

TUESDAY 14TH MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 51 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# A&B TO EXPORT AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS INTERNATIONALLY

*Story on Page 2*



The Ministry of Works presented the newly renovated clinic in Bolans to the Ministry of Health on Monday with Works Minister Maria Browne, second right, handing over the keys to Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, second left. They are flanked in this photo by Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Samantha Marshall left, and Parliamentary Representative for St. Mary's South Kelvin Simon. *Story on page 4.*

# Local News



## Antigua and Barbuda to export agricultural products to international markets

Antigua and Barbuda has secured lucrative contracts to export agricultural products into the United States and China, two of the largest markets in the world.

Agriculture Minister E.P Chet Greene who addressed the House of Representatives in his presentation to

the national Budget 2023, said the country has secured the rights to export mangoes and avocados into the U.S through the efforts of a farmer, Michael Francis.

“This did not happen under any previous administration, but we are now in a position to make that an-

nouncement. We can also announce that we have secured the rights to export lobsters into China. Currently, the regulations are now being tweaked to allow us to export a wide range of fisheries products to the European Union countries as well,” he told the nation.



Agriculture Minister E.P Chet Greene

Greene said, there is still much preparatory work to be done to make access to the EU market a reality, but he has advised his senior staff that it is a matter of priority that must occupy their attention.

The minister expressed the view that the agricultural sector ‘is ripe’ with opportunities and he is asking the farming community and others to grasp the prospects that come before them.

On the issue of food security, Greene outlined that the government’s goals for the sector are multi-layered and fall in line with the global standard for agriculture, which calls for the attainment of sustainable agricul-

tural development, simultaneously with the delivery of food security, environmental sustainability, and economic opportunity.

“We identify with this global standard, and we will not only increase food production by twenty percent, but given where we are in the sectoral development, we are committed through the investments we make as a government through bonding with our farmers, and would-be farmers and the good of our nation. We will seek to go beyond, to increase production not by twenty percent, but by twenty-five percent,” he declared.

He also said the aim is to reduce food imports by a matching figure of twenty-five percent and to reduce poverty by a similar percentage. He noted that this is possible based on the levels of production now taking place in the country and the opportunities available in the sector.

**TO: HER WORSHIP, The Licensing Magistrate**  
District "A" Magistrate Court  
High Street  
St. John's, Antigua

**TO: Commissioner of Police**  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. John's, Antigua

I, Bassam Haddad, Crosbies, St. John's, Antigua **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2023 at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's Antigua next ensuing a Tavern Licence in respect of premises known as **ALANNA'S PIZZA** situated at Factory Road, St. John's Parish Antigua pursuant to Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2023

Bassam Haddad  
268-723-8474

<b>Tue 14   Day</b> <b>81°</b> Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 81F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		<b>Tue 14   Night</b> <b>72°</b> Mostly clear skies. Low 72F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
21% ESE 10 mph	72% UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	12% ESE 6 mph	83% UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>6:16 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:16 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>--</b>	Moonset <b>11:09 am</b> Last Quarter

## Health Minister wants residents to take their health seriously

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph is making an appeal to residents of Antigua and Barbuda to make better use of the health clinics located across the island.

Speaking at a hand-over ceremony on Monday for the newly refurbished clinic in Bolans, Sir Molwyn said, previously the health care system was premised on the notion that people would visit the clinics whenever they got ill. Now, the minister wants to dismantle that strategy by encouraging people to visit the clinics when they are healthy and to be better able to take control of their health.

“One of the things I am going to encourage is, I would like to see an educational programme for every clinic in Antigua and Barbuda where we encourage people to come to those clinics, not because your blood pressure is high or you have a particular problem but for you to learn how to take care of your health before you get sick,” he emphasized.

He highlighted the importance of getting the people of the country to adopt preventative health; prevent getting sick by eating right, exercise and rest, then the government would not have to spend the millions it does, importing medicines and sending people abroad for medical care.

“There are benefits all around; so let us start here in Bolans where we can begin

by encouraging each other to eat right, exercise, and go to church, as many of our people are not able to cope with life because they do not understand the value of hope and faith,” Sir Molwyn noted.

According to the minister, faith is a critical part of a person’s well-being, and he intends to take the message throughout the length and breadth and of the country.

Earlier in his address, the minister stated that the opening of the clinic was more



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph

than ‘symbolic’ as it represents tangible evidence that the government is putting in place the infrastructure for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Sir Molwyn said the government’s policy for health involves bolstering the healthcare delivery at the community levels in the country.



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## Newly renovated clinic handed over to health ministry

The Ministry of Works has presented the keys for the newly renovated clinic in Bolans to the Ministry of Health.

The exercise took place on Monday afternoon, during a brief ceremony where Works Minister Maria Browne presented the keys to Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph.

Minister Browne said the work to renovate the clinic forms part of the ministry's mandate to renovate publicly owned buildings to make them safer for those who occupy them for work as well as for those for whom they provide services.

The renovation of the clinic started back in 2021, when it became clear that it could not properly pro-



vide the services for which it was constructed, as it had become too small. The clinic will provide primary care services in addition to dental and mental health care.

"This newly renovated clinic will be a patient-centered hub to meet the demands of essential health care services," Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Senator Clement

Antonio stated.

The ceremony was also attended by former parliamentary representative and Minister of State in the Ministry of Health, Senator Samantha Marshall as well as the newly elected representative, Honourable Kelvin Simon.

Meanwhile, Sir Molwyn announced the closure of the clinic at Johnson's Point

noting that it was badly constructed in the first place and renovation has been ruled out. It will be demolished and a new clinic is to be built in its place.

During the construction, the people of Johnson's Point and the other areas served by the clinic, will be asked to travel to the Bolans clinic for services until the new clinic is completed.



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# Samuel denied bail...appeal to be made to High Court

The father of a child who attends the Mary E. Pigott Primary School and who allegedly attacked the principal on the school compound last Wednesday has been denied bail when he appeared before a magistrate on Monday.

Michael Samuel of Bathlodge appeared before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh to answer charges of battery and malicious damage. He allegedly visited the school and attacked the principal, Christopher Roberts.

However, his lawyer Wendell Robinson said he will apply for bail in the High Court on behalf of his client. Robinson also took issue with Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh for denying Samuel bail calling the action 'reckless.'

According to the attorney, bail in these cases are usually granted except in cases where the defendant is a flight risk, or there are fears that he would interfere with a witness or recommit the crime. Robinson said none of these matters were raised during Monday's hearing as the magistrate only inquired of where the alleged incident took place. After she learned that it happened on the school compound, she denied bail to the defendant.

