

TUESDAY 21ST MARCH 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 56 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

MARSHALL LAUDS GOV'T FOR POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Story on Page 2



JCI Antigua President Laurel Jonas, left, pictured with Top winners and teacher along with JCI National Executive Vice President Brittney Williams, centre and Mrs. Yadira Moodystuart, right, from Stingray City Tours. *Story on page 9.*

Local News



Sen. Marshall lauds government for economic recovery after COVID-19

Antigua and Barbuda's recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic when the entire world was brought to a screeching halt, was as a result of a number of 'decisive actions' taken by the government.

That's the assessment of Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Sen. Samantha Marshall as she introduced the 2023 National Budget in the Upper House for debate.

She said the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) concluded that the Antigua and Barbuda economy grew by over eight percent in 2022, a mere two years after the outbreak of the pandemic. "I have to commend the prime minister and his cabinet for the work that they have been doing. This is because during the pandemic, there were a number of critical decisions made, they were not popular decisions, but they were decisions that helped bring us to where we are today with 8.5 percent growth," she declared.

Sen. Marshall recalled

that some regional leaders even questioned Prime Minister Gaston Browne when he declared that he was re-opening the airport. "Even our own people questioned whether the government was allowing COVID-19 to enter into the country. We did not bring COVID-19 but what we brought was a sustainable tourism industry for Antigua and Barbuda," she stated.

Looking at the performance of tourism over the past year, Sen. Marshall said the industry grew by over fifty percent from 2021 to 2022. She also revealed the tourist arrival figures for the cruise industry – over 300-thousand – and for the stay-over visitors – over 265-thousand.

In terms of the yachting sector, she described the industry as very important to Antigua and Barbuda, adding that the sector contributes more to the economy than the cruise industry.

In her response, Minority Leader, Sen. Shawn Nicholas, who noted that the government has been



Leader of Government Business in the Senate, Sen. Samantha Marshall

promoting the idea of increased economic growth, questioned whether this growth has been felt by the ordinary men and women in the country.

She also spoke of the exogenous shocks that affect the economy and prices in the country, she is of the view that the government ought to take measures to relieve consumers of the rise in prices.

Making his maiden budget presentation, Sen. Caleb Gardner spent time focusing on the government's policies as they relate to youth

development. He said the administration of Prime Minister Gaston Browne has implemented policies that have had positive effects on young people in the country.

"From 2014 until now, we have seen the impact of this contribution on the development of young people. This includes the development of a National Youth Policy for Antigua and Barbuda, completed in 2021," he indicated.

Among the policy objectives was the inclusion of young people in the decision making process of the country as is evidenced by the number of young people in the Senate. He also pointed to the establishment of a 4th landed campus of the University of the West Indies at Five Islands and the long-term beneficial impact it will have on Antigua and Barbuda.

Tue 21 Day		Tue 21 Night	
82°	☀️	73°	☁️
18% ☁️ ENE 18 mph		20% ☁️ E 13 mph	
Mostly sunny skies. High 82F. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 mph.		Clear skies with a few passing clouds. Low 73F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	
💧 Humidity 70%	☀️ UV Index Extreme	💧 Humidity 81%	☀️ UV Index 0 of 10
🌅 Sunrise 6:10 am	🌇 Sunset 6:18 pm	🌙 Moonrise 6:10 am	🌙 Moonset 6:27 pm
		● New Moon	

Senate gives 'greenlight' for sale of Alfa Nero

The matter of the super-yacht, Alfa Nero – which has been languishing in Antigua and Barbuda waters for over a year, went before the Senate on Monday for discussion, as the government paves the way for the eventual sale of the vessel.

After expressing its intention to sell the vessel 'in the public's interest,' the government is taking the additional step of seeking parliamentary backing for the move, and according to a spokesman the government is going the extra mile to provide legal cover, in the event that sometime 'down the road' someone may wish to take legal action against it.

The government is amending the Antigua Port Authority Act as the instrument it is using to effect the sale of the vessel.

Leader of Government Business in the Upper House, Sen. Samantha Marshall, noted that the current legislation did not foresee circumstances such as the Alfa Nero being 'abandoned' here in Antigua and Barbuda by its alleged owners, who are said to have links with Russian President Vladimir Putin. She explained that the vessel has been sanctioned by US and UK authorities, and that may have been the chief reason why the owners

sought 'refuge' here in Antigua and Barbuda.

She further explained that since here, the vessel has incurred huge debts for its maintenance and upkeep that are owed to local suppliers. Sen. Marshall stated that currently, the vessel is uninsured and that this is a danger not just for the Alfa Nero, but for the marina where it is moored, and the other vessels moored there.

Selling the vessel, which is the government's plan, would help wipe out the local debts of the vessel, pay the crew who are owed substantial amounts and the remainder placed in the consolidated funds.

Minority Leader in the Senate, Sen. Shawn Nicholas, said while the matter was an important one, there were a number of questions that her side needed to have answered. Among them was if it was necessary to amend the APA Act, as the matter could have been dealt with under the Merchant Shipping Act.

She also asked of the welfare of the five crew members still aboard the vessel, to include arrangements with the police and immigration departments. Sen. Nicholas said she fails to see why the matter was as urgent as the government states and she cautioned the government not to 'rush' the proposed

sale. She also asked the government to deposit the proceeds of the sale into an Escrow Account until all the matters relating to the Alfa Nero are properly resolved.

