

# FOR SALE

*Super-yacht **Alpha Nero** to be sold by public auction*

*Story on Page 2*



## The way now clear to sell Alfa Nero

The House of Representatives has approved several amendments to the Antigua Port Authority Act paving the way for the government to proceed with the sale of the super yacht, the Alfa Nero, which has been moored in the Falmouth Harbour for over a year.

The House proceeded with the debate on the matter given its urgency despite a walkout staged by the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle (see accompanying story).

PM Browne noted that the vessel was among several sanctioned by American and UK authorities suspected of belonging to Russian oligarchs following Russia's invasion of Ukraine just over a year ago.

"The Alfa Nero is an abandoned vessel; most of the crew have left, it has racked up huge bills for fuel and supplies to local merchants and it now poses a national security risk," the prime minister declared.

He reported to the House that the captain of the vessel informed the government that the remaining crew members – down to five from more than forty – plan to leave the vessel in a matter of days. Additionally, he added that the operators of the vessel have withdrawn their services and its presence in the harbour poses a national security risk; that is both as an environmental



risk and a tourism risk.

PM Browne went into some detail to explain the risks. Firstly, the engines of the vessel have to be kept running, thus requiring a constant flow of fuel. Then, it is uninsured, if anything happens while it is moored in the harbour, it could damage other vessels moored there, creating a huge liability for the government. If for some reason it should sink while in the harbour, that would create a nightmare for the government, as it could harm the yachting sector for as much as ten years.

According to the prime minister, the government had no choice but to move quickly to get the vessel sold to settle outstanding amounts and to place the

remainder in the national treasury.

He also informed the House that the vessel is deteriorating daily and while it was once valued at US\$80 million, a recent evaluator placed it at US\$48 million.

The government is asking the House for permission to reduce the required notice period from 60 to 10 days, noting that there are at least six persons or entities who have expressed an interest in purchasing the vessel at an auction.

"We will accept the highest bidder," PM Browne told the House.

Representative for St Paul, E.P Chet Greene noted that he has received daily complaints from residents of the area about the vessel's presence in the har-

bour. He added that there are concerns, especially with the fact that sailing Week is just over a month away.

He advised that there are reports that the sewage from the vessel is not properly treated and this poses an environmental risk, especially given the fact that a reverse osmosis plant is located at nearby Pigeon Point.

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, Utilities Minister, Melford Nicholas and the Attorney General all rose to express their support for the government's action.

Following amendments and additions at the committee stage the Bill was eventually passed by the House.



## Opposition stages a walkout at parliament

The government's move to debate amendments to the Antigua Port Authority Act in the House on Thursday morning was overshadowed by an unexpected walkout staged by the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle.

This was obviously an unplanned event, as it took even members of the Opposition bench, as well as the government's side and the Speaker, Sir Gerald Watt, all by surprise. Such was the unplanned nature of the walkout, that some of the members of the opposition – notably Richard Lewis, Anthony Smith, and Algernon Watt - reluctantly followed the leader.

The issue arose when the mover of the Bill, Prime Minister Gaston Browne rose to move for the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders to allow the House to proceed with a 'matter of urgent public importance.' After the House gave the greenlight for him to proceed, no sooner had the prime minister begun his presentation, when the Leader of the Opposition raised an objection over the fact that the amendment Bill had not been duly circulated among the members by the 'five-day prior' requirement.

"Mr. Speaker, according to Section 60 (3) dealing with the circulation of Bills this ought to be done no less than five days be-

fore the debate. Mr. Speaker, it is more than what the government is suggesting. We on this side cannot seriously debate this bill based on what is coming from the other side. I recommend that this bill is made available for us to have a consultation on this side and even to consult with legal advice. We are now looking into Maritime Law. They cannot, just because they have the numbers, come here on a matter where the vessel has been abandoned for months. Why did they not come to the House before; it's unfair, Mr. Speaker," he declared.

Attorney General, Steadroy Benjamin, who also advises the House, raised to explain that while Pringle was correct regarding the Standing Orders requirement for prior notice, the same Standing Orders do give the right for the government to suspend the rules and to proceed with a matter considered to be of 'grave urgency' and that such a situation existed at the current time.

He journeyed back to the Magna Carta and the development of English Common Law to indicate that there would be circumstances that would require the suspension of the rules to allow for debate or discussion on a matter of 'grave urgency'. This he further explained, was the case with the situation that

the government brought to the House. "The House which regulates the proceedings of the House can vote to suspend its own rules to allow for the consideration of this matter," he noted.

After the Speaker ruled that he was satisfied with the explanation and asked that the prime minister proceed, Pringle was visibly unhappy with the ruling coming from the Chair.

"The member for All

Saints East and St. Luke is aware that this is not a frivolous matter. It is a matter of urgent public importance and a national security matter," the prime minister began as he resumed his presentation.

Still unsatisfied, Pringle packed up his papers, stood up and declared his intention to leave and he urged his members to follow. They did...although not all seemed to agree with the move.



STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

**GET GYM FIT WITH STATE INSURANCE**  
Life | Medical

**OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE PREFERRED GYM RATES**

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

## Speaker denies opposition's move to unseat Sir Robin Yearwood

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Gerald Watt has made a ruling on an issue raised by the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle, over the validity of Sir Robin Yearwood's presence in the House.

Pringle has made the point on more than one occasion, that during the swearing in ceremony in February, Sir Robin, who was elected as Deputy Speaker of the House swore the Oath as required, but that he failed to sign his name to the document as the Standing Orders dictate.

The Opposition Leader first raised it when he delivered his Budget Presentation on March 9 and he again raised it prior to the close of Wednesday's proceedings.

At that time, both the Attorney General and the Speaker refuted the claim and it was even indicated by the Clerk of Parliament that the member did in fact

sign the book as was the requirement.

The matter seemed not to have satisfied Pringle, so when the House resumed its sitting on Thursday morning, the Speaker sought to give a final ruling on the matter. He asked Pringle to restate his claim and asked the AG to respond before he made his ruling.

The Opposition Leader repeated the assertion that Sir Robin said the oath, but that he failed to subscribe (sign).

"For any member to participate in any business of the house, they must not only take the oath, according to Section 6 of the Standing Orders, the member must do both things.

"This is not a matter of merely wanting to be contentious, because if we are going to be doing things in this honourable House, it must be done properly.

"Just simply to acknowledge an error and correct it, you, Mr. Speaker, were sitting right there



*Sir Robin Yearwood*

when the AG went off. I simply came here to inquire, where do we go from here with that matter. I asked you to do your investigations and get back to me," he stated.

The Speaker then turned to Pringle and asked, "If it is, that what you are saying is right, what turns on that, how can it be remedied?" In response, the Opposition Leader said his understanding of the rules is that the member cannot participate in any business

of the House.

Called to respond, Benjamin stated that after considering the points made by Pringle, he found that they were without merit. He explained, utilizing the Standing Orders, that the first Order of Business is the election of the Speaker and a Deputy Speaker, and in order for one to be deputy speaker, that person must first be a member of the House.

