opposed the prime minister's leadership internally will do so publicly. I can assure you, if John Briceño were to go to a convention right now, he would lose and that there is an internal struggle right now

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Leader of the Opposition Hon. Moses "Shyne" Barrow

BPM officially rejects redistricting report

By Michelle Sutherland

The Belize Peace Movement (BPM) has officially lodged its objection to the result of the redistricting report, saying they will be seeking redress on the matter should the report be debated and passed in the House of Representative.

On Wednesday, BPM's attorney Arthur Saldívar confirmed with The Reporter that he has sent the Election and Boundaries Commission an official response telling them that the

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BPM Attorney Arthur Saldívar

Prime Minister says he has 'no confidence' in the 'no-confidence' motion

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Prime Minister Hon. John Briceño

Global grain prices set to increase by 10 to 15%: IMF chief

INSIDE BOX:

Grain prices—which include wheat and rice—could increase between 10 to 15%, International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief economist explained in a recent IMF press conference.

Responding to

reporters' questions at the IMF's World Economic Outlook (WEO) July press briefing, chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas said, "Now that this grain deal has been suspended... it's likely to put upward pressure on food

prices."

"We have some estimates that we're looking at, you know, in terms of how much of the supply is going to be withdrawn and what is the elasticity of prices to the reduction in demand? And we're

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PIERRE-OLIVIER GOURINCHAS
CHIEF ECONOMIST AND DIRECTOR, RESEARCH DEPARTMENT, IMF



Just how effective are these states of emergency which are invoked from time to time when gang violence flares out of control?

Do they yield any long-term benefits, or are they band-aid measures which cover over the cut, but leaves the wound to heal by itself?

Mr. Richard "Dickie" Bradley, a reputable defense attorney with knowledge of these matters, says that national emergency measures are not effective in solving the problem of chronic gang violence.

"There is a failure of policy in regards to this matter of violent crime," he commented in a recent conversation with 7 News.

Does the Briceño Government have a policy for dealing with gang violence, or is it just the Minister of National Security and his Commissioner

of Police working to bring the crime wave under control?

Gang violence results from an overflow of greed and resentment, which boil over from time to time among rival gangs.

It is systemic in the sense that its roots are underground and

these spring back into action once the pressure of the state of emergency is removed.

To get to the problem one has dig for the root of the trouble,

and this is something that a state of emergency cannot accomplish.

A discussion on gang violence must involve the community working with law enforcement, the administration and the judiciary. All three must come together for the greater good of the nation.

The government and its law enforcement branch should not be using strong-armed tactics in their day-to-day dealings with the public.

They should dig beneath the surface to discover the hidden roots which nourish the gang movements in our country.

They need also to have inside information. But no one is going to put his life on the line to provide this kind of information if he or she does not have confidence in the police. There is a need for the legitimacy of the police unit to increase in the eyes of the public. Trust and confidence is an indispensable currency, one that the police must build up.

Unfortunately, at this time, many individuals do not trust the police with confidential information because there is a general impression that some policemen are themselves involved in the drug trade.

We believe that the people of Belize are ready for open consultations

on the problem of gang violence. In all these years of talking with the "experts" we have never asked the Belizean people how they feel about gang violence.

It is time for us to ask. Maybe the answers we get will enlighten us.

Opposition Leader files No-Confidence motion against PM Briceño

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because many senior members of the People's United Party do not believe in his leadership."

Barrow said that the private member motion that he submitted against Briceño outlines what he calls the malfeasance and nonfeasance of the Prime Minister as it relates to the Portico Definitive Agreement.

The motion alleges that the PM's cousin is acting as the attorney for Portico Enterprise while the Prime Minister's Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, as well as the Minister of Immigration, are the partners of the Courtenay and Coye law firm that represents the CEO of Portico.

The motion points to "all of the allegations of nepotism, cronyism, and self-enrichment that have engulfed the Briceño administration in relation to Portico."

It also speaks to the fact that "Special Senate Select Committee has been formed to investigate the genesis of the Portico agreement all the way to the confidential cabinet Memorandum 84 being submitted by the prime minister who is the Minister

of Finance."

Barrow went on to refer to the prime minister's comments in which he had said that he was seeking legal advice on the Portico Agreement, which Barrow pointed out was a lie since the Prime Minister had already gotten two pieces of legal advice.

"These are things that prove that the prime minister of Belize John Briceño has lost his way, has lost his mandate, has lost the confidence of the Belizean people when six of his own cabinet ministers publicly denounced the agreement," ended Barrow.

A part from listing the Portico Agreement as one of the reasons for the no-confidence motion, Barrow listed several other areas in which he believes the Prime Minister is failing, including crime, high cost of living, escalating fuel prices, and health. For the no-confidence motion to be legally enforced against the Prime Minister, Barrow would have to get the support of more than half of the 31 cabinet members.

This is the second time that Barrow has filed a no-confidence motion against an elected member of the House

of Representatives.

In June 2021, Barrow filed a similar motion against his colleague Patrick Faber to dethrone him as Leader of the Opposition. Barrow with the assistance of his aunt Denise "Sista B" Barrow, and Hugo Patt, who both signed on to the motion, were successful in removing Faber from his post as Opposition Leader.

In February 2020, the then PUP Opposition had likewise tabled a no-confidence motion against former prime minister, Dean Barrow. In February 2020, then Opposition Leader Hon Briceño told the media:

"It would be good for us to go to the House and have the debate; and it would be good if we can win the vote of No Confidence. But for that to happen, we would have to have a number of UDPs supporting the motion. ...I don't see that happening right now, but we want to debate the issue"

Section 84 of the Constitution of Belize states:

"If a resolution of no confidence in the Government is passed by the House of Representatives and the Prime Minister does not within seven days

either resign or advise a dissolution, the Governor-General, acting in his own deliberate judgment, may dissolve the National Assembly."

The language of section 84 of Belize's constitution is not unique to this jurisdiction. As the Eliot Bulmer, of International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), explained in his primer "Dissolution of Parliament," a successful no-confidence could signal the need for a new general election.

"The head of state may be permitted to order the dissolution of parliament, without requiring the advice of the prime minister, if the government, having lost a vote of no confidence, refuses, within a reasonable period of time, to either offers its resignation or to recommend a dissolution," wrote Bulmer. "In this way, the head of state has a constitutional responsibility to uphold the principle that if the government loses the confidence of the parliamentary majority, it must without undue delay either resign or face the people in an election."



Oración al Espíritu Santo

Espíritu Santo. Tú que me aclaras todo, que iluminas todo mis caminos para yo alcance mi ideal; tú que das el don divino de perdonar y olvidar el mal que me hacen y que en todos los instantes de mi vida estas conmigo, yo quiero en este corto diálogo agradecerte por todo y confirmar una vez más que nunca quiero separarme de ti, por mayor que sea la ilusión material! Deseo estar contigo y todos mis seres queridos por tu misericordia para estar conmigo y los míos. (La persona debiera rezar esta oración 3 días seguidos sin decir el pedido. Dentro de tres días será difícil que sea. Publicar en cuando se reciba la gracia.

Gracias Espíritu Santo.

R.M.L.

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BPM officially rejects redistricting report

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claimants were giving them notice and will “invoke the provisions of the consent order and the Constitution of Belize to seek redress as deemed necessary.” Saldivar affirmed, “If parliament approves it in its present form, our objections to the Elections and Boundaries Commission is to have them understand and appreciate that it does not meet the constitutional

threshold. So it would be challenged in court. However, it cannot be challenged until parliament does its part, because again there is separations of powers, so we cannot have the judiciary interfere in the functions of parliament.”

Saldivar went on to say that the BPM is hoping that the legislators and lawmakers understand the Constitution of Belize, and realize that the process

carried out by the redistricting task force is a “fraudulent exercise,” which does not comply with section 90 of the Constitution.

According to Saldivar, the claimants in case no 55 of 2019 are not in agreement with the redistricting task force’s proposal, which placed the deviation rate of 25 to 35 % from the national mean of registered electors.

Saldivar echoed the sentiments of

his clients who were hoping for a 10 to 15 % deviation rate which is considered to be the international norm and was suggested by the Sean P. Trende expert report.

Saldivar said that because the proposed deviation rate was not met, it simply means that the consent order had been breached and any attempt to approve the report would lead to a constitutional crisis. This could have been avoided if only the persons who

were conducting the report had understood what the consent order meant, said Saldivar.

“It is very simple. We have approximately 189, 330 voters in the country. If we divide that number by 31 divisions, which is what we have in existence now, it would be 6,100 + per division. Where any division on its own cannot reach these numbers then you have to amalgamate to make the numbers. But you will amalgamate those

that are closest; those that are contiguous to each other first, and those that are below the threshold. You are not going to be looking to remove constituencies that are above the threshold or closer to the threshold than others.

“First, you are looking at those that are well below and those that are well above. You will split those that are well above and you are going to combine those that are well below,” he explained.

Global grain prices set to increase by 10 to 15%: IMF chief

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still assessing where we are going to land. But we would be thinking that somewhere in the range of 10%, 15% increase in prices of grains is a reasonable estimate, although we'll have to see exactly how this is going to unfold.”

Gourinchas

reference to the suspension of the “grain deal” pertains to Russia’s decision to exit the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which, since last year, had allowed Ukraine to export grains safely, despite the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war.

After pulling out of the agreement, this Wednesday,

Russia attacked one of Ukraine’s main inland export ports for wheat. The attack had a fairly immediate response in the commodities market, pushing up prices as traders became concerned regarding a possible negative supply shock.

Also impacting the global grain

price outlook is the Indian government’s decision to ban exports of non-basmati rice. The decision has stoked panic buying, as India is the world’s top rice exporter, account for close to 40% of global supply.

The Local Scene On the local scene, Belize is a rice producer; therefore, it yet to be seen if the global price shocks would impact local prices. However, the case is clearer for imported commodities such as wheat: the high prices will be imported.

