

U.S. TO STRENGTHEN TIES WITH ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Story on Page 2



Calypso legend Sir McLean "King Short Shirt" Emanuel celebrated his 81st birthday yesterday. He spent some time in the studio of POINTE FM engaging with fans, who called the special show that was planned in his honour to offer him best wishes.

United States to increase its presence in Antigua and Barbuda



Tabitha A. Snowbarger



Director of International Trade, Joy-Marie King

The United States appears willing to improve its relationship with Antigua and Barbuda and expand its presence in Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the Caribbean.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Embassy's Country Officer for Antigua and Barbuda, Tabitha A. Snowbarger, paid a courtesy call on Director of International Trade within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Joy-Marie King.

King reported that the call came as the United States of America reassess-

es its presence throughout the Caribbean and its overall sphere of influence in the region.

King said that a plethora of non-trade and trade issues were discussed, including ways to increase engagements between the two sides, as well as successful areas of collaboration at the multilateral level, including the co-sponsorship of the US-led resolution to end the war in Ukraine.

During the discussion, Snowbarger stated that her government was pleased

with what has been termed as 'a fruitful engagement' held in St. Kitts and Nevis last weekend dubbed the 'US-Caribbean Citizenship by Investment Roundtable'.

As part of its policy objective of strengthening the ties between Washington and St. John's, the United States of America is now giving serious consideration to the re-establishment of a US Embassy in St. John's. That matter is currently under review by US authorities.

The meeting also

sought to pave the way for an upcoming visit to Antigua and Barbuda by US Ambassador, Linda Tagliatela. That visit has been tentatively scheduled for late March.

Other areas of interest discussed by the two officials were technical and capacity building assistance, including customs, port and maritime security.

An alternative measure to GDP for increase access to certain types of support for Antigua and Barbuda; priority trade areas; standards including building material testing and the WTO Gaming dispute were also discussed.

Follow-up meetings are expected as both countries seek to further deepen relations. The United States is one Antigua and Barbuda's main trading partners and key ally in the multilateral fora.

Wed 01 Day 80°		Wed 01 Night 72°	
6% E 7 mph	3% ENE 7 mph	Mostly sunny. High around 80F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 68%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 74%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:25 am	Sunset 6:13 pm	Moonrise 1:26 pm	Moonset 2:16 am Waxing Gibbous

Another drug seizure at GPO

Approximately one million dollars in cannabis were seized during the month of February the Royal Police force of Antigua and Barbuda has announced.

This is due to the frequent interceptions made by the police and customs department during their joint operations.

The latest seizure was made on Tuesday at the General Post Office.

Five transparent plastic bags with the controlled drugs cannabis were found inside a box at the GPO.

The substance weighed five pounds and has an estimated street value of \$30,000.

In addition to the General Post Office, the illicit item is being intercepted at the V.C. Bird International Airport and the Deep Water Harbour.

No arrests were made in this latest seizure.

Last week, there were three drug seizures in a 72-hour period at the V.C. Bird International Airport's cargo transit shed and the GPO. The seized cannabis weighed 114 pounds.

PROBATE FORM P7

Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

(Probate)

In the Estate of DAVENPORT ELDRED ANGELO JONAS late of Pigotts Village, St. George, Antigua, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by Denise Parillon of Potters Village, St. John, Antigua for a Grant of Probate of the will of the above named deceased who died on the 6th day of September, 2022 without revoking a will bearing the date of 23rd day of May, 2019 wherein the Applicant is Sole Executor.

Any person having an objection to the application for the Grant of Probate shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 20th day of February, 2023.

Denise Parillon
Denise Parillon
Executor

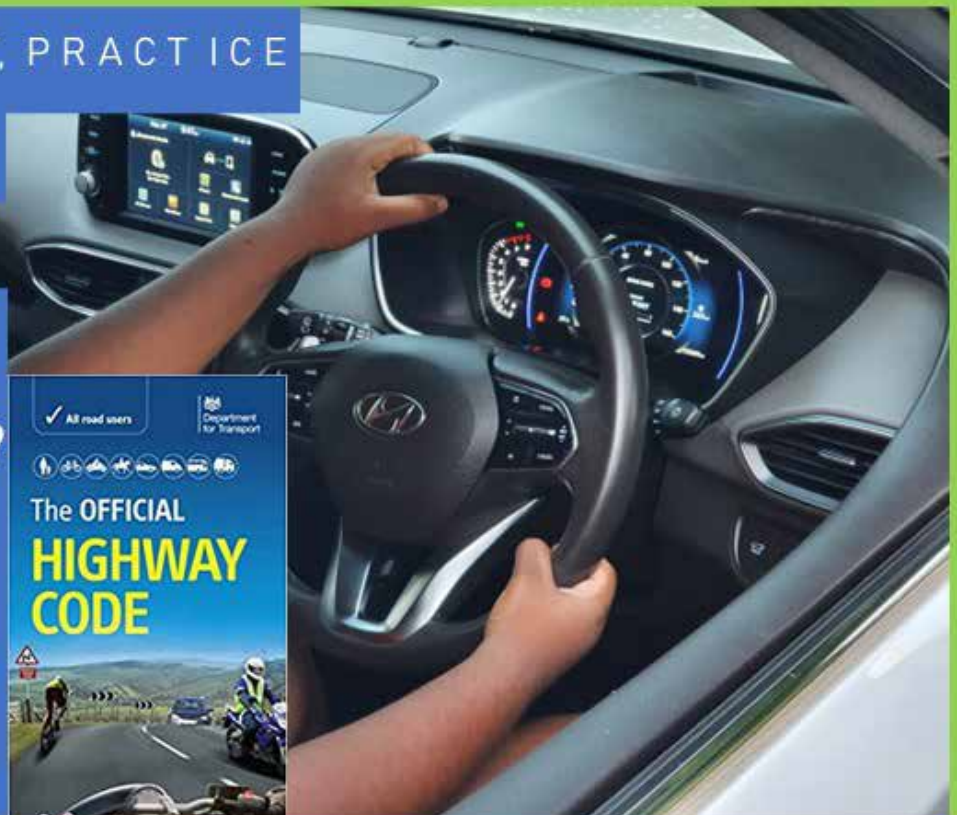
Filed by Jonas Parillon & Co. Inc., Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant, whose address for service is Sir Sydney Walling Highway, St. John, Antigua. Email: jonasparillon@gmail.com. Telephone: 562-6530.