He then went into detail to explain that the opposition member's claims were not grounded on sound arguments.

In his ruling, The Speaker consulted the register where Dean Jonas signed in 2014, Londel Benjamin signed in 2018 and he added that he even checked a video recording of the matter and that he was satisfied that Sir Robin

*cont'd on pg 5*

## Public Accounts Committee named

The establishment of a Public Accounts Committee, a requirement of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda, has been completed by the House of Representatives.

As required by the Constitution, the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle, presides as the chairman of the committee.

The other members are the representatives for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, with

the member for St. John's City East, Melford Nicholas, St. John's Rural East, Maria Browne and St. John's Rural South, Daryll Matthew serving as well.

It is the prerogative of the chairman of the committee to call meetings as he sees fit and to request from any government department records, files or any other document deemed necessary to conduct the business of the committee.



## ABTA launches efforts to increase tourism out of Europe

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is increasing its presence in the German market, as part of its overall marketing thrust to increase visitors from that country and from Europe generally.

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James along with UK & Europe Director of Tourism, Cherrie Osborne, travelled to Germany, for ITB Berlin, the first edition of the exhibition since the pandemic. ITB Berlin, is the world's largest tourism and travel trade fair.

"Germany is Europe's largest travel market. With the Caribbean being Germany's third most popular long-haul destination after the Indian Ocean and USA. The Tourism Authority is prioritizing increasing lift from this region, in order to benefit from the market's strong economy, and the high consumer demand," James said.

He noted that in 2022, 21% of arrivals into Antigua and Barbuda came from Europe with at least 5% from the German speaking markets, with a further 56,000 or 15% of our cruise arrivals



*The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority attended ITB Berlin, Germany in March where they met with European Tourism executives. The ABTA team was joined by tourism stakeholders.*

from Germany alone.

"There is great consumer interest in Germany for Antigua and Barbuda. We have increased our marketing presence in the market and are confident that with the needed airlift we will be in a better position to grow the market substantially", the ABTA CEO said.

During the show, the team conducted highly productive meetings with Condor, Eurowings, KLM and NEOS to discuss the future possibilities of flights to the destination for the win-

ter 2023/2024 season. The discussions are ongoing with positive results to be announced.

The team also conducted a series of trade and consumer media interviews and re-engaged major tour operators such as DER Touristik and FTI to continue to raise the awareness of the destination's commitment to marketing initiatives.

"Antigua and Barbuda is working assiduously to grow its European market post pandemic, which will help to compliment the business

coming out of the UK. It's well known that Europeans travel for a minimum of ten to fourteen nights and prop up the summer business", said Director of Tourism UK and Europe Cherrie Osborne.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority was joined by private sector partners including Cocos, Elite Islands Resorts, HBK Villas, Blue Sea Latin American Traveller as well as Economic Envoy Ralf Hansen and Ambassador-at-Large Bert Kirchner.

*cont'd from pg 4*  
did sign.

Further, he noted that all the members of the opposition debated the budget and at no time objected to the presence of Sir Robin in the

House.

"Consequently, the budget completed and the legal principle applies here, you cannot approbate and reprobate, that is, you cannot accept the he was right to participate in the bud-

get debate, voted on the budget and now want to raise this matter at the end. I rule that Sir Robin did what was required and that the matter is now settled and to be recorded in Hansard," the Speaker declared.

# Local News



## 55 pounds of cannabis seized at ports of entry

Two separate cannabis hauls were carried out by both the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and the Customs Division; this as The Police Narcotics and Customs Departments continued their heightened observance at the country's two main ports of entry.

Police spokesman Inspector Frankie Thomas said the drugs seized amounted to a total of 55 pounds of cannabis. He revealed that the interceptions took place at the Deep Water Harbour and the V.C Bird International Airport on Wednesday.

"The agencies joint-

ly conducted two separate joint drug operations at the Deep Water Harbour and found a total of 35 pounds of cannabis in two separate shipments.

Both seizures are estimated to value a combined amount of \$230,000. A similar operation was carried out at the airport and another 20 pounds with a street value of \$120,000 was also discovered," Inspector Thomas reported.

The controlled substances were taken to the police station as further investigations continue. Two men are currently assisting with the investigations.

**ON POINTE FM 99.1**  
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

**ON POINT!**  
**SUNDAYS 1PM-3PM**  
STARTING 12TH MARCH  
ANOTHER POINT OF VIEW

**Curry House**

**ANTIGUA**

A whole new dining experience awaits you.

Call us at 562-5724 | Whatsapp 736-7165



## Benefactor's widow visits Sir Novelle Richards Academy

Mrs. Del Vecchio, the widow of an Italian philanthropist, whose husband donated funds for the addition of a new wing at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy, paid a visit to the institution on Thursday.

Her husband contributed four million euros to the expansion of the school, at the request of the Prime Minister and the Minister of Education. The widow has been invited to witness the work that has been undertaken with the funds provided.

She toured the compound in the presence of local education and other officials.



<b>Fri 17   Day</b> <b>80°</b> Partly cloudy skies. High near 80F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph.		<b>Fri 17   Night</b> <b>72°</b> Partly cloudy. Low 72F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity <b>72%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>74%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>6:13 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:17 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>2:58 am</b>	Moonset <b>2:17 pm</b> Waning Crescent

**Guys and Dolls**  
Simply Classy

268-782-6020

# Opinion

## Can political parties agree to a social contract for national progress?

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own)*

Authoritative international bodies – among them, the respected Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) – have concluded that “democracy is under both literal and figurative assault around the world.” The countries of the Caribbean have not been exempted from this judgement which is based on more than a decade of studies.

In the Americas (Canada and US, Central and South America and the Caribbean), there has been a rise in undemocratic governance as in Haiti and Nicaragua – both of which are teetering on the brink of disaster. In other countries in Latin America, there have been setbacks, particularly in Peru. Established democracies have also experienced decline. These were particularly severe in Brazil and the US, where current administrations are battling to overcome the legacies of the previous administrations.

Against this back-

ground, indications, from the governing and opposition representatives in the elected national assembly of Antigua and Barbuda, that the fundamental principles of democracy remain strong and respected, are welcomed.

On January 18, general elections, which were judged to be free and fair by several international observer groups, were held in Antigua and Barbuda. There was a vigorous campaign that resulted in the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) sliding from a 15-2 majority in the National Assembly to a one-seat majority. The ABLP won 9 of the 17 parliamentary seats; the main opposition party, the United Progressive Party (UPP) won 6 seats; the separatist Barbuda Peoples' Movement won 1; and for the first time in Antigua's history, an independent candidate, who was a former member of the ABLP, was elected.

The forceful nature of the election campaign and the resultant one seat majority in the National Assembly, led to the view by commentators, in and out of Antigua and Barbuda, that the stage had been set for a possible disruption of the democratic process, including civil disorder.

