

THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 157 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PIGOTTS WOMAN SURVIVES SUICIDE ATTEMPT

Story on Page 2



The grand prize in the Hamptons Festival and Regatta of a trip to sail in Antigua Sailing Week 2023 went to "Big Boat" captained by Bud Rogers (centre) and his crew. (Photos Courtesy Antigua and Barbuda Hamptons Challenge Regatta) *Story on page 7.*

Local News



Pigotts woman survives suicide attempt

A 32-year-old woman escaped life threatening injuries when she attempted suicide at her Pigotts home early Monday morning.

The incident occurred two days after Parham resident, Alston Furlong, was discovered hanging from an electrical cord attached to his bedroom ceiling in what is believed to be a suspected suicide.

According to reports, the woman told law enforcement officers that "personal issues" she was experiencing led her to place a bag strap around her neck to attempt suicide.

Early Sunday evening, the woman was observed by her mother-in-law writing and when she inquired what it was she was doing, the 32-year-old informed

her that she was making entries in her journal.

Later, it turned out that she was in fact composing two suicide notes.

A young child who woke up to use the bathroom shortly before 1am on Monday reportedly discovered the letters that were strategically placed for them to be noticed and alerted the elderly woman,

a source revealed.

Immediately, a search was conducted to locate the 32-year-old woman who was discovered lying on the living-room floor with a bag strap around her neck and foaming from the mouth.

The Emergency Medical Services (EMS) was summoned and the woman was rushed to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLB-MC).

It appears that the young child who found the letters may have averted the death of the Pigotts resident who is also a mother.

After receiving medical attention at SLBMC, doctors reported that she did not sustain any major injuries.

Thu 18 Day		Thu 18 Night	
87°	32% E 14 mph	79°	51% E 12 mph
A few showers in the morning, then sunny in the afternoon. High 87F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 30%.		Cloudy with occasional showers. Low 79F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50%.	
Humidity 70%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 81%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:51 am	Sunset 6:30 pm	Moonrise 11:24 pm	Moonset 11:50 am
		Waning Gibbous	

PHONEARAMA

SALE

"WE HAVE THE BEST PRICE"

DON OFFICIAL ACCESSORIES

Tel: (268) 775-4488

\$349 & UP

7" AMAZON FIRE TABLET

\$299

UNIQ 7 INCHES TABLET WIFI

\$599 & UP

SAMSUNG PHONES

\$299 & UP

ZTE & HYUNDAI PHONES

\$99

BLU Z4 PHONE

STORE HOURS: 9AM TO 5PM

DON OFFICIAL STORE - UPPER NEVIS STREET

CALL: 775-4488 NOW | WHATSAPP: 720-4488

Government moving to end flow of contraband into 1735

The government wants to stem the tide of illegal items that continue to make their way into the country's sole penal facility, Her Majesty's Prison.

To this end, five officials from Her Majesty's Prison, including the Prison Superintendent, were invited to Cabinet to address the challenges they face and the steps that must be taken to eliminate or reduce prisoners' access to prohibited items.

"More than 60 cell phones were recently discovered in the cells occupied by prisoners during a surprise search and raid. Investigations have followed to determine which prison



officials are responsible," the Cabinet was informed.

Although the Cabinet may make rules for discipline and training at the prison, the officials have repeated that prevention is superior to punishment.

Screening of those entering the prison compound, including officers, should not be left to prison authorities, it was determined.

Five proposals were also put forward to Cabinet to address the problem. These include frequently changing the officers who are responsible for checking entries and exits to the prison utilising metal detectors and other security systems; completing the two towers that are intended to deter persons from throwing items over the prison walls;

the addition of one vehicle and other safety equipment required to effectively manage the prison and movement of prisoners and the construction of an internal buffer fence at the eastern border of the prison.

The fifth recommendation pertains to the ideal ratio of officers to prisoners. Prison officials say this should be one officer to seven inmates, however, the ratio is now one officer to almost forty inmates.

There are presently about 250 inmates housed at the prison. It has been agreed that at least forty additional officers will be trained and deployed to fill the existing void.

We're Backkkkk

The Police Drama Group is back with a play called

School call Eeeeeen



Written and directed
By Owen Jackson

Antigua Recreation Ground

\$20.00 **8:pm** **\$20.00**

Saturday 10th September 2022

Autopsy finds scuba-diving tourist died from haemorrhage

A postmortem examination conducted on the body of Adam Laskey has listed the American tourist's cause of death as haemorrhage.

According to the Cleveland Clinic, haemorrhage is "loss of blood from a damaged blood vessel. The bleeding can be inside or outside the body, and blood loss can be minor or major".

Additionally, haemorrhage can also go by several names, depending on the location or cause which, in some cases, can prove fatal.

Laskey and his wife Heather were married on 25th June, 2022 and chose Antigua and Barbuda as their honeymoon destination. Ahead of their arrival in St. John's, the couple earned their scuba diving certification which would have allowed them to participate in the activity while here.

A GoFundMe page detailed that Adam was eager to scuba dive since it was part of his "bucket list".

On 22nd July, 2022, their joy turned to tragedy when Laskey encountered difficulty while scuba diving and died.

A relative of the Laskey's who created the GoFundMe page to raise funds for Adam's body to be flown home to the United States, said "his new wife