Sen. Philip Shoul, who has experience as a seafarer, explained that the situation with the vessel is as the government has stated, 'very urgent'. He revealed that the information from the vessel's captain is that things are 'dire' aboard the vessel. "There's not enough food for the crew for a week, the fuel treatment plant is not function-

ing and there are other issues with maintenance that need urgent attention. They can't get parts for the Reverse Osmosis (RO) plant, they can't get parts for the generators, they can't get parts for the engine, and they can't get parts for anything. He thinks that they can call the US and ask for parts for the Alfa Nero?" he asked.

He emphasized that these are some of the issues that make the matter urgent, as he asked the opposition to support the government's move to prevent a disaster from happening.

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(CIVIL DIVISION)
CLAIM NO: ANUHCV2021/0465

BETWEEN:
DACIA ERNEST
Claimant
and
CHARLES THOMAS
DWAYNE GORDON
KODIE THOMAS
Defendants

TO: Mr. Kodie Thomas
Liberta Village
St. Paul's
Antigua

TAKE NOTICE that a legal proceeding for a claim of damages for personal injury has been commenced in the High Court of Justice by the Claimant, Dacia Ernest.

You may obtain copies of the **Form of Judgement for Amount to be Decided by the Court dated 20th May, 2022, Notice of Hearing dated 6th March, 2023 for the appearance in Court on Tuesday 30th May, 2023 and an Order dated 28th February, 2023**, at the High Court of Justice or at Cumberbatch & Associates, Upper Long Street, St. John's, Antigua.

These proceedings can be accessed through the Electronic Litigation Portal. You may contact the Electronic Litigation Portal through the Service Bureau at the High Court of Justice, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. from Mondays to Thursdays and 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Dated this 17th day of March, 2023
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

Local News



Statement by the Hon Gaston Browne on the matter of compassionate assistance to the former employees of LIAT (1974) Ltd



This statement is issued in an effort, once again, to explain and clarify the position of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, regarding the former employees of LIAT (1974) Ltd.

First, the Antigua and Barbuda Government opposed the decision by the other principal shareholders in LIAT (1974) Ltd to collapse the airline, with

no obligation to its employees and creditors.

Our preference was to maintain the airline, recognising that it had a crucial role in providing necessary transportation to people of the region and that, without it, regional air transportation for both goods and services would decline to the detriment of tourism, commercial activity and the socialization of the

Caribbean people. Indeed, our fear in this regard, has turned out to be true as the traveling public can now attest.

Second, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, although it had no corporate or legal responsibility to any of the creditors or former employees of LIAT 1974 Ltd, decided to assume a “moral obligation” to provide compassionate assistance to the former employees of LIAT. Our compassionate severance was offered system wide, on a non discriminatory basis, affording national treatment to all LIAT workers, irrespective of their nationality, in keeping with the spirit of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Third, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda made this decision even though it owned only 32 percent of the shares in LIAT (1974) Ltd, and, therefore, should only have a “moral obligation” up to 32 percent to the former workers, who, indeed were employed by all the governments that comprised 100 per cent of the airline’s ownership.

Fourth, despite the dire economic and financial circumstance that result-

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ed from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the scarcity of financial resources, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda decided to offer 50 per cent of what the LIAT employees reasonably might have expected as compensation, if the company had not been declared insolvent.

In other words, the Government decided to use monies and other resources that should have been spent on the needs of the entire population, such as improvement of roads and water supply, to provide compassionate assistance to the former LIAT employees. By any stretch of the imagination, this is a generous offer, recognizing always that no legal obligation of any kind falls to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and certainly not for 100 percent of assistance to employees of a company, 68 per cent of which was owned by other Caricom members states.

Fifth, in reality if the principal shareholder governments had taken the view that all of them had a moral obligation to provide assistance to all the former LIAT employees, an offer could have been made, formulated to provide such assistance, according to the ownership shareholding in the company.

This cooperative approach which would have resulted in full settlement of staff severance pay-

ments was not pursued by the other shareholding governments, instead a domesticated option was employed ostensibly to limit their liabilities to the staff of LIAT.

LIAT (1974) Ltd was forcefully collapsed as insolvent, in spite of the dissenting view by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the recommendation for the establishment of a LIAT 2020 Ltd.

The Government of Barbados severance payment was raised by the Antigua Workers Union, and therefore, I am obliged to

address it.

The Barbados government has decided to offer assistance to Barbadian employees only, in a sum it has solely determined in light of its own circumstances. In this regard, neither the Government of Barbados, nor any other shareholder government in LIAT (1974) Ltd, has acknowledged any obligation to the former workers, including those here in Antigua and Barbuda.

Consequently, the position of the Antigua Workers Union that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda should use tax-

payers' money to pay 100 percent of monies to LIAT (1974) Ltd employees and former employees to which they have no legal claim, and for which the Government of Antigua and Barbuda could only reasonably be responsible for 32 per cent, is both reckless, misleading and unhelpful.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, as an act of compassion and eminent reasonableness, continues to be committed to settling this matter directly with for the existing and former employees of LIAT (1974) Ltd, in their interest.



Local News

LIAT 2020 is adding another aircraft to its fleet

LIAT 2020 is adding a third aircraft to its fleet in the coming weeks. This move will allow the airline to strengthen its current flight schedule.

The announcement came from Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who said the government has invited over US\$1 million into the airline over the past week, to allow it to expand its operations.

“There is a third airline that has not operated since COVID-19. The engine needs to be fixed, to the cost of US\$3 million and we have paid the first one million to complete what is required,” he announced over the weekend.

The prime minister stated categorically that he supports a publicly owned airline entity for the region, rather than to rely on one owned solely by the private sector. “I am of the view that a publicly-owned LIAT is important and should be the fulcrum of regional transportation supported by private entities. I see some countries



putting their faith in an airline owned by a one-man, but I won't comment on that further,” he declared.