However, any such expectation was dispelled when the National Assem-



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

bly convened from March 9 to 14 to debate the national budget that the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, presented on March 2. The elected representatives of the UPP, while five of them were new, put forward their arguments firmly, but with respect for parliamentary rules. For their part, the government representatives, especially the young, lone woman elected member, Maria Browne, laid out their detailed plans and responded in a mature manner to the heckling of the opposition representatives.

The result was a pellucid articulation of the differences on how issues should be addressed; proposals on areas that require priority attention; and evidence that the National Assembly will be a forum for forceful debate on the policies and programmes that the governing party intends to pursue.

These circumstances are

good for democracy in Antigua and Barbuda at a time when global challenges are impacting every country in the world, calling for an inclusionary approach to governance.

The political campaign, for general elections in Antigua and Barbuda, was held amid global political and economic instability, including the escalation of prices for food and energy, increasing inflation, high interest rates for borrowing, and decreased access to financing.

These phenomena occurred – and are persisting – alongside enduring effects of climate change, attempts to recover from the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the continuing global uncertainty caused by the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine.

All this holds consequences for democratic governance. Popular

*cont'd on pg 9*



*cont'd from pg 8*

dissatisfaction over high prices, low employment, and non-inclusionary decision-making, in any country, could result in protests and other acts of civil strife.

In Antigua and Barbuda's case, the country is benefitting from a continuous growth of the economy (8.5 per cent in 2022, and a projected 9.4 percent for 2023); increasing employment; and significant private sector investment in tourism, construction and physical infrastructure, hefty outlays by the government in health and education, and an abiding respect for democracy, including freedom of speech, free and fair elections, and a strict separation of powers between the government, the legislature and the courts.

But while sound economic performance and respect for democratic principles and values have contributed to stability in Antigua and Barbuda, in many countries around the globe, "the ability to provide key public goods to their citizens and to close the gap between social expectations and institutional performance is increasingly at risk", as IDEA points out in its 2022 report on democracy in the world.

The world is at a critical crossroad. Given the current global uncertainties, which include a possible recession, governments in democratic countries are under pressure to deliver the goods and services their people ex-

pect. Unlike authoritarian regimes, which are backed by military might to enforce their will, governments in democratic states have to form a new social contract with their populations, including their representative bodies in every sector.

Any who choose an authoritarian path, have to be conscious that, in countries where authoritarian regimes rule, there has been an exodus of talented and trained persons, economic decline, and a high dependence on the military to repress dissatisfied people. Authoritarianism, therefore, ought not to be an option for any nation that wants peaceful progress.

As part of a social contract to preserve democracy as a platform for progress of the individual, the society and the economy, international bodies strongly suggest that governments, political parties, private sector, civil society, media, expert groups, and academics have a role to play.

The hardest part of all this is how to encourage political parties to regard constructive participation in a national dialogue as an acknowledgment of their roles as representatives of the people, rather than as agencies for discrediting each other.

Yet, it is in constructive and inclusionary dialogue

that national plans for peace, progress and prosperity can be best fashioned. Unreasoned division and brinkmanship to promote party political advantage is a certain prescription for national failure and the erosion of democracy.

Hopefully, political parties throughout the Americas, including the Caribbean, can agree to fashion with other partners in civil society, a relevant social contract for national progress that can carry countries successfully through the present global turmoil and beyond.

*Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com)*

## World's first octopus farm proposals alarm scientists

By Claire Marshall

A plan to build the world's first octopus farm has raised deep concerns among scientists over the welfare of the famously intelligent creatures.

The farm in Spain's Canary Islands would raise about a million octopuses annually for food, according to confidential documents seen by the BBC.

They have never been intensively farmed and some scientists call the proposed icy water slaughtering method "cruel."

The Spanish multinational behind the plans denies the octopuses will suffer.

The confidential planning proposal documents from the company, Nueva Pescanova, were given to the BBC by the campaign organisation Eurogroup for Animals.

Nueva Pescanova sent the proposal to the Canary Islands' General Directorate of Fishing, which has not responded to a BBC request for comment.

Octopuses caught in the wild using pots, lines and traps are eaten all over the world, including in the Mediterranean and in Asia and Latin America.

The race to discover the secret to breeding them in captivity has been going on for decades. It's difficult as the larvae only eat live food and need a carefully controlled environment, but Nueva Pescanova announced in 2019 that it had made a scientific breakthrough.

The prospect of intensively farming octopus has already led to opposition: Lawmakers in the US state of Washington have proposed banning the practice before it even starts.

Nueva Pescanova's plans reveal that the octopuses, which are solitary



animals used to the dark, would be kept in tanks with other octopuses, at times under constant light. The creatures - the species *octopus vulgaris* - would be housed in around 1,000 communal tanks in a two-storey building in the port of Las Palmas in Gran Canaria.

They would be killed by being put in containers of water kept at -3C, according to the documents.

Currently there are no welfare rules in place, as octopuses have never been commercially farmed before. However studies have shown that this method of slaughtering fish using 'ice slurry' causes a slow, stressful death. The World Organisation for Animal Health says it "results in poor fish welfare" and the Aquaculture Stewardship Council (ASC) - the leading farmed seafood certification scheme - is proposing a ban unless fish are stunned beforehand.

Some supermarkets have already moved away from selling fish that have been killed using ice, including Tesco and Morrisons.

Prof. Peter Tse, a cognitive neuroscientist at Dartmouth University, told the BBC that "to kill them with ice would be a slow death ... it would be very cruel and should not be allowed."

Adding that they were "as intelligent as cats" he suggested that a more humane way would be to kill them as many fishermen do, by clubbing them over the head.

To supply "premium international markets" including the US, South Korea and Japan, Nueva Pescanova wants to produce 3,000 tonnes of octopus a year. This equates to around one million animals, with some 10-15 octopuses living in each cubic metre of tank, according to campaign group Compassion in World Farming (CiWF), which has studied the plans.

Nueva Pescanova estimates in its documentation that there will be "a mortality rate of 10-15%".

Jonathan Birch, associate professor at the London School of Economics, led a review of more than 300 scientific studies which he says shows that octopuses feel pain and plea-

*cont'd on pg 11*





*cont'd from pg 10*

sure. It led to them being recognised as «sentient beings» in the UK's Animal Welfare (Sentience) Act 2022. Prof Birch and his co-authors believe that high-welfare octopus farming is «impossible» and that killing in ice slurry «would not be an acceptable method of killing in a lab».

“Large numbers of octopuses should never be kept together in close proximity. Doing this leads to stress, conflict and high mortality ... A figure of 10-15% mortality should not be acceptable for any kind of farming.”

In a statement to the BBC, Nueva Pescanova said: “The levels of welfare requirements for the production of octopus or any other animal in our farming farms guarantee the correct handling of the animals. The slaughter, likewise, involves proper handling that avoids any pain or suffering to the animal ...”