On July 21, Controller of Supplies Lennox Nicolson told The Reporter, “Any increases on the international market translate to increased price Belize faces when it imports wheat.”

Nicolson continued, “This

could potentially result in increased flour prices in Belize and increased costs for the production of bakery products. However, the extent and timing of any increases will depend on factors outside Belize, but we need to monitor the impact it may have on production costs of flour and bakery products.”

Nicolson reminded that under the Supplies Controlled Act flour is a price-controlled item. This, he says, means that the price of flour will not change overnight since any changes will have to be made via a statutory instrument.

CEO Servulo Baiza of the Ministry of Agriculture, at the time, told The Reporter that while an increase in the price of flour is expected, the mill would have to make a case for an increase,

if justified, then that proposed increased would need to be presented to Cabinet for approval.

Last year, Cabinet had also implemented a program to assist bakeries to cope with the increased costs.

Last year, the United Nations and Turkey brokered the Black Sea Grain deal between Russia and Ukraine to safely export Ukrainian grains across the Black Sea to developing nations. This was in an effort to drive world food prices down which at the time had spiked due to the ongoing war.

With this latest development, Ukraine will now have to reroute exports through its land borders and small ports leading to an increased cost and a reduction in farmers’ profit. This, according to experts, could lead farmers to plant even less next season, therefore, placing further pressure on supplies going forward.

Russia’s withdrawal stems from their claim that Western sanctions were stymieing parallel agreements to allow payments, insurance, and shipping for Moscow’s own agricultural products. Russian spokesperson indicated they would only resume participation once the relevant agreements were fulfilled.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lodgement of an EIA Report and Public Consultation

For

Angel Fish Caye LLC

For the Construction and Operation of a Small Resort Facility on Angelfish Caye, Stann Creek District, Belize

The General Public is hereby informed that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) report for a small tourism accommodation facility to be located on Angelfish Caye, situated 10 miles southeast of Hopkins Village, within the South Water Caye Marine Reserve, Stann Creek District, was submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) by Angel Fish LLC Limited. The EIA report will be reviewed by the National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) before a final decision is taken by the DOE.

The General Public is hereby informed that the revised EIA report is available for public review, free of charge, and can be examined from 4th- 25th, August 2023 (Monday- Friday) during normal working hours (8:00 am to 5:00 pm) at the Ignacia Cacho Library in (Dangriga Town), Hopkins Berties Library (Hopkins Village) and the Placencia Village Council Office, Stann Creek District and at the DOE’s Office located at 7552 Hummingbird Highway, Belmopan. The revised EIA report is also available on the DOE’s website at link: <https://doe.gov.bz/download/angel-fish-caye-llc-eia-july-2023/> and the Annexes <https://doe.gov.bz/download/angel-fish-caye-llc-annexes-july-2023/>. The Supplemental Information and previous EIA report can be found at link: <https://doe.gov.bz/download/angelfish-eia-supplementary-information/> and <https://doe.gov.bz/download/angel-fish-caye-llc-eia/>. The public is invited to submit their comments in writing on or before the 25th August, 2023, to the DOE Office in Belmopan or email: envirodept@environment.gov.bz; eiaunit@environment.gov.bz, and link: <https://forms.gle/pUqS1rvbv7ktRmZx6>

Kindly be informed that a hybrid (in-person and virtual) public consultation for the EIA report will be held on August 24th, 2023, commencing at 6:30 pm. The in-person consultation will be held at Belizean Dreams Resort in Hopkins Village, Stann Creek District and an online link will be provided on August 22nd, 2023, for those who will participate virtually. The consultation will also be streamed live via the Government of Belize Press Office Facebook Page.

The General Public is invited to attend in person or participate online, to make comments, ask questions, seek clarification, and/or provide input regarding this proposed project.



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Prime Minister says he has 'no confidence' in the 'no-confidence' motion

By Michelle Sutherland

Ahead of the tabling of the no-confidence motion against him at the next sitting of the House of Representatives, Prime Minister John Briceño has told *The Reporter* that he has "no confidence" in the motion, which seeks to unseat him as prime minister.

"Nothing [will come of it]. I think [the Leader of the Opposition] wants attention," said Prime Minister Briceño. "Twenty-six to maybe at best 3 [votes]."

The Prime Minister labeled Leader of the Opposition (LOO)'s "no-confidence" motion as "foolishness".

For the no-confidence motion to be successful, Barrow would have to gain the support of the majority of the members of the House of Representatives, including support

from sitting PUP area representatives. If the motion succeeds, it would require that the prime minister to resign and the House of Representatives be dissolved and, thereby, potentially triggering a new General Election.

However, given the super majority controlled by the incumbent government, it is highly unlikely that the motion would succeed.

Readers may recall that in February 2020, the then PUP Opposition, led by then Leader of the Opposition Hon. John Briceño, had filed a similar motion against former prime minister Rt. Hon. Dean Barrow.

At the time of being interviewed and asked how he expected to sway the support of UDP members, Briceño told the media that he "did not see that happening."

Briceño then went on to point out that the motion would, however, provide an avenue for Barrow to answer questions as it relates to several allegations that were being brought against him at the time.

Those included the spending of over \$1.5 billion dollars; the giving away of contracts to a particular contractor; the issuance of several other contracts without them being tabled in the house, or following any of the procedures associated with that process, as well as John Saldivar's status in the House of Representative, even after admitting to soliciting funds from a known fraudster.



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All applications must be complete to be considered. Deadline for applications is 11th August 2023.

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Empowering Minds, Building Futures

A Crucial Test for Democracy in Guatemala's Elections

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Guatemala, the largest country in Central America, is undergoing a critical test of its commitment to democracy and the rule of law in its presidential elections. The outcome will shape the nation's political and social stability, economic development, and international standing, particularly within the Organization of American States (OAS).

The general elections on June 25 concluded successfully, but no candidate secured the required majority to replace the incumbent President Alejandro Giammattei, whose term ends in January 2024.

Surprising many, Bernardo Arévalo of the Movimiento Semilla party emerged as the second-

leading candidate, campaigning against corruption and gaining strong grassroots support.

This development clearly caused consternation among persons in the executive and judicial branches of the government who may have felt threatened by the possibility of Arévalo winning run-off elections against Sandra Torres, the leader of Unidad Nacional de la Esperanza party, scheduled for August 20.

The President of Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), Margaret Macaulay, described the sequence of disturbing events that followed in this way: "On July 12th, on the same day that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal ratified the validity of the first round of the presidential



election, the Public Prosecutor's Office by means of its Special Prosecutor's Office Against Corruption and Crime, announced a criminal investigation against the political party Movimiento Semilla [-] Also, at the request of the Public Prosecutor's Office, a criminal judge had ordered the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to provisionally suspend the party's legal status to prevent its members

from "participating in any subsequent political events".

The IACHR Chair also noted that "on July 21st, arrest warrants were issued for members of Movimiento Semilla whose headquarters were raided, and an arrest warrant was issued for an official of the Citizen Registry of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and new raids on this facilities took place".

The account of these events was substantiated by Dr. Irma Elizabeth Palencia Orellana, the Chief Magistrate of The Supreme Electoral Court of Guatemala, who told a meeting of the OAS Permanent Council on July 26 that "actions were brought against the Supreme Electoral Court's Register of Citizens, which included arbitrary searches and requests", including "retention of workers for more than ten hours straight, behind closed doors; the use of ski masks and firearms, when our staff are unarmed civilians and ours are administrative offices".

Dr Orellana made the point that these actions unjustifiably violated constitutional provisions. She also drew specific attention to Article

92 of the electoral law which states that "a party may not be suspended after an election has been called and until after the election has taken place."

All of this alarmed member states of the OAS which, along with the European Union, had sent Electoral Observation Missions to Guatemala. Neither mission found any evidence of fraud or major irregularities that would call the elections results into question.

The OAS mission warned that "feeding a narrative of fraud without evidentiary support undermines the will of the people and democratic institutions."

Against this background, on July 26, the OAS Permanent Council welcomed an invitation from the President of Guatemala to the Secretary-General, Luis Almagro, to "meet with government authorities and state institutions regarding the electoral process". It was also particularly helpful that the letter also noted "that this visit does not interfere with the work that the Electoral Observation Mission of the Organization of American States will carry out".

This invitation is

a positive step by the Guatemalan government, demonstrating a willingness to dialogue and, hopefully, to explore ways of ensuring that clear guarantees will be given, allowing the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to conduct the run-off presidential elections with the same impartiality that it employed in the conduct of the general elections on June 25.


Equally important will be a commitment that the current improper use of the legal system to alter or influence the election result, as described by Chief Magistrate, Dr. Orellana, will cease.

Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, and the United States played a leading role in advancing concerns about the threats to Guatemala's electoral process, a cornerstone of democracy in the hemisphere.

Respecting the will of the people through free and fair elections is paramount to protect human and political rights from being overshadowed by dictatorship and chaos.

Secretary-General Almagro will go to Guatemala on August 1, just 19 days before the scheduled run-off presidential elections on August 20. The success of his discussions will be pivotal to the future of democracy in Guatemala.

In this critical moment, the Guatemalan authorities must demonstrate unwavering commitment to democracy, transparency, and the rule of law, not only for the nation's sake but also for the trust of the international community.



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NOTICE TO MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS

No.: 202306-23-1

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

Notice is hereby given that the 22nd Annual General Meeting of Belize Water Services Limited (BWS) will be held at the SCA Mercy Center Auditorium on Friday, August 25, 2023, commencing at 7:00 p.m.

Shareholders who wish to appoint a proxy, may submit written questions to shareholderinfo@bws.com.bz by 3:00 p.m. on Monday August 21, 2023.

DIVIDENDS:

The Board of Directors of BWS is pleased to announce dividends of 7.5 cents (\$0.075) per share (equivalent to 5%) for the year ending March 31, 2023.