The defense attorney said he plans to make use of a new system, created recently, where a person who is unable to pay legal fees applies to the

court for bail, as an indigent.

However, Samuel may still spend several days in custody before his request for bail is heard as, according to Robinson, the judges are all overseas attending a training

course and are not immediately available.

Robinson claims that his client acted out of frustration, after learning of a previous incident where his child was punished in a manner, he felt

was abusive.

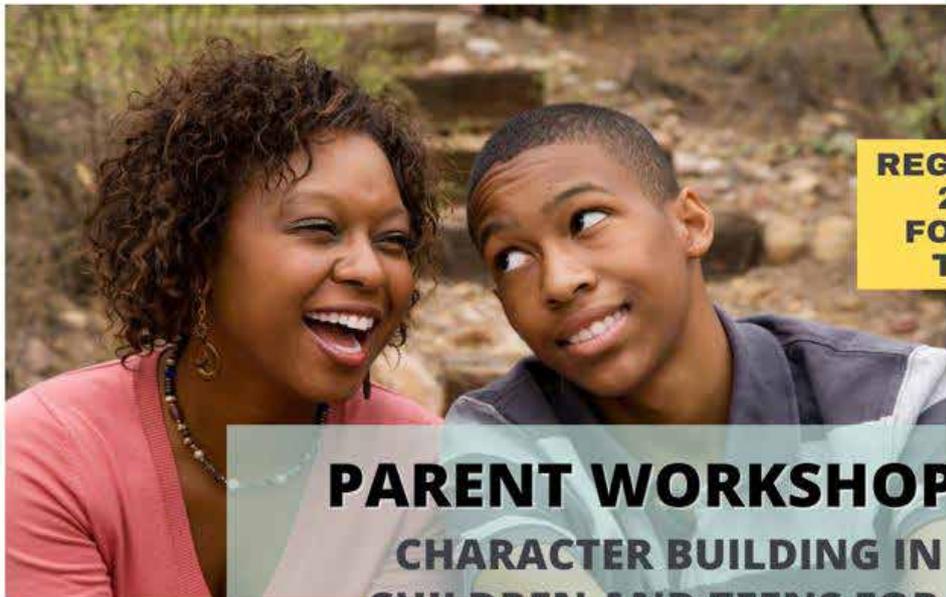
The attorney also said the incident may have been sparked when the child – a fifth grader – was suspended and his efforts to speak with the principal failed.

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## Antigua Grammar School wins 2023 Commonwealth Day Pan Playoff

The Antigua Grammar School walked away with the top prize for the 2023 British High Commission's Commonwealth Day Pan Playoff.

Government House came alive on Monday with the vibrant sound of steel pan music, as the entrants for the competition serenaded the audience, to celebrate Commonwealth Day 2023, as part of a parade and ceremony organised by the office of the Governor General.

Antigua Grammar School's Savio Williams (bass), Keondré Athill (triple

guitar), Gerai Hughes (single tenor), Zhaveah Benjamin (double tenor), Jaser Joseph (double second), Javier Spencer (double guitar) and Jireh George (drumkit) won over the judges with their submission, which featured the national anthems of six countries from across the Commonwealth.

Williams, who arranged the winning piece explained, "These anthems were fused so that the people of the Commonwealth can be reminded that at the end of the day, we are all one people with a rich heritage."



AGS winning pan team

He added that the winning piece also highlights the talents of young people and the role they can play in realising a brighter future within the Commonwealth.

The Antigua Girls High School's team comprising Vonique Edwards (ten-

or), Jaunéya Thomas (tenor), Jayzian Wyke (tenor), Jamesha Trotman (guitar), Raain Weste (triple guitar), Zia Nathaniel (six bass), Toyka Thomas (drum set) and Evincia Benjamin (congas) copped the second place position.

Meanwhile, the Princess Margaret School claimed third place position, with their eight-member team. The school was represented by the following students, Gabrielle Francis (cello), Kenisha Massicot (double guitar), Shanyah Payne (single tenor), Rhenne Edwards (single tenor), Kéjual Peters (drums), Eleshia Powell (six bass), Amori O'Garro (double tenor), and Chibueze Uzoma (double second).



Group photo of all participating students and teachers

## Antigua and Barbuda racks up major tourism awards

The efforts by the Antigua and Barbuda tourism sector over the last several years to improve on the product and its offerings are now reaping dividends.

Tourism Minister, Charles Max Fernandez announced in parliament, on Monday that the country secured major awards for a variety of product offerings across the board.

He said in 2022, there were a num-

ber of awards and achievements for tourism. These include:

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority; voted best Tourism Board Antigua and Barbuda: Best Caribbean Honeymoon destination

Best Beach in Caribbean: Valley Church Beach

Hammock Cove: Best All-Inclusive Resort

Verandah Hotel: Best Family Ho-

tel in the Caribbean

VC Bird International: Caribbean Airport of the Year

According to Fernandez, the awards were presented by the magazine Caribbean Journal. In the case of the ABTA, the award was presented to recognize the agency's 'robust and strategic marketing plan to deal with the changing tourism landscape and the global scale post COVID-19.

## Texas man sues women for helping ex-wife get abortion

By **Chloe Kim**

A Texas man is suing three women for helping his now-ex-wife obtain pills to have an abortion last year.

The lawsuit says under Texas law, “a person who assists a pregnant woman in obtaining a self-managed abortion has committed the crime of murder”.

Marcus Silva’s lawsuit heavily relies on text messages between his ex-wife and the three women.

It is the first such lawsuit in the state since the Supreme Court quashed constitutional abortion protections.

Mr Silva is seeking \$1m (£800,000) in damages. His ex-wife’s friends allegedly texted her information about Aid Access, an international group that provides abortion medication by mail.

Text messages reveal Mr Silva’s ex-wife was concerned he would try to make her stay with him if he learned about the pregnancy.

One of the women dropped off the pills to Mr Silva’s ex-wife, the lawsuit says.

The legal action claims the drug manufacturer will also be named as a defendant once they are identified.

There is also a conspira-



*The Texas man filed the wrongful death lawsuit on Thursday against three women.*

cy charge against the women - the lawsuit alleges they told Mr Silva’s ex-wife to hide the pregnancy and their text messages about the baby from him.

Mr Silva’s former wife is not named as a defendant - under Texas law, a pregnant person is exempt from prosecution.

They have two daughters together, according to the lawsuit.

She filed for divorce in May 2022 before the divorce was finalised in February 2023. The lawsuit alleges she learned she was pregnant in July 2022, after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v Wade*, but a month before the state’s trigger law banning abortion came into effect, which made providing an abortion

a felony punishable by up to life in prison except to save the life of the mother.