In the wild, octopuses are fiercely territorial agile hunters. Nueva Pescanova is proposing that the farmed animals be fed with industrially produced dry feed, sourced from “discards and by-products” of already-caught

fish.

The tanks would be filled with seawater piped in from an adjacent bay. The tanks would be different sizes for the different phases of the octopuses' life, with the salinity and temperature closely controlled.

The initial brood of 100 octopuses - 70 males and 30 females - would be taken from a research facility, the Pescanova Biomarine Centre, in Galicia, northern Spain.

The plans state that the company has achieved a level of “domestication” in the species and that they do not “show important signs of cannibalism or competition for food”.

Elena Lara from CiWF called on the Canary Islands authorities to block construction of the farm, which she said would “inflict unnecessary suffering on these intelligent, sentient and fascinating creatures”.

Reineke Hamelers, CEO at Eurogroup for Animals added that the European Commission was currently reviewing its animal welfare legislation and had a “real opportunity” to “avoid terrible suffering”.

Along with the welfare of the oc-

topuses, CiWF has concerns around the wastewater produced by the farm, which would be pumped back into the sea. Octopuses produce nitrogen and phosphates as waste. “The water entering and leaving the plant will be filtered so that it will have no impact on the environment,” Nueva Pescanova told the BBC.

Around 350,000 tonnes of octopus are caught each year - more than 10 times the number caught in 1950 - which is putting pressure on populations. Nueva Pescanova stated that «aquaculture is the solution to ensuring a sustainable yield» and that it would «repopulate the octopus species in the future.» However conservationists believe farming them would lower the price, potentially creating new markets.

Nueva Pescanova emphasised to the BBC that it dedicated “great efforts to promote responsible and sustainable performance throughout the value chain to ensure that best practices are adopted.”

The government of Gran Canaria has not responded to a request for information.

## Cocaine production reaches record levels as new trafficking hubs emerge

By Thomas Mackintosh

Global cocaine production has reached record levels as demand rebounds following Covid lockdowns, a new report has found.

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime said coca cultivation rose by 35% between 2020 and 2021 to record levels.

Findings suggest new hubs for trafficking have emerged in West and Central Africa.

The report also said traffickers were using international postal services more often to get drugs to consumers.

“Globally, the use of parcel and courier services increased significantly during the Covid-related lockdown due to restrictions on passenger flights,” the Global Report on Cocaine report said.

It noted a rise in West African countries in the use of “well established, globally operating postal services as well as smaller shopping companies” used to smuggle quantities of cocaine to Europe and beyond.

Overall, the the report found Europe and North America are the largest markets for cocaine, followed by South and Central America and the Caribbean.

While the report said the markets in Africa and Asia were “still limited”,



Doctors have warned cocaine is often mixed with other harmful substances.

the UN’s Ghada Waly said the potential for the market to expand there was a dangerous reality.

Production increase was the result of an expansion in the cultivation of coca bush, as well as improvements in converting coca into powdered cocaine, the report found.

It added the outbreak of Covid-19 had a “disruptive” effect on drug markets as international travel was severely curtailed.

Demand for cocaine slumped as nightclubs and bars were shut during the pandemic lockdowns.

“However, the most recent data suggests this slump has had little impact on longer-term trends,” the report says. “The global supply of cocaine is at record levels.”

In the UK, the report says there has been a “significant increase” in seizures of cocaine in the “fast parcel and postal modes”.

Interceptions by law enforcement have also been on the rise - at a higher speed than production, the report outlines.

Other key findings include:

Colombia still dominates trafficking routes although paths to Europe have evolved

Consumption in Australia peaked in the middle of 2020, dropped by 50% the following year and picked up “moderately” in the last few months of 2021

Mexican and Balkan criminal groups have moved closer to the centre of production to gain access to supplies

The use of crack cocaine is on the upward trend in several western European countries including the UK, Belgium, France and Spain

In Ukraine, the market had been expanding, but since Russia’s invasion last February the demand has been disrupted drastically

Reacting to the report, UN’s chief of research and trend Angela Me said the supply of cocaine has risen in South America as criminal groups have taken control of areas previously run by Colombia’s largest rebel group - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (Farc).

She said this has led to competition among groups - including some foreign groups - which has increased the production.



## CARICOM strengthens relations with regional and third-state partners

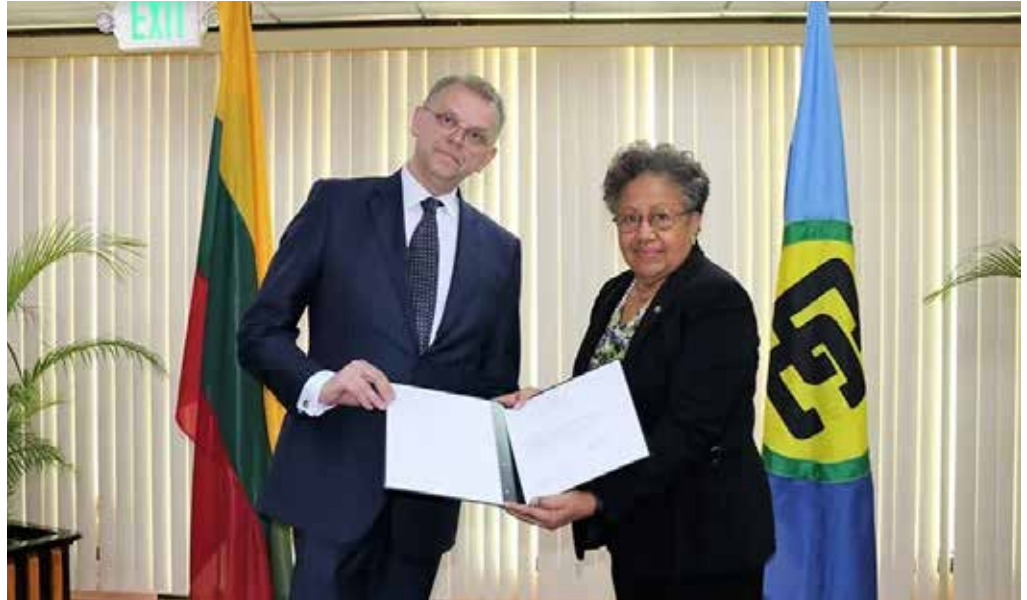
Diplomatic relations between CARICOM and a Member State, as well as two third-state partners, were strengthened on Tuesday, March 14, when CARICOM Secretary-General, Dr Carla Barnett, accredited three new ambassadors at the CARICOM Secretariat.

The Secretary-General accepted the letters of credence of His Excellency Larry Vaughan, Ambassador of St. Kitts and Nevis to CARICOM; His Excellency Itai Bardov, Ambassador of Israel to CARICOM; and His Excellency Rytis Paulauskas, Ambassador of Lithuania to CARICOM.

Secretary-General Barnett said the accreditation of Ambassador Vaughan presented an opportunity for a fresh perspective on various issues confronting the Community.