DOCUMENTS, PERMIT, PRACTICE

READY TO
TAKE YOUR
DRIVING THEORY TEST?

MAKE SURE TO REVIEW
THE HIGHWAY CODE BOOK

On sale at our Offices



GPs return to Cuba for specialist training

Several students who have qualified as general practitioners are returning to Cuba next week to begin studies in specialised areas of medicine through scholarships that were provided by the Cuban government.

Outgoing Cuban Ambassador Esther Fiffe Cabreja made the announcement during a farewell call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Monday.

She said the ongoing programme where Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean students are offered scholarships to study in Cuba, is part of her country's outreach to its brothers and sisters in the Caribbean with whom Cuba shares a common history and a common culture.

The Prime Minister's Scholarship Programme that is responsible for disbursing the Cuban scholarships said this time around, seven students will travel to Havana on 9th March, 2023,



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with outgoing Cuban Ambassador Esther Fiffe Cabreja

to commence their studies.

They will specialise in dentistry, dermatology, cardiology, orthopedics, traumatology and gastroenterology.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne

has expressed his government's deep appreciation to the government and people of Cuba for their strong commitment to help improve Antigua and Barbuda's human resources.

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(Probate)

In the Estate of ETHEL MANASSEH DAVIS late of Tooting, London, England, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by KATRINA YEARWOOD of Willikies, St. Phillip, Antigua and Barbuda for a Grant of Probate of the Will of the above named deceased who died on the 22nd day of April 2021 without revoking a will bearing the date of the 26th day of May 2020 wherein the applicant is named as Executrix and Trustee.

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

Dated this 28th day of February, 2023

Greer and Co. Solicitors
Attorneys-at-Law

Filed by Greer and Co. Solicitors Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is Redcliffe Street St. Johns Antigua and Greer.solicitors@gmail.com and 1-268- 560-2580

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

PROBATE FORM P15(c):

Rule 25 (3)

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

(Probate)

In the Estate of Susan H. C. Ross late of Needs Must Circle in the Parish of Saint George in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, Deceased

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO MAKE APPLICATION FOR GRANT

Notice is given that after the expiration of fourteen (14) days application will be made to the Registrar of the High Court for a Grant of Probate of the Will to the Applicant, Walter Berridge, Executor of the Will of the deceased of Crystal Street, Coolidge, St. George, Antigua having died intestate on the 26th day of February, 2023.

Dated this 28th day of February, 2023.

Damien Benjamin
Benjamin Legal Services
Attorney-at-law

Filed by Benjamin Legal Services, Damien Benjamin Esq., Attorneys-at-Law whose address for service is Griffin House, Sonia King Building, Lower St. Mary's Street, St. John's, Antigua or by Edith Del A Rosa, Applicant in Person whose address for service is Ottos New Town, St. John's, Antigua.

Antigua & Barbuda represented at Travel Market in Colombia

Antigua and Barbuda is increasing its visibility within Latin America with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority making an impact at the 42nd Edition of VITRINA TURÍSTICA, ANATO 2023, one of the largest B2B tourism and hospitality events in Latin America.

The travel fair brought together industry professionals from around the world from 22nd -24th February, 2023 in Bogota, Colombia, to engage in business meetings with buyers and sellers in the sector.

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's Director of Latin America and the Caribbean, Charmaine Spencer, was present at the event, and met with leading international travel tour operators, luxury vacation planners, and trade press to introduce the destination's varied product offerings and to encourage business to the country.

Also attending the event were Antigua and Barbuda's tourism partners: Destination management company Blue Seas Ltd.'s - Alfredo Britto, Arlenes Garcia - Director of Sales and Marketing for Latin America, Unique Vacations (Sandals



Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's Director of Caribbean and Latin America Charmaine Spencer represented the destination at ANATO 2023.

Resorts International). Juan Pilier - Royalton Resorts, and Elsa Petersen - Managing Director EM Marketing & PR.

The ABTA's Latin America Director Charmaine Spencer hailed Antigua and Barbuda's presence at the trade show a success with the destination set to benefit from increased exposure within the media and among the travel trade community.

"Travel within Latin America has been reactivated and travelers are being positive and open to new tourism opportunities", said Spencer.

"ANATO 2023 provided

a great opportunity for us to reintroduce the destination of Antigua and Barbuda to leading agencies in Colombia. We were able to build awareness for the destination through our one-on-one meetings, presentations and significant PR in both consumer and trade magazines. The outlook is positive, and we look forward to continuing to grow the South American business."

Antigua and Barbuda was featured in multiple Latin America online and news publications during the week to include: Vanguardia, Expreso, De Viaje, Mix News Colombia, Travel2Latam.com and El Tiempo.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority also hosted a breakfast destination presentation for the travel trade and media to strengthen relationships with top tier tour operators, online travel agencies, and media in Colombia.

ANATO continues to solidify itself on the international stage as one of the leading tourism exchange events for Latin America, and as a fundamental space for continuing the development of commercial relations, extending the possibilities of the sector for travelers, and enhancing the economies of the participating countries.

Public Advocacy Series highlights issues affecting the nation's youth

The voices of the youth were on display on Monday evening when the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus held its 12th Public Advocacy Series, this time with youth leaders from the three major political parties in Antigua and Barbuda.

Carl Christopher of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), Chaneil Imhoff of the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) and Chevaughn Benjamin of the United Progressive Party (UPP) addressed a number of issues plaguing youth and the nation on a whole.

Women and youth in politics along with youth unemployment were among two of the biggest issues.

Imhoff spoke specifically on women in politics and stated that although in the Upper House [The Senate] representation of youth and women is present, more needs to be done to see them transition into the Lower House [House of Representatives].

Presently, the only female in the Lower House is Hon. Maria Bird-Browne [MP].