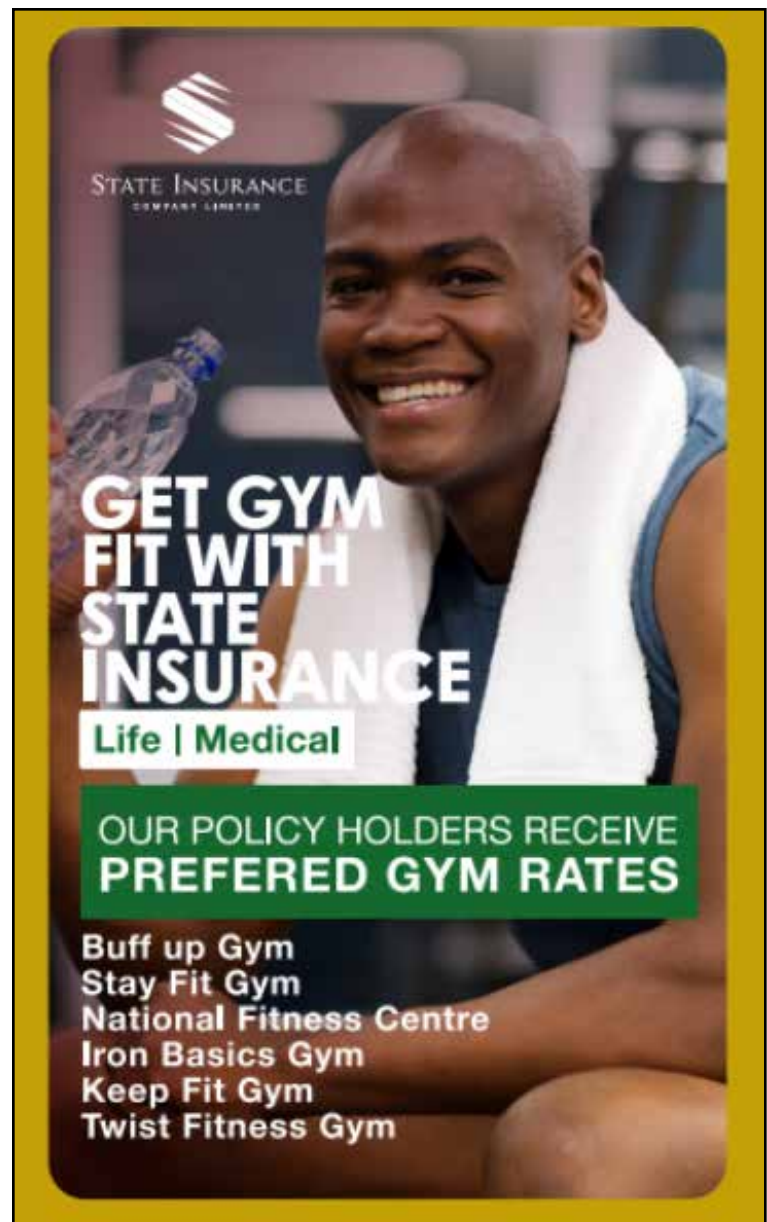


Heather was left distraught, in shock, and stranded alone in another country, without her other half and soul mate".

"Their 6 month-old son, Joshua, was fortunately staying with family while Adam and Heather were on their trip," the GoFundMe page outlined.

"The amount of grief and loss we are feeling is nothing compared to what our new sister-in-law is experiencing, which is now compounded by the reality of becoming a widowed mother, and the stressful, expensive, and lengthy process of bringing Adam home. All of this, less than a month after being married," the GoFundMe profile said.

The Laskey's have so far raised US\$19,024.00 of their USD\$30,000.00 goal which will be used to assist in covering the cost of returning Adam's body to the United States.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

GET GYM FIT WITH STATE INSURANCE
Life | Medical

OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE PREFERRED GYM RATES

Buff up Gym
Stay Fit Gym
National Fitness Centre
Iron Basics Gym
Keep Fit Gym
Twist Fitness Gym

Tourism sector continues its forward march

The tourism sector continues to show positive signs that it has regained much of the losses it suffered because of the COVID-19 pandemic of the past two years.

The latest statistics released by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA) showed improvements in arrivals figures for the month of July.

Using 2019 as the benchmark, as this was the year before the pandemic, the figures for July, 2022 totaled 24,673 compared with 23,031 in July, 2019. This represents a 7 percent increase.

The United States is



now the dominant source market for visitors to the country. According to the figures, 13,305 visitors from the US arrived during the month representing 54 percent of the total arrivals.

In 2019, the US represented 44 percent of all arrivals for July that year.

The other major source markets remained unchanged with the UK at 23 percent and Canada at 5 per-

cent.

Visitors from the Caribbean were down 4 percent from 17 percent in 2019 to 13 percent this year.

In June this year, hotel occupancy was better than June, 2019, but was down from 2021.

The figures show that for June, 2019, occupancy was recorded at 54.7 percent, while in June 2021, it totaled 78.3 percent.

This year June occupancy figures were recorded at 63.3 percent.

Tourism is the mainstay of the Antigua and Barbuda economy, representing 70 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind.



HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT



PREPARE NOW
LEARN HOW

2022 HURRICANE SEASON

JUNE 1ST - NOVEMBER 30TH

PREPARING NOW CAN HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE
START PLANNING NOW WITH **STATE**

ANTIGUA
(268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA
(268) 727-7422

info@sicantigua.com

www.sicantigua.com



UWI FIC student enrollment grows

The University of the West Indies Five Islands (UWI FIC) is reporting that student enrollment is continuing to grow rapidly.

The disclosure came as a team of officials from the university met with the Cabinet at its regular session on Wednesday.

They included the Principal and Vice Chancellor, Professor Denzil Williams, and Registrar, Hiram Forde.

The UWI FIC started three years ago with a student enrollment of one hundred and seventy-eight students. By this September, however, enrollment



The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is expected to top seven hundred students.

The university projects that enrollment will exceed one thousand students by 2024.

Against this backdrop, Professor Williams informed the Cabinet that on-campus residences are required as well as an administrative complex.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is about to acquire US\$40 million from the Saudi Fund. Of this amount, US\$39 million will be allocated to the UWI Five Islands Campus expansion.

The money will also go towards faculty housing, which will be constructed near the campus, and a clinic will be installed on campus which will host a nurse, an ambulance and possibly a fire tender.

It was disclosed that a Nursing School that meets the standards stipulat-

ed in the laws of Antigua and Barbuda will offer its first courses in September 2022.

The Principal of UWI also made a presentation on the other developmental plans of the institution.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) will be a major focus of UWI Five Islands.

Professor Williams also indicated that OECS nations must catch up to the education standards of other Caribbean countries and gave the assurance that UWI Five Islands stands ready to bridge this gap.

It was further revealed that the UWI FIC will introduce a Business Education programme that will work to adequately prepare OECS nationals for the future and emerging opportunities.



Antigua & Barbuda celebrates legendary sailing traditions at the Hamptons Festival & Regatta

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) showcased the beautiful twin-island destination in a series of events in The Hamptons, New York's ritzy summer playground for the rich and famous.

Now in its twelfth year, the popular Antigua & Barbuda Hamptons Challenge Regatta was expanded this year to a four-day family festival. Hundreds of visitors were treated to steel pan music, a host of family-friendly activities such as face painting and costumed dancers, and delectable Antigua and Barbuda cuisine. 30 exhibitors attended the festival last week at the John Steinbeck Waterfront Park, Sag Harbor, including travel advisors who were promoting and selling the twin-islands to an affluent and receptive audience.

Minister of Tourism, Charles "Max" Fernandez, led the delegation from An-

tigua & Barbuda who travelled to The Hamptons to oversee and attend the series of events.

Commenting on the festivities, Minister Fernandez said, "The Antigua and Barbuda Hamptons Challenge is one of the most eagerly anticipated events on our marketing calendar which highlights our dominance as a premier sailing destination and promotes the most important event on our calendar, Antigua Sailing Week.