She said CARICOM has benefited from St. Kitts and Nevis' commitment to regional integration, particularly in human resource development, and health and wellness, as lead Head of Government in the CARICOM Quasi cabinet for those areas.

"Given the multifaceted challenges presented by the protracted COVID-19 pandemic and its severe impact on lives and livelihoods in the Region, this Quasi-Cabinet portfolio is essential to the Region's post-pandemic recovery," Secretary-General



Barnett stated.

In his remarks, Ambassador Vaughan reflected on the tasks ahead to improve competitiveness in all sectors across the Member States, achieve more coordinated trade negotiation outcomes, and advocate for global appreciation for the multifaceted nature of our vulnerabilities. He committed to actively working with his colleagues in the Committee of Ambassadors for the shared benefit of the people of the Community.

The Israeli Ambassador to CARICOM told Secretary-General Barnett that his country was keen to enhance its relations with CARICOM on Climate Change, Agriculture, Irrigation Technology, and Training.

He signalled Israel's willingness to provide humanitarian support in areas in which the country has developed expertise, including pediatric heart surgeries and optical treatments.

Secretary-General Barnett noted the timeliness of Israel's offer to support agriculture in the Region where efforts have been targeted at reducing the importation of food by 25 per cent by 2025.

Ambassador Paulauskas and the Secretary-General highlighted Climate Change as a key area for cooperation between CARICOM and Lithuania.

"As we prepare for COP 28, it is important that focus is placed on the

*cont'd on pg 14*

## Guyana: Two persons charged for assaulting West Berbice teacher

Loop – A student and a relative have been charged with the assault of Fort Wellington Secondary School teacher, Marlon Daniels.

Tray Mc Pherson and

Dishon Daniels were charged today with 'Assault Causing Actual Bodily Harm'.

Mc Pherson was also charged with Damage to Property.

The two appeared before Magistrate Peter Hugh in the Fort Wellington Magistrates' Court where they pleaded not guilty.

Mc Pherson and Daniels were placed on

GYD\$15,000 bail.

They were also ordered to stay 50 feet away from the victim.

Both matters have been adjourned to March 30, 2023.

## Bahamas Deputy PM defends new Royal Caribbean Beach Club deal

Loop - Deputy Prime Minister Chester Cooper has hit back at former Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis for his criticism of the government's recent approval of Royal Caribbean International's (RCI) Paradise Island beach club project.

In an interview with The Tribune newspaper, Minnis said this new deal is a watered down version of the plan his administration had with RCI, which would have seen the company agree to the redevelop the Grand Lucayan hotel and expand cruise port facilities in Grand Bahama.

"If they [the Government] truly love the Bahamian people then the Grand Bahama component must be continued, because that will energise and revitalise Port Lucaya.

"That was part of it. We sign together. We sign for Grand Bahama, and we sign for Paradise Island," he told The Tribune.

"The Grand Bahama component was that hotel and the cruise port. There would be a new and expanded cruise port, which would represent an increase in visitors to Grand Baha-



*The proposed Royal Caribbean Beach Club. Photo: Royal Caribbean.*

ma, more jobs for taxis and tours, and more visitors to Grand Bahama. He [Mr Davis] has taken that out, and watered it down. It hinged on Freeport. That was the agreement. We were going to sign Freeport and Paradise Island together."

In response to Minnis' criticism, Cooper said the new deal is "in the best interest of the Bahamian people."

"The facts are that the last administration approved the lease of Crown land on Paradise Island for RCI in February of 2020.

"Further, if this was connected to the completion of the Grand Lucayan deal, then why would the Minnis Administration have executed the lease before the

Grand Lucayan deal was completed?" Cooper said in a statement.

"When the government signed a deal with RCI and ITM for the Grand Lucayan in March 2020, the public was not aware of the lease given on Crown land at Paradise Island or that the deal locked out Bahamian ownership and economic participation in the beach club.

"The Minnis administration also agreed to terms in its Grand Lucayan deal that would have seen the public finance the joint venture with taxpayer dollars to purchase the hotel without a commitment to developing the property until the second half of the decade."

Cooper said that the current government restruc-

tured the Paradise Island deal to ensure Bahamians benefit from its operation.

"We believe that the current deal, which is still subject to environmental approval, is in the best interest of the Bahamian people.

"It is understood that Dr Minnis is desperate to return to the leadership of the Free National Movement, but that struggle should not prevent him from facing the reality of his inept deal-making and his abysmal leadership," said Cooper.

RCI expects to complete the construction of the beach club in 2025.

The beach club will be made up of 13 acres of land owned by the cruise line and 4 acres of Crown Land. Guests at the beach club will have access to a range of onshore and water activities including scuba diving and nature hikes.

Bahamians will have a 49 per cent equity in the beach club.

*cont'd from pg 13*

significant loss that countries of our Region, which are comparatively low emitters, face," she said.

She also underscored the need for equitable standards across international financial systems.

"We want the international community to agree on a single set of regulations so that what is agreed in one jurisdiction is agreed everywhere, as otherwise, there is great dysfunction within our financial systems," the Secretary-General emphasised.



## France protests: Clashes after Macron orders rise in pension age without vote

BBC - Police in Paris have clashed with protesters after the French government decided to force through pension reforms without a vote in parliament.

Crowds converged on Place de la Concorde in response to the raising of the retirement age from 62 to 64.

The plans had sparked two months of heated political debate and strikes.

Finally, Prime Minister Élisabeth Borne invoked article 49:3 of the constitution - allowing the government to avoid a vote in the Assembly.

The decision was taken minutes before MPs were scheduled to vote on the controversial bill, because there was no guarantee of winning a majority.

The move caused fury among opposition politicians. Many jeered the prime minister, sang La Marseillaise and held up signs of protest in parliament.

A no-confidence motion will be filed against President Emmanuel Macron's government, far-right opposition leader Marine Le Pen has suggested.

Thousands of people came out on the streets of Paris and other French cities to protest the move, singing the national anthem and waving trade union flags.

Some protesters clashed with police as evening fell. A fire was lit in the middle of the Place de la Concorde and police with shields and batons fired tear gas and moved to clear the square.

As the demonstrators dispersed, police said they had made eight arrests.

But unions vowed to maintain their opposition to the pension changes, with the Confédération Générale du Travail (CGT) saying another day



of strikes and demonstrations was being planned for Thursday 23 March.

The constitutional procedure that has prompted all this anger may sound obscure, but it is very much part of the political vocabulary in France.

Even though President Emmanuel Macron was re-elected last year on a platform of retirement reforms, his ruling coalition has no majority in the Assembly and would have needed support from the Republicans party to pass the pension changes.

Officials from Mr Macron's Renaissance party spent the morning desperately whipping members into line in a bid to pass their bill.

They knew some of their MPs could vote against or abstain, faced with the evident unpopularity of the bill, so they resorted to special constitutional powers.

But whenever a government invokes the 49:3, it can be sure it will be accused straight away of riding roughshod over the will of the people.