Even before the trigger ban was in effect, there were a number of other restrictions on abortion in the state.

In 2021, Texas passed a law that made most abortions illegal after about six weeks of pregnancy. It gave citizens the right to sue anyone who “knowingly engages in conduct that aids or abets the performance or inducement of an abortion”. A pre-Civil War ban on abortions was also still on the books when *Roe v Wade* was overturned.

Mr Silva is being represented by Republican state representative Briscoe Cain and Jonathan Mitchell, a former solicitor gen-

eral who helped pen one of Texas’ abortion bans.

The defendants did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Last week five women sued the state of Texas over limited abortion access when they had life-threatening health risks. Their lawsuit alleges doctors are refusing to perform the procedure even in extreme cases out of fear of prosecution.

A Texas judge is also expected to rule soon in another lawsuit, which takes aim at the Food and Drug Administration’s approval process for the abortion pill, mifepristone. If the judge overturns the FDA’s approval for mifepristone, it could affect the drug’s availability nationwide.

## Global bank stocks slump despite Biden reassurances

BBC - Shares in banks around the world slumped on Monday, despite reassurances from the US president that America's financial system is safe.

It comes after authorities had to step in to protect customer deposits when the US lenders Silicon Valley Bank (SVB) and Signature Bank collapsed.

Joe Biden promised to do "whatever is needed" to protect the banking system.

But investors fear other lenders may still be hit by the fallout, sparking sharp falls in share prices globally.

Earlier on Monday, Spain's Santander and Germany's Commerzbank saw their share prices dive by more than 10% at one point.

A string of smaller US banks suffered even worse losses than European counterparts on Monday, despite reassuring customers that they had more than enough liquidity to protect themselves from shocks.

The volatility has led to speculation that America's Federal Reserve will now pause its plans to keep raising interest rates, designed to tame inflation.

Mr Biden said that people and businesses that had deposited money with Silicon Valley Bank would be able to access all their cash from Monday, after the government stepped in to



*Silicon Valley Bank's headquarters in Santa Clara, California.*

protect their deposits in full.

Many business customers had faced the prospect of not being able to pay staff and suppliers after their funds were frozen.

BBC North America Technology correspondent James Clayton spoke to people queuing up all day outside the SVB branch in Menlo Park, California, to access their funds.

As the bank was no longer offering wire transfers, they were taking out their money in cashier cheques.

Silicon Valley Bank - which specialised in lending to technology companies - was shut down by US regulators who seized its assets on Friday. It was the biggest failure of a US bank since the financial crisis in 2008.

It had been trying to raise money to plug a loss

from the sale of assets affected by higher interest rates. Word of the troubles led customers to race to withdraw funds, leading to a cash crisis.

Authorities on Sunday also took over Signature Bank in New York, which had many clients involved in crypto and was seen as the institution most vulnerable to a similar bank run.

Mr Biden promised that covering the deposits would not cost taxpayers anything, and instead be funded by fees regulators charge to banks.

As part of efforts to restore confidence, US regulators also unveiled a new way for banks to borrow emergency funds in a crisis.

Yet there is concern that the failures, which came after the collapse of another US lender, Silvergate Bank,

last week, are a sign of troubles at other firms.

Paul Ashworth of Capital Economics said the US authorities had "acted aggressively to prevent a contagion developing".

"But contagion has always been more about irrational fear, so we would stress that there is no guarantee this will work," he added.

Danni Hewson, head of financial analysis at the stockbrokers AJ Bell, said: "The first rush of relief has been replaced by niggling concerns that the era of high rates might be more difficult for some banks to stomach than had been previously thought.

"In the US, bank stocks slid despite Joe Biden's pledge that 'whatever is needed' will be carried out  
*cont'd on pg 9*

*cont'd from pg 8*

to prevent more dominos from tumbling.”

The failure of SVB has re-ignited debates - similar to those seen following the 2008 financial crisis - about how much the government should do to regulate and protect banks.

The chair of the US Federal Reserve, Jerome Powell, says there will be a thorough and transparent review of the collapse.

Mr Biden called for tougher rules and emphasised that investors and bank leaders would not be spared.

“They knowingly took a risk... that’s how capitalism works,” he said.

Still, Republican Senator Tim Scott, seen as a potential presidential candidate in 2024, called the rescue “problematic”.

“Building a culture of government intervention does nothing to stop future institutions from relying on the government to swoop in after taking excessive risks,” he said.

Once again people are worried about banks. Once again there is intense debate about bailouts. But this isn’t 2008.

Following the global financial crisis, the focus was on reforming banks considered “too big to fail”. Today’s problems are centred around medium- and small-sized banks.

Both of the banks that collapsed - Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank - had the same thing in com-

mon: their business models were too concentrated in one sector and they were over exposed to assets whose values came under pressure from rising interest rates.

The criticism is that they should have foreseen this and they didn’t. US Federal Reserve chair Jerome Powell has gone to great lengths to signal the Fed’s intention to raise interest rates.

Since most banks are well diversified and have plenty of cash on hand, the assumption is that the risk to the rest of the banking sector is low.

That won’t stop regula-



Joe Biden spoke Monday to reassure Americans that the banking system was safe.

tors looking into what went wrong and what rules need to change.

And the pressure on small- and medium-sized

banks hasn’t gone away. What happens to the US economy and the fight against inflation also remains to be seen.



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## Oscars 2023: Everything Everywhere All At Once cleans up with seven awards

By **Steven McIntosh**

Michelle Yeoh became the first Asian woman to win best actress, as *Everything Everywhere All at Once* dominated at the Oscars.

The dazzling multiverse adventure won seven awards including best picture, director and original screenplay.

Accepting her statuette, Yeoh said: "For all the little boys and girls who look like me watching tonight, this is a beacon of hope and possibilities."

"And ladies, don't let anybody tell you that you are ever past your prime."

Yeoh's co-stars Ke Huy Quan and Jamie Lee Curtis triumphed in the supporting actor and actress categories. In the history of the Oscars, no other film has ever won best picture, best director and three acting prizes.

In *Everything Everywhere All at Once*, Yeoh plays a Chinese-American laundrette owner who is mired in a tax audit, stuck in a crumbling marriage and struggling to connect with her daughter Joy.

But when she discovers different versions of herself in the multiverse, she must tap into their skills in order to save the world.

"This is proof that dreams do come true," Yeoh said in her speech. "I have to dedicate this to all the moms in the world because they are the superheroes, and without them, none of us would be here tonight."