Imhoff suggested that education needs to begin at an earlier stage within the schools and communities. She mentioned that youth sometimes tend to take a back seat when it comes to politics and the parties need



A number of youths let their voices be heard on Monday evening during the Advocacy Series.

to be able to meet the youth where they are whether on social media or otherwise and give them a voice and opportunity to indeed learn and gain an interest, instead of turning them away or telling them “to wait their turn”.

Similar sentiments were echoed by Benjamin and Christopher as well.

Where youth unemployment was concerned, Benjamin suggested that although many would love to remain in the country to work, they could take advantage of the free work movement treaties within the OECS and Caricom, as there are limited jobs depending on the specific field persons would have majored in.

Christopher differed

with Benjamin’s response, encouraging the youth that once they realize the field they are passionate about may be lacking within the country to “be the ones to build that sector in Antigua and Barbuda”.

“You may have to be the ones to push that field forward in the country. There are a number of entrepreneurial funds available to assist persons because I know not everyone may want to leave Antigua and Barbuda. So, you could even be the innovators,” Christopher said.

He added that before choosing, a major consideration should also be made about the availability of jobs as well.

Chaneil Imhoff suggested that maybe where

specific fields are lacking, mentorship programs can be implemented similar to those in international countries to help push that industry.

“There is the program YLAI where you would intern for a few months in the US at a specific business and learn the ropes. Why not adapt something like that here in Antigua and Barbuda by reaching out to that small pool of experts we have,” Imhoff said.

Young Leaders of the Americas Initiative (YLAI) Fellowship was launched in 2015 and empowers emerging entrepreneurs from the Caribbean and Latin America through an online network and in-person fellowship exchange.

Ministries combine efforts to generate interest in science among the youth

The Ministries of Agriculture and Education have committed to working together to achieve a number of initiatives aimed at getting young people more involved in science and related subjects.

Both ministries have established a technical and science-based panel of individuals working to achieve these aims.

The forestry and the communications units within the Ministry of Agriculture and the science department of the Ministry of Education held a task-force workshop as a first step in the overall mission.

“Several teachers from primary and secondary levels are also members of this newly formed panel. This meeting was a brainstorming exercise on ways to introduce, disseminate, infuse information into the local science curriculum and data gathering pertaining to forest biodiversity,” Carol-Faye Bynoe of the Ministry of Agriculture explained.

She further added that the project has two overall aims; 1. To stimulate the interest of young people in forestry and biodiversity. 2. To launch a public education forum for students and adults alike, on the importance of bats in a country. These will eventually lead to the inclusion of science and related issues



Ministries of Agriculture and Education officials meet to strategise on making the teaching of science more attractive.

forming part of the curriculum in the schools.

“Bats are very good pollinators as they help to pollinate a variety of fruits and crops. People don’t understand these animals and give them a bad name. Developments often destroy their natural habitats and that’s why they often end up in people’s roofs. We don’t want them destroyed and we want young people to learn to appreciate, not fear them,” she stated.

Bynoe said the team is planning a field trip to visit a bat cave and this is likely to take place on World Forest Day on 21st March, 2023.

Meanwhile, at a recent workshop, Senior Forestry Officer, Adriel Thibou explained the urgent need for this collaborative initiative. The proposal was said to be well received by Anthony Spencer, Education Officer - Curriculum Science, his colleagues and other members of the

was done by Camille Wallace, forestry officer on several programmes that the unit is currently focusing on, these are:

- * The Body Pond Rehabilitation Programme
- * Junior Forester Programme
- * Youth Intervention Programme
- * Forestry Highway Beautification & Clean Air Programme
- * Coconut Rehabilitation Project
- * Bat Conservation Project

Another presentation



**Government of
Antigua & Barbuda**

**Ministry of Education, Sports & Creative Industries
Government Complex, Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John’s, Antigua**

Tel: 462-0192/462-0193/462-0198/462-0199

Overseas: 268-462-4959/1051

Fax: 268-462-4970

OAS Scholarship Application Announcement

The Organization of American States announces its 2023 call for scholarship applications for undergraduate and graduate academic studies and graduate research.

More information can be obtained through the links listed below.

- ☐ Call for applications for Graduate Studies: https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/Academic_Program_OAS_2023.asp
- ☐ Call for applications for Undergraduate Studies: https://www.oas.org/en/scholarships/specaf_2023.asp
· Scholarship application form for Undergraduate Studies (last two years of a Bachelor’s degree): <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1137&Type=1&Lang=Eng>
- ☐ Scholarship application form for Graduate Studies: <https://www.oas.org/fms/Announcement.aspx?id=1136&Type=1&Lang=Eng>

Deadline for submission of applications and accompanying documents to the Director of Education, Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries is Friday 31st March, 2023.

Climate Change

Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre launches virtual platform on climate adaptation and risks with support from IICA

The Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (CCCCC), which advises on and coordinates climate change-related policies in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) have launched a virtual course on climate adaptation and risk management in the region.

The course will enable decision-makers and local communities to incorporate climate resilience into their planning processes.

The course provides a guide on how to utilize the Caribbean Climate Online Risk and Adaptation Tool (CCORAL).

Created by the CCCCC, the digital platform allows for assessing the climate change risks that a project carried out in a Caribbean country could face.

The tool promotes a regional approach to risk management and supports climate-compatible development models.

“The virtual course, created with support from Willis Towers Watson and the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre, will enable participants to better understand the climate risks to which projects in the Caribbean may be exposed. It will also teach them how to utilize



the CCORAL tool to identify these risks and design responses that boost the climate resilience and capacity for climate adaptation of those projects”, commented Willie Chan, Technical Coordinator of the IICA Delegation in Belize.

He also noted that the development of these online courses “demonstrates IICA’s ability to offer these types of services to partners, through teamwork and active communication”.

CCORAL is available at <https://ccoral.caribbeanclimate.bz/>. Users can select a specific Caribbean country to learn more about its climate and the tool features that are available for that country.

The CCCCC periodically delivers a course

on how to utilize the tool, which was developed with IICA’s involvement. Course offerings are announced on the Centre’s website and social media, as well as on the CCORAL website.

CCORAL was developed in collaboration with the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN), for use by the public, private and academic sectors.