"We are delighted to expand our outreach this year by extending the promotion to a four-day event, bringing greater awareness of our multi-faceted, twin-island destination to this key source market of affluent travellers."

The highlight of the festival was the Antigua and Barbuda Hamptons Challenge Regatta on Saturday, 13th August. Nineteen yachts competed in Noyack



Lauded Executive Chef Melvin Myers of Antigua and Barbuda displayed his culinary carvings in The Hamptons

Bay in the handicapped race organised by the Peconic Bay Sailing Association.

The winning team received the biggest sailing prize in the Northeast; an all-expenses paid trip for the Captain and Crew to race in the 2023 edition of Antigua Sailing Week.

The race was followed by an awards cocktail at John Steinbeck Waterfront Park in Sag Harbor.

This year's winner was "Big Boat" skippered by Bud Rogers with a time of 1:11:10. Rogers and his

crew will travel to Antigua to participate in Antigua Sailing Week to be held from April 29 - May 5, 2023. Antigua and Barbuda's Tourism Minister presented the Antigua and Barbuda top prize at the Awards Cocktail Party to Rogers and his crew.

Antigua and Barbuda prize partners included Dream Yacht Charter, Falmouth Harbour Marina, Axxess Marine and Locman Italy.

During his visit, Minis-

cont'd on pg 8



Local News



Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez, right, holding the trophy

cont'd from pg 7

ter Fernandez paid a courtesy call on the Mayor of Sag Harbor, His Worship Mr. James Larocca, who presented him with a City Proclamation on behalf of the people of Sag Harbor, to honour and recognize the bonds of friendship that exist between their communities.

Minister Fernandez was also interviewed by the leading local newspaper, the Sag Harbor Express, and appeared on WLNG RADIO with celebrity host Bonnie Grice.

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin James said, "We appreciate the tremendous support we receive each year from the Mayor, our Regatta founder and manager Theresa Roden, and the wider Sag Harbor community.

This year we were delighted to partner with two of our own, the tremendously talented team of Tanya Willock and Temidra Willock-Morsch, owners of Hidden Gem boutique, alongside their mother Genevieve who is originally from Freetown.

Thank you for contributing your invaluable time and sharing your well-heeled clientele with us to promote our wonderful country."

Additional members of the Antigua & Barbuda delegation were Dean Fenton, Director of Tourism, ABTA USA; Marilyn Pires, ABTA USA; Noel Mignott, Founder & CEO of the PM Group, ABTA's in-market agency.



AUGUST 20TH 2022

YED'22

**YOUTH EMPOWERMENT DAY
SEMINAR**

9AM-5PM
AGES 16-25

REGISTRATION \$50^{XCD}
PER PERSON



**DRESSCODE
BUSINESS
ATTIRE**



**LUNCH
PROVIDED**

#YED22
#nolanhue
#professional
developmentforall

Register by going to www.nolanhue.com



"Overcoming the Challenges Together"

Police Week 2022



Pre- Events

- Saturday 20th August 2022- Hike to Mount McNish 5:30am
- Wednesday 24th August 2022-Netball, YMCA 6pm
- Friday 26th August 2022- Fitness Jam, King George to Police Ground 4pm
- Sunday 28th August 2022 -Road Race All Saints Fire Station to Police Ground 5am

- **Saturday 3rd September 2022**

Police Cricket Team VS Parish League Team, Police Grounds 1pm

Queen Show, Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

Police Week

- **Sunday 4th September 2022**

Church Service – Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church 9am

Brunch – Police Head Quarters

- **Monday 5th September 2022**

Opening Day – Police Head Quarters 10am to 2pm

Malcolm Nicholas Cup Competition – Corner of Market and High Street 4pm

- **Tuesday 6th September 2022**

Inter-force Shooting Competition – SWFGPA 9am

Sports Final Matches- Football, Cricket – Police Grounds 3pm

- **Wednesday 7th September 2022**

Sick and Shut In

Calypso – Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Thursday 8th September**

Veterans Cocktail – SWFGPA – 5pm

- **Friday 9th September 2022**

Sports day/ March Pass – Police Grounds 10am

- **Saturday 10th September 2022**

Full Bore Shooting Competition – Crabbs Shooting Range 10am

Variety Concert -Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Sunday 11th September 2022**

Beach Bash – Ffyers Beach 10am



Environment



Scientists warn of dire effects as Mediterranean heats up

By Ciarán Giles and Ilan Ben Zion

While vacationers might enjoy the Mediterranean Sea's summer warmth, climate scientists are warning of dire consequences for its marine life as it burns up in a series of severe heat waves.

From Barcelona to Tel Aviv, scientists say they are witnessing exceptional temperature hikes ranging from 3 degrees Celsius (5.4 Fahrenheit) to 5 degrees Celsius (9 Fahrenheit) above the norm for this time of year. Water temperatures have regularly exceeded 30 C (86 F) on some days.

Extreme heat in Europe and other countries around the Mediterranean has grabbed headlines this summer, but the rising sea temperature is largely out of sight and out of mind.

Marine heat waves are caused by ocean currents building up areas of warm water. Weather systems and heat in the atmosphere can also pile on degrees to the water's temperature. And just like their on-land counterparts, marine heat waves are longer, more frequent and more intense because of human-induced climate change.

The situation is "very worrying," says Joaquim Garrabou, a researcher at the Institute of Marine Sciences in Barcelona. "We are pushing the system too far.



Egyptian holiday-makers ride on a banana boat at the beach of the Mediterranean city of Marsa Matrouh, 270 miles (430 kilometres) northwest of the capital, Cairo, Egypt, Aug. 13, 2022. While vacationers might enjoy the Mediterranean sea's summer warmth, climate scientists are warning of dire consequences for its marine life as it burns up in a series of severe heat waves. (AP Photo/Amr Nabil, File)

We have to take action on the climate issues as soon as possible."

Garrabou is part of a team that recently published the report on heat waves in the Mediterranean Sea between 2015 and 2019. The report says these phenomena have led to "massive mortality" of marine species.

About 50 species, including corals, sponges and seaweed, were affected along thousands of kilometres of Mediterranean coasts, according to the study, which was published in the *Global Change Biology* journal.

The situation in the eastern Mediterranean basin is particularly dire.

The waters off Israel,

Cyprus, Lebanon and Syria are "the hottest hot spot in the Mediterranean, for sure," said Gil Rilov, a marine biologist at Israel's Oceanographic and Limnological Research institute, and one of the paper's co-authors. Average sea temperatures in the summer are now consistently over 31 C (88 F).

These warming seas are driving many native species to the brink, "because every summer their optimum temperature is being exceeded," he said.