The 60-year-old enjoyed a late surge in momentum in this year's Oscars race, ultimately overtaking the early frontrunner Cate Blanchett.

Yeoh is only the second woman of colour to win best leading actress, following Halle Berry for *Monster's Ball* more than two decades ago.



*Everything Everywhere All At Once* directors Daniel Scheinert (left), Daniel Kwan (right) and producer Jonathan Wang (centre).

Best leading actress has historically been far less diverse than the supporting actress category, where Ariana DeBose, Yuh-jung Youn, Regina King, Viola Davis, Lupita Nyong'o and Octavia Spencer have won in the past decade.

Elsewhere, Brendan Fraser capped his extraordinary comeback after years away from the Hollywood spotlight by winning best actor for his performance in *The Whale*.

Thanking the film's director, the 54-year-old said: "I'm grateful to Darren Aronofsky for throwing me a creative lifeline."

"I just wanted to say thank you for this acknowledgement," he said.

Addressing his fellow nominees, he said: "You laid your whale-sized hearts so we could see into your souls, like no-one else could do, and it is my honour to be named alongside you in this category."

Fraser was a huge film star at the turn of the millennium, starring in films such as *George of the Jungle* and *The Mummy*.

But he spent years out of the

spotlight as he struggled to recapture his earlier success, mostly taking on smaller roles.

That changed when he was cast in *The Whale* as an overweight professor trying to repair his relationship with his estranged daughter.

Fraser transformed his appearance for the film, which also won best make-up and hairstyling.

Much like Fraser, best supporting actor winner Quan has enjoyed a comeback narrative this awards season. The actor catapulted back into the spotlight thanks to his role in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*.

He told the audience: "Dreams are something you have to believe in - I almost gave up on mine."

The 51-year-old took an extended break from acting after rising to fame as a child star in films such as *The Goonies* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*.

In an emotional speech, the Vietnamese-American actor said: "They say stories like this only happen in the movies - I cannot believe it is

*cont'd on pg 11*

*cont'd from pg 10*

happening to me. This is the American dream.

“My journey started on a boat, I spent a year in a refugee camp, and somehow I ended up here, on Hollywood’s biggest stage... Thank you so much for welcoming me back.”

Curtis won the first Oscar of her 45-year acting career by scoring best supporting actress - one of the tightest categories of the night.

“I know it looks like I’m standing up here by myself but I am not, I am hundreds of people,” Curtis said in her acceptance speech. “The entire group of artists who made this movie - we just won an Oscar.”

Everything Everywhere also won best editing, best original screenplay and best directing for Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert - jointly known as Daniels.

Accepting best picture, Kwan said “I realised growing up that one of the things we can do for each other is shelter each other from the chaos of this crazy world that we live in. Thank you to the storytellers who did that for me.”

All Quiet on the Western Front, Netflix’s German-language World War One epic, finished the night in second place with four awards - best international feature, original score, production design and cinematography.

Its success at the Oscars follows a string of techni-

cal wins at the Baftas, but the film failed to replicate its British victory in the top category.

Guillermo del Toro’s Pinocchio was named best animated feature. The Mexican filmmaker said: “Animation is cinema, animation is not a genre and animation is ready to be taken to the next step.”

Wakanda Forever’s Ruth E Carter repeated the best costume design victory she scored with the original Black Panther. She dedicated the prize to her mother, who died aged 101 last week.

There was a British win

for The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse. The adaptation of the illustrated Charlie Mackesy book, which aired on BBC One over Christmas, won best animated short.

The award for best documentary feature went to Navalny, about Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and the events related to his 2020 poisoning.

In his speech, director Daniel Roher dedicated the award to Navalny, who has been imprisoned for two years, saying: “Alexei, the world has not forgotten your vital message to the world.”

Navalny’s wife, Yulia Navalnaya, added: “Alexei, I am dreaming of the day you will be free and our country will be free, stay strong my love.”

There was a win in the best sound category for Top Gun: Maverick - one of the biggest box office hits of the past year - while Naatu Naatu from RRR won best original song.

Elsewhere at the ceremony, a dressed-down Lady Gaga sang a stripped-back rendition of Hold My Hand (from Top Gun: Maverick) while Rihanna sang Lift Me Up (from Wakanda Forever).



## STEEL & PLYWOOD

# SALE



**1/2 STEEL**

**3/8 STEEL**

**5/8 STEEL**



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**T1-11 3/8**

**BEADED 3/8**


DEWS


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## Dominica PM wants governments to invest in a regional airline

CMC - Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit Monday praised his Antigua and Barbuda counterpart, Gaston Browne, for his efforts in keeping the inter-regional airline, LIAT, in the skies, but acknowledged the need for governments to invest in inter-regional travel.

"I recognised as Prime Minister of the country the important and unprecedented role that LIAT has played and was playing at the time to intra-regional travel, "Skerrit told a news conference as he defended his administration's decision a few years ago to become a shareholder in the debt-ridden airline.

He said LIAT was helpful to Dominica, especially after natural disasters "and I do not believe there is any other entity that can be reasonably expected to replace the functions of LIAT in the region.

"Governments investment in air transportation in the region cannot be replaced by private sector investments only. Governments must invest in inter-regional travel because inter-regional travel for so many islands is really a public good.

"While you want entities to run professionally and great accountability, greater transparency there are a set of things you don't expect



from them because they have to fly into areas that a commercial airline, running as a private investment will not want to go into, you understand and that's where LIAT was important".

Browne said last week that Antigua and Barbuda seems to be on its own with regards to the establishment of a new company to replace LIAT (1974) Limited that collapsed in 2020.

The Antigua-based LIAT (1974) Limited, entered into administration in July 2020 following increased debt and the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

But Browne said he now recognises that "Antigua and Barbuda is practically standing alone in terms of having an entity that is owned by a group of governments.

"What seems to be the prevailing thinking at this time is that most heads are of the view that there are sufficient assets within the region. In fact there is a

study that was done by the Caribbean Development Bank as well as the OECS (Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States) and that was the meeting I attended in St. Lucia, and the consensus was that there are sufficient assets to service the region."

Browne said that there are "primarily private sector held assets and they don't see the need for the governments to invest in any national airline or regional airline".

LIAT, prior to entering into administration had been servicing several regional destinations and has since scaled down its operations and is now servicing Anguilla, Antigua, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Martinique, San Juan Puerto Rico, St Kitts, St Lucia and St Maarten.

In February, the Guyana government said while it has not given a commitment to investing in the cash-strapped regional airline,

LIAT, it nonetheless wants to be "part of a solution for regional air transport".