He suggested that the six OECS independent countries could come together and contribute a ‘few hundred thousand dollars each’ then they could lease two additional aircrafts, get the fleet up to five and in the process

solve much of transportation problems plaguing the sub-region.

“We don't have to wait for CAL or some other non-regional entity to come here and set up shop, we can do it ourselves. I am of the firm view that the sub-region with the possible inclusion of Barbados, ought to own its

cont'd on pg 7

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Father and daughter shot in domestic dispute, one man detained

A man is in police custody as a probe begins into Sunday evening's shooting in Cassada Gardens that left two people hospitalized.

The incident took place at approximately 10:45pm.

Unconfirmed reports are that one man went to

the home of his child's mother and for reasons unknown, an argument began in the living room between him and the woman, whose identity has not been revealed. Inside the bedroom was another man, who is reportedly a licensed firearm

holder.

It is alleged, the man exited the bedroom to investigate the commotion and became embroiled in the argument. The situation further escalated into a physical altercation, and it was at that point the gun

was fired several times injuring the two-year-old child and her father. They were transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre and received treatment for the injuries sustained.

Both father and child are in stable condition according to the police reports.

It was noted that during the brawl, the toddler's father relieved the other man of the 9mm handgun, which was subsequently handed over to the police.

Police have not indicated whether charges will be filed against the two men.

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own airline. If the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands can own their an airline and even Antigua and Barbuda sustained LIAT on its own for decades by itself, are you telling me that we don't have the capacity to run an airline or are we just insular?" he asked.

PM Browne explained that many peo-

ple did not quite understand the value of LIAT to regional integration and to regional economies. "One of the problems we have with LIAT is that many of us never looked at its contributions to regional integration, regional transportation etc. They kept looking at the profitability of LIAT rather than the economic contributions of LIAT," he added.



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A&B supports call for fossil-fuel free Pacific

A Declaration made by six Pacific island-nations calling for a fossil-fuel free Pacific Ocean has secured the support of the Antigua and Barbuda Government, the co-chair of the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS).

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has issued a statement calling on CARICOM, SIDS countries to join in the fight against

climate change which is already causing havoc among many SIDS nations.

The Declaration by the six nation states among other things, include the following:

“We, the Ministers and officials from the Kingdom of Tonga, the Republic of Fiji, Niue, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, and the Republic of Vanuatu, met for open, transparent, and

inclusive discussions with regional and international experts and civil society at the 2nd Ministerial Dialogue on Pathways for the Global Just Transition Away from Fossil Fuels, hosted in Port Vila by the Governments of Vanuatu and Tuvalu from 15-17 March 2023.

We are appalled by the fossil-fuel driven consequences of the unprecedented two Category 4 cyclones striking Vanuatu within four days. This is just the most recent example of the extensive and ongoing fossil fuel-induced loss and damage suffered by the people and communities of the Pacific Islands.

The science is clear that fossil fuels are to blame for the climate emergency. This is a crisis driven by the greed of an exploitative industry and its enablers. It is not acceptable that countries and companies are still planning on producing more than double the amount of fossil fuels by 2030 than the world can burn to limit warming to 1.5°C. As the UN Secretary General has said, fossil fuels are a moral and economic madness.

The Pacific will no longer accept the fossil fuel lie. We have the power and responsibility to lead, and

we will. Pacific leaders called for the Paris Agreement to limit warming to 1.5°C, and have demanded an end to the development and expansion of fossil fuel extracting industries, starting with new coal mines. Pacific civil society has challenged the world to step up the fight for urgent fossil fuel phase out and effective climate action.

As leaders, on behalf of present and future generation communities on the frontlines and all of humanity, we call for:

“A Fossil Fuel Free Pacific and a global, just, and equitable phase out of coal, oil and gas, including through Adopting a Pacific Island Forum Leaders Declaration for a Just Transition to a Fossil Fuel Free Pacific as soon as possible, that empowers the Pacific to spearhead the unqualified, global, just and equitable phase out of coal, oil and gas production in line with the global temperature goal, of below 1.5°C, including at the UN Secretary General’s climate summit in September, at COP28, and beyond, and with the avoidance of terminology such as “unabated” or “inefficient” that creates loopholes for fossil fuel producers and polluters.”



Government of Antigua & Barbuda

Ministry of Education, Sports & Creative Industries
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St. John's, Antigua
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Overseas: 268-462-4959/1051
Fax: 268-462-4970

OAS Scholarship Application Announcement

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

More information can be obtained through the links listed below.

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

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



Winner - Alayna Gilbert - S.R Olivia David Primary



2nd Place - AJ' Marie Davis- Old Road Primary



3rd Place - Kemilique Mayers- Freetown Primary

Talent on full display during the JCI Recycle and Create Competition

“These kids are so talented; they are all truly winners.” This sentiment was echoed by spectators throughout the recent JCI Antigua Recycle and Create Competition held at the Multi-purpose Center.

The Recycle and Create competition was started in 2022 by the JCI Antigua Environmental Awareness Programme (EAP) and has continued this year on a larger scale. The primary school competition seeks to encourage school-aged children to be environmentally aware through research and creativity.

According to the EAP Chairman, Past Vice President (PVP) Bryon Christopher, “JCI Antigua realized that there was a need to get the youth of Antigua and Barbuda involved in environmental awareness and to find ways to appreciate our natural resources and find new and creative ways to conserve them. This has now become a flagship project for the committee and by extension the entire organization. The support from the schools and

the general public has truly been phenomenal.