The CCCCC developed the tool in 2013 in the form of an in-person course, as part of its efforts to address Caribbean countries’ vulnerability to climate change and improve the incorporation of resilience strategies into their development planning.

In 2022, IICA transformed it into a fully on-

line course, which enables users to assess, address and analyze potential climate impacts for small-, medium- and large-scale projects.

The tool has been implemented in all CARICOM member countries. Approximately 800 partners in those countries have received training on the use of the tool.

Since 2006, IICA has been collaborating in transforming in-person courses to virtual ones, as was done with CCORAL.

Furthermore, since 2018, more than 18,000 individuals from more than 80 countries have participated in the Institute’s e-learning courses on topics such as family farming, animal health and climate change.



Prime Minister's Labour we Love Zone 1 walk and run

SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

We gather at: 5:15am
Walk starts at: 5:30 am sharp
Meeting Point: Fort James
Ending Point: Fort James

Healthy Breakfast will be available
along with prizes for:

- * Biggest Group
- * The 1st male & female to reach Fort James



**OUR EXCURSIONS ENDS WITH A REFRESHING SWIM, BEACH GAMES
AND HEARTY SOCIALIZING AMONG OUR COMRADES AND FRIENDS. COME JOIN US!**

Extreme heat is a health crisis, Columbia experts say

By *Isabella O'Malley*

The record-breaking heat Earth endured during the summer of 2022 will be repeated without a robust international effort to address climate change, a panel of scientists warned Monday.

Heat-related deaths, wildfires, extreme rainfall, and persistent drought are expected to become increasingly severe as both ocean and atmospheric temperatures continue to rise, the experts said. Even if all greenhouse gas emissions ceased today, Earth will continue to warm for several decades.

The presentation, "Earth Series Virtual: Blazing Temperatures, Broken Records," featured a multidisciplinary panel of scientific experts from Columbia University.

Radley Horton, a research professor at Columbia's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, stated that human-induced climate change has caused the global average atmospheric temperature to warm by about 2 degrees (1.1 degrees Celsius) in the last several decades.

"One of the key takeaways is that a little bit of change in global temperature has an enormous impact," said Horton. Some of the main consequences include longer and more intense heat waves that are hitting increasingly larger areas.

Additionally, Horton said, certain climate models have underestimated just how extreme certain events can be, such as the European heat wave of 2022 and the Pacific Northwest heat wave of 2021.

"We are locked into a lot of additional climate hazards, there is no way around it," said Horton.

Diana Hernandez, Associate Professor of Sociomedical Sciences at the Columbia Mailman School of Pub-



Two firefighters watch for spot fires, Oct. 13, 2017, near Calistoga, Calif. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, file)

lic Health, is researching how certain vulnerabilities, such as medical conditions or access to energy, could be affected by changing climate domestically and internationally.

The expected impacts include shade inequalities, urban heat islands, and inequitable access to energy-powered medical devices.

"The climate is changing, and we are not adapted to be able to deal with it from a health perspective," said Cecilia Sorensen, a physician and associate professor of Environmental Health Sciences at the Columbia University Medical Center.

Sorensen noted that she and colleagues referred to summer as "trauma season" early in her career, even before she focused on the health impacts of climate change. "We used to get inundated with patients ... people coming in with heart attacks and asthma exacerbations."

Despite the foreboding climate projections, the panelists expressed hope that considerable strides can be made to minimize future climate impacts related to extreme heat.

Hernandez said a community-focused approach, especially with an emphasis on engagement that is inclusive, will be successful in implementing a wide range of climate adaptation strategies.

Sorenson said one solution that can be implemented by hospitals is developing emergency room protocols to treat a large influx of patients suffering from heat stroke or related conditions during extreme weather.

Improved communications are also needed to increase awareness about the medical risks of extreme heat and how impacts can be prevented, she said.

"Within the problem lies the solution," said Sorensen.

Last-minute problem keeps SpaceX rocket, astronauts grounded

By Marcia Dunn

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Last-minute technical trouble forced SpaceX to call off Monday’s attempt to launch four astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA.

The countdown was halted with just two minutes remaining until liftoff from Kennedy Space Center.

With just a split second to blast off, there was no time to deal with the problem, which involved the engine ignition system.

SpaceX delayed the launch until at least Thursday.

Strapped into the capsule atop the Falcon rocket were two NASA astronauts, one Russian cosmonaut and one astronaut from the United Arab Emirates. They had to wait until all the fuel was drained from the rocket — an hourlong process — before getting out.

“We’ll be sitting here waiting,” commander Stephen Bowen assured everyone. “We’re all feeling good.”



Fuel vents from a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket as she sits on Launch Complex 39-A Monday, Feb. 27, 2023, after the launch was scrubbed at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. (AP Photo/Chris O’Meara)

Bowen and his crew — including the first astronaut from the United Arab Emirates assigned to a monthslong mission, Sultan al-Neyadi — will replace four space station residents who have been up there since October.

Officials said the problem involved ground equipment used for loading the engine ignition fluid. The launch team could not be sure there was a full load. A SpaceX engineer likened this critical system to spark plugs for a car.



Guys and Dolls
Simply Classy

268-782-6020

Job opportunities up for grabs in Dominica as airport project progresses

Loop - The equipment for the construction of Dominica's massive airport project is expected to arrive this week, the government of Dominica has announced.

Private company China Railway No.5 Engineering Group Co., Ltd. ("CR5") is bringing the equipment to the island and they are looking for more people to bring in to jumpstart the construction of the airport.

CR5 won the bid last year to oversee the design, construction, supply, completion, testing and commissioning of the international airport meant to serve as a premier global gateway to Dominica.

In a press conference held Monday, Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit encouraged his constituents to grab the job opportunities made available by the airport project.

"I assure you that there will be opportunities for Dominicans, who wish to apply for the jobs which are opening up today," Skerrit said.

Positions include operators for heavy machinery, truck drivers, surveyors, lab technicians, office assis-



tants, welders, carpenters, masons, and many others.

"One can well appreciate that the project of this magnitude would require a large quantity of equipment, which is not readily available in Dominica at the moment," Skerrit shared.