President Dr Irfaan Ali told the Guyana-based online publication Demerara Waves Online News last month that his administration has been approached to help revive the Antigua-based LIAT that the governments of Antigua and Barbuda and St Vincent and the Grenadines have been talking with his administration about a "possible role" in a revived regional carrier.

Skerrit told reporters that the situation confronting LIAT, which is owned by the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Barbados, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, "is affecting all of us...and our economies in a dramatic way since the departure of LIAT from the regional scene.

"I am saying Dominica is prepared...to play our part financially, but you actually need a construct like

*cont'd on pg 13*

## Grenada's NNP calls for withdrawal of controversial Data Protection legislation

Loop - The opposition, New National Party (NNP), has called on the Grenadian Government to withdraw the proposed Data Protection legislation until it holds consultation with citizens over its provisions.

“The NNP believes that adequate protection of personal data and the implementation of measures relating to data security are vital in any modern democratic society. Whilst Data Protection legislation is desirable and necessary, a draft Bill that does not consider and take into account fundamental aspects, is likely to cause harm, rather than achieve its objectives,” the party said.

“The lack of consultation and the failure to allow key stakeholder groups (including the religious community, the bar association, trade unions, civil society, and the business community) to provide input on the Data Protection Bill 2023, has left the New National Party no option but to object to its tabling in Parliament.”

The party continued: “The far-reaching nature of the Data Protection Bill, which will govern the protection, access to, and use of personal data, and sensitive personal data such as medical information,



means that individual's rights must be carefully safeguarded. The adequate safeguarding of personal data affects the way in which information is held by most institutions – our banks, hotels, medical institutions, schools- and extends to micro and small business operators. Authorising the access and use of this data must NOT be potentially open to politicians or be otherwise subject to abuse.”

The party highlighted that the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) had initially circulated the initial draft legislation, on the premise that a consultation process would be held by Member States.

NNP said it will be holding consultations on the bill, which is set to be tabled in Parliament tomorrow.

According to the Explanatory Notes, The Data Protection Bill, 2023 “seeks to establish a new framework for managing the processing of personal data in Grenada”.

The Bill contains eight parts and seeks to promote the protection of personal data processed by public and private bodies, to provide for the functions of the Information Commission and for related matters.

Persons found guilty of a criminal breach of the data laws risk a hefty jail time and a minimum fine of EC\$50,000.

*cont'd from pg 12*

LIAT that would be complimented by any private sector airlines to give you the kind of service that you really need in these islands.

“This is why when you look at most parts of the world, the treasuries of these countries, no matter how developed your country is, the treasuries of these countries play a role financially in the

running of these airlines because of the greater good to the economy”.

Skerrit said that “so many questions” had been asked of him in the Parliament regarding LIAT when the initial financial assistance was made, including comments that “we are wasting money and so forth.

“I warned us in this country that we cannot do

without LIAT for one day far more for its eternal departure,” he said, adding “you just can't travel.

“We can no longer book a flight this afternoon for tonight. You have to book a flight months in advance. To go from Dominica to Grenada you have to go to Miami” and how many of us have an American visa.

“This is a regional

emergency, inter-regional travel...but you are going to need a construct like LIAT and that's why I want to thank the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda for his heroic efforts in at least having a couple of the planes flying and providing the service all be it not to the original level that we were accustomed to,” Skerrit told reporters.

## ‘Faultless Divorce’ law comes into effect in Bermuda

Loop - From today, it is now easier for married couples on Bermuda to end their union as the Matrimonial Causes (Faultless Divorce) Amendment Act 2022 is now operational.

Kathy Lynn Simmons, the Attorney-General, made this announcement in Parliament earlier today.

She said the Matrimonial Causes Rules 2023, which was approved by the Senate in March 2022, replaces the 1974 legislation, ending “the unhelpful blaming and shaming asso-



ciated with having to prove, in court, that the conduct of one of the parties is the cause of the breakdown in the marriage”.

Simmons told MPs that

this was a “monumental achievement” for the British Overseas Territory.

Work is underway to streamline faultless divorces and other matrimonial

proceedings via an electronic application portal.

“The aim is for parties to divorce and other matrimonial proceedings to be able to successfully navigate the process with or without an attorney,” Simmons said.

The first set of forms are expected to go online next month but they can be viewed at the government portal.

More details on accessing the forms will be provided by the AG when they go online.



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# Heavy losses reported as battle for Bakhmut rages

**By George Wright**

Ukraine and Russia have reported inflicting heavy losses as the battle for Bakhmut rages on.

Moscow has been trying to take the eastern Ukrainian city for months in a grinding war of attrition.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russian forces had suffered more than 1,100 deaths in the past few days, with many more seriously injured.

Russia said it had killed more than 220 Ukrainian service members over the past 24 hours.

The BBC is unable to verify the numbers given by either side.

Analysts say Bakhmut has little strategic value, but has become a focal point for Russian commanders who have struggled to deliver any positive news to the Kremlin.

Capture of the city would bring Russia slightly closer to its goal of controlling the whole of Donetsk region, one of four regions in eastern and southern Ukraine annexed by Russia last September following referendums widely condemned outside Russia as a sham.

Ukrainian commanders, who have committed significant resources to defending the city, say their strategy aims to tie Russia's forces down and prevent Moscow from launching any further offensives in the coming months.

"In less than a week, starting from 6 March, we managed to kill more than 1,100 enemy soldiers in the Bakhmut sector alone, Russia's irreversible loss, right there, near Bakhmut," Mr Zelensky said in his nightly video address.

He added that 1,500 Russian soldiers were wounded badly enough to keep them out of further action.

Russia's defence ministry said Rus-



sian forces had killed "more than 220 Ukrainian servicemen".

The commander of Ukraine's ground forces, Col Gen Oleksandr Syrskyi, said the Russian mercenary Wagner Group was attacking his troops from several directions in a bid to break through defences and advance to the central districts of the town.

The paramilitary organisation is at the heart of the Russian assault on Bakhmut. Its leader, Yevgeny Prigozhin, has staked his reputation, and that of his private army, on seizing Bakhmut.

He said on Sunday that the situation in the city was "difficult, very difficult, the enemy is fighting for every metre".

"And the closer to the city centre, the fiercer the fighting," he said in a voice recording published on Telegram.

After his envisioned capture of Bakhmut, "we will begin to reboot" and "will start recruiting new people from the regions", he said.

And on Saturday, the Institute for the Study of War - a US think tank - reported that Moscow's offence was stalling.