What he and his colleagues are witnessing in terms of biodiversity loss is what is projected to happen further west in the Mediterranean toward Greece, Italy and Spain in the coming years.

Garrabou points out that seas have been serving the planet by absorbing 90% of the earth's excess heat and 30% of carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere by coal, oil and gas production. This carbon-sink effect shields the planet from even harsher climate effects.

This was possible because oceans and seas were in a healthy condition, Garrabou said.

"But now we have driven the ocean to an unhealthy and dysfunctional state," he said.

While the earth's greenhouse gas emissions will have to be drastically reduced if sea warming is to be curtailed, ocean scientists are specifically looking for authorities to guarantee that 30% of sea areas are protected from human activities such as fishing, which would give species a chance to recover and thrive.

About 8% of the Mediterranean Sea area is currently protected.

Garrabou and Rilov said that policymakers are largely unaware of the warming Mediterranean and its impact.

"It's our job as scientists to bring this to their attention so they can think about it," Rilov said.

Heat waves occur when especially hot weather continues over a set number

cont'd on pg 12

SHOP NOW!



LB Store

LOUIS BROTHER STORE

"Everything and More"

TEL:(268)562-6644/OFFICE:(268)736-6644

LOCATED:OLD PARHAM ROAD AND MARKET STS

Energy

Consumers to pay less for gasoline and diesel as Barbados caps fuel prices

Consumers in Barbados will be paying less for gasoline and diesel come Friday, as Prime Minister Mia Mottley announced that the price of fuel at the pump will be capped for the next five months.

Gasoline will cost BDS\$4.48 (US\$2.24) per litre, while diesel will be BDS\$4.03 (US\$2.01) until January 31, 2023.

During a wide-ranging press conference on Monday, Mottley said the cap on the Value Added Tax (VAT) on gasoline and diesel, which was put in place five months ago, will be kept in place.

"We are going to extend that cap at least until the 31st of January, and we are doing that recognizing that Barbadians do need to be shielded some more.... And while things are difficult even for the government, we feel that we have an obligation to shield Barbadians more," she said.



"We will now place a cap on the price of gasoline and the price of diesel at the pump and we will hold to that higher price until the 31st of January. To be very precise, if the prices fall below that cap, all of those reductions will be passed through to the consumer. If the prices go above that cap, the government will hold the line and keep the cap in place."

Prime Minister Mottley added that, periodically, the government would

have to "make whole" the Barbados National Oil Company, the importers of the products.

She stressed that this adjustment was necessary to give some level of predictability to consumers and those people whose livelihood depended on gasoline and diesel.

Mottley pointed out that there had been a decline in prices, so the government was not capping at the highest possible price. *cont'd on pg 13*

cont'd from pg 10

of days, with no rain or little wind. Land heat waves help cause marine heat waves and the two tend to feed each other in a vicious, warming circle.

Land heat waves have become commonplace in many countries around the Mediterranean, with dramatic side effects like wildfires, droughts, crop losses and excruciatingly high temperatures.

But marine heat waves could also have serious consequences for the countries bordering the Mediterranean and the more than 500 million people who live there if it's not dealt with

soon, scientists say.

Fish stocks will be depleted and tourism will be adversely affected, as destructive storms could become more common on land.

Despite representing less than 1% of the global ocean surface area, the Mediterranean is one of the main reservoirs of marine biodiversity, containing between 4% and 18% of the world's known marine species.

Some of the most affected species are key to maintaining the functioning and diversity of the sea's habitats. Species like the *Posidonia oceanica* seagrass meadows, which can absorb vast

amounts of carbon dioxide and shelters marine life, or coral reefs, which are also home to wildlife, would be at risk.

Garrabou says the mortality impacts on species were observed between the surface and 45 metres (around 150 feet) deep, where the recorded marine heat waves were exceptional. Heat waves affected more than 90% of the Mediterranean Sea's surface.

According to the most recent scientific papers, the sea surface temperature in the Mediterranean has increased by 0.4 C (0.72 F) each decade between 1982 and 2018. On a yearly basis,

it has been rising by some 0.05 C (0.09 F) over the past decade without any sign of letting up.

Even fractions of degrees can have disastrous effects on ocean health, experts say.

The affected areas have also grown since the 1980s and now covers most of the Mediterranean, the study suggests.

"The question is not about the survival of nature, because biodiversity will find way to a survive on the planet," Garrabou said. "The question is if we keep going in this direction maybe our society, humans, will not have a place to live."

Trinidad PM calls for Caribbean journalists to understand their role in development

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley has called on journalists in the Caribbean to focus, investigate, interpret, educate, and report on the development processes of their countries.

Delivering the feature address at the opening of the 53rd General Assembly of the Barbados-based Caribbean Broadcasting Union (CBU) on Monday night, Rowley, a geologist, who has spent 40 years in electoral politics, said he has been a close observer of the media as he sought to make himself clear on the thorny issue of development journalism.

"I believe that journalists, in what is loosely called the developing world, should see it, in their professional charge, to focus, investigate, interpret, educate, and report on the development processes of their countries.

"They must take ownership and be guardians, and given the Caribbean's histo-

ry, they must be understanding and sympathetic to the realistic challenges of the fledgling development processes," said Prime Minister Rowley, who earlier during his address had traced the history of the media dating back to 1622.

He told the media executives from the English, French, Spanish, and the Dutch-speaking Caribbean that most importantly, journalists must be able to carry out their function in the new environment "without any government guidance or intervention.

"As such they must cultivate, and view their world, with the so-called "Jeweller's eye," interpreting, educating, and helping their fellow citizens to locate themselves and their interests in the wider world," he said, lamenting, however "I'm afraid that is not the journalism I see being widely practised.

"It is the journalism of "publish and be damned," "Gotcha!" or simple, "He/



Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley

She said that" — all largely without context or recorded history. A listener, reader or viewer is not helped or educated — in the democratic process, when a journalist has a story, then searches for a counterpoint. Full stop. That is, it!

Dr. Keith Rowley said he wanted to suggest that journalists in the Caribbean must-see "every story they write, as report within the history and uniqueness of the Caribbean condition.

"What is being argued as free and independent reporting, has to be seen wider than the metropolitan model, or context and carrying that flavour of our "West Indianness."

"Also, journalists and journalism today must visit and keep re-visiting the vol-

umes, written on the dangers of cultural imperialism, and what it has done, and continues to do to the minds of the West Indian people, and its youth.