In fact, it has been used precisely 100 times in the more than 60 years of the Fifth Republic, and by governments of all shades.

Obviously, it tends to be used more frequently by governments that

do not have an in-built majority in parliament, such as the socialist Michel Rocard's in the 1980s and Élisabeth Borne's today.

She has in fact already used it several times, but those occasions were for public finance bills which were less controversial.

Use of the procedure is a way to bypass a vote which might be lost, but the down side for the government is that the opposition parties can immediately table a vote of no-confidence.

If these are voted through, the government falls. That is a theoretical possibility now, but unlikely, because it would mean the far-right, the left and much of the conservative opposition all coming together.

The dispute once again makes France look unreformable. By comparison with other countries in Europe, the change to the pension age is far from dramatic.

But the bill is regularly described by opponents as "brutal", "inhuman" and "degrading".

Morale in France is low and getting lower, and people see retirement as a bright spot in the future. But many feel that this is a rich man's government taking even that away.

## Canadian Supreme Court judge on leave after Arizona resort altercation

By *Chloe Kim*

An alleged drunken altercation at an Arizona resort has landed a Canadian Supreme Court justice on paid leave.

According to a police case report filed in January, a US Marine Corps veteran claimed that Justice Russell Brown engaged in the “unwanted touching” of a female guest at the resort that month.

The veteran said he later punched Mr Brown “a few times” during an argument.

Mr Brown has denied the claims and called the account “demonstrably false”.

Earlier this month, the Canadian Judicial Council announced it was reviewing a complaint received in January into Mr Brown’s alleged conduct in Arizona. He has been on leave since 1 February as the judicial oversight body looks into the matter.

There are differing accounts of the incident, which took place while Mr Brown, 57, was staying at the luxury Omni Scottsdale Resort & Spa at Montelucia, attending a gala celebrating a former colleague.

Jonathan Crump, a 31-year-old mortgage adviser and US army veteran, told *The Vancouver Sun* last week that the judge was harassing his female friend after they met Mr Brown in the resort bar late on 28 January.

He said he was irritated by what he claimed was the judge’s boastful behaviour and that the judge later followed the group back to their room.

“I told him: ‘You’re clearly intoxicated and the girls are creeped out by you. He shoved me .... I pushed him back, then punched him in the face twice and he fell to the ground,’” Mr Crump told the newspaper.

Following the publication of that



*Canadian Supreme Court Justice Russell Brown is on leave while an investigation looks into a physical altercation at an Arizona hotel.*

story, Mr Brown released a statement, saying that “in light of the false statements in the media by Mr Jonathan Crump, I am compelled to respond”.

He confirmed parts of Mr Crump’s account, saying he joined the group at the table but “did not speak or otherwise engage with him”.

“We all left the lounge at roughly the same time. Outside the lounge, Mr Crump objected to me rejoining the group and suddenly, without warning or provocation, punched me several times in the head. Taken by surprise, I was unable to defend myself,” he said.

In his media statement, Mr Brown said Mr Crump called police “in an apparent attempt to avoid facing the consequences of assaulting me” adding that he was falsely described as the instigator of the incident.

“The evidence I provided to the Council corroborates my account of the incident,” he said.

Paradise Valley Police Department answered the subsequent call on the part of Mr Crump at 01:37 am local time (08:37 GMT) early on 29 January.

According to the police report, Mr

Brown was allegedly making women in the group feel uncomfortable, touching them and kissing their hands, Mr Crump told the responding officer.

Mr Crump grew hostile during the interview and appeared “under the influence of alcohol”, the police officer noted.

One of the women told police that the judge kissed her cheek a couple of times and touched her back and leg. She said it was not in a “sexual way” but agreed when asked if it was “unwanted touching”. Two other women in the party said that Mr Brown also made them feel uncomfortable.

Police attempted to interview Mr Brown but were unable to reach him.

“Based on the totality of the circumstances, the use of force appeared reasonable and necessary, and no crime was determined,” the officer concluded in his case report.

Contacted by BBC News on Tuesday, Mr Brown’s lawyer, Brian Gover, said in an email that the judge had nothing to add to his earlier statement.

There are nine justices on the Supreme Court of Canada. Mr Brown was appointed in 2015.



## Libya uranium: Missing barrels recovered, say eastern forces

*By Robert Plummer*

Armed forces in eastern Libya say they have found about two and a half tonnes of uranium ore that were reported missing by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Ten drums containing the ore were found near the border with Chad, said the head of the forces' media unit.

The IAEA said it was "actively working to verify" media reports.

The agency sounded the alarm after a visit by its inspectors earlier this week to the undisclosed site.

The area was not in government-controlled territory.

Uranium is a naturally-occurring element that can have nuclear-related uses once it has been refined, or enriched.

The uranium which went missing could not be made into a nuclear weapon in its current state, but could be used as the raw material for a nuclear weapons programme, experts told the BBC.

In December 2003, under then-military ruler Col Muammar Gaddafi, Libya publicly renounced nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

But since Col Gaddafi was deposed in 2011, the country has been divided



*An official inspecting drums said to contain uranium ore.*

into competing political and military factions.

It is now split between an interim, internationally recognised government in the capital, Tripoli, and another one in the east.

Neither is in control of the south, where the uranium was taken from.

Thursday's statement on finding the drums came from the self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA), the military force that backs the unrecognised eastern Libyan administration.

The LNA is a coalition of military units, local, tribal and Salafi militias, led by Field Marshal Khalifa Haftar, a veteran officer who took part in the coup that brought Col Gaddafi to power in 1969.

The LNA said the containers of uranium had been found about five kilometres (three miles) from

where they had been stored in southern Libya.

The IAEA says the site had been difficult to reach in recent times.

Inspectors had wanted to visit the location last year, but the trip had to be postponed because of fighting between rival Libyan militias.

Many foreign governments and groups have been vying for influence in Libya since Nato-backed forces overthrew Col Gaddafi. They include Russia's Wagner Group which backs the LNA.

The oil-rich country is largely lawless and has previously been described as an "arms bazaar".

In 2013, the UN reported that weapons smuggled out of Libya were fuelling conflicts in other parts of Africa and the Middle East.

The uranium that went missing was in a kind of concentrate known as "yellow cake" and "doesn't really have any radiation in its current form", said Scott Roecker from the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a global security organisation working on nuclear issues.

He told the BBC's Newsday programme it could be used as «feedstock» for a nuclear weapons programme.

Mr Roecker also suggested that it could potentially be used for other purposes, such as nuclear energy, but pointed out that countries would normally buy material for that on the open market.

"Perhaps it was stolen by someone who wants to make a profit out of this? There's a lot of scenarios around this," he said.

# Sports News



## Paragons beat Stoneville to record second win in volleyball league

Former champions Paragons notched up their second win in the female division of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

After only relying on the required six players in pulling off a 3-0 win against newcomers Royal Cruisers in their opening encounter, Paragons had an increase in the number of players to record a 3-0 win against Stoneville in their second encounter.