"Wagner Group fighters are likely becoming increasingly pinned in urban

areas... and are therefore finding it difficult to make significant advances," it said.

There were about 70,000 people living in Bakhmut before the invasion, but only a few thousand remain. The city was once best known for its salt and gypsum mines and huge winery.

Those who remain in the city risk a hazardous existence, with four people injured in Bakhmut on Monday, Donetsk regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Like Russia, Ukraine has also given Bakhmut political significance, with President Zelensky making the city an emblem of resistance.

When he visited Washington in December, he called it "the fortress of our morale" and gave a Bakhmut flag to the US Congress.

Western officials estimate between 20,000 and 30,000 Russian troops have been killed or injured so far in and around Bakhmut.

A draft law introduced in the Russian parliament on Monday aims to push back the age bracket for compulsory military service, from the current

*cont'd on pg 16*

## Storm Freddy: Malawi recovers more than 60 bodies

By Dickens Olewe

More than 60 bodies have been recovered in Malawi's main commercial hub of Blantyre after Tropical Storm Freddy hit southern Africa for the second time in a month.

Strong winds and rains continue to cause severe destruction.

"We have rivers overflowing, we have people being carried away by running waters, we have buildings collapsing," police spokesman Peter Kalaya told BBC Focus on Africa radio.

Malawi was "overwhelmed" he added.

Relentless rain and strong winds have hampered overstretched emergency teams in the country's southern and central regions, which are worst affected, Mr Kalaya said.

Victims taken to a hospital in Blantyre had injuries caused by falling trees, landslides and flash floods, Doc-



A man walks among the debris with his bicycle on a flooded street near Mozambique's port city of Quelimane.

tors Without Borders (MSF) country director Marion Pechayre told Reuters news agency.

"A lot of [homes] are mud houses with tin roofs, so the roofs fall on people's heads," she is quoted as saying.

Casualties were still arriving from affected areas, said Chipiliro Khamula, spokesperson for Malawi's

department of disaster management. Officials expect the death toll to rise as some areas remain cut off.

Freddy is the strongest tropical cyclone on record and could also be the long-lasting one, according to the World Meteorological Organization.

On Sunday the storm struck Mozambique as a cyclone - for the second time

in a less than a month after battering the island nation of Madagascar in the Indian Ocean, causing severe destruction.

It has been difficult to determine the extent of the damage caused in Mozambique and the number of deaths as power supply and phone signals were cut off in some parts of the affected areas.

The timing of the storm could exacerbate Malawi's cholera outbreak, the UN and other agencies have warned, as the country battles one of its worst public health crises.

Experts says climate change is making tropical storms around the world wetter, windier and more intense.

Freddy had broke records for the strength it has accumulated over the 8,000-km (5,000-mile) path it travelled across the Indian Ocean from north-western Australia.

*cont'd from pg 15*

18-27 years to 21-30.

Reuters reported that, due to the transition period between the old legislation and the new, 2024 and 2025 would see the conscription age span 10 or 11 years rather than the usual nine - meaning more men would be eligible to fight.

Russia's previous attempt to draft thousands of new recruits into the Ukraine war met with some resistance. In September the announcement of a partial military mobilisation saw long queues form at border crossings as men of draft age sought to flee the call-up.

The Kremlin said reports of fighting-age men fleeing had been exaggerated.

Besides the Bakhmut fighting, seven residents were injured elsewhere in Donetsk region on Monday, governor Pavlo Kyrylenko said.

Further east in Luhansk, regional governor Serhiy Haidai said the Russians had "significantly intensified shelling" on the front line. He added that Russia was bringing more and more equipment and troops to the area. Elsewhere in eastern Ukraine, there were 47 attacks on Ukrainian troops in Zaporizhzhia, according to the regional administration.

## US, UK and Australia agree on nuclear submarine project

BBC - The leaders of the US, UK and Australia have unveiled new details of their plan to create a fleet of next generation nuclear-powered submarines.

Under the Aukus agreement, Australia will first receive at least three nuclear-powered submarines from the US.

The allies will also work together to create a new fleet using cutting-edge technology, including reactors made by Rolls-Royce in the UK.

The pact is aimed at countering China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region.

Speaking with the other leaders in San Diego, California, US President Joe Biden stressed that the boats would not have nuclear weapons and would not jeopardise Australia's commitment to being a nuclear-free country.

Under the deal outlined on Monday, members of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) will be embedded at US and UK submarine bases from this year to gain the necessary skills to use the submarines.

From 2027, the US and UK will base a small number of nuclear subs at a RAN base in Perth, Western Australia, before Australia buys three American Virginia-class submarines in the early 2030s - with options to purchase two more.

After that, the plan is to design and build an entirely new nuclear-powered submarine for the UK and Australian navies, called SSN-AUKUS.

This attack craft will be built in Britain and Australia to a British design, but use technology from all three countries.

President Biden said all three countries were committed to ensuring that the region would remain free and open. He was flanked by the prime ministers of Australia and the UK - Anthony Albanese and Rishi Sunak, respectively.

"Forging this new partnership, we're



*The US, Australia and UK will jointly build a new class of submarines.*

showing again how democracies can deliver our own security and prosperity... not just for us but for the entire world," he said.

As part of Monday's announcement, the US has also pledged a total of \$4.6bn (£3.7bn) over the next few years to build its submarine construction capacity and to improve maintenance of its Virginia-class submarines.

Australia's Anthony Albanese said the submarine plan would create thousands of new jobs and marked the "biggest single investment in Australia's defence capability in all of its history".

"This will be an Australian sovereign capability, commanded by the royal Australian navy and - sustained by Australian workers in Australian shipyards with construction to begin this decade," said Mr Albanese.

He also noted that the agreement marks the first time in 65 years and only the second time in history that the US has shared its nuclear propulsion technology.

UK Prime Minister Sunak said that in the 18 months since the pact was unveiled, the challenges to global stability had only grown.

"Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine, China's growing assertiveness, the destabilising behaviour of Iran and north Korea - all threaten to create a world codefined by danger, disorder and

division."

As part of his visit to the US, Mr Sunak has also pledged to increase defence spending by nearly £5bn (\$6bn) over the next two years to counter threats from hostile states.

The pact has repeatedly drawn criticism from China. Beijing's foreign ministry spokesperson, Mao Ning, last week reiterated Beijing's position that the pact risked creating an arms race and "undermines peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region".

"We urge the United States, Britain and Australia to abandon the Cold War mentality and zero-sum game, faithfully fulfil their international obligations, and do more to contribute to regional peace and stability," he said.