"I wish to make it fundamentally clear that this does not preclude the engagement of local contractors and owners of heavy equipment, who will have access to jobs during the life of this project."

According to Skerrit, local people were in charge of the preparatory phases needed to start the airport project.

Local contractors and servicemen were responsible for the construction of over 30 homes to relocate residents to the new Joe Burton development, the

clearing of the portions of the site, and also the construction of offices and laboratories.

Skerrit emphasized that the economy benefited including the purchase of materials from local suppliers.

"Because of the size of the project of the airport, there will be workers coming in as the construction phase goes underway. This is not unusual or irregular, and it is certainly no cause for controversy," Dominica's prime minister clarified.

He has also warned about the critics "who will seek to cast doubts and undermine this process," adding that the progress with the airport project is a positive indication that the airport project is taking off, and that the country will begin to see increased activity

in the north-northeast of the island and eventually the entire country.

The billion-dollar airport project is developed by MMC Development Ltd., the Dubai-based developing company that has been working closely with the government of Dominica with projects that are geared towards sustainability and climate resilience.

Both parties signed the airport deal in 2021.

The Dominica International Airport will have a 2850-meter runway, a sophisticated terminal building, and ancillary buildings, including but not limited to an ATCT tower, a general aviation hangar, a fuel farm, aircraft rescue and firefighting (ARFF) facility, a central sub-station, a cargo bay and waste disposal/treatment plant.

Guyana: Baby found abandoned in gift bag

Loop - A newborn baby boy was found abandoned yesterday in Recess, Mahaicony, Guyana.

The Guyana Police Force (GPF) reported that it received information that the child was located in an area by

the seaside.

Upon arrival at the scene, bystanders directed police to the child's location and Sergeant Williams sprang into action to retrieve him from the gift bag he was placed in.

Cops took the baby, whose umbilical cord, to Mahaicony Public Hospital for treatment. GPF said medical exams showed the child was in good health and he was admitted to the Maternity Ward for further observation.

Brazilian chopper pilot, labourer charged in Guyana

Loop - Two Brazilian nationals appeared before a magistrate in Guyana yesterday to answer several charges.

Helicopter pilot Alexandre Felix Plan and labourer Ricardo Brags Silva pleaded not guilty when they appeared virtually before Magistrate Allan Wilson at the Lethem Magistrate Court.

They were remanded to prison as the case was postponed to March 16 and 17 for trial.

Plan and Silva were arrested last Tuesday when officers of the Guyana Police Force (GPF) swooped down on an illegal gold mining camp in Guyana's New Riv-

er Triangle.

Plan, 54, has been charged with:

(a) Operating a civil aircraft without an airworthiness certificate: Contrary to Section 89 (2) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 21 of 2018.

(b) Interference with an Aircraft: Contrary to Section 121 of the Civil Aviation Act No. 21 of 2018.

(c) Operating an aircraft without insurance: Contrary to Section 137 (4) of the Civil Aviation Act, No. 21 of 2018

(d) Having arrived in Guyana by air, disembarked without the consent of an Immigration Officer: Con-



Alexandre Felix Plan (left) and Ricardo Brags Silva.

trary to Section 34 (1) (a) of the Immigration Act Chapter 14:02

Silva, 29, was charged with:

(a) Having arrived in

Guyana by air, disembarked without the consent of an Immigration Officer: Contrary to Section 34 (1) (a) of the Immigration Act Chapter 14:02.

GNRC wants conversation on Grenada becoming a Republic

Loop - The Grenada National Reparations Commission (GNRC) has called on the government to begin consultations on the country becoming a republic.

Chairman of the GNRC, Arley Gill, said the conversation on republicanism is needed as Grenada prepares to celebrate 50 years of Independence from the United Kingdom.

"A conversation on Grenada becoming a republic and moving away gracefully from the [British] Monarchy as head of state must commence in earnest," Gill said as he addressed attendees at a Reparations Forum that was called to receive an apology from the descendants of slave and plantation



owners Sir John Trevelyan and his wife Louisa Simond.

Along with moving away from the monarchy, Gill said Grenadians should revisit the idea of having the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) be its final court of appeal.

Referendums were held in 2016 and 2018 to make the CCJ Grenada's

highest court but voters chose to keep the London-based Privy Council.

Gill also called on the government to strip streets, buildings and institutions of their colonial names.

"The Grenada National Reparations Commission continues to lobby our government to transform the monumental landscape of our country by remaining our schools and national institutions after outstanding Grenadians or Caribbean national that have contributed significantly to our civilisation," Gill said. "No one needs to remind us that almost 50 years of independence, we still say the royal Grenada Police Force and His Majesty's Prison."

Iran investigates poisoning of hundreds of schoolgirls with toxic gas

By Maryam Afshang

Almost 700 girls have been poisoned by toxic gas in Iran since November, in what many believe is a deliberate attempt to force their schools to shut.

No girls have died, but dozens have suffered respiratory problems, nausea, dizziness and fatigue.

“It became evident that some people wanted all schools, especially girls’ schools, to be closed down,” the deputy health minister said on Sunday.

However, he later said that his remarks had been misunderstood.

The prosecutor general announced last week that he was opening a criminal investigation. However, he said that the available information only indicated “the possibility of criminal and premeditated acts”.

Meanwhile, public frustration is continuing to grow.

The first poisoning took place on 30 November, when 18 students from the Nour Technical School in the religious city of Qom were taken to hospital.

Since then, more than 10 girls’ schools have been targeted in the surrounding province.

At least 194 girls are reported to have been poisoned in the past week at four schools in the city of Borujerd, in the western province of Lorestan.

And on Tuesday another 37 students were poisoned at the Khayyam Girls’ School in Pardis, near the capital Tehran.

The poisoned girls have reported the smell of tangerine or rotten fish before falling ill.

Earlier this month, at least 100 people protested outside the governor’s office in Qom.

“You are obliged to ensure my children’s safety! I have two daugh-



Parents are afraid to send their girls to school and are calling for online lessons.

ters,” one father shouted in a video widely shared on social media. “Two daughters... and all I can do is not let them go to school.”