Shareholders are reminded that this year's dividend payments are being paid via direct deposit to your bank or credit union account. If you have not yet provided BWS with your banking information, please email, call or WhatsApp message us to obtain the banking update form. The completed form must be returned to BWS no later than Monday July 17, 2023. Direct Deposit payments will be processed by August 11, 2023.

For shareholder information, kindly contact us at:
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Dash cameras coming for OW police, following recent case of alleged police brutality

By Michelle Sutherland

In response to the recent allegations of use of excessive force in Orange Walk Town, the Commissioner of Police Chester Williams has decided to install dash cameras on police vehicles in that municipality.

Following the Monday night killing of Jesus Sacul, 20, and injuries to his uncle, Jairo Guerra, 19, which resulted in a violent protest outside the Northern Regional Hospital, Williams, flanked by the Minister of National Security Kareem Musa, hosted a press conference in Belize City to address concerns from the media and public.

Williams told reporters that the latest

incident has prompted him to look at ways to alleviate these occurrences.

“There are things that we will do internally to allay these issues, for example, I just gave instructions to Mr. Guzman to see how we can install dash cameras on our vehicles. Dash cameras will help in instances where you're in pursuit, as they will give us an appreciation of what happens during the pursuit. In the absence of that, then we have to rely on what the police officers are saying, or what the witnesses are saying, but unfortunately, sometimes we don't have that so the dash cams will be a great help.”

Following the Commissioner's



remarks reporters questioned him about the use of police body cams and whether structures are in place to ensure that these equipment are used properly.

He responded that while body cams are being used by officers, they are not as effective when it comes to a police chase since the officers are sitting down in the vehicles, because the cameras would not be able to pick up whatever is

happening outside. He also claimed that in the case of body cams, the footage is uploaded to a database whenever the officers present themselves back to the station.

As it relates to the ever-growing rift that exists between the Orange Walk Police and members of the community, Williams said that he will be waiting until tensions have calmed down among the community before he goes in to meet with them to hear their concerns.

Williams did, however, mention that based on video footage of the riot that he saw unfolding

outside the Northern Regional Hospital he is of the view that his officers "exercised great restraint" with the public. He indicated that due to additional backup from Belmopan arriving to contain the escalating situation, the officers were able to effectively hold their ground until the gathering decided to disperse. As it relates to charges against the protestors, Williams confirmed that no charges have been brought against anyone.

A summary of the incident given by the Commissioner reiterated details from the official police report.

Williams said that the officers had seen the two young men exit a known drug peddler's yard with what appeared to be a firearm. The officers attempted to stop the individuals on the motorcycle but they refused. They

eventually came to a stop following a high-speed chase which ended at the Uno Gas Station when the driver lost control of the motorcycle and collided with the fender of the police vehicle.

Despite claims from the public that shots were fired at the duo, Williams said that no shots were fired. He also informed that he has directed investigators to locate surveillance cameras or witnesses from the area who could shed more light on how the cycle ended up colliding with the front of the police mobile.

Williams also confirmed that officers located a pellet gun which is believed to be the weapon the boys had discarded during the police chase.

A part of the investigation will also include an investigation into claims made by the family that the boys were run over and then beaten by the officers.

Ministry of Agriculture Establishes Vegetable Interdiction Team

Belmopan, August 2nd, 2023.

To combat the issue of contraband in the agriculture sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise has established a standing Vegetable Interdiction Team (VIT) comprising officials from various government departments and agencies.

The VIT includes representatives from the ministry's Extension Service and Supplies Control Unit, the Customs Department, the Belize Agricultural Health Authority, Belize Marketing and Development Corporation, and the Mobile Interdiction Team of the Police Department.

On July 24, Hon. Jose Abelardo Mai, Minister of Agriculture; Servulo Baeza, CEO in the ministry, and members of the VIT held a meeting with farmers and producers from the

districts of Orange Walk, Corozal, and Belize at the Yo Creek Agriculture Station in the Orange Walk District. During the meeting, concerns were raised about the increase in contraband activities, the presence of illegal vegetables and fruits in local markets, and the challenges farmers face in selling their products due to the competition with contraband items.

The VIT pledged to intensify collaborative efforts and increase the frequency and effectiveness of its operations. As a result of the increased surveillance and monitoring, the VIT has confiscated a significant quantity of contraband vegetables, including

1,278 pounds of cabbage, 2,253 pounds of onions, 983 pounds of tomatoes, 86 pounds of habanero peppers and 130 pounds of sweet peppers, valued at \$16,190.40.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Enterprise reminds the public that acquiring illegally obtained vegetable products may result in the confiscation of such products and imposition of fines. The VIT will continue its heightened frequency of actions to ensure Belizean products are protected, and the ministry assures its unwavering support for farmers as they relentlessly work to ensure the food security of the nation.



IN THE HIGH COURT OF BELIZE, A.D. 2023

CLAIM NO. 213 OF 2023

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DR. NERDIA ALICIA DEPAZ, DECEASED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT,
INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO SECTIONS 28 AND 43, AND THE TRUSTS ACT
AND
IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION, PURSUANT TO SECTION 43 OF THE
ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES ACT, AGAINST THE ADMINISTRATRIX OF THE
ESTATE OF DR. NERDIA ALICIA DEPAZ, DECEASED

BETWEEN

OSCAR ASCENCIO DIAZ

CLAIMANT

AND

BIANCA ALYSSA DEPAZ, as Administratrix
Of the Estate of Dr. Nerida Alicia Depaz, deceased.

FIRST DEFENDANT

BIANCA ALYSSA DEPAZ

SECOND DEFENDANT

NOTICE

TO: BIANCA ALYSSA DEPAZ

TAKE NOTICE that a Fixed Claim Form and Statement of Claim has been issued against you in High Court Claim No. 213 of 2023. Details of the contents of the claim are set out in the Fixed Claim Form and Statement of Claim attached to it.

AND on the 12th of April, 2023 the High Court of Judicature of Belize ordered that service of the Fixed Claim Form and Statement of Claim be effected on you by two consecutive publications of this Notice.

AND you are required to file an Acknowledgment of Service within fourteen (14) days of the second publication of this Notice. The appropriate forms may be obtained from the General Registry situated at No 1 Treasury Lane, Belize City, Belize. Telephone numbers (501) 227-7377 and (501) 227-2053, facsimile (501) 227-0085 of from the Attorneys-at-Law whose name and address appears below.

TAKE NOTICE that in default of your so doing, the said Claimant may proceed therein, and the judgment will be granted without your presence.

DATED the 27th day of July, 2023


BRADLEY ELLIS & CO.LLP

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High-speed police chase in Orange Walk ends in another death

By Michelle Sutherland

The Orange Walk community erupted into chaos on Monday night as several residents staged an impromptu protest outside the Northern Regional Hospital following the death of a young man and injuries to another during a high-speed police chase.

The teenager who has been identified as Jesus Sacul, 20, a delivery agent of Orange Walk Town, reportedly died at the Northern Regional Hospital while receiving treatment. His companion, identified as 19-year-old Jairo Guerra, also a delivery man, was reportedly injured during the incident. However, details of his injuries or his condition are still unknown.

Following the incident, residents of Orange Walk town converged at the entrance of the

hospital where video footage shows them hurling stones and bottles at the hospital while expressing their discontent at the police officers. In return, the officers could be heard firing gunshots at the gathering presumably to break up the protest, prompting residents to dive for cover.

According to an official police report, just after 7:30 p.m. on Monday, the Quick Response Team (QRT) were patrolling the Belize Corozal Road when their attention was drawn to a motorcycle, and its two occupants exiting from a known drug base.

The officers said that they began following the motorcycle and saw what appeared to be a black object resembling a firearm stuck in the passenger's pants' waist. The officers said that they put on their police lights and siren and

attempted to stop the cycle, however, the occupants refused. This resulted in a high-speed chase on Belize Corozal Road.

That chase, according to the officers, came to a stop in front of the Trial Farm Gas Station when the officers drove up beside the motorcycle. The officers alleged that the driver of the motorcycle lost control and slammed into the left front fender of the police mobile causing the cycle occupants to fall to the ground.

The officers alleged that shortly before the accident one of the persons on the motorcycle was seen throwing an object into some bushes. They say that when they went back to the area they located a 9mm pistol.

Since the incident family members have come out to refute police's version of the incident saying that the boys were exiting

their grandmother's yard when the police spotted them.

As for the "black object resembling a firearm," the family says that it was a waist bag that the teenagers use to store their money since they are delivery guys.

The family is also questioning how the boys managed to crash into the front of the vehicle. They went on to allege that the officers had beaten the young men after the crash.

The family maintains that the teenagers had fled due to concerns for their safety.

The Commissioner of Police Chester Williams is expected to host a press conference shortly to address the incident.

In March this year, another teen, Deandre Chee, was fatally shot and killed by the same members of the QRT during a high-speed chase through Orange Walk Town.



Jesus Sacul, 20



S U D O K U

Medium Puzzle

	7	5					1	
	6				2			
		4						
	2		8			7		3
5								8
		8	5			4		6
	4	1		5			3	
7			4					
	8		1					7

Answer to Puzzle

7	4	5	6	9	1	2	8	3
1	9	2	8	3	4	6	5	7
6	3	8	7	5	2	1	4	9
9	2	4	3	7	5	8	1	6
8	6	1	4	2	9	7	3	5
3	5	7	1	9	8	6	2	4
2	7	9	5	1	3	4	9	8
5	8	9	2	4	7	3	6	1
4	1	3	6	8	9	5	7	2

Sudoku rules are extremely easy: Fill all empty squares so that the numbers 1 to 9 appear once in each row, column and 3x3 box.

Tip: Use a soft erasable pencil. Start with the easy puzzles, then move on to the harder ones. Make small pencilmarks to show which numbers are allowed in empty squares. This will come handy when analyzing techniques are used. Never guess! Only make moves based on logical deductions. There is only one unique solution for each puzzle.