Touching on the concern about the West boosting its military presence in the Indo-Pacific, US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan insisted that Washington had no intention of creating a new Nato-like alliance.

While all three leaders have been keen to stress how the deal will strengthen their co-operation and contribute to global stability, it hasn't been without its political fallout.

In 2021, Australia scrapped a multi-million dollar submarine agreement with France in favour of the trilateral agreement - causing a political rift with Paris.

## Squads announced for Round Three of the West Indies Championship

Members of the West Indies Test squads from the recent tours to Zimbabwe and South Africa are expected to feature in the upcoming matches in the West Indies Championship.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) today (Monday)

announced the six franchise squads for the third round of matches which start tomorrow, Wednesday, 15th March.

Left-handed batter Alick Athanaze will return to captain Windward Islands Volcanoes against Jamaica Scorpions, who

will have experienced batter Nkrumah Bonner back in their line-up for the match at the Guyana National Stadium.

Devon Thomas, the versatile wicketkeeper/batsman, has been named in the Leeward Islands Hurricanes 13-mem-

ber squad for the match against Barbados Pride at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad.

The third match of the third round will see Trinidad & Tobago Red Force hosting the Guyana Harpy Eagles at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Entering the third round, Athanaze is among the leading batters with 244 runs (average 61). He made his maiden first-class century (141) against Guyana Harpy Eagles last month.

He is second spot behind Trinidad & Tobago Red Force skipper Daren Bravo who has scored 261 runs (average 87) – which included two centuries against Leeward Islands Hurricanes.

Third in the list are young openers Kimani Melius of Windward Islands Volcanoes and Matthew Nandu of Guyana Harpy Eagles, who both have 204 runs (average 51).

Both scored breakthrough maiden first-class centuries in the first round – Melius made 192 against Trinidad & Tobago Red Force and Nandu got 126 against Barbados Pride. Melius will however miss the third round with an injury.

In the bowling, the leading wicket-taker after two rounds is Akeem Jordan, the Barbados Pride  
*cont'd on pg 19*



## Double wins for Police, SVF and Freetown in Parish League cricket

Cup holders Police along with Dream 2 Reality Sea View Farm and Freetown recorded double wins in the third and fourth round matches in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Curtly Ambrose Limited Overs Competition last weekend.

Police beat Urlings by 40 runs in a low-scoring affair at Urlings. Set 114 for victory, Urlings tumbled to 73 all out with off-spinner James Cornelius snapping up six for 10 and Lashorn Barnard picking up three for 38.

Police had made 113 in which Dwayne Fordyce took three wickets for seven runs. Neville Nicholls had made 19 runs for Police while Glenton Williams scored 16 runs for Urlings.

Police then romped to an emphatic 151-run win against Time of Victory Old Road at Old Road. Police rattled up 270 as Shavon Moore struck 49, Vincent Shadrach hit 47

and Damon Valentine made 40.

Matthew Miller picked up three for 23 and off-spinner Demitri Lucas captured three for 58.

In reply, Old Road crashed to 119 all out. Leg-spinner Lynton Africa grabbed six for 42 and James Cornelius bagged four for 56. Rowan Watkins top scored with 26 while Jahiem Africa and Shamar Pereira each made 23.

Sea View Farm snatched a three-run win over Mahico at Clare Hall. Sea View Farm made 155 with Essan Warner getting 48. Teenage leg-spinner Micah McKenzie claimed four for 48 and Dahri Francis picked up three for 22. Francis also slammed 74 in Mahico's total of 152.

Sea View Farm beat Antigua Masters by 35 runs at Sea View Farm. Sea View Farm made 217 for six. Jewel Andrew hammered 69, Rolston "Triss" Phillip cracked 57 and Tassilo Allen scored 44.

Richie Thomas took two for 42, Kadeem Henry captured two for 50 and Ian Gore claimed two for 52.

Antigua Masters made 182 for nine. Henry got 27, Marlon Barnes scored 23 not out and Frederick Floyd also chipped in with 23.

Vishal Gobin picked up two wickets for three runs, Jewel Andrew claimed two for 31 and Emroy Lee captured two for 33.

Freetown pulled off a 33-run win over Mahico at Clare Hall. Kevin Pitman struck 41 and Delon Wills got 25 in Freetown's total

of 193 for eight. Kershas-ki Jno-Lewis claimed three for 40.

Mahico made 160 for seven with Jno-Lewis getting 63 and Junie Mills hitting an unbeaten 35. Javier Drew captured three for 61.

Freetown crushed Antigua Masters by 104 runs at Freetown. Javier Drew hammered 88 and Dillon Wills slammed 45 to guide Freetown to 225 for five.

In reply, Antigua Masters were all out for 118 with Ian Gore hitting 34 and Gregg Skepple getting 21. Kenrick Scott snatched four wickets for 13 runs.

*cont'd from pg 18*

pacer, who picked up 12 wickets and was named in the Test squad for the tour of South Africa.

Next is Veerasammy Permaul, the experienced Guyana Harpy Eagles left-arm spinner with 11 wickets – which included his 500th at the first-class level for his country.

Three bowlers are tied on 10 wickets – Rahkeem Cornwall of Leeward Islands Hurricanes, Ryan John of Windward Islands Volcanoes and Bryan Charles of Trinidad & Tobago Red Force.




  
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## Coates captures opening race of new cycling season

Ghere Coates, one of the cyclists who was injured with Andre Simon in May last year, returned to competitive cycling to win the opening race of the 2023 Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) domestic season on Sunday, 12th March.

Coates and Simon were struck by a vehicle while training on 8th May, 2022. Simon has been hospitalized and has since been transferred to the United States where he is still being treated for injuries. A third cyclist Tiziano Rosignoli who was also injured, has completed treatment in the US and is now back in Antigua and Barbuda.

Coates, who had also travelled overseas to receive treatment for his injuries, and Rosignoli made their return to competitive action in the Pan Am Base Circuit Race on Sunday.

Coates, riding for Vipers, captured the overall title by winning the Elite Men's Class, completing the 30 laps of the Pan Am Base circuit in a time of two hours, two minutes and 30 seconds.

Coates crossed the finish line just one second ahead of fellow Vipers team mate Kyron Thomas, who was also making a return to competitive cycling in Antigua and Barbuda.

Newell Mack of Team Pillars Cycling has stepped



Elite Male Class winner Ghere Coates, center, is flanked by second place finisher Kyron Thomas, left, and Newell Mack on the podium during the Pan Am Base Circuit Race in the Coolidge Area of Antigua on Sunday, 12th March, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

up to the Elite Men's Class and came in third on Sunday by clocking a time of two hours, 12 minutes and 24 seconds.