“This is a war!” declared a woman. “They are doing this in a girls’ high school in Qom to force us to sit at home. They want girls to stay at home.”

Some parents have said their children were ill for weeks after the poisoning.

Another video from a hospital shows a teenage girl lying dazed on a bed, with her mother beside her.

“Dear mothers, I’m a mother and my child is in a hospital bed and her limbs are weak,” says the distraught mother.

“I pinch her but she doesn’t feel anything. Please don’t send your children to school.”

At a news conference on Sunday, Deputy Health Minister Younes Panahi said the girls had been poisoned by chemicals that “are not military grade and are publicly available”.

“The pupils do not need any invasive treatment and it’s necessary to maintain calm,” he added.

Dr Panahi’s comment that it was

“evident that some people wanted all schools... to be closed down” appeared to confirm the government believed the poisonings were premeditated.

His subsequent denial suggested splits among officials over how to handle public anger when no suspects have been identified.

The poisonings have notably been concentrated in Qom, a city that is home to important Shia Muslim shrines and the religious leadership that forms the backbone of the Islamic Republic.

Since September, the clerical establishment has been challenged by the mass protests that erupted after the death in custody of a young Kurdish woman, Mahsa Amini, who was detained by morality police for allegedly failing to wear her headscarf “properly”.

Some Iranians have speculated that if the schoolgirls are being poisoned as “payback” for their role in the unrest. Social media was flooded with videos showing schoolgirls ripping off their headscarves and chanting anti-establishment slogans.

Others have speculated that the

cont’d on pg 15

Putin signs bill to suspend last nuclear arms pact with US

By **Vladimir Isachenkov**

MOSCOW (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday signed a bill formally suspending the last remaining nuclear arms treaty with the United States, amid soaring tensions with Washington over Moscow's action in Ukraine.

Putin had declared a week ago in his state-of-the-nation address that Moscow was suspending its participation in the 2010 New START treaty. He had charged that Russia can't accept U.S. inspections of its nuclear sites under the pact at a time when Washington and its NATO allies have openly declared Russia's defeat in Ukraine as their goal.

Both houses of parliament quickly ratified Putin's bill on the pact's suspension last week. On Tuesday, Putin signed it into law, effective immediately. The document says that it's up to the president to decide whether Moscow could return to the



Russian President Vladimir Putin delivers his speech during a meeting of the Federal Security Service (FSB) board in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023. (Gavriil Grigorov, Sputnik, Kremlin Pool Photo via AP)

pact.

Putin has emphasized that Moscow was not withdrawing from the pact altogether, and the Russian Foreign Ministry said the country would respect the caps on nuclear weapons set under the treaty and keep notifying the U.S. about test launches of ballistic missiles.

On Monday, a top U.S. arms control official strongly

criticized Russia for suspending its participation in the treaty, but noted that Washington will try to work with Moscow to continue its implementation.

"Russia is once again showing the world that it is not a responsible nuclear power," Bonnie Jenkins, the U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control, said at a session of the Conference on Disarmament, a United

Nations-affiliated international forum.

Jenkins told reporters that the U.S. has not fully assessed the consequences of Russia's suspension move, but said: "We're not seeing any evidence that Russia is in noncompliance."

"We remain ready to work assertively with Russia to fully implement the New START treaty," she added.

The New START, signed by then-presidents Barack Obama and Dmitry Medvedev in 2010, limits each country to no more than 1,550 deployed nuclear warheads and 700 deployed missiles and bombers. The agreement envisages sweeping on-site inspections to verify compliance.

The inspections have been dormant since 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Discussions on resuming them were supposed to have taken place last November, but Russia abruptly called them off.

cont'd from pg 14

poisonings are the work of hardliners who want to "copy" the Taliban in Afghanistan and the militant Islamist group Boko Haram in Nigeria by terrorising parents to stop sending their girls to school.

"Has Boko Haram come to Iran?" former Vice-President Mohammad Ali Abtahi asked in an Instagram post.

The reformist politician also warned that "extremists will interpret the boundaries of government and re-

ligion in their favour".

Iran's leaders have traditionally rejected criticism of its restrictions on women, such as the mandatory headscarf, and instead boasted about the number of women who attend university. But if young girls do not finish school, college is just a dream.

The comments of one schoolgirl, who says she has been poisoned twice, at the meeting with Qom's governor earlier this month highlighted how vague and misleading some of the

statements from the authorities have been.

"They [officials] tell us: 'All is good, we've done our investigation.' But when my father asked at my school, they told him: 'Sorry, the CCTV has been down for a week and we can't investigate this,'" she said.

"And when I was poisoned for the second time on Sunday, the school principal said: 'She has a heart condition, that's why she is hospitalised.' But I don't have any heart condition!"

Pakistani court orders arrest of former premier Imran Khan

By Munir Ahed

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani court on Tuesday issued an arrest warrant for former Prime Minister Imran Khan, as the cricket star-turned-politician called on his supporters to keep up protests amid a roiling political crisis.

The court in the capital Islamabad that ordered the former premier's arrest said Khan had skipped a hearing on charges of selling state gifts and concealing his assets.

Judge Zafar Iqbal's order came on a day of political drama in Pakistan, as three other courts on Tuesday ruled Khan was immune from arrest on separate charges relating to allegations of terrorism, attempted murder against a rival politician, and graft.

Tight security and thousands of supporters greeted Imran Khan, 70, as he made his first appearance in Islamabad since being shot in the leg during a protest rally in November. One of Khan's supporters was killed and a dozen others were wounded in the attack, which drew nationwide condemnation.

Khan has been leading protests for months now calling for early elections to oust the current government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who says polls will be held later this year when Parliament completes its five-year term.

Fawad Chaudhry, a senior leader from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party, said there was "a serious threat to the security of Imran Khan and thousands of people" as he moved around the capital. He said Khan was being paraded from one court to another in "fake cases."

Khan was ousted from the premiership in April through a no-con-



Supporters of Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan's 'Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf' party climb on a police van and chant anti-government slogans during a rally, in Lahore, Pakistan, Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2023. Hundreds of supporters of Pakistan's former prime minister on Wednesday defied a ban on rallies in a commercial area of the city of Lahore, taunting police and asking to be arrested en masse. (AP Photo/K.M. Chaudhary)

fidence vote by lawmakers. He has accused Sharif of conspiring with the U.S. to oust him from power, without providing evidence.