Russia attacks grain port across River Danube from Romania amid Black Sea blockade

By Alastair Jamieson

Russia attacked Ukraine's main inland port across the River Danube from Romania on Wednesday, sending global food prices higher as it ramps up its use of force to prevent Kyiv from exporting grain.

The attacks destroyed buildings in the port of Izmil, south of Moldova, and halted ships in their tracks as they prepared to arrive there to load up with Ukrainian grain in defiance of a de-facto Black Sea blockade reimposed by Russia last month.

The port, which lies across the river from Nato-member Romania, is the main alternative route for

exports.

Ukraine said the Russian attacks damaged almost 40,000 tons of grain destined for countries in Africa as well as China and Israel.

"Russian terrorists have once again attacked ports, grain, global food security," President Volodymyr Zelensky wrote on Telegram.

Russian state news agency RIA claimed the port was housing foreign mercenaries and military hardware.

Video released by the Ukrainian authorities showed firefighters on ladders battling a blaze in a building covered with broken windows. Several other large

buildings were in ruins, and grain spilled out of at least two wrecked silos.

There were no reports of casualties, according to the Odesa region's governor, Oleh Kiper.

Commercial ship tracking data showed dozens of international ships halting and dropping anchor at the mouth of the Danube, many of them registered to arrive in Izmil from the Black Sea.

Two industry sources told Reuters that operations at the port were suspended. Seaport authority head Yuriy Lytvyn said on Facebook that repair work had already begun and the port infrastructure continued to operate.

Ukraine is one of the world's top grain exporters. Russia has attacked its agricultural and port infrastructure for more than two weeks, since refusing to extend an agreement that had lifted its war-time blockade of Ukrainian ports last year.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin spoke by telephone to Turkish president Tayyip Erdogan, who sponsored the original grain deal.

The Kremlin said Mr Putin reiterated Russia's condition for rejoining the deal: that a parallel deal improving terms for its own food and fertiliser exports be implemented.

Mr Erdogan's office said the leaders agreed Mr Putin would soon visit Turkey. Mr Putin, wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, has made no official visits abroad this year,

and has left former Soviet territory only once since launching his invasion, a day trip to Tehran more than a year ago. Mr Erdogan has long said he hopes to host Putin and convince him to rejoin the grain deal.

The United Nations has warned of a potential food crisis in the world's poorest countries due to Russia's decision to abandon the deal.

Moscow says it will treat ships heading to Ukraine's Black Sea ports as potential military targets.

Meanwhile, eastern members of Nato are growing worried about the presence of Russia-linked Wagner group mercenaries in Belarus, where some have been deployed since a short-lived mutiny in Russia in June.

Poland, Lithuania and Latvia had already been on alert since large numbers of

migrants and refugees began arriving at their borders from Belarus two years ago. They have accused Belarus leader Alexander Lukashenko, an ally of Russia, of opening the migration route in an act of "hybrid warfare" aimed at creating instability in the West.

Now concerns have grown further since the Wagner troops began arriving in Belarus after their mutiny.

Poland's prime minister, Mateusz Morawiecki, said on the weekend that some 100 Wagner fighters had approached the border with Poland, specifically a strategically sensitive area known as the Suwalki Gap.

"Now the situation becomes even more dangerous," Mr Morawiecki told reporters. "This is certainly a step towards a further hybrid attack on Polish territory."

18 to 29 year olds: age group accounts for more than half of all murders

By Michelle Sutherland

Young people continue to be primary victims of murder in Belize, Belize Crime Observatory (BCO) data informs.

The BCO reports that for the first quarter of 2023 that more than half (52.6%) of murder victims are between the age of 18 and 29 years old. For the period January to March 2023, an average of six males lost their lives to murder every month.

For the first quarter

of 2023, there were 19 homicide victims, of which 18 were males and one female. Those figures represent a decrease with eight fewer victims than the same period in 2022.

The Belize Crime Observatory says that approximately eight in 10 murders were committed with a firearm between January and March 2023. This, they say, is a decrease when compared with the same period in 2022. As it relates

to demographics the Belize and Stann Creek Districts accounted for 73.7% of murder victims.

The Belize Crime Observatory is yet to process data for the period of April, May, June, and July to see how those figures compare to previous years; however, news consumer would know that more recent there has been a spike in gang violence, leading to the authorities declaring a state of emergency for select areas of Belize City.



Weh Wi Ga Fi Seh

Wi don paas mi gl a di yaa: How tingz?

Free Op Wiself

Aagas fos da-mi Imansipayshan Day. Sohn a di memba dehn a di Di Nashanal Kriol Kongsl mi deh da di Baptis Choch di nait bifo. Di Baptis Choch weh deh da di en a Kween Schreet eena Bileez Siti mi ga wahn Imansipayshan Day servis fahn 10:30 tu midnait di nait bifo di Imansipayshan Day serimoni da Govament Hows—wel, tudeh day, dat nayhn Hows a Kolcha, pahn Reejent Schreet eena Bileez Siti. Pahn tap, di Baptis Choch di hoas wahn groop fahn Bloofeelz, Nikaragwa (Bluefields, Nicaragua). Wi big op Miz Hazel Wilson ahn Paasta Eli Simeon fahn Bloofeelz, ahn di res a di Bloofeelz groop! Ahn Paasta Stanford ahn adaz da di Baptis Choch, plos dehn ada vizita dehn tu Bileez weh kohn vizit fi Imansipayshan Day—in fak, da laik wahn week a aktiviti ahn fongshan di Baptis Choch di gat. Nof rispek! May Faada Gaad bles wi konchri ahn pipl, ahn aal di vizitaz tu Bileez—ahn wi brejren ahn sischren dehn fahn Bloofeelz, Karn Ailan, ahn adarels plays lang di Atlantik Koas a Nikaragwa! Dehn taak Kriol jos laik wee...nayli laik wee! Memba seh Spanish da di ofishal langwij a Nikaragwa, sohn yu maita hyaa sohn lee Spanish langwij er song jrap eena fi dehn Kriol.

Pahn tap, wi big op NICH and ICA (Institute for Creative Arts) ahn aal hoo mek Imansipayshan Day hapn eena dis ofishal way ahn da Yaabra Green eena Eebo Tong ayrya! Da wahn big difrans wen govament help mek dis day hapm—noh jos dat da wahn holiday, bot dat dehn mi ga big serimoni da Hows a Kolcha fi maak di day, Aagas 1, 1838. Now, tudeh day, laik wi doz aalwayz seh, mek wi taak now seeryos seeyros-wan bowt ikononik imansipayshan fahn ya goh bak. Bileez jain now lat a di ada konchri dehn weh di aana Aagas 1 as Imansipayshan Day. Now... mek wi imansipayt wiself fahn mental slayvri. Oanli wee, wiself, ku free op wi main (chranslayshan a weh Bob Marley sing: "Emancipate yourself from mental slavery. None but ourselves can free up our minds." – Bob Marley.)

Silvaana Udz, Ed.D da fahn Bileez. If yu waahn tel shree bowt sohnting speshal fu put eena dis Kriol aatiki, eemayl: sudz142@gmail.com Vizit: www.nationalkriocouncil.org

An ECOWAS Intervention in Niger Could Remake West African Security

Alexander Clarkson

In many respects, the toppling of Niger's President Mohamed Bazoum last week by a junta led by the head of the Presidential Guard, Gen. Abdourahamane Tchiani, was typical of the other coups that have wracked the Sahel region in the past three years. Faced with his imminent sacking, Tchiani ordered his troops to seize the presidential palace with Bazoum inside; he has remained there since then, part captive, part hostage, as the junta seeks to consolidate its hold on power.

But if there has been a significant difference between the coup in Niger and others across the region in recent years, it has been in the response to it by Niger's neighbors and the Economic Community of West African States, or ECOWAS. The regional bloc's initial reactions to coups in Mali and Burkina Faso were seen as tepid, only gathering force with the former after the military junta in Bamako dragged its feet on a planned transition to civilian rule. By contrast, ECOWAS has refused to recognize the Niger junta, and over the weekend it imposed draconian economic sanctions, while threatening a military intervention in the event Bazoum is not returned to power within a week.

Coming at a time when the West's decade-long military effort to counter jihadist insurgents across the Sahel seems to be running out of steam, the response to the coup in Niger highlights a nascent transition between waning Western power structures in the region and efforts to construct new systems of collective security there and elsewhere in Africa.

One of the major obstacles to efforts by France, the European Union and the U.S. in the fight against jihadists has been the historical memory of French colonialism as well as resentment over the post-independence

system of French control over its former colonies known as "Francafrique." At the same time, for West African states, looming large over any hope of forcing the junta in Niger to hand power back to the elected civilian government is the shadow of failed peacekeeping and stabilization efforts in Chad in the early 1980s and Liberia in the 1990s.

The current surge of military coups highlights the fact that the neocolonial structures put in place by France are no longer capable of shaping outcomes, even as regional collective security mechanisms are still too weak to preempt threats to stability.

The fact that this makes the confrontation over events in Niger a potentially pivotal moment in global politics has not been lost on the other military rulers in the region, who have declared that they would send troops to defend Niger's junta from any external intervention designed to restore civilian rule. In doing so, they are inadvertently signaling anxiety over the possibility that a reassertion of constitutional norms in Niger could threaten their own military regimes. In embracing support from Russia—Mali in the form of Wagner mercenaries and Burkina Faso in the form of strategic cooperation announced during the recent Russia-Africa summit in St. Petersburg—the military leaders of both countries are also coup-proofing their regimes against domestic actors potentially interested in restoring stable relations with either the EU or ECOWAS member states.