"I do have much, much more to say, Chair, on this topic, for example. such as radio stations, whose schedules are predominately American pop, or Gangsta, as opposed to meaningful, conscious West Indian music, art, and drama. "

Prime Minister Rowley said it is in this context that he applauds both UNESCO and the CBU for promoting the discussion on its theme "Media and Information Literacy in Journalism," as a relevant counter to the clear and present dangers of misinformation and disinformation.

cont'd from pg 12

"The BDS\$4.83 (US\$2.41) at the pump that you are paying now for gasoline is at a far higher price than what is currently available and to that extent, we will absorb the loss on that, because those prices were to have remained in place until the end of January. Since then, there was a shipment that came in a little lesser; we believe that we need to cap it at the lesser amount..." Mottley said.

The prime minister disclosed that earlier in the day she held discussions with Deputy Prime Minister Santia Bradshaw; Senior Minister Kerri Symmonds, who has responsibility for the Ministry of Energy, and the public service vehicle associations. (CMC)

Regional News



Environmental groups sue US over Puerto Rico dredging plan

AP - The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the U.S. government, accusing it of endangering wildlife and humans as it prepares to dredge and expand Puerto Rico's biggest bay to accommodate massive tankers that will serve a new liquid natural gas terminal.

The Arizona-based nonprofit said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' \$60 million project would remove 2.2 million cubic yards of seafloor sediment to deepen and widen San Juan Bay's shipping channels.

Dredging would last more than a year, and some of the material could be transported to the nearby Condado Lagoon Estuarine Reserve, which is popular with locals and tourists who swim, snorkel and paddle board its waters, where manatees and starfish are a common sight.

The lawsuit also states that several "overburdened environmental justice communities" near and around the U.S. territory's north coast could be at risk from pollution, explosions and oil spills if the dredging is completed and the terminal starts operating. It noted that the Corps did not consult with communities that could be affected.

"This project will destroy corals and threaten communities and deepen the island's dangerous dependence on



fossil fuels," Catherine Kilduff, an attorney for the centre, told The Associated Press.

The centre and two environmental groups — CORALations and El Puente de Williamsburg Inc. — filed the lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and others. They have 60 days to respond, and then both sides would make arguments before a judge issues a decision that can be appealed.

Spokeswomen for the Corps and for Fish & Wildlife Service said the agencies are unable to comment on pending litigation. The Corps previously stated that dredged materials in the Condado Lagoon would fill depressions and create seagrass habitat.

The lawsuit states that the Corps submitted an environmental assessment instead of a more rigorous environmental impact statement and accused it of reaching an erroneous determination in August 2018 that

dredging would have no environmental impact.

The lawsuit noted that more than 1.5 million people live in eight cities and towns that surround the San Juan Bay: "The coastal economy is connected to the bay and its health."

If the dredging project is completed, tankers transporting petroleum and liquefied natural gas would carry about six times the capacity of vessels that currently use Puerto Rico's busiest harbour.

It's located in a bay that is part of a larger ecosystem made up of rivers, lagoons and a smaller bay that cover 3,400 acres and are home to threatened and endangered animals including four types of sea turtles, manatees and the yellow-shouldered blackbird.

Kilduff said the nonprofits are demanding an environmental impact statement in part because of new information on how dredging smothers corals.

"So much of Puerto Rico's economy depends on coastal resources like tourism and fishing," she said.

The lawsuit also warned that the dredging project would "hasten damage, weathering and erosion of the coast and structures" including two massive historic forts that guarded San Juan Bay during colonial times.

US officials warn of uptick in weapons smuggled to Haiti

AP - U.S. investigators say they have noticed an uptick in the amount and calibre of weapons being smuggled from Florida to Haiti in recent months.

Anthony Salisbury,

chief of the Miami Homeland Security Investigations office, said agents are increasing their efforts to stop the trafficking, noting rising gang violence around Haiti's capital.

Salisbury said the guns seized include a .50 calibre sniper rifle that military snipers use and other machine guns not usually seen. Agents have noticed an increase in calibre and

volume.

"It's incredibly disturbing," Salisbury told The Associated Press. "In the wrong hands, these weapons are capable of causing

cont'd on pg 15

CRFM participates in month-long tour of countries affected by Sargassum

CMC - The Belize-based Caribbean Regional Fisheries Mechanism (CRFM) says together with the Plant and Food Research Limited (PFR) of New Zealand they have concluded a month-long tour of the Caribbean gaining first-hand knowledge of how the region has been coping with the persistent Sargassum problem.

The delegations also visited Cancun, Mexico with the CRFM indicating that the mission was taking place as Sargassum influxes for the month of June hit a new historical record, underscoring the urgency of scaling up collaboration and private-public partnerships to convert Sargassum into economically viable, climate resilient products.

“This tour marks an important milestone in the New Zealand-funded Sargassum Products for Climate Resilience in the Caribbean project, which seeks to mitigate the environmental and economic impacts of Sargassum seaweed influxes in affected Caribbean countries through the creation of inclusive value chains.

“The partners are now transitioning from phase 1, which involved raw material safety testing and harvesting operations review, to phase 2, which will focus on product and



process development for Sargassum-derived products. Following the mission, the team is accessing the information gathered to formulate a plan of action for phase 2,” the CRFM said.

The delegations visited Barbados, St. Lucia, Dominican Republic, Belize, and Mexico holding discussions with various stakeholders involved in the collection and management of the Sargassum.

“We were able to observe first-hand the effects of the Sargassum influx in the countries we visited. This allowed us to better understand the ongoing initiatives to utilise the Sargassum,” said Mrs. Beverley Sutherland, the CRFM project coordinator.

“The mission furthermore enabled us to make some critical connections. The CRFM said based on the information gathered during the tour and the analysis done on the samples that were collected in the first phase of the project, the focus will be on the formulation of liquid fertilisers and construction supplies.

It said the June 2022 Outlook of Sargassum recently published by the University of South Florida Optical Oceanography Lab noted that the total Sargassum in the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico, and Central Atlantic area increased from 18.8 million tons in May 2022 to 24.2 million tons in June 2022, thus setting a new historical record.

cont'd from pg 14

a vast amount of destruction.

In July, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved a resolution renewing the mandate of a U.N. office in Haiti and calling on all countries to stop the transfer of small arms, light weapons and ammunition that could be fueling gang violence.

Homeland Security Investigations said it continues to investigate the uptick. The spike in violence comes as gangs grow in power following the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse.

But the gang wars have intensified in the past few weeks with gangs setting a church and a courthouse on fire, among other steps.



Firearms are displayed during a news conference at the Homeland Security Investigations Miami Field Office (HSI), Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022, in Miami. (AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)



STYLE ALONGSIDE FASHION LIVE ON
POINTE
ON DE
STREETZ

WITH KEVIN MORGAN AND
VERNON A SPRINGER.