Legal problems for Khan have continued to mount. In October, an elections tribunal disqualified Khan from holding public office on charges he sold state gifts and concealed assets as premier.

He was stripped of his seat in the National Assembly, the lower house of Pakistan's Parliament.

Khan has challenged his disqualification and denied wrongdoing.

The latest developments come a day after Islamabad police said they had arrested Amjad Shoib, a retired army general and Khan ally, on charges of inciting the public and government employees against national institutions.

Shoib was arrested after he ap-

peared on a Pakistani news channel on Saturday criticizing authorities for keeping Khan's supporters jailed, especially in remote areas of the country.

The standoff between Khan and Sharif's government has roiled the country as its economy faces severe problems and a growing currency crisis.

Pakistan is in talks with the International Monetary Fund to revive a bailout that was originally signed in 2019 when Khan was in power.

On Tuesday, Moody's Investors Service downgraded Pakistan's rating. The action is seen as a warning that Pakistan is more likely to default on its foreign debts.

Moody's assessment was driven by Pakistan's increasingly fragile liquidity and external position that raises default risks to a level consistent with a Caa3 rating.

Antiguan & Barbudan men win bronze at ECVA beach tournament in St. Lucia

Antigua and Barbuda claimed the bronze medal in the men's segment of the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Cul de Sac Bay in St. Lucia last weekend.

The Antiguan and Barbudan team comprising Adrian Constant and Jamarie James, ensured a podium finish with a 21-19, 21-13 win over Bermuda's Ryan Davies and Brandon Sousa in the bronze medal match.

The Antiguan and Barbudans were ousted in the semi-finals by second place finishers, St. Clair Hodge and Shawn Seabrookes of the St. Kitts and Nevis team 21-19, 21-17.

The St. Lucian team's one pair of Sheldon Descartes and Joseph Clercent confirmed their supremacy as the top team.

Facing the experienced St. Kitts and Nevis' pair of Hodge and Seabrookes, Descartes and Clercent saw off their opponents, 2-0 (21-14, 21-14) to cop the gold and ended the tournament undefeated.

Descartes and Clercent had eased past Bermuda's Ryan Davies and Brandon Sousa, 21-12, 21-14, in the semi-finals.

The top four teams emerged from Pool play and elimination matches during the first two days of the three-day competition.

Antigua and Barbuda's Constant and James had straight sets win 21-15, 21-9 over the St. Lucia's team three duo of Charles Blair and Mario Victor to finish Pool C perfect with two wins.

Constant and James then defeated Dominica's pair Yhan Florent and Keaun Reefe 2-1 (16-21, 21-19, 15-11), to clinch their semi-final spot.

St. Lucia's Team One of Descartes and Clercent beat Grenada's Darron Oxford and Isaac Nelson 21-13, 21-



Antigua and Barbuda's duo of Adrian Constant, second right, and Jamarie James, right, pose with their trophy along with the winning duo from St. Lucia (in blue shorts) and runners-up St. Kitts & Nevis, (in white and orange) at the end of the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Beach Volleyball Tournament at the Cul de Sac Bay in St. Lucia from 24th to 26th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy NORCECA)

16 to top Pool A, before gaining a 2-0 win over St. Lucia's Team Three, who forfeited their elimination match.

Bermuda, after finishing second in Pool B, with a 1-1 win/loss ratio, crossed path with second place in Pool C, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Davis and Sousa beat Vincentians Asmond Franklyn and Jad Martin 2-0 (21-13, 21-16).

Similarly, St. Kitts and Nevis' Hodge and Seabrookes overcame St. Lucia's Team Three duo of Rio Victor and Anil Larcher 21-6, 21-12, to top Pool B.

Hodge and Seabrookes then went on to beat Darren Oxford and Isaac Nelson of Grenada, 21-8, 21-7, to set up their semi-final showdown with Antigua Barbuda.

In another encounter, St. Lucia's Team Two of Victor and Larcher defeated St. Lucia's Team Three of Blair and Victor, 21-18, 21-17.

Playing unbeaten throughout, St.

Lucia's Team One poached the gold medal of the women's segment of the ECVA Senior Beach Volleyball Tournament.

Buoyed by some vocal home support, the pair of Denila Prospere and Chenao Evans thwarted the meticulous play of the Grenadian duo of Thornia Mitchell and Renisha Stafford in the final to win the title by prevailing 21-16, 18-21, 15-11.

Before reaching the final, Prospere and Evans blanked a spirited St. Lucian Team Two of Clio Phillip and Jemima Evans, 21-14, 22-20 in the semi-finals.

The Grenadian ladies defeated St. Kitts and Nevis' Brenda Allen and Genelle Lake 15-21, 21-18, 15-13 in the other semi-finals.

St. Kitts went to take the bronze medal, as Allen and Lake registered a 2-1 (19-21, 21-13, 15-8) win over Phillip and Evans.

Antigua and Barbuda failed to ad-

cont'd on pg 18

Cool & Smooth Netball competition rolls on

Ottos Comprehensive School trounced St. Mary's Secondary School 36-3 in the 16 and Under Girls' Division of the Cool & Smooth Netball Competition at YMCA Sport Complex on Monday.

Kiara Samuel made a perfect 19 of her 19 shots and Jessica Massicot sank 17 of her 24 attempts.

Princess Margaret School prevailed 12-6 against Clare Hall Secondary School. Kenethia Deschamps sank six of her 13 tries and Jahida Payne scored six of her nine shots for Princess Margaret School. Etanja Roberts converted four of her six attempts for Clare Hall Secondary.

Princess Margaret School won by default against All Saints Secondary who failed to show up for their scheduled encounter.

Princess Margaret School also overcame the Antigua Girls' High School's First Team 8-3 in their encounter in the 13 and Under Division.

Antigua Girls' High School and Irene B. Williams won their encounters in the 18 and Under Division.