This competition teaches the youth about the importance of conservation, it teaches them to appreciate the environment and all it has to offer when we continuously mistreat the environment.”

This year, 11 schools with forty-six (46) students participated in the annual competition with what most have described as “breathtakingly innovative submissions.”

Mrs. Crystal Peters-Francis, Deputy Chair of the EAP stated that the competition was more than a competition, “it gives an avenue for primary school students to be creative while learning more about recycling and the environment. It essentially fulfills our mission which is to bring awareness to the importance of recycling in Antigua.”

Head judge of this year’s competition, Senator Shenella Govia, while offering her highest commendations to the participants, stressed how te-



4th Place - Gabriella Rodney- Freemans Village

dious it was to judge the submissions as they were all very creative and useful. However, Senator Govia indicated that the aim of the competition was for the children to create something of their own volition, their own ideas, and most importantly, their own handy

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Feature

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work.

Young Ms. Alayna Gilbert from the S.R Olivia David Primary walked away victorious as the 2023 Recycle and Create Winner. Alayna single handedly designed and built a laundry basket made entirely from recycled products such as bottle tops. She also impressed the judges by eloquently presenting her piece, explaining her thought process while making the basket and why she opted to create it. "Everyone needs a laundry basket," Alayna remarked while showing the judges

how sturdy the item was. AJ' Marie Davis from the Old Road Primary School placed second while Kemilique Mayers from Free-town Primary and Gabriella Rodney from Freemans Village placed third and fourth respectively.

Mrs. Yadira Moody-Stuart from Stingray City Tours, one of the main sponsors of the competition was blown away by the students' display of work and decided to extend the competition prize to all the participants. "What originally was a grand prize of a complementary tour for our

first, second, and third place winners is now extended to all 46 participants, simply because all of the submissions were truly that good," Senator Govia explained.

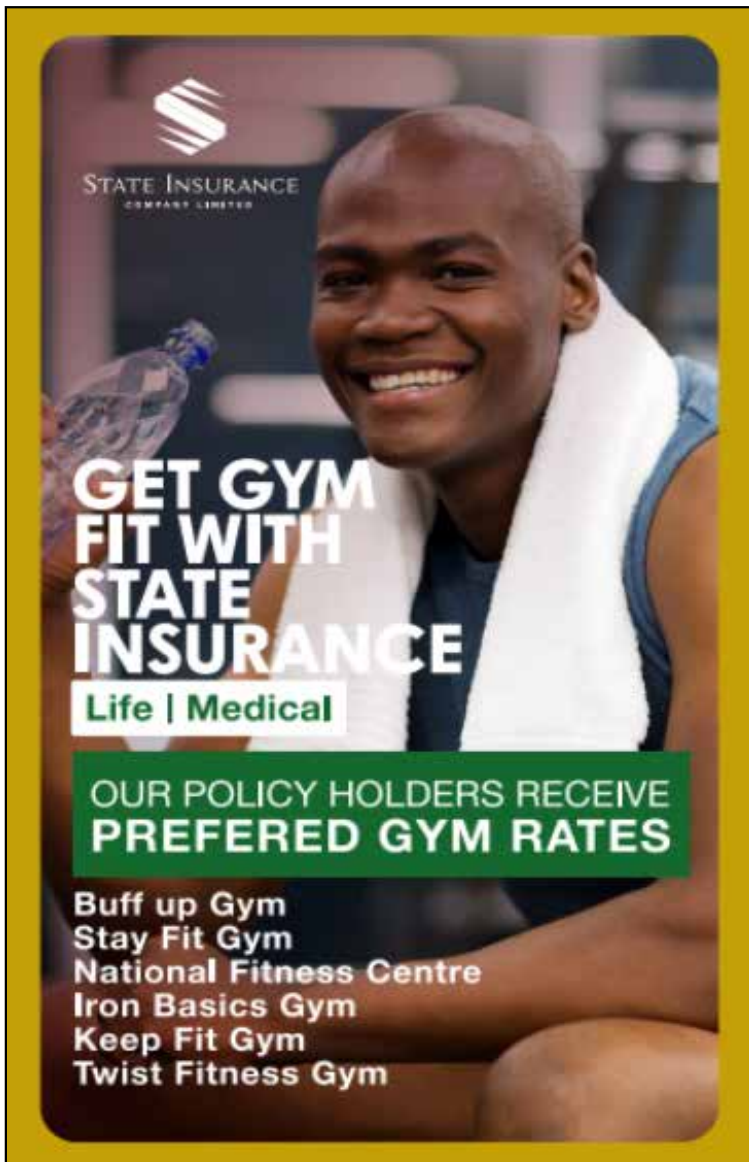
Other prizes for the top winners included school supplies, compliments, Happy Kids, science kits, a telescope, and a monetary donation to the science department at the Gospel Light Elementary School.

Speaking at the annual competition held on Friday, JCI Antigua President, Laurel Jonas commented "I am indeed pleased with the creation and innovation presented by the nation's youth, I am even more excited that we (JCI Antigua) would have partnered this year with the Plastic Tide

Turners Challenge Campaign which is a major contributor to the event.

The Plastic Tide Turners Challenge (PTTC) is a United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) led initiative that educates young people around the world about plastic pollution, giving them the tools to change their personal behavior, inspire their communities, and create a better future for people and the planet.

President Jonas also indicated "to commemorate our Recycle and Create competition held last Friday 17th March 2023, we have also partnered with Basel Convention Regional Center Caribbean (BCRC) as a part of their Plastic Tide Turners Challenge."