EVERY FRIDAY
8:30AM

SPONSORED BY



German leader condemns Abbas' '50 Holocausts' remark

AP - Germany's chancellor said Wednesday that he was "disgusted by the outrageous remarks" made by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Berlin, accusing Israel of committing "50 Holocausts" against Palestinians over the years.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's statement on Twitter came a day after Abbas refused to condemn a deadly attack by Palestinian militants on Israeli athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. Instead, Abbas countered by saying he could point to "50 Holocausts" by Israel.

"I am disgusted by the outrageous remarks made by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas," Scholz said.

"For us Germans in particular, any relativization of the singularity of the Holocaust is intolerable and unacceptable. I condemn any attempt to deny the crimes of the Holocaust."

Scholz was criticised both in Germany and Israel for not rejecting Abbas' comments immediately at the press conference he held with him on Tuesday night at the Chancellery.

A spokesman for Scholz told reporters that his office had summoned the head of the Palestinian mission in Berlin on Wednesday.

The chancellor's foreign and security policy advisor conveyed that Scholz expects the Palestinian president "to acknowledge the singularity of the Holocaust without any qualification," Steffen Hebestreit said.

"His gaffe yesterday casts a dark shadow over Germany's relations with the Palestinian Authority," Hebestreit said, referring to Abbas' comments.

He added that Scholz has arranged a telephone call with Israeli



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, left, speaks during a news conference after a meeting with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz, right, at the Chancellery in Berlin, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022, that "For us Germans in particular, any relativization of the singularity of the Holocaust is intolerable and unacceptable. I condemn any attempt to deny the crimes of the Holocaust." (Wolfgang Kumm/dpa via AP)

Prime Minister Lapid for Thursday in order to be able to speak directly with him about this incident as well.

Standing next to Scholz at Tuesday's press conference, Abbas explicitly used the word "Holocausts" in his reply, drawing a grimace from the German chancellor.

Germany has long argued the term should only be used to describe the Nazis' singular crime of killing 6 million Jews before and during World War II.

While Scholz had earlier rejected the Palestinian leader's description of Israel's treatment of Palestinians as "apartheid," he did not immediately rebuke Abbas for using the term "Holocaust."

Abbas said that "from 1947 until today, Israel has committed 50 massacres in 50 Palestinian villages."

"Fifty slaughters. Fifty Holo-

causts," he added.

During the Third Reich, the Germans and their henchmen murdered 6 million Jews across Europe.

On Wednesday, Abbas appeared to walk back his comments.

In a written statement, his office said that "President Mahmoud Abbas reaffirms that the Holocaust is the most heinous crime in modern human history."

The statement stressed that "his answer was not intended to deny the singularity of the Holocaust that occurred in the last century, and condemning it in the strongest terms."

Abbas's remarks drew strong condemnation by leaders across Israel's political spectrum.

Caretaker Prime Minister Yair Lapid called the comments, "not only a moral disgrace, but a monstrous lie."

WHO chief: Lack of help for Tigray crisis due to skin colour

By Maria Cheng And Cara Anna

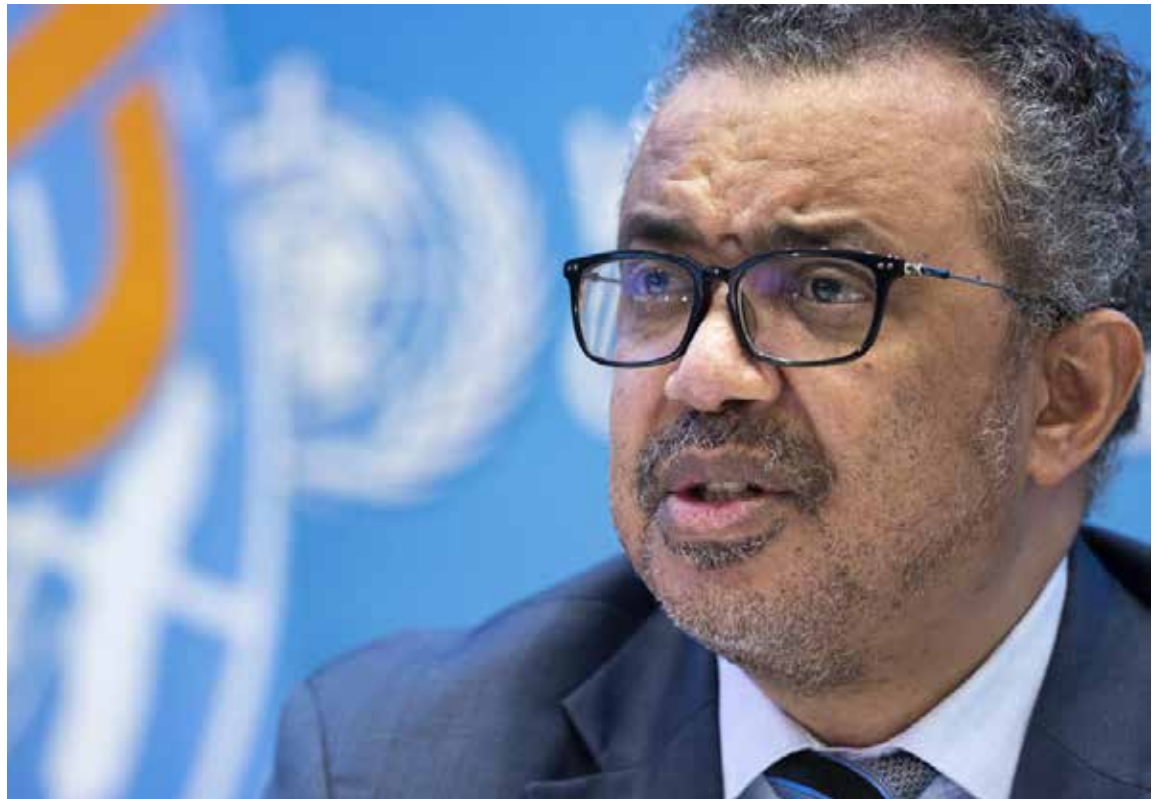
The head of the World Health Organization described the ongoing crisis in Ethiopia's Tigray region as "the worst disaster on Earth" and wondered aloud Wednesday if the reason global leaders have not responded was due to "the colour of the skin of the people in Tigray."

In an emotional statement at a press briefing, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus — himself an ethnic Tigrayan — said the situation caused by the conflict in his home country is worse than any other humanitarian crisis in the world.