Joy Shaw sank 15 of her 24 attempts to lead Antigua Girls' High School to an 18-4 victory over Glanvilles Secondary School. N'za Williams scored three of her 10 tries for



Players of Antigua Grammar School (green uniforms) compete against their peers from Princess Margaret School in the Inter-Schools' Basketball Competition at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday, 27th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy Wings Sports Club)

Glanvilles Secondary. Kadisha Henry converted 16 of her 25 shots to lead Irene B. Williams to a 22-16 victory against Clare Hall Secondary. Jalika Pascal scored 12 of her 18 attempts for Clare Hall Secondary.

In the 13 and Under Primary School Division last Friday, Golden Grove trounced Potters Primary 11-0, with Aniah Mullins scoring nine of

her 13 attempts.

Kesra Myers sank six of her 12 attempts to guide JT Ambrose to a 7-2 victory over Jennings Primary. JT Ambrose also recorded an 8-1 victory over Potters Primary, with Amelia Allen converting six of her 13 attempts.

Led by Reneka Anthony who scored five of her 15 tries, Sunny Dale Primary prevailed 6-0 against Five Islands Primary.

cont'd from pg 17

advance from the preliminaries after finishing second in Pool B behind eventual champions Prospero and Evans of St. Lucia's Team One.

The Antiguan and Barbudan team comprising Josanne Lewis and Zenelle Edwards won their opening encounter in Pool B against

Dominica's team of Tamerca Cabey and Nyla Edmund. The Antiguan and Barbudans prevailed in three sets, winning 21-18, 13-21, 15-10.

They lost their second encounter to Prospero and Evans 17-21, 13-21.

Lewis and Edwards were then ousted in the sec-

ond round by the St. Kitts and Nevis team of Allen and Lake, who won 21-14, 21-11.

Nine male teams and seven female outfits contested the event.

Making up the nine male teams were pairs from Antigua and Barbuda, Bermuda, Grenada, Dominica, St.

Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and host St. Lucia, who had three teams.

Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Kitts and Nevis and two teams from St. Lucia contested the female competition.



Villa Lions left back Jordan Francis, third right, scored his team's lone goal in their premier division league encounter against Willikies at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Monday, 27th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

Villa Lions beat Willikies to stay in touch with premier league leaders

Villa Lions kept in touch with the front-runners of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Monday evening.

Left-back Jordan Francis scored with a well-executed free kick in the 51st minute to give Villa Lions a 1-0 victory against Willikies at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Villa's 10th win in 13 outings takes the Lions level with All Saints United on 31 points and two points adrift of leaders Jennings United.

Even though both teams have identical records, Villa Lions will remain in third place behind All Saints United in second place by virtue of an inferior goal difference.

Despite suffering their fourth loss in 12 matches, Willikies will remain in sixth place with 20 points.

Meanwhile, Garden Stars extend their lead at the top and kept their unbeaten run intact by romping to a 3-0 victory over Potters Tigers in their First Division encounter at the ABFA's Technical Center on Monday evening.

Goals by Courtney Clarke in the 16th minute and Zedon Carr in the 20th minute gave Garden Stars a 2-0 lead at halftime. Jahred Williams converted a penalty in the 82nd minute to seal Garden Stars' 12th win of the season.

The win allows Garden Stars to advance to 37 points from 13 matches. Garden Stars are now 13 points ahead

of John Hughes in second place.

Their seventh loss in 13 matches left Potters Tigers third from the bottom of the 12-team competition with 12 points.

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's domestic programme will continue with matches in the second division today.

Leaders Jennings United will host Golden Grove at the Jennings playing field, Real Blizzard will entertain Bethesda at the New Winthorpes playing field and Young Warriors will face Sea View Farm at the Buckleys School Playing Field at 4:30 pm.

TAMO FC will tackle Attacking Saints at the Golden Grove playing field at 5 pm.

Browne captures title at cycling event in Aruba

Antiguan Teenager Tahje Browne of the Wadadli Cycling Academy (WCA) won the title in his class at the 9th edition of the Warm-Up Race, which was hosted by the Velocity Cycling Team Association in Aruba last weekend.

Browne, accompanied by his manager/coach St. Clair Williams, who is the president of the Wadadli Cycling Academy and the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF), won the Pre-Junior Men Class during the 24th to 26th February three-stage event.

Browne captured the Pre-Junior Men Class and the winners' purple-tinged jersey by amassing a total of 42 points to finish ahead of Christian Jansen, who had also accumulated a total of 42 points.

Gregory Wernet came third with 34 points.

On Friday, Browne won the Criterium Race with a time of 40 minutes and seven seconds, finishing one second ahead of Jansen, who clocked 40 minutes and eight seconds to finish in second place.

Wernet took third place



Antiguan & Barbudan teenager Tahje Browne, left, rides ahead of Christian Jansen in the Criterium Race at the 9th edition of the Warm-Up Race, which was hosted by the Velocity Cycling Team Association in Aruba on Friday, 24th February, 2023. (Photo courtesy Velocity Cycling Team)

by crossing the finish line in 42 minutes and 37 seconds, just one second ahead of Dylan Giel, who clocked 42 minutes and 38 seconds.

Browne clocked 15 minutes and 31 seconds to finish second in the Time Trial on Saturday.

Jansen won the Time Trial in 14 minutes and 52 seconds, while Dylan Giel came third in 17 minutes and 57 seconds. Wernet was fourth in 18 minutes and 11 seconds.

Browne then claimed victory in the third and final event, which was the Road Race on 26th February. Browne won the 50 kilometer Road Race in a time of one hour and 25 minutes.

The overall title in the Elite Men Division was captured by Paul Cremers of Tri Bike Cycling Club with 45 points. Marty Fieret came second with 39 points.

The Sub 23 Class was won by lone competitor Jendiomar Gonzalez with

45 points.

The Junior Men category was captured by Juvyn Gonzalez of Velocity Cycling Team with 45 points. Jayderick Geerman came second with 39 points and Jaydrick Koolman was third with 31 points.

The Master A Class was won by Kevin Lee with 45 points. John Every took the Master B Class with 39 points and Gert Van Vliet captured the Master C class with 45 points.