Paragons prevailed 25-20, 25-18, 25-17 over Stoneville in their opening game of Wednesday night's double header.

Captain Annette



The players of Paragons (pink and black uniform) and Stoneville exchange handshakes at the end of their female division encounter in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Local League at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday, 15th March, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

"Meme" Beazer was delighted to be able to recruit some new players, all of whom participated in this year's inter-schools' volleyball league.

"Well, I must say I am feeling good. We have recruited some young players. They are still in the learning process, but they are life savers and they are

doing really good," Beazer stated.

"We are planning to come out on Saturdays and try and work with them a

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Bullets crush Clippers by 57 runs in women's softball cricket

Brysons Shipping & Insurance Bullets defeated Daryll Matthew Clippers by 57 runs in the Female Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) T-10 Competition at Dredgers on Sunday.

Bullets won the toss and batted, scoring 89 for two from 10 overs.

Annette Frank hit 32 not out and Cheryl Williams got 23. In reply, Clippers were restricted to 32 for eight from 10 overs.

Karen Cort got 17 while Lana Thomas snapped up three wickets for two runs, Mauricia Willette took two wickets for three runs and Annette

Frank claimed two wickets for eight runs.

Foster Jonas/Harley's Maintenance Potters Uprising beat Daryll Matthew Clippers by 10 wickets.

Clippers were limited to 56 for six in their 10 overs with Maria Davis picking up three wickets for 14 runs. Nolia Elvin hit 36 not out as Potters achieved victory by scoring 58 without loss in six overs.

Jennings Rockets snatched a one-wickets win against Flyers. Flyers made 69 for three with Kethonia King hitting 27 not out. Christophine Hughes captured two wickets for nine

runs.

Rockets secured victory by scoring 70 for nine in 9.2 overs. Christophine Hughes scored 26. Coller Simon grabbed three wickets for four runs, Monique Titus captured two for 10 and Valencia Thomas claimed two for 15.

Flyers overcame Sagicor Enforcers by eight wickets. Enforcers could only muster 62 for four from their 10 overs with Sacha Michael getting 33. Valencia Thomas bagged two for 15. Robinette Burton struck 27 not out as Flyers claimed victory by scoring 66 for two in their 10 overs.



## Jennings United extend lead, Liberta record first win in premier league

Jennings United extended their lead in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division while Liberta Black Hawks recorded their first win this season in the ABFA's Premier Division League on Wednesday.

Jennings United were held to a 1-1 draw by Attacking Saints in their top of the table second division encounter at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Shaquille Watkins scored in the 32nd minute to equalize for Jennings United after Roger King's 21st minute conversion had given Attacking Saints a 1-0 lead.

Jennings United will remain at the top of the second division after securing their third draw in 14 matches to advance to 36 points. Attacking Saints remained five points behind in second place after recording their fourth draw in 14 encounters.

Bottom team Liberta



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

Black Hawks came from behind to claim their first win in this season's premier league by pulling off a 2-1 win over Cedar Grove Blue Jays at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Keon Green scored in the 39th minute to give the Blue Jays a 1-0 halftime lead.

Makhai Browne scored in the 56th minute to equalize for Liberta. Cedar Grove were reduced to 10-men in the 60th minute when Ajani

Matthew was given the red card by the referee for using abusive and insulting language.

The Black Hawks capitalized on their one-man advantage as Gerique George scored the winner with an 84th minute conversion to give Liberta their victory.

Their first win in 13 matches lifted Liberta to -1 (minus one) point, but the Black Hawks remain in the cellar position of the 16-team competition.

Cedar Grove Blue Jays also remain third from bottom of the standings on seven points after crashing to their 12th loss in 15 matches.

Real Blizzard came from behind to pull off a 2-1 victory over ABAYA in a second division affair at Parham.

Ian Eusebe snatched the winner for Real Blizzard when he scored in the 88th minute of the 90-minute encounter. Shamar Carr had put ABAYA into the lead with a 36th minute conversion, but Millique London draw Real Blizzard level by scoring in the 43rd minute.

Their seventh win in 14 matches carries Real Blizzard to 25 points and up to fifth place in the standings, while ABAYA will remain on eight points and in 12th place, on goal difference, after suffering their 10th defeat in 14 encounters.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

little more so they'll be more aggressive. As you know, God is good, we are doing our thing and we are grateful.

"They are school league girls. They are young girls now, they are teenagers growing up so we are happy to have them and we are in the Paragons uniform. It's a good, it's a plus."

After losing their opening encounter to defending men's champion Stoneville, newcomers Pytonz claimed their first win in the competition by beating Sharks

in straight sets in the second game on Wednesday night.

Pytonz prevailed 3-0 in the men's division affair, winning 25-13, 25-8, 25-15.

The competition will continue with another double-header at the same venue tomorrow.

Defending female division champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad will meet North Coast Hardware Starz Juniors at 6:30 pm while reigning champions Stoneville will take on Sharks in a men's division encounter at 7:30 pm.

## Spanish Heat win ABBA's second division league title

Galaxia Bar Spanish Heat are the new league champions of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division.

Zone 2 winners Spanish Heat claimed title honours by pulling off a 72-61 victory over Zone 1 winners Ottos Coolers in the league final at the Ovals basketball court on Wednesday night.

Steven Matthew scored 20 points; Kevin Pimentel sank 14 points and grabbed eight rebounds; Jesus Emmanuel converted 12 points and Wilkin Floyd had 11 assists, 10 rebounds, nine steals and eight points for Spanish Heat.

Vladimir Castro shot a game-high 22 points, claimed seven rebounds and seven steals; Lincoln Weekes had 17 points and eight assists and Javon Simon scored 12 points for Ottos Coolers.

Following Spanish Heat's success, Pimentel expressed his team's gratitude to the Antigua and Barbuda Association for allowing them to participate in its national second division programme.

"Before I say anything, I have to say thank you Jesus, and thank you to the association for giving the Spanish community the opportunity to participate in the second division league," Pimentel said.



The Spanish Heat team following their win over Ottos Coolers in the Second Division basketball league final at the court in Ovals on Wednesday. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

"I feel well because the guys came here tonight and played good basketball. We have some points that we need to fix, but we will work it out."

Both teams advanced to the finals after topping their respective eight-team zones of the 16-team preliminary round robin-league competition, which commenced at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, 4th December, 2022.

The league finals were preceded by a playoff for third place, which was won by New Generation Slam against Flyers2.

New Generation Slam snatched a narrow 62-60 victory to capture third place honours.

Anjis Anthony sank 18

points and snatched 14 rebounds, John Rolland Jr had 16 points and grabbed 14 rebounds and Keady Martin scored 10 points and claimed nine rebounds for Slam.

Adrian Carnegie converted 18 points and secured six rebounds, Craig Masiah scored 14 points and snapped up eight rebounds and Jaheem James sank 10 points and pulled down six rebounds for Flyers2.