Tedros asserted that the 6 million people in Tigray essentially cut off from the world have been "under siege" for the last 21 months. He described the Ukraine conflict as a crisis that has the global community potentially "sleepwalking into a nuclear war" that could be "the mother of all problems," but argued the disaster in Tigray was far worse.

"I haven't heard in the last few months any head of state talking about the Tigray situation anywhere in the developed world. Anywhere. Why?" Tedros asked.

"Maybe the reason is



Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director General of the World Health Organization talks to the media regarding the coronavirus COVID-19 at the World Health Organization headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, Monday, Dec. 20, 2021. In an emotional statement at a press briefing on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022 WHO Director-General _ who is an Ethnic Tigrayan _ said the situation in his home country of Ethiopia, where 6 million people in Tigray have essentially been cut from the world, is worse than any other humanitarian crisis in the world. (Salvatore Di Nolfi/Keystone via AP, File)

the colour of the skin of the people in Tigray," he said.

In April, Tedros questioned if the world's overwhelming focus on Russia's war in Ukraine was due to racism, although he acknowledged the conflict there had global consequences.

The conflict in Ethiopia began in November 2020, and little humanitarian aid arrived after Tigray forces retook much of the region in June 2021. Aid has started flowing more substantially in the past few months but is widely described as inad-

equated to meet the needs of the millions of people essentially trapped there.

The resumption of basic services and banking remains a key demand of the Tigray regional leaders. Journalists have not been allowed in.

Tedros said the people of Tigray had no access to medicine and telecommunications and were prevented from leaving the region. However, the International Committee of the Red Cross in recent months has reported shipments of some medications.

"Nowhere in the world you would see this level of cruelty, where it's a government (that) punishes 6 million of its people for more than 21 months," the WHO chief said. "The only thing we ask is, 'Can the world come back to its senses and uphold humanity?'"

Tedros called on both the Ethiopian and Russian governments to end the crises in Tigray and Ukraine.

"If they want peace, they can make it happen and I urge them both to resolve (these issues)," he said.

Victims of UK tainted blood scandal to get government payout

AP - Thousands of people in Britain who contracted HIV or hepatitis from transfusions of tainted blood in the 1970s and 1980s will receive 100,000 pounds (\$120,000) in compensation, the U.K. government said Wednesday.

Survivors welcomed the payment, which came after years of campaigning, but said it should be expanded to include more people whose lives were blighted by the scandal.

The payment will be made by October to survivors and bereaved partners of the dead but not to other family members, such as parents or children. A decision on compensation for them is not expected until a public inquiry concludes next year.

"The parents feel so disheartened and despondent that they can't get recognition," said Rosemary Calder, whose 25-year-old son Nicky received an infected blood product and died in 1999 with HIV. Calder said the approved payments were "a step in the right direction, but there's a long way to go."

Thousands of haemophiliacs and other hospital patients in Britain were infected with HIV or Hepatitis C through tainted blood products, largely imported from the United States. Some 2,400 people have died as a result of the scan-



dal, which has been called the worst treatment disaster in the history of Britain's health care system.

The contaminated blood was linked to supplies of a clotting agent called Factor VIII, which British health services bought from the U.S. Some of the plasma used to make the blood products was traced to high-risk donors, including prison inmates, who were paid to give blood samples.

After years of pushing from victims, an inquiry began in 2019. The inquiry's chairman, retired judge Brian Langstaff, said earlier this month that survivors should not have to wait any longer for compensation because of the "profound physical and mental suffering" caused by the tragedy.

Mark Fox, who contracted Hepatitis C after being treated with a contaminated blood product for haemophilia as a child, said he welcomed the announcement as an acknowledgment of wrongdoing by the

authorities.

"It's not about compensation, it's about someone saying sorry," he said. "It's that they tried to hide it, and so many people tried to brush it under the carpet."

"Fortunately I'm not dead yet — I don't know how long I've got, but some kids have lost their mams and dads, so I am pleased there is this recognition," Fox said.



Dubai sees air travel surge, expects FIFA World Cup boost



An Emirates Boeing 777 stands at the gate at Dubai International Airport as another prepares to land on the runway in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022. Dubai International Airport saw a surge in passengers over the first half of 2022 as pandemic restrictions eased and the upcoming FIFA World Cup in Qatar will further boost traffic to the city-state's second airfield, its chief executive said Wednesday. (AP Photo/Jon Gambrell)

AP - Dubai International Airport saw a surge in passengers over the first half of 2022 as pandemic restrictions eased and the upcoming FIFA World Cup in Qatar will further boost traffic to the city-state's second airfield, its chief executive said Wednesday.

Paul Griffiths, who oversees the world's busiest airport for international travel, told The Associated Press that the airport handled 160% more traffic over the past six months compared to the same period last year, part of an air travel rebound around the world.

The nearly 28 million people who travelled through the airport over the

past six months represent some 70% of the airport's pre-pandemic levels, even as Dubai's key source market of China remains closed due to severe pandemic restrictions. Griffiths said he expects the airport's traffic to return to pre-pandemic levels by the end of next year.

"It's a very, very welcome surge of traffic," Griffiths said.

The first World Cup in the Middle East, he added, will send foreign soccer fans flocking to Al Maktoum International Airport at Dubai World Central, or DWC. From there, they'll travel daily to Qatar, a tiny neighbour that faces a hotel squeeze.

"We've actually seen a huge amounts of demand at DWC for slot filings for airlines wanting to operate a shuttle service," he said. "I think the city has a lot to offer and a lot to gain from the World Cup."

Among the airlines buying extra slots to shuttle soccer fans to the tournament from DWC are Qatar Airways, low-cost carrier FlyDubai and budget airline Wizz Air Abu Dhabi, he said.

Ambitious plans to turn the airfield in Dubai's southern desert into a mega-aviation hub, first unveiled by Dubai before the 2008 global financial crisis, have sputtered in recent years. Long-haul carrier

Emirates, based in Dubai, parked many of its double-decker Airbus A380s there during the pandemic as commercial flights halted.

A key East-West transit point, Dubai's air traffic is closely watched as a barometer of the city-state's non-oil economy. Emirates remains the linchpin of the wider empire known as "Dubai Inc.," an interlocking series of government-owned businesses.

During the first half of 2022, Dubai International Airport dealt with nearly 56% more flights than the same period in 2021, when contagious coronavirus variants clobbered the industry.

Antigua & Barbuda Combined Schools lose first game in Dominica

The visiting Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools suffered their first loss in their school boys cricket series on their current tour to Dominica on Tuesday, 16th August.

They lost by seven wickets against the Dominica Combined Schools in their third 40-over encounter at Benjamin's Park in Portsmouth.