Both these juntas have targeted France and the EU with militant rhetoric, using both historical memory of colonial brutality as well as the more recent Western failures in counterinsurgency to mobilize support. Yet their posturing only tipped into threats of war when ECOWAS, under Nigerian leadership,



ECOWAS leaders meet to take measures against the coup in Niger.

went beyond merely suspending Niger from its structures to actively threatening direct intervention in support of Bazoum. In this case, the interests of big regional players such as Nigeria and Cote d'Ivoire have converged with those of the EU and U.S. when it comes to pushing back against military coups. But the robust stance that ECOWAS states have adopted despite their own internal vulnerabilities potentially represents a big step toward a fundamental reordering of the West African regional security system.

While previous attempts by ECOWAS to impose a collective security order spluttered out ineffectively, until the late 2010s these states could assume that the U.S., France and other Western states still had the capacity, will and enough local support to step in and take over in peacekeeping and stabilization operations when things went wrong. Now, with the West strategically stretched thin by its commitments to defending Ukraine against Russian aggression, securing the wider Mediterranean region and countering China in the Indo-Pacific, it is not clear whether the U.S. and the EU are still willing to act as security guarantors across Africa. Even when it comes to the externalization of the EU's border system to counter migration, the brutal arrangements

that Brussels and Rome have made with states and paramilitary units in North Africa mean that EU institutions now have less incentive to focus resources on Sahel states whose leaders are considered to be unreliable.

Moreover, the extent to which European security partnerships in Mali and Burkina Faso were ended by military juntas whose officers had been trained through U.S. assistance programs has led to a reassessment in Brussels and Washington over their strategic engagement with the region. Already before the coup in Niger, the French government had decided to massively cut its troop presence in Gabon, Senegal and Cote d'Ivoire. Now with their bases and investment in Niger in doubt as well, it is quite likely that France, Italy, the EU and the U.S. will draw down their presence in the region further.

While Russia has the military capabilities to coup-proof authoritarian regimes and exploit resource-based export industries such as mining, the inability of Russia's Wagner mercenaries to dent jihadist expansion in Mali indicates that Moscow does not have the capacity to defeat insurgencies near the borders of ECOWAS states either. And while Chinese investment has had a big impact on economic development throughout Africa, Beijing has shown little

interest in establishing the strategic structures it would need to become a security guarantor on the continent.

Having historically expressed frustration at EU and U.S. arrogance when it came to shaping strategic outcomes in Africa, leaders in Nigeria and other ECOWAS states now face a scenario where they will have to take on the primary role in managing regional security, not just when it comes to troop deployments, but also in terms of logistics, surveillance and intelligence-gathering. Yet the burden of providing the regional security needed for development and prosperity is now falling on these states at a time when they are still wracked by deep fiscal, political and security crises of their own, all of which will continue to sap their institutional bandwidth for the foreseeable future.

Whether Nigeria and its ECOWAS partners have the resources to contain rampant jihadist insurgencies and mitigate the incompetence of brutal military juntas in the Sahel is an open question. That a state already overloaded by so many internal and external crises as Nigeria might falter when faced with the challenge of acting as the regional security guarantor is a plausible outcome. And that Nigeria and its core partners in ECOWAS might become primary

targets of jihadist violence, as well as a focus of resentment from Sahelian military and civilian interests that benefit from social dysfunction, has become a visible risk as the crisis in Niger unfolds.

But in a world where other great powers are being pulled toward crises closer to home, it looks inevitable that ECOWAS states will have no choice but to invest in the military and civilian institutions needed to sustain a stable order in their own region, without relying on support from external actors. In the long term, an approach based on West African self-reliance is by far the most desirable outcome for both the ECOWAS states themselves and their counterparts in the EU.

A global security order in which ECOWAS has the strategic resources to call the shots across its own region would be one in which the EU would also need to accept that states in Africa will not always support Western positions on regional and global affairs. When it comes to the EU's own self-interest, though, it doesn't matter whether an emerging power such as Nigeria agrees with Brussels some or most of the time. What matters is that Nigeria and its ECOWAS partners have the power to guarantee security, prosperity and the rule of law in their own region all of the time.

Trump indicted for efforts to overturn 2020 election and block transfer of power

By Eric Tucker and Michael Kunzelman

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump was indicted on felony charges Tuesday for working to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol, with the Justice Department acting to hold him accountable for an unprecedented effort to block the peaceful transfer of presidential power and threaten American democracy.

The four-count indictment, the third criminal case against Trump, provided deeper insight into a dark moment that has already been the subject of exhaustive federal investigations and captivating public hearings. It chronicles a months-long campaign of lies about the election results and says that, even when those falsehoods resulted in a chaotic insurrection at the Capitol, Trump sought to exploit the violence by pointing to it as a reason to further delay the counting of votes that sealed his defeat.

Even in a year of rapid-succession legal reckonings for Trump, Tuesday's indictment, with charges including conspiring to defraud the United States government that he once led, was stunning in its allegations that a former president assaulted the "bedrock function" of democracy. It's the first time the defeated president, who is the early front-runner for next year's Republican presidential nomination, is facing legal consequences for his frantic but ultimately failed effort to cling to power.

"The attack on our nation's Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy," said Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith, whose office has spent months investigating Trump. "It was fueled by lies, lies by the defendant targeted at obstructing a bedrock function of

the U.S. government: the nation's process of collecting, counting and certifying the results of the presidential election."

The Trump campaign called the charges "fake" and asked why it took two-and-a-half years to bring them.

testifying before the special counsel. He appeared only after losing a court fight, with prosecutors learning that Trump in one conversation derided him as "too honest" to stop the certification.

Trump is due in court Thursday, the

stolen — a notion repeatedly rejected by judges. Among those lies, prosecutors say, were claims that more than 10,000 dead voters had voted in Georgia along with tens of thousands of double votes in Nevada. Each claim had been rebutted by courts or state or

charges, including aiding an insurrection and obstructing an official proceeding.

The indictment includes charges of conspiring to defraud the U.S., conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, obstructing an official proceeding and

Georgia are also investigating efforts by Trump and his allies to reverse his election loss to Biden there. The district attorney of Fulton County is expected to announce charging decisions within weeks.

Smith's team has cast a broad net as part of his federal investigation, with his team questioning senior Trump administration officials, including Pence, before a grand jury in Washington. Prosecutors also interviewed election officials in Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan and other battleground states won by Biden who were pressured by the Trump team to change voting results.

Rudy Giuliani, a Trump lawyer who pursued post-election legal challenges, spoke voluntarily to prosecutors. Giuliani was not named in the indictment, but appears to match the description of one of the co-conspirators. A spokesman for Giuliani said Tuesday night that Trump had a "good-faith basis" for the actions he took.

Attorney General Merrick Garland last year appointed Smith, an international war crimes prosecutor who also led the Justice Department's public corruption section, as special counsel to investigate efforts to undo the election as well as Trump's retention of classified documents at his Florida home, Mar-a-Lago. Although Trump has derided him as "deranged" and called him politically motivated, Smith's past experience includes overseeing significant prosecutions against high-profile Democrats.

The Justice Department's investigations began well before Smith's appointment, proceeding alongside separate criminal probes into the rioters themselves. More than 1,000 people have been charged in connection with the insurrection, including some with seditious conspiracy.



Trump was the only person charged in Tuesday's indictment. But prosecutors obliquely referenced a half-dozen co-conspirators, including lawyers inside and outside of government who they said had worked with Trump to undo the election results. They also advanced legally dubious schemes to enlist slates of fake electors in battleground states won by Democrat Joe Biden to falsely claim that Trump had actually won them.

The indictment accuses the defeated president and his allies of trying to "exploit the violence and chaos" by calling lawmakers into the evening on Jan. 6 to delay the certification of Biden's victory.

It also cites handwritten notes from former Vice President Mike Pence that give gravitas to Trump's relentless goading to reject the electoral votes. Pence, who is challenging Trump for the GOP presidential nomination, declined overtures from a House panel that investigated the insurrection and sought to avoid

first step in a legal process that will play out in a courthouse situated between the White House he once controlled and the Capitol his supporters once stormed. The case is already being dismissed by the former president and his supporters — and even some of his rivals — as just another politically motivated prosecution.

Yet the case stems from one of the most serious threats to American democracy in modern history.

The indictment centers on the turbulent two months after the November 2020 election in which Trump refused to accept his loss and spread lies that victory was stolen from him. The turmoil resulted in the riot at the Capitol, when Trump loyalists violently broke into the building, attacked police officers and disrupted the congressional counting of electoral votes.

In between the election and the riot, Trump urged local election officials to undo voting results in their states, pressured Pence to halt the certification of electoral votes and falsely claimed that the election had been

federal officials, the indictment says.

Prosecutors say Trump knew his claims of having won the election were false but he "repeated and widely disseminated them anyway — to make his knowingly false claims appear legitimate, to create an intense national atmosphere of mistrust and anger, and to erode public faith in the administration of the election."

The document carefully outlined arguments that Trump has been making to defend his conduct, that he had every right to challenge the results, to use the courts, even to lie about it in the process. But in stark detail, the indictment outlines how the former president instead took criminal steps to reverse the clear verdict voters had rendered.

The indictment had been expected since Trump said in mid-July that the Justice Department had informed him he was a target of its investigation. A bipartisan House committee that spent months investigating the run-up to the Capitol riot also recommended prosecuting Trump on

violating a post-Civil War Reconstruction Era civil rights statute that makes it a crime to conspire to violate rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution — in this case, the right to vote.

The mounting criminal cases are unfolding in the heat of the 2024 race. A conviction in this case, or any other, would not prevent Trump from pursuing the White House or serving as president, though Trump as president could theoretically appoint an attorney general to dismiss the charges or potentially try to pardon himself.

In New York, state prosecutors have charged Trump with falsifying business records about a hush money payoff to a porn actor before the 2016 election. The trial is set to begin in March.

In Florida, the Justice Department has brought more than three dozen felony counts, accusing him of illegally possessing classified documents after leaving the White House and concealing them from investigators. That trial begins in May.