New Generation Slam had finished second in Zone 1 while Flyers2 had claimed the runners-up spot in Zone 2 at the end of the preliminaries.

The top two Zone One and Two teams which played on Wednesday night will be joined by the other

two teams that finished in the top four in each group in contesting the Second Division playoffs that will tip-off this weekend.

Also advancing to the second division playoffs are Cuties Ovals Young Guns and Caribbean Pharmaceuticals Fearless Crew1 from Zone 2 along with Old Road Daggers and Wadadli Elites1 from Zone 1.

The best of three opening rounds of the second division play-off series will commence with a double header at the Ovals basketball court tomorrow, Saturday.

Ottos Coolers will face Cuties Ovals Young Guns at 6:45 pm while New Generation Slam will clash with Fearless Crew1 at 8:30 pm.



## OCS capture 18 and Under schools' netball title

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) has secured the 18 and Under Division title in the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools' Netball Championships.

Ottos Comprehensive kept their unbeaten run intact by snatching their 8th win in as many games with a narrow 17-15 victory over the Antigua State College at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Kiara Samuel sank 10 of her 19 attempts and Jessica Massicott scored seven of her 14 shots for Ottos,

while Zhanira Pereira converted 12 of her 13 tries for State College.

Irene B Williams Secondary snatched a 16-15 victory against Clare Hall Secondary in the same division.

Lovinna Matthew sank 12 of her 19 shots for Irene B Williams while Jahlika Pascal scored eight of her 12 attempts and Ijhanee Isadore sank seven of her eight shots for Clare Hall Secondary.

Ottos Comprehensive also clinched second place

behind undefeated champions Antigua Girls High School in the 16 and Under Division.

Ottos Comprehensive claimed the runners-up position by snatching a 9-7 victory over Princess Margaret School on Wednesday.

Kiara Samuel scored six of her 11 shots for Ottos while Jahida Payne sank four of her eight attempts for Princess Margaret School, who finished third in the competition after winning the title last year.

Glanvilles Secondary School prevailed 18-5 against the First Team of the Christ the King High School.

Deana Romeo converted 10 of her 18 shots and Nzae Williams scored eight of her 15 attempts for Glanvilles Secondary.

However, the Second Team of the Christ the King High School won their encounter by default over the All Saints Secondary School who failed to show up for their encounter on Wednesday.

### *cont'd from pg 22*

figures of six for 50 off 24 overs.

In response, the Leeward Islands were dismissed for 154 in 42 overs to give the Barbados Pride a first innings' lead of 168 runs. Captain Jahmar Hamilton top scored with 30.

Left-arm pacer Dominic Drakes claimed three for 38, off-spinner Chaim Holder had two wickets for seven runs, Jair McAllister picked up two for 36 and medium pacer Shemar Springer took two for 48.

However, Devon Thomas, bowling medium pace, and Cornwall shared all 10 wickets as Leeward Islands clawed their way back into the game by dismissing the Barbados Pride for 78 in 23.2 overs in their second innings.

Following a 59-run opening stand between Zachary McCaskie, who made 29 and Sheyne Moseley with 27, no other batsmen managed to reach double figures during a spectacular Barbados Pride second innings batting collapse in which they lost their last nine wickets for just 19 runs.

Cornwall snapped up five for 19 to end with a match haul of 11 for 69, while Thomas grabbed five for 22.

Jamaica Scorpions will start today's third day chasing a victory target of 415 runs to beat the Windward Islands Volcanoes in their regional third round match at Providence in Guyana.

After dismissing the Scorpions for 101 in their first innings to take a lead of 116 runs, the Windward Islands were dismissed for 298 in 78.5 overs in their second innings at the end of yesterday's second day.

Alick Athanaze, who had made top score of 81 in the Windward Islands first innings total of 217, continued his fine form with a knock of 97 off 100 balls with 15 fours and a six.

Kavem Hodge made 82 and Justin Greaves scored 33.

Left-arm Spinner Patrick Harty claimed three for 62, medium pacer Marquino Mindley took two for 44 and Nicholas Gordon picked up two for 59.

Earlier, Derval Greene failed to add to his overnight score of 33 as the Jamaica Scorpions were dismissed for 101 after resuming on 98 for seven.

Greaves finished with six for 34, Shermion Lewis had two for 29 and Ryan John claimed two for 38.

Guyana Harpy Eagles, with a lead of 260 runs, were 96 for three in their second innings at the close of the second day of their regional four-day encounter against the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force at the Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad.

Kemoui Savory is unbeaten on 34 and opener Matthew Nandu made 33.

In reply to the Guyana first inning total of 324, Trinidad and Tobago, resuming on their overnight score of seven without loss, were dismissed for 160 in 52 overs.

Jason Mohammad top scored with 50. Pacer Rensford Beacon bagged four for 31, left-arm spinner Veerasammy Permaul captured three for 36 and pacer Kemo Paul picked up three for 37.

## LI Hurricanes chasing victory against Barbados Pride

The Leeward Islands Hurricane are in need of another 234 runs to beat Barbados Pride in their Cricket West Indies (CWI) regional four-day championship match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad.

Set 247 runs for victory, the Hurricanes were 13 without loss in their second innings at the close of yesterday's second day, in which they clawed their way back into the match.

Resuming on 294 for eight, Barbados lost their remaining two wickets for the addition of 28 runs to be all out for 322 in 91.5 overs in their first innings.

Captain Shane Dowrich added just eight more runs to his overnight score of 116 and was left not out on 124 off 200 balls with nine fours and a six.



Off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall, right, picked up an 11-wicket match haul to bowl the Leeward Islands into a good position to beat the Barbados Pride in their Cricket West Indies regional four-day championship match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad. (CWI Media)

Pacers Sheno Berridge, for 55, claimed the last two off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall, ended with overnight wickets and the Hurricanes most successful bowler, who claimed two for 39, and Jeremiah Louis with one **cont'd on pg 21**

## Parish League cricket continues this weekend

The 2023 Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League domestic season will continue with the fifth and sixth round matches in the Sir Curtly Ambrose Limited Overs Competition this weekend.

In tomorrow's (Saturday) fifth round matches, Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm will face Urlings at Sea View Farm, Freetown will host Time

of Victory Old Road at Freetown and Police will meet Antigua Masters, formerly St Paul's, at the Police Recreation Grounds.

Calvin Thomas and Danny Winspere will umpire at Sea View Farm, Llewellyn Simon and Vaughn Connor will officiate at Freetown while Dirk Schouten and Nigel Browne will umpire at the Police Recreation Ground.

On Sunday, Police will oppose Mahico at the Police Recreation Ground. The umpires are Nigel Brown and Dirk Schouten. Urlings will take on Freetown at Urlings. The officiators will be Calvin Thomas and Danny Winspere.

Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm will oppose Time of Victory Old Road at Old Road where Oliver Benjamin and Llewellyn Simon will officiate.