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NOTICE

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St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
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Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. Johns
Antigua.

Mr. Rene' Horsford
33 Bryson Street Villa
St. John's
Antigua

Dear Madame,

Re: Notice- Application for Liquor Licence

I J's Mini Mart and Superette, a company duly registered under the company Act of Antigua & Barbuda, having it Registered Office in the parish of St. John's, on St. Johns Street in the Island of Antigua, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that It is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6th day of April, 2023 next ensuring for a Liquor License Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as J's Mini Mart and Superette, situated at Hand Street pitt Villa in the parish of St. John's Antigua and Barbuda.

Sincerely,

.....
Rene' Horsford

Reduce dependence on fossil fuels, Dominica official says

As the world's economies face a worsening energy crisis, reducing dependence on fossil fuels is the next most logical step to address the myriad of issues enveloping the beleaguered sector.

At the recent celebration of World Consumer Rights Day last week, Dominica's Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Business, Trade and Energy Dr. Vince Henderson emphasized the importance of power source alternatives as energy prices continue to go up.

"In Dominica, we experienced a surge in energy prices in 2022 and the projections are that prices may increase throughout 2023," Henderson said. "These increased product prices affect every aspect of our citizens' lives from transportation cost to the price of basic food items for their families."

"We must therefore take action to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels," Henderson added.

Henderson's office also oversees Dominica's first geothermal plant, which has recently move to another phase of its construction this month as the drilling of the reinjection well commenced several days ago.

"A national energy policy has been developed

and is intended to address the needs [of] citizens of the Commonwealth of Dominica, to help combat increased energy cost and reduce Dominica's greenhouse gas emissions in line with the mantra, the Nature Isle of the Caribbean's efforts to become the first climate resilient nation in the world," Henderson noted.

The reinjection well is an "integral part of any geothermal power plant," according to a report by WIC News. The well is 1,500 meters deep, but may change depending

on what would be found as drilling continues, which could take up to 28 days.

"The Geothermal development in Dominica has moved to a new stage with the commencement of drilling of the reinjection well on Friday.

"This well will be drilled to a depth of up to 1500m but may be of a lesser depth depending on what is found as drilling goes along," Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit said in a tweet.

Dominica's geothermal plant is a project funded by large organizations and

programmes, including the World Bank and one of the world's oldest Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programme.

The CBI programme has been the lifeline of most of Dominica's projects to climate resiliency. Thousands of residential buildings and other important infrastructure have been built in partnership with MMC Development Ltd., a private developing company that has been working closely with the government for several years now after proving its dedication to the cause.



Bruce Willis's wife speaks of her grief at his dementia on his 68th birthday

By Helen Bushby

Emma Heming Willis, the wife of actor Bruce Willis, has spoken about the "grief and sadness" she feels over her husband's dementia, as they celebrated his 68th birthday.

"I have started the morning by crying, as you can see by my swollen eyes," she said in an Instagram video.

"It's important that you see all sides of this," she said, as she continues to raise awareness about his condition.

Willis was diagnosed with frontotemporal dementia in February.

This came after he developed aphasia, which causes difficulties with speech, last year.

His family said last year that he was giving up acting as the condition was affecting his cognitive abilities.

The actor's dementia diagnosis affects language as well as behaviour and the ability to plan. There is no cure or intervention that can slow down the progress, so his symptoms will continue to worsen.

In her post, Heming Willis addressed the loss she feels as she cares for her husband.

"I always get this mes-



Emma Heming Willis and Bruce Willis have two daughters together.

sage where people always tell me, 'Oh you're so strong. I don't know how you do it'," she said.

"I'm not given a choice. I wish I was but I'm also raising two kids in this.

"Sometimes in our lives, we have to put our big girl panties on and get to it, and that's what I'm doing. But I do have times of sadness every day, grief every day and I'm really feeling it today on his birthday."

She is going public with her experiences, she said, as the "silver lining or flip side" is that she and the family are appreciative of the "warmth and love" of fans.

"As much as I do it for myself, I do it for you because I know how much you love my husband."

In another post featuring footage of Willis playing with their children, she called her husband «pure love».

Willis's former wife, actress Demi Moore was also part of his birthday celebrations. She and Willis have three daughters together.

She posted footage of him singing with his family as they wished him happy birthday and give him a birthday pie.

He was seen smiling and joining in the celebrations, and stumbling

slightly after blowing out his candles.

Moore said: "So glad we could celebrate you today. Love you and love our family. Thank you to everyone for the love and warm wishes - we all feel them."

Willis became a household name in the 1980s and 90s after starring in blockbuster films such as Die Hard, The Sixth Sense, Armageddon and Pulp Fiction, along with the hit TV series Moonlighting.

He has also been nominated for five Golden Globes - winning one for Moonlighting - and three Emmys, where he won two.

Amazon to cut another 9,000 jobs

By Noor Nanji

Online retail giant Amazon plans to cut another 9,000 jobs as it seeks to save costs.

The firm, which employs 1.5 million people worldwide, said the cuts would fall mainly in areas including cloud computing and advertising.

It did not say which countries would be affected but said the positions would be closed in the next few weeks.

Boss Andy Jassy said it was a “difficult decision” but it would be best for the company in the long term.

The firm already axed 18,000 jobs in January.

Mr Jassy said that in recent years, most areas of Amazon’s business had been adding roles.

“However, given the uncertain economy in which we reside, and the uncertainty that exists in the near future, we have chosen to be more streamlined in our costs and headcount,” he continued.

Like many tech giants, Amazon saw sales boom during the pandemic when customers were stuck at home.