Batting first, Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools were bundled out for

just 90 runs in 33.4 overs, with Shamar Pereira getting a top score of 28 and Dimetri Lucas making 19.

Tyrese Leblanc grabbed three wickets for 14 runs and Morell Burton snapped up two wickets for six runs.

Set 91 to win, Dominica Combined Schools achieved their victory target, reaching 96 for three in 32.3 overs.

Dionne Rolle struck 33 and Yawani Regis made 27 not out. Dravid Richard-

son claimed one wicket for eight runs.

It was the first victory in three matches for the Dominica Combined Schools over their Antiguan and Barbudan counterparts, who had won the first two encounters by eight and nine-run margins respectively. Both teams will be contesting two more 40-over matches in their goodwill series in Dominica before the Antiguan and Barbudans return to St. John's on 26th August.



The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda presents

Police Calypso Competition

Antigua Recreation Grounds
Wednesday 7th September 2022
8pm
\$20.00

Participants shown in portraits:

- De Instructor
- Lady Moses
- Spraket
- Silky Smooth
- I Queen
- Calypso Birdy
- Panampanana
- De Dagger
- Tranada
- De Trooper
- Matoumba
- Lady Roberts

Sports News



ABCF season to resume with Robert Peters two-stage race

Following a break to observe this year's return of the annual Carnival celebrations, domestic racing will resume on the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Association's (ABCF) 2022 calendar, with the staging of the Robert Peters two-stage race on Sunday, 21st August.

The break for the Carnival also coincided with the staging of the 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games, which was hosted in Birmingham, England, from 28th July to 8th August.

Sunday's two-stage race will comprise an individual time trial and a criterium or circuit race.

The individual time trial will commence at Hideout at 7am, while the criterium race will take place around the



The nation's top cyclists will be returning to action on the domestic calendar when the ABCF stages the Robert Peters two-stage race on Sunday, 21st August. (File photo)

former Pan Am Base, starting at 3pm.

Several of the nation's cyclists and participants from the various cycling clubs are expected to contest the event.

Emmanuel Gayral of Team Terminix will be one of the strong contenders for the individual time trial. Gayral will

cont'd on pg 23

Follow the Race on Facebook Live

Antigua & Barbuda

Robert Peters 2-Stage Race

Sunday 21st August 2022

Stage 1: 7:00am
ITT at Hideout

Stage 2: 3:00pm
Crit at Pan Am Base

REGISTRATION
Opens at 5:45am
Closes at 6:45am
EC\$20.00 for Members
US\$20.00 for Non-members
You must take part in both stages to be considered for a medal

Elite Male 25
Masters 20
EF/SC/Cadets 14-17 15
Cadets 5

ALL COVID-19 PROTOCOLS WILL BE OBSERVED

Sponsored by **LOCMAN ITALY**

OFFICE EXPRESS
We Deliver On It

REGATTA
Youth EC\$ 25
Adults EC\$ 50

AUGUST FUN DAY

REGATTA | CAR TREASURE HUNT |
DOCK PARTY FROM 11AM

SUNDAY AUGUST 28

Live Music **1761**

To enter Treasure Hunt:
www.nationalsailingacademy.org/treasurehunt

To enter Regatta:
Whats app or call: +1 (268) 780-1345

Prizes for the best FANCY DRESS on and off the water! (OPTIONAL)

TREASURE HUNT
EC\$ 95 per car!

cont'd from pg 22

also be among the favourites for the Elite Men's Class in the circuit race.

The Elite cyclists will be required to complete 25 laps around the former Pan Am Base to be in contention to win the title.

Telesha Choy of Team Independent is the favourite to dominate the female division, which will be held over 15 laps.

Abbiel Fleming and Ken Jackson of Road Runners Cycling Club and Delvin Peters of Team Terminix are likely to be among the strong contenders to win the Masters Class comprising 20 laps.

Newell Mack of Road Runners Cycling Club is also expected to maintain his dominance of the Sports Class, while Tahje Browne of Wadadli Cycling Academy is a strong favourite to win the Cadets 14 to 17 Class over 15 laps.

Arusa Murray Watkins of Wadadli Cycling Academy is expected to win the Cadets 11 to 13 Class, which will be held over 5 laps.



THE HULK SHOW
 HOSTED BY: MAN HUNTE
 Time : 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
 Mondays



PLATINUM 97.9
 We Entertain You
STEELPAN MELEE
 WITH KHAN KC CORDICE
 5PM-6PM
 TUESDAYS

LI beat Guyana to claim first win in CWI Under-19 tournament

The Leeward Islands pulled off a 10-wicket win over Guyana inside two days in their second round match in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-19 Boys Three-Day Championship at Park Hill in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday.

On Tuesday's, the Leewards had resumed their first innings on their overnight score of 119 for four, a lead of 46 runs, after dismissing Guyana for just 73 runs in their first innings.

But the Leewards were eventually dismissed for 151 in 53 overs as they were only able to add another 32 runs for the loss of their last six wickets.

All-rounder Nathan Edwards could only add a single to his overnight score before he was bowled by Isai Thorne for 26. Edwards' overnight partner Jewel Andrew, who resumed on 45, eventually fell for 56, which was the top score in the innings.

Opener Malique Walsh with 25 and Michael

Greaves with 15, both dismissed on the opening day, were the only other Leeward Islands batsmen to reach double figures.

Thorne ended with impressive bowling figures of six for 36 in his 12 overs, while Johnathan Rampersaud picked up two wickets for 21 runs in 10 overs.

Leg-spinner Micah McKenzie, who was later named player of the match, had snapped up four wickets for nine runs in six overs to help bowl out Guyana for 73 in 48 overs in their first innings.

Chemiqueko Landerfort claimed two wickets for seven runs and Onaje Amory took two wickets for 19 runs in 18 overs. To-manni Caesar top scored for Guyana with 26 off 113 balls.

Facing a deficit of 78 runs, Guyana were then bundled out for just 90 runs in 31.2 overs in their second innings, with McKenzie grabbing five wickets for 18 runs to end



Leeward Islands leg-spinner Micah McKenzie claimed a match haul of nine wickets for 27 runs in his team's victory over Guyana in the CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Boys Three-Day Championship at Park Hill in St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Tuesday, 16th August. (Photo courtesy LICB)

with a match haul of nine wickets for 27 runs.

Edwards, a left-arm fast bowler, captured two wickets for five runs in six overs and Amory claimed two wickets for 25 runs in 10 overs.

Jodah Zachary top-

scored for Guyana with 23 and Shamar Yearwood made 22.

Set just 13 runs to win, the Leewards wrapped up the match and secured their victory by scoring 14 without loss in 1.5 overs in their second innings.