Prosecutors in



With climate change, health care providers should be more mindful of heat-related illness, doctors say

Hospitals typically have a system in place to get care quickly to patients who need it most. Alerts may be issued to get prepared for patients that EMT's are bringing in with strokes, cardiac problems, severe trauma and bleeding that need quick care, but there's typically no such provision for heat stroke, another condition that demands immediate care.

As the planet warms and more of the United States faces record high temperatures and unprecedented levels of heat exposure, health care providers say now is the time for medical systems to be proactive. It's also time for providers to be mindful that weather may be playing a bigger role in their patients' illnesses than they're used to.

On Thursday, more than 140 million people are under heat advisories in nearly three dozen states from coast to coast. In the Midwest, temperatures are up to 20 degrees above normal. In the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, a dangerous heat wave is beginning and will continue through the weekend.

"Heat stroke is just another one of those life-threatening conditions that I think catches a lot of people off-guard," said Dr. Caitlin Rublee, an emergency room physician and an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

Heat stroke is one of the most common and most deadly heat-related illnesses, and it becomes a significant problem during heat waves. Even though heat deaths and illnesses are totally preventable, extreme heat is the No. 1 weather-related killer in the United States, according to the US Environmental Protection Agency. And heat waves are becoming more common in the US. In the 1960s, Americans saw about two heatwaves a year; by the 2010s, there were six per year, according to the EPA.

There are about 20 cases of heat stroke per 100,000 people each year in the US, studies show, and between 240 and 833 deaths from the condition. For a variety of reasons, both numbers are probably a significant undercount, experts say.

A billboard displays a temperature of 118 degrees Fahrenheit (48 degrees Celsius) during a record heat wave in Phoenix, Arizona on July 18, 2023. Swaths of the United States home to more than 80 million people were under heat warnings or advisories, as relentless, record-breaking temperatures continued to bake western and southern states. In Arizona, state capital Phoenix recorded its 17th straight day above 109 degrees Fahrenheit (43 degrees Celsius), as temperatures hit 113F (45C) Sunday afternoon.

Heat waves in US and Europe would have been 'virtually impossible' without climate change, new report finds

The elderly, the very young, people with underlying health conditions, those who are overweight and those on certain medications are most vulnerable, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The past two decades have seen a 54% increase in heat-related mortality among people 65 and older alone, studies show.

Even healthy young people can get heat stroke, particularly if they are working or exercising outside when temperatures are high. Heat-related illness is the leading cause of death and disability among US high school athletes, according to the CDC.

Heat stroke is not an actual stroke. It's when the body quickly overheats and can no longer use its usual tricks like sweat to cool itself down.

Providers need to cool the person quickly, ideally within the first half-hour of symptoms. Often, though, without an alert system like they might have for standard stroke, emergency room



staffers are scrambling to help those patients, according to Dr. Cecilia Sorensen, an emergency room doctor who is director of the Global Consortium on Climate and Health Education at Columbia University.

"If you have 30 minutes to cool the body and you have to set up this while situation, it becomes very, very difficult," Sorensen said. "We're not always prepared."

If the person's core temperature gets to 106 degrees or higher, their internal organs can shut down within just 10 or 15 minutes.

One of the challenges with heat stroke is that it can look like a lot of other conditions that send people to the ER. Its symptoms include a temperature of 103 or higher; hot, red, dry or damp skin; a fast pulse; headache; dizziness; nausea; confusion; and loss of consciousness.

Rublee says she tells all her trainees that they should consider heat stroke as a possibility for any fever they see in an ER, especially on warm days.

"We get a lot of patients with fever, and it could be anything, so we treat many things at once," she said. "There's no downside to cooling these patients, ideally within 30 minutes."

Sorensen, whose research focuses on the effects of climate on health, said that even she needs a reminder every once in a while to be on the lookout for heat stroke.

She wasn't thinking about her research recently when she was trying to figure out what was wrong with an older male patient in a Colorado ER.

The man had passed out. He had some underlying health issues, Sorensen said. When his family arrived at the hospital, they helped her solve the mystery.

"They're like, 'Oh, yeah, we showed up at his house. It was 95 degrees inside,'" Sorensen said. His exposure to that heat was the problem. "I mean, I'm a climate doctor, for God's sake, and I'm sitting there trying to work up his heart issues," she said.

Sorensen's Global Consortium is trying to make it so every health care provider considers weather as a factor in health problems. An alliance of more than 300 deans of health professional training

schools in more than 60 countries, the group has pledged to train students in climate and health. Sorensen said she even became a write of medical board questions just so she could get something on the test that involved climate change, heat and air pollution.

"We have to prepare emergency departments to be able to incorporate climate into their thinking, because with something like heat stroke, it's almost like having a heart attack or a stroke. It's that urgent to get treatment now," Sorensen said.

Dr. Caleb Dresser, an emergency room physician and director of health care solutions at the Harvard Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment, said public health data shows that heat-related mortality for a given temperature increases 5% as you go from south to north in the US.

"It doesn't have to get as hot in Northern states as compared to Southern states, presumably because of differences in societal, physiological, cultural, health care adaptations," Dresser said.

As he looks to a future in which there will be "escalating hazards related to climate change," he thinks people generally need to do more to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and stave off the worst that climate change could produce. In the meantime, doctors and medical systems have to adapt better to the hazards that are already affecting their patients.

"This heat wave is well beyond what we would expect without climate change, and we need to plan for this and take the steps we can to keep people safe and prevent this hazard from turning into health harms," Dresser said.

Dresser's group has developed a toolkit for health professionals and patients to help them take steps to stay safe during hot weather. Harvard is also piloting a program that will send targeted alerts to nurses, doctors and other health care professionals at clinics in areas with dangerously high temperatures.

The alerts will provide information about the heat and about some actions they can take to help keep patients safe. He hopes to have information about the program's effectiveness later this year.

The best way to manage heat-related illnesses, Dresser said, is to be proactive. Always check the weather before you go out. In extreme heat, try to stay indoors if you can. If you have to go out, do it in the morning, when temperatures are a little lower. Drink lots of fluids, and wear loose-fitting lightweight clothing and sun protection. Also check on your elderly neighbors, relatives and others who may be vulnerable to the worst health outcomes from heat.

Talking about the weather may be considered small talk, but when it comes to health, it's more than that.

"People need to be paying attention to the temperatures," Dresser said. "There is a lot we can do as individuals and as a society to keep people safe during hot weather."



FUN FACTS!

13-month Ethiopian calendar

Traveling to Ethiopia is like traveling back in time. When you first arrive in Ethiopia, you can't help but notice that the 13-month Ethiopian calendar is seven or eight years behind the rest of the globe.

Ethiopia might not spring to mind when you think of a holiday destination, and that is where you will go wrong. This is because many people are unaware of some of the most amazing facts about this country. Continue reading to find out.

While most of the world observes the passage of time using the Gregorian calendar, Ethiopia has its own calendar, also known as the Ge'ez Calendar. The Ethiopian Calendar, which is based on the ancient Coptic Calendar, is seven to eight years behind the Gregorian Calendar due to different computations in estimating the date of Jesus' annunciation.

The Ethiopian Calendar consists of 12 months. Each has 30 days, with five or six extra days (also referred to as the 13th month) added at the

end of the year to align the calendar with the solar cycle.

Ethiopia is currently in the year 2015 not 2023. The Ethiopian year begins on September 11th or 12th in a Gregorian leap year. It is seven to eight years behind the Gregorian year due to different computations used to determine the date of Jesus' birth.

Ethiopia's calendar is based on the belief that Adam and Eve resided in the Garden of Eden for seven years before being exiled for their crimes. The Bible says that once they repented, God prom-

ised to save them after 5,500 years.

Ethiopians refer to the process used to compute the calendar as Bahere Hasab, which translates as "sea of ideas." This country estimates Jesus Christ's birth year differently. The Ethiopian Orthodox Church did not change its calculation when the Catholic Church did in 500 AD. Another distinction is that Ethiopians celebrate the start of a new year on September 11th, or September 12 if it is a leap year, according to the BBC.

So, at least officially,

Ethiopians only celebrated the millennium's turn on September 11th, 2007. Because of the distinct calendar, the country celebrates various public holidays on different dates than other countries throughout the world.

Ethiopia still follows its old calendar today. Travelers, on the other hand, are rarely inconvenienced by the calendar variation. The Gregorian calendar is known to the majority of Ethiopians, and some even use both calendars interchangeably. It may appear perplexing, but Ethiopians will be unconcerned.



Moon Tides!

DID YOU KNOW?

Moon pulls up water in oceans and even in lakes due to its gravitational force, which leads to formation of tides.