But more recently its sales have slowed down as consumers spend less due to the cost of living crisis.

Other companies, including Google and Facebook-owner Meta, have been grappling with how to balance cost-cutting mea-



sures with the need to remain competitive.

Last week Meta, which also owns Instagram and WhatsApp, announced plans to cut 10,000 jobs.

Mr Jassy said it is “never easy” to lose employees, adding: “To those ultimately impacted by these reductions, I want to thank you for the work you have done on behalf of customers and the company.”

Another area that will see cuts is Twitch, a live-streaming platform for content including gaming and music.

It comes days after Emmett Shear announced he would be stepping down as Twitch’s chief executive officer after 16 years in post.

Amazon bought Twitch for \$1bn (£1.5bn) in 2014.



Regional News



Guyana: Man killed in fire started by unsupervised child

LOOP – A 45-year-old man died in a house fire in Agricola, Guyana yesterday.

The Guyana Fire Service (GFS) said Kevin Trotman was at his home, which is the upstairs portion of a two-story building when an unsupervised child in the ground floor portion of the house started the fire.

GFS said the child used matches to light a foam mattress and the fire spread throughout the wood and concrete structure.

Firefighters from the Eccles, Central, and West Ruimveldt Fire Stations responded but they were unable to save the building.

The fire caused damage to several other homes.

In total, 13 people are now homeless.

GFS issued a plea to Guyanese to take steps to avoid fires in their homes.



The aftermath of yesterday's fire in Agricola. Photo: Guyana Fire Service.

“Do not leave children unattended or at home without adult supervision. Keep children away from the cooking area, and ensure matches and lighters are out of their reach at all times.

Equip your homes with fire prevention and firefighting devices such as smoke detectors and fire extinguishers; these will aid in alerting people to a fire and putting it out quickly,” GFS said.

Grenada: Missing man found dead

LOOP - Police in Grenada are investigating the death of a man who reportedly

went fishing.

The deceased has been identified as David Forte,

46, a painter of Grand Bailet, St Andrew.

The Royal Grenada Po-

lice Force in a statement said Forte and another man reportedly left to go fishing at La Tante Bay on Sunday 19, March 2023.

Forte was said to have separated from his companion and had not returned. A subsequent search for him proved futile.

The body of David Forte was discovered by a search party, between the rocks, in the shallow waters of the La Tante Bay, around 9:30 am today. He was pronounced dead.

A postmortem will be conducted to determine the cause of death.



Screengrab of La Tante Bay, Grenada.

Dominican police arrest 19 in high-profile corruption case

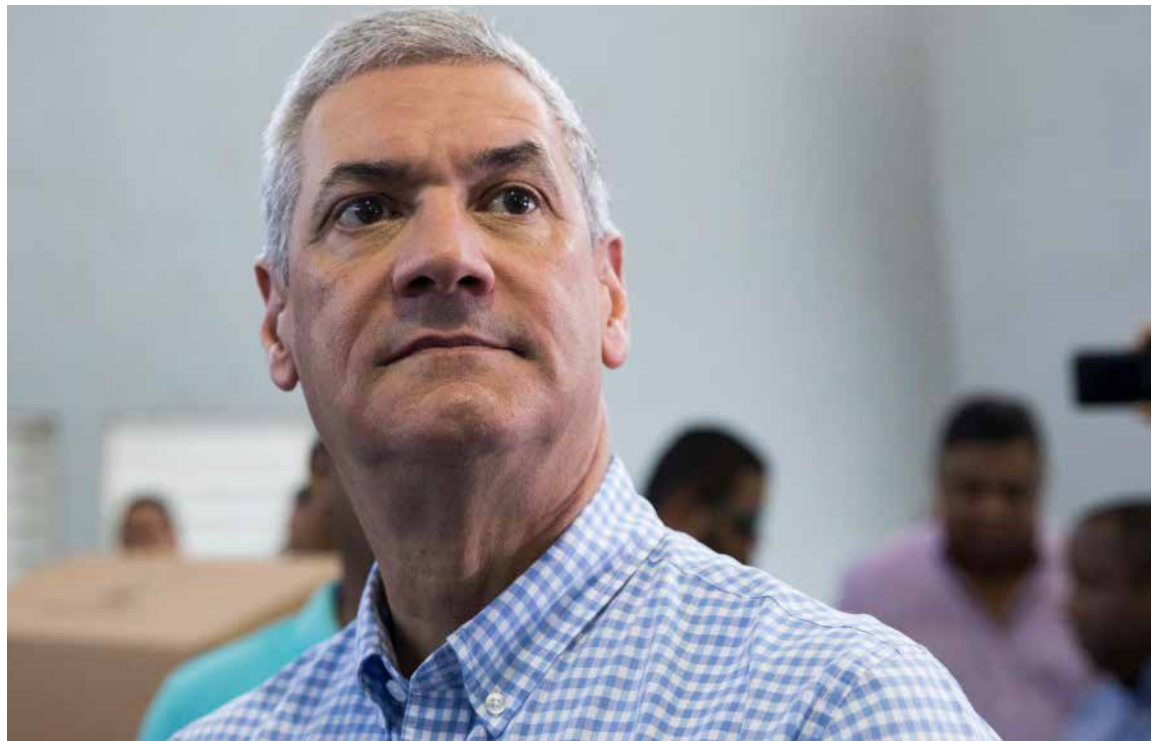
LOOP - Authorities in the Dominican Republic have arrested 19 people in a sweeping corruption case that accuses a well-known former presidential candidate and three former officials of embezzling nearly \$350 million and illegal campaign financing.