Former Rattlers' cyclists Cosmos Richardson also made a successful return to competition as a member of Vipers to win the Sports Class.

Richardson completed the 18-lap circuit to win the Sports Class in a time of one hour, 15 minutes and 12 seconds.

Marcus Ozuna and Joel Griffith of Little Rascals claimed second and third places respectively. Ozuna crossed the finish line in a time of one hour, 15 minutes and 13 seconds while Griffith clocked one hour, 15

minutes and 13.50 seconds.

Rosignoli, who represented Road Runners Cycling Club, finished fourth in the Sports Class.

Success as well for lone female competitor Telsha Choy of Vipers. Choy completed the 18-lap circuit in a time of one hour, 31 minutes and 35 seconds to win the female category.

Outstanding teenage cyclist Tahje Brown of Wadadli Cycling Academy captured the Junior Male Class. Browne covered the 28 laps of the Pan Am Base circuit in a time of one hour, 52 minutes and 36 seconds.

His Wadadli Cycling Academy team-mate Jahiem Telemaque claimed second place by clocking one hour,

57 minutes and 44 seconds.

Jayonte Joseph of Independent took third place in a time of two hours and 40 seconds.

The Masters Class was won by Vaughn Gomes of the Andre Simon Cycling Academy, narrowly beating Richard Lam of Little Rascal in a photo finish.

Gomes and Lam both completed the 22-lap course in a time of one hour, 32 minutes and 35 seconds.

Edward Henry of the Andre Simon Cycling Academy came third by crossing the finish line in one hour, 32 minutes and 35.47 seconds.

An overall total of 18 cyclists participated in the opening race of the new season.

## Grenades overtake Villa Lions atop premier league

Jennings Grenades have overtaken Villa Lions at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division.

The Grenades returned to the summit by coasting to a 3-0 win against Ottos Rangers in the opening game of a premier league triple-header at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, 12th March.

Vashami Allen scored in the 10th minute to give Grenades a 1-0 halftime advantage. Late second half goals by Carl Osbourne in the 83rd minute and Donovan Jno Baptiste in the second minute of added on time or 92nd minute sealed Grenades' vic-

tory.

Their 13th win in 15 matches lifted Jennings Grenades back to the top of the 16-team competition to 39 points, two ahead of the Villa Lions in second place.

Ottos Rangers will remain on 19 points and move down to 10th place on goal difference after losing for the seventh time in 14 appearances.

However, the other matches in Sunday's premier league triple header ended in 1-1 draws.

Shalon Knight scored an equalizer in the 65th minute for Swetes to salvage their draw with Greenbay Hoppers in the day's second en-



*The Jennings Grenades Football Team. (File photo)*

counter. A second minute conversion by Rodney Lawrence had given Greenbay Hoppers a 1-0 halftime lead.

Their fourth draw in 15 matches ensured Swetes will advance to 22 points and

remain in sixth place in the standings.

Greenbay Hoppers will overtake Ottos Rangers into 9th place on goal difference after drawing an encounter for the fourth time in 14 outings. Hoppers are now level with Ottos Rangers on 19 points, but have a superior goal difference.

Forward Rakeem Joseph had a 67th minute conversion to snatch Empire's equalizer against Pigotts Bullets in Sunday's feature match.

Tyrique Thwaites had scored in the 19th minute to give Pigotts Bullets a 1-0 halftime advantage.

Empire will remain in the 12th position while advancing to 18 points after gaining their third draw in 14 encounters.

Pigotts Bullets have advanced to 15 points but will also stay in 13th place after securing their third draw in 14 matches.

*cont'd from pg 22*

ny's Secondary and Demar Adams of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

Fenton claimed the Under-15 Girls MVP Award after winning the 100, 200 and 400 meters finals, while Adams captured the Under-15 Boys MVP title for winning the 100 meters final and finishing second in both the 200 and 400 meters finals.

The three-day Inter-School Track and Field Championship, which attracted and was supported by large crowds, was sponsored by Cool & Smooth, Flow, Anjo Wholesale and Oasis Water.



*Minister of Sports Daryll Matthew, left, congratulates female sprinter Geolyn Dowdye during the 2023 Inter-School Track and Field Championship at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday, 12th March 2023.*

## Dowdye shines as PMS retains schools' track and field titles

Female sprinter Geolyn Dowdye and her male colleague Kasiya Daley produced the most outstanding performances to help Princess Margaret School retain both the boys and girls' titles at 2023 Inter-School Track and Field Championship at the YASCO Sports Complex over the weekend.

Dowdye, who captured the Most Valuable Performer (MVP) Award in the Under-20 Girls category, produced two of the top three outstanding performances at the 10th to 12th March event, which was hosted by the Ministry of Sports

She achieved both feats in leaving the pack trailing to win the sprint double in the Under-20 Girls 100 and 200 meters' finals.

Dowdye clocked 11.82 seconds to win the 100-meter title and ran a time of 23.77 seconds to capture the 200-meter crown. She capped her MVP title winning display by also winning the Under-20 Girls' 400-meter final.

Daley produced the third most outstanding performance in clocking 21.50 seconds to win the Under-17 Boys 200-meters final.

Princess Margaret re-



Princess Margaret School's sprinter Geolyn Dowdye leads La Nica Locker of the Ottos Comprehensive School in the Under-20 Girls 100-meter final during the 2023 Inter-School Track and Field Championship at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday, 12th March 2023. (Photos courtesy the Ministry of Sports)

tained the overall female inter-school track and field title by amassing 312 points from a field of 12 participating schools.

The All Saints Secondary finished a distant second with 134 points and Ottos Comprehensive School recorded 110 points to claim third place.

Princess Margaret scored 244 points to retain the overall male title from a field of 14 participating schools. St Joseph's Academy captured second place

with 150 points and Clare Hall Secondary came third by recording 128 points.

Three other athletes won MVP awards to allow Princess Margaret School to maintain its dominance in retaining both overall titles.

Caandre Pascal won the MVP Award in the Under-20 Boys division after winning the 200 and 400 meters finals and finishing second in the 100-meters final.

His PMS colleague

Chazann Gun took home the MVP Award in the Under-17 Boys category for winning the 800, 1500 and 3000 –meters finals.

The fourth MVP Award, won by a PMS athlete, was captured by Kettia Ambrose in the Under17 Girls division. Ambrose won the 200 and 400 meters finals and finished second in the 100-meters final.

The other two MVP Awards were captured by Tyra Fenton of St Antho-

*cont'd on pg 21*