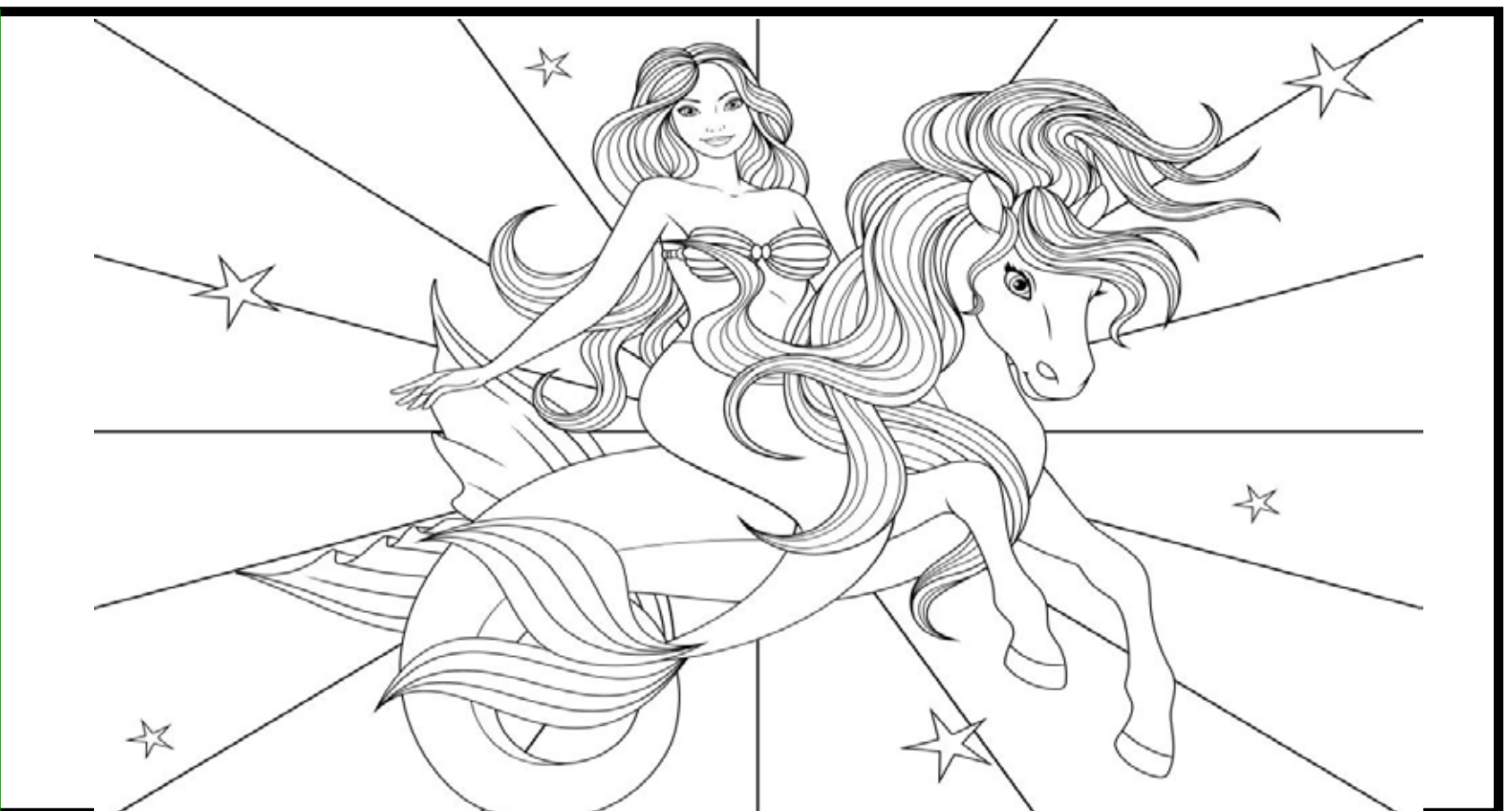


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Refugees, Gender based violence, and human rights

By Human Rights Commission

Domestic violence and violence against women continue to affect many homes in Belize and is one of the most widespread violations of human rights here and in the world. In 2022 domestic violence increased in Belize by 21 percent to 1099 reported cases from 773 in 2021. Of these, seven in every ten cases involved persons from 18 to 45 years old. Unlawful sexual intercourse increased from 46 reports in 2021 to 60 in 2022 and reports of rape doubled in 2022 from 14 reports in 2021. This

is the most recent data provided by the Belize Crime Observatory and reflects a general overview of the population.

There is not much data, if any at all, that shows how much of these cases involve refugee and asylum seeker women and girls, or whether they even file a report because of their status in the country. There is no denying that refugee and asylum seeker women and girls are exposed, and more vulnerable even, to gender-based violence taking the form of coercion, forced prostitution,

harassment, survival sex, sexual slavery or various forms of extortions.

But violence against women can also include “psychological and economic abuse, and it cuts across boundaries of age, race, culture, wealth and geography. Violence against women has far-reaching consequences by harming families and communities,” (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime).

States, generally, while providing some form of international protection to refugees and asylum seekers, do not prioritize

protection of refugee and asylum seeker women and girls from violence. In an ideal world, protection should be provided to all women, irrespective of their status in Belize.

For this already vulnerable group of women and girls, protection is almost non-existent and coming by information is also a challenge. This is why the Human Rights Commission of Belize has embarked, through the UNHCR funded project for refugee and asylum seekers, on sensitizing refugee and asylum seeker women and girls on gender-based violence, mental health, and how they are protected by Belize laws. These sessions are facilitated by Eva Burgos, a social worker with a bachelors in psychology and HRCB’s Paralegal Officer, Romario Pech.

Burgos says that, “The correlation between mental health and gender-based violence among the migrant population and asylum seekers is a complex and important issue. Research has shown that individuals who have experienced gender-based violence, such as domestic violence or sexual assault, are at a higher risk of developing mental health problems, including anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD). For migrants and asylum seekers, the challenges they face, such as cultural adjustment, language barriers, social isolation, and uncertain legal status, can exacerbate their vulnerability to mental health issues. Moreover, the trauma of their migration journey, which may involve escaping violence or persecution in their home countries, can further impact their mental well-being.”

Burgos says that the responsibility to help and protect asylum-seeker and refugee women should not be limited to cases of violence perpetrated against them here in Belize, but that they should also be able to access adequate support to overcome the trauma they have experienced in their countries of origin or during their time in transit.

“Building a compassionate and inclusive environment is key to helping asylum seekers on their journey to improved mental health and well-being. It is crucial to address these issues through comprehensive support systems, including access to mental health services, trauma-informed care, and interventions that address both gender-based violence and mental health concerns. Additionally, creating safe and inclusive environments for migrants and

asylum seekers can help reduce the risk of experiencing violence and promote their mental well-being,” she adds.

This is a responsibility that falls on the shoulders of the state which should ensure the presence of female social workers, interpreters, police officers and guards, and create safe spaces, ideally in reception facilities. Unfortunately, however, such facilities are non-existent in the country as most persons caught by authorities are remanded to the Belize Central Prison where they are at risk of facing a series of other human rights violations.

The legal aspect of the sessions includes a look at the legal system – their legal options available under Belize laws, including the Domestic Violence Act, the Families and Children Act, the Married Persons Act and the Criminal Code of Belize.

These sessions will continue in the weeks ahead and are being held within the Cayo and Toledo districts.

Disclaimer: the opinions expressed by our columnists are theirs alone, and are not necessarily reflective of the newspaper’s stance on the issues touched. We believe it is critical that our columnists be allowed freedom to generate discussion through their expressions on any number of topics.

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A Community Program Coordinated by the Rotary Club of Belize.

Belizeans in Lisbon participate in World Youth Day

After long immigration lines in Chetumal and a nine-hour flight from Cancun, the Divine Mercy Youth group arrived in Lisbon, Portugal, on Tuesday, August 25, a week before the official World Youth Day events for Days in the Diocese.

Days in the Diocese is held the week before World Youth Day across the various dioceses of the host country. It is an opportunity for young people from all across the world to exchange cultures, while experiencing the culture of Portugal through music, art and food, and features of the local Church by being integrated into parish communities. Pilgrims either stay with host families, at parishes or in public spaces like school gyms.

The Divine Mercy group was welcomed into the Diocese of Porto where they were hosted by families within the parish of São Tiago in the village of Pinheiro, Felgueiras.

The district of Felgueiras hosted many other countries including Brazil, Nicaragua, Honduras, Georgia, Lithuania, and Poland.

Belize was paired with Poland, and participated in many Diocesan activities together. The first three days, started with morning prayer and mass at 8:30 am in a church or monastery. That church was then toured with the guidance of a historian, followed by a visit to another historical site in Felgueiras.

The groups then caught a train to the city of Porto and partook in other Diocesan activities, such as visits to other historical Churches, the Bishop's Palace, the Arch Bridge, and seeing a demonstration of how the pipe organ at Irega da Lapa is played. After the day in Porto, the pilgrims returned to Pinheiro for dinner with their host families before leaving again at 9:30

p.m. for another cultural event, along with the pilgrims from Poland, in the village that lasted until midnight.

On Saturday morning, the group left their host families at 6:30 a.m. to head into Porto for a mass at 11 a.m. in the Parque de Cidade, where all the pilgrims being hosted in the Diocese of Porto gathered.

The celebration of the Eucharist was made even more special as 1000 priests and 44 Bishops were present to celebrate, and the mass hymns were played by a large orchestra. The lead celebrant of the mass, Bishop Manuel Linda, in his closing remarks, asked the 25,000 young people who gathered there to be "influencers," "dreamers" and "builders of a new world." He also stated that the pilgrims in the Diocese of Porto had set the record for the largest ever number of pilgrims in a single Diocese. Look at Belize being a part of a new record!

Sunday started with mass at 7:30 am and lunch with the host families. The group then joined other groups of pilgrims at JMV Secondary School for an International Youth Festival where the groups that were being hosted at that secondary school performed cultural items, such as dances and songs, from their countries. Monday, August 31st, was the final day in Porto. The morning was reserved for the pilgrims to pack in order to travel to Lisbon the next day for the start of World Youth Day.

In the afternoon, the Belize group, along with a group from Poland, visited a family run shoe factory almost 50 years old, and were gifted a little shoe with the WYD logo printed at the bottom as a memorabilia! The afternoon continued with a tour of a Roman ruin in Sendim village followed by a mini hike to and a picnic at Barrias River. Days in

the Diocese concluded with a final dinner with each pilgrim's host family, and a very sad farewell as the pilgrims left the next morning at 7 am to Fatima.

It was such a blessing for the group of pilgrims to learn about the history of the Church, its various architectural styles and periods, and to truly experience the Universal Church. Despite the location and the language, the celebration of mass and the faith remain recognizable.

A member of the group pointed out how mind blowingly beautiful it is that certain traditions

are universal. Both Belize and Portugal try to keep the art of embroidery alive, and the traditional accordion music sounds in Portugal are reminiscent of Mr. Peters Boom and Chime Brukdong music. Portugal has such a rich and beautiful culture.

Porto, specifically, is a great example of how the Church is a consistent part of the lives of the people. They are family centered with God at the forefront. They opened their homes, hearts and families to strangers from the other side of the world with nothing but faith in Jesus and love to give.