The arrests are the latest in a string of investigations that officials have launched in the past two years as part of a crack-down on rampant government corruption in the Caribbean country.

Among those detained Saturday night is Gonzalo Castillo, a former public works minister who won 37 per cent of the vote when he ran as presidential candidate for the Dominican Liberation Party in the 2020 general elections won by current President Luis Abinader.

Also arrested is a former treasury minister, Donald Guerrero; former comptroller general, Daniel Omar Caamaño; and former administrative minister to the presidency, José Ramón Peralta.

Prosecutors said they are accused of paying bribes, laundering assets and illegally financing the previous electoral campaign on an “unprecedented” scale after embezzling \$347 million of government funds.



Presidential primary candidate Gonzalo Castillo, of with the Partido de la Liberacion Dominicana political party, arrives to vote during primary elections in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, October 6, 2019. (AP Photo/Tatiana Fernandez, File)

The suspects were charged after authorities launched 40 raids targeting their properties and businesses in the capital of Santo Domingo and beyond.

Hundreds of Castillo supporters gathered Monday outside the Justice Palace to protest his arrest as they waved the party's purple-and-yellow flag and tried to damage the building before police scattered the crowd with tear gas. Meanwhile, officials with the Dominican Liberation Party questioned the impartiality of prosecutors and accused them of only investigating and arresting former government officials and not looking

into corruption allegations against Abinader's current administration.

“It is clear that behind these actions, there are markedly political and re-election interests,” said Charlie Mariotti, the party's secretary general.

Police on Saturday also arrested the former director of the State Sugar Council, Luis Miguel Piccirilo; former director of the National Cadastre, Claudio Silva Peña; and the former directors of Casinos and Gambling, Oscar Chalas Guerrero and Julián Omar Fernández.

Defence attorneys for the accused could not be immediately reached for comment. The suspects

were expected to appear in court Monday.

Last year, authorities arrested Jean Alain Rodríguez, the country's former attorney general, and other suspects accused of diverting government funds in an unrelated case.

One of Abinader's promises in the 2020 campaign was to appoint an independent attorney general to fight corruption and impunity.

He selected Miriam Germán Brito, a former judge held in high regard.

Since then, various high-ranking government officials tied to former President Danilo Medina have been arrested, along with two of his siblings.

Regional News



PM defends Education Minister as opposition calls for her resignation

CMC – Bahamian Prime Minister Phillip Davis has defended his embattled Education Minister, Glenys Hanna-Martin after the main opposition Free National Movement (FNM) called for her resignation after she publicly expressed opposing views to the Royal Caribbean project approved by the government.

“In recent days, there has been anxious and mischievous commentary, concerning comments made by the Minister of Education, Hon Glenys-Hanna Martin in relation to the draft deal with the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line (RCCL),” Davis said in a statement issued late on Sunday night.

“All Bahamians will have shared my experience of Minister Hanna Martin that, in her long and valued career in politics, she has always advocated powerfully, passionately and with integrity, on behalf of the Bahamian people. In this instance, she has behaved no differently, when she reiterated her previously publicly expressed views regarding the pending RCCL application,” he added.

The FNM said the Education Minister had no option but to resign under Cabinet rules if she was unwilling to stand united with her colleagues.

Last Friday, Hanna-Martin said her views have not changed on the US\$110m beach club project on Paradise Island, saying she did not support it during the Minnis administration and her opinion remains the same.

In 2021, Hanna-Martin, while in opposition, called the proposal “hare-brained” accusing the then Minnis administration of “kicking a Bahamian developer to the curb” in favour of the cruise line.

FNM and Opposition Leader, Michael Pintard called for the resignation of the Education Minister, saying her public opposition to the project exposed the dysfunction of Davis’s Cabinet.

“Minister Glenys Hanna Martin’s public comments regarding her personal position on the Royal Caribbean Paradise Island project matter once again exposes the dysfunction of Davis’s Cabinet.

“It is a well-known and universally acceptable principle of Westminster governance that Cabinet shares collective responsibility for all decisions of the Cabinet.

Regardless of the personal position of a Minister, he or she must publicly support the decisions of Cabinet or leave the Cabinet,” Pintard said, adding



Glenys Hanna-Martin.

that the embattled minister must publicly support the decisions of Cabinet regardless of their own position on the matter or leave the Cabinet.

But in his statement, Davis said that project is still under review, pending the outcome of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

“This is an important component of the final decision, as we remain committed to ensuring that any decision we make is in the best interests of our country and its people, while also protecting our natural resources for future gener-

ations,” he said, adding “as such, it is my clear view that she has not violated the Ministerial Code”.

Davis said the Education Minister continues to make contributions to national development and has his full confidence to continue doing so.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism Chester Cooper, said the proposed “project will cover 17 acres – of which 13 acres represent privately held land and some four acres of Crown land that was included in the lease to RCI by the former administration”.

Kenya protests: Raila Odinga's convoy tear-gassed in Nairobi

BBC - Kenyan police have tear-gassed opposition leader Raila Odinga's convoy in the capital, Nairobi, as he spearheaded the biggest protest against President William Ruto's government since it took office.

The protests have also spread to other cities, with a university student reportedly shot dead in Kisumu.

Mr Odinga accuses the government of being "illegitimate", and of failing to tackle the high cost of living.

Mr Ruto has rejected the claims.

Kenya's highest court upheld his victory in last year's election, but Mr Odinga insists that the election was "stolen".

He has been driving through Nairobi's residential suburbs to rally his supporters and has vowed to organise weekly protests against the government. It has caused many businesses to shut in the city, due to fears of looting. At least one person has been reportedly shot in the capital.

Running battles have taken place on the main Kenyatta Avenue between police and demonstrators, some of whom are throwing stones at the security officers.

Roads leading to key government buildings have been blocked and the president's official residence sealed off.

In the western city of Kisumu, where Mr Odinga draws a fanatical following, riot police confronted protesters.

The university student died after being shot in the neck by police in the Maseno area of the city, Kenyan media reports.

Police said demonstrators threw stones and injured six officers, prompting security forces to fire live



Opposition supporters are demanding the resignation of the president.

bullets.

Mr Odinga's convoy was tear-gassed by police as he left a hotel after addressing the media. Hundreds of his supporters were part of the procession.

An adviser to Mr Odinga later tweeted that the opposition leader's vehicle had been hit by a bullet.

"Our windscreen has been badly damaged," Prof Makau Mutua said. He did not give further details, and it is unclear exactly where the alleged incident took place.

Police had earlier denied the opposition permission to hold the protest, and warned that any gathering would be illegal.

Mr Ruto said the government would not condone "impunity".

"We have a responsible government in office who have a constitutional duty to protect life and property. We have a country to run," he said.

Some of the fiercest scenes have been in Nairobi's Kibera settlement - a poor neighbourhood with a strong history of supporting the opposition.

"We came here peacefully, but they tear-gassed us," 21-year-old

Charles Oduor told the AFP news agency in another district of Nairobi.

"They lie to us everyday. Where is the cheap maize flour they promised? Where are the jobs for the youth they promised? All they do is hire their friends."

Footage shared by Kenya's Standard newspaper earlier on Monday appears to show local bus operators fleeing their transport hub in central Nairobi.

Meanwhile, the second-biggest opposition party in South Africa, the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF), also held nationwide protests to demand the resignation of President Cyril Ramaphosa over the worsening economy, power cuts, and widespread corruption. Several thousand people marched to his official residence in the capital, Pretoria.

"Our demands are simple, we want Ramaphosa to leave this house," EFF leader Julius Malema said.

The government said it had authorised the deployment of more than 3,000 troops to help police maintain law and order, and 85 people had been arrested.

Putin to Xi: We will discuss your plan to end the war in Ukraine

BBC - Vladimir Putin has said he will discuss Xi Jinping's 12-point plan to "settle the acute crisis in Ukraine", during a highly anticipated visit to Moscow by the Chinese president.

"We're always open for a negotiation process," Mr Putin said, as the leaders called each other "dear friend".

China released a plan to end the war last month - it includes «ceasing hostilities» and resuming peace talks.

But on Friday the US warned the peace plan could be a "stalling tactic".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said: "The world should not be fooled by any tactical move by Russia, supported by China or any other country, to freeze the war on its own terms."

He added: "Calling for a ceasefire that does not include the removal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory would effectively be supporting the ratification of Russian conquest."

China's plan did not specifically say that Russia must withdraw from Ukraine - which Ukraine has insisted as a precondition for any talks.

Instead, it talked of "respecting the sovereignty of all countries", adding that "all parties must stay rational and exercise restraint"



Vladimir Putin, right, has said he will discuss Xi Jinping's 12-point plan to "settle the acute crisis in Ukraine", during a highly anticipated visit to Moscow by the Chinese president.

and "gradually de-escalate the situation".

The plan also condemned the usage of "unilateral sanctions" - seen as a veiled criticism of Ukraine's allies in the West.

On Monday, a military band gave Mr Xi a warm welcome to Moscow. Mr Putin hailed China for "observing the principles of justice" and pushing for "undivided security for every country".

In return, Mr Xi told Mr Putin: "Under your strong leadership, Russia has made great strides in its prosperous development. I am confident that the Russian people will continue to give you their firm support."

Before Mr Xi's arrival, Mr Putin wrote in China's People's Daily newspaper that the two nations would

not be weakened by "aggressive" US policy.

Publicly, Ukrainian leaders have been emphasising the common ground they have with China - respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity.

But privately, they have been lobbying for a meeting - or telephone call - between President Volodymyr Zelensky and Mr Xi.

The fear in Kyiv is that China's support for Russia - currently based around technology and trade - might become military, potentially including artillery shells.

"If China does move to openly supply weapons to Russia, it will in effect be taking part in the conflict on the side of the aggressor," said Oleksiy Danilov, the secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence

Council.

It was in Beijing's interests to stabilise the relationship with Russia, with which it shares a 4,300km (2,700 mile) border, said Yu Jie, a research fellow on China at Chatham House.

Russia is a source of oil for Beijing's huge economy, and is seen as a partner in standing up to the US.

Ms Yu added that Mr Xi had just scored a diplomatic victory in mediating between Iran and Saudi Arabia, which have now resumed diplomatic ties.

This could be a chance for him to explore the opportunity to mediate between Russia and Ukraine.

On Monday evening, Mr Xi was treated to a seven-course meal including nelma fish from the Pechora River in northern Russia, a traditional Russian seafood soup and pancakes with quail - alongside Russian wine.

Presidential spokesperson Dmitry Peskov indicated there would be a "detailed explanation" of Moscow's actions in Ukraine over dinner. Russian and Chinese delegations will hold talks on Tuesday - the main day of the visit.

The meeting comes days after the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for the Russian president over war crime allegations.

cont'd on pg 19

France pension reform: Macron's government survives no-confidence vote

BBC - The French government has narrowly survived a vote of no-confidence, which was triggered when it forced through an increase in the pension age to 64.

The vote, tabled by centrist MPs, had 278 votes in favour, falling short of the