CENTRAL BANK
of BELIZE

www.centralbank.org.bz

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Asked to Report Unlicensed or Unregistered Financial Activity

Belize City, 3 August 2023: The Central Bank of Belize (Central Bank) reminds the public that, in accordance with the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act, International Banking Act, Credit Unions Act, Moneylenders Act, and National Payment System Act, persons are prohibited from carrying out certain financial activities without the requisite license or registration.

The public is reminded that it is illegal for an unlicensed or unregistered bank, credit union, moneylender (including pawnbroker), payment service provider (such as remittance service provider or E-wallet provider), or payment system operator to conduct or engage in financial transactions in or from within Belize.

Any person who conducts any of the above-listed services without holding a valid license or registration from the Central Bank commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to penalties under the relevant law.

The Central Bank, as industry regulator, remains committed to effective oversight of the financial system in service to the Belizean public and business community. If a member of the public encounters any such unlicensed or unregistered activities or operations, please make a report to:

Central Bank of Belize
Telephone: (501)223-6194
Email: communications@centralbank.org.bz

or

The Belize Police Department – Major Crimes Unit
Telephone: (501)822-2222
Email: hncib@yahoo.com

- ENDS -

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Why India's rice ban could trigger a global food crisis

By Soutik Biswas

What happens when India bans exports of a food staple that is essential to the diets of billions around the world?

On 20 July, India banned exports of non-basmati white rice in an attempt to calm rising domestic prices at home. This was followed by reports and videos of panic buying and empty rice shelves at Indian grocery stores in the US and Canada, driving up prices in the process.

There are thousands of varieties of rice that are grown and consumed, but four main groups are traded globally. The slender long grain Indica rice comprises the bulk of the global trade, while the rest is made up of fragrant or aromatic rice like basmati; the short-grained Japonica, used for sushi and risottos; and glutinous or sticky rice, used for sweets.

India is the world's top rice exporter, accounting for some 40% of the global trade

in the cereal. (Thailand, Vietnam, Pakistan and the US are the other top exporters).

Among the major buyers of rice are China, the Philippines and Nigeria. There are "swing buyers" like Indonesia and Bangladesh who step up imports when they have domestic supply shortages. Consumption of rice is high and growing in Africa. In countries like Cuba and Panama it is the main source of energy.

Last year, India exported 22 million tonnes of rice to 140 countries. Of this, six million tonnes was the relatively cheaper Indica white rice. (The estimated global trade in rice was 56 million tonnes.)

Indica white rice dominates around 70% of the global trade, and India has now ceased its export. This comes on top of the country's ban last year of exports of broken rice and a 20% duty on non-basmati



rice exports.

Not surprisingly, July's export ban has sparked worries about runaway global rice prices. IMF chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas reckons the ban would drive up prices and that global grain prices could rise up to 15% this year.

Also, India's export ban has not come at a

particularly propitious time, Shirley Mustafa, a rice market analyst at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) told me.

For one, global rice prices have been steadily rising since early 2022, with an increase of 14% since last June.

Second, supplies are under strain, given that the arrival of the new crop in the markets is still about three months away.

Inclement weather in South Asia - uneven monsoon rains in India and floods in Pakistan - has affected supplies. Costs of growing rice have gone up because of a rise in prices of fertilisers.

The devaluation of currencies has led to increased import costs for numerous countries, while high inflation has elevated borrowing costs of the trade.

"We have a situation where importers are constrained. It remains to be seen whether these buyers will be in a position to cope with further price increases," says Ms Mustafa.

India has a stockpile of an eye-popping 41 million tonnes of rice - more than three times the buffer requirement - in public granaries for its strategic reserve and the Public Distribution System (PDS), which gives more than 700 million poor people access to cheap food.

Over the past year, India has grappled with nagging food inflation - domestic rice prices have risen more than 30% since last October

- resulting in increased political pressure on the government ahead of general elections next year. Also, with a host of state-level elections in the coming months, the escalating cost of living poses a challenge to the government.

"I suspect that the action to ban non-basmati rice exports is largely precautionary and hopefully it will prove temporary," Joseph Glauber of International Food Policy Research Institute (Ifpri) told me.

Devinder Sharma, an expert in agriculture policy in India, says that the government is trying to get ahead of an anticipated production shortfall, with rice-growing regions in the south also exposed to risks of dry rain as the El Nino weather pattern sweeps through later this year.

Many believe India should avoid rice export bans as they are detrimental to global food security.

More than half of the rice imports in around 42 countries originate from India, and in many African nations, India's market share in rice imports surpasses 80%, according to Ifpri.

In top consuming countries in Asia - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, for example - the share of rice consumption in total calorie intake a day ranges from 40% to 67%.

"These bans hurt the vulnerable people most because they dedicate a larger share of their incomes to buying

food," says Ms Mustafa. "Rising prices could compel them to reduce the quantity of food they consume or switch to alternatives that are not nutritionally good or cut expenses in other basic necessities like housing and food." (To be sure, India's ban does permit some government shipments to countries on the basis of food security.)

Food export bans are not new. Since last year's Russian invasion of Ukraine, the number of countries imposing export restrictions on food has risen from from three to 16, according to Ifpri. Indonesia banned palm oil exports; Argentina banned beef exports; and Turkey and Kyrgyzstan banned a range of grain products. During the first four weeks of the Covid pandemic, some 21 countries implemented export restrictions on a range of products.

But experts say India's export ban poses greater risks. It would "surely cause a spike in global prices of white rice" and "adversely affect food security of many African nations", warn Ashok Gulati and Raya Das of the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (Icrier), a Delhi-based think tank. They believe that in order for India to become a "responsible leader of the Global South in G-20", it should avoid such abrupt bans. "But the bigger damage," they say, "will be that India will be seen as a very unreliable supplier of rice."

NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF BELIZE TREASURY BILLS ISSUE NUMBER 9/2023

Tenders are invited for an issue of Government of Belize Treasury Bills. The amount of the issue will be \$67,408,200.

The Bills will be issued in electronic form only evidenced by an electronic book entry in the Central Securities Depository of the Central Bank of Belize in multiples of \$200 and will be repayable at par 91 days after issue. They will be issued on Wednesday, 16 August 2023 and will be redeemed on Wednesday, 15 November 2023.

Each tender must be for \$200 or a multiple of \$200 and must specify to five decimal places the amount, which is offered for each one hundred dollars face value of the Bills sought.

Members of the public who wish to participate in the auction must submit their bid to the Central Bank of Belize electronically to bids@centralbank.org.bz or at the designated drop off box no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, 11 August 2023.

The Auction in the Central Securities Depository System (CSD) will be open from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesday, 16 August 2023.

Successful bidders should arrange to settle via the Automated Payment & Securities Settlement System of Belize (APSSS).

Bank: Central Bank of Belize
Account: GLICORP0402627

The Government of Belize reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all tenders in whole or in part.

CENTRAL BANK OF BELIZE

Notices are placed on Central Bank of Belize Website (www.centralbank.org.bz)



**MINISTRY
OF
INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
AND HOUSING**



PROCUREMENT NOTICE

BANANA BANK - FARMERS EXPRESS ROAD UPGRADING PROJECT

The Government of Belize (GOB), through the Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing (MIDH), intends to upgrade the **Banana Bank - Farmers Express Road from Chainage 0+000 (Bridge) to Chainage 3+500 (Farmers Express Road), approximately 3.5 km., consisting of Double Bituminous Surface Dressing Pavement structure as detailed in the contract.**

Provided there are no delays, construction is expected to start in the Third Quarter of 2023. The MIDH hereby invites interested qualified contractors with experience in road construction to participate in this process.

The Project is being implemented by the MIDH, Project Execution Unit (PEU). An Engineering Coordinator within the PEU will be responsible for the day-to-day management of project activities.

The Scope of Works refers to:

- Minor earthworks
- Culvert installation and drainage improvements
- Granular sub-base and basecourse pavement rehabilitation
- Construction of flexible pavement structure using DBST
- Road marking, Furniture & Miscellaneous Works

Consideration will be given to local firms who have qualified extensive experience in road construction of a similar nature, size and complexity.

Minimum Qualification Criteria:

- Provision of audited financial statements for **3 years between 2019 and 2022**
- General Construction Experience: **10 Years**
- Specific Construction Experience in the application of **Double Bituminous Surface Dressing Treatment**
- Contract Management Experience: **10 Years**
- Construction Experience in a Project of Similar Size and Complexity (**one**)
- Access to Line of Credit: **\$500,000.00**
- Average annual turnover of minimum: **Bz\$1.5 Million**
- Qualified registered Engineer: **10 years' experience (5 years registered)**

Effective **Monday 7 August 2023**, Bidding Documents are available at a cost of **Bz\$1,000.00** from the address below.

There are two options for submitting the bidding information. These are:

- (a) By electronic submission, in pdf format, to the email address indicated below. The submission will be deemed to have been received at the time that it is received by the PEU. The burden of proving receipt of the email will be on the applicant and will not be met solely by a read receipt or sent items report generated by the bidder's computer.; **or**
- (b) By submission of one original and three hard copies, by hand or by registered mail, in a sealed envelope to the address below. The sealed envelope containing each submission must include the name and address of the applicant.

All Bidding Documents properly completed should reach the office of the Chief Engineer at the address below no later than **Monday 21 August 2023 at 10:00 am**. The Ministry shall not be bound to assign any reason for not post-qualifying any contractor and shall not accept responsibility for any cost incurred by the applicants.

A Site Visit will be conducted on **Monday 14 August 2023 at 10:00am**. Bidders shall congregate at the **Westar Fuel Station**.

Attention: Mr. Evondale Moody
Chief Engineer/Engineering Coordinator
Ministry of Infrastructure Development and Housing
Power Lane
Belmopan
BELIZE C.A.

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Email: peu@midh.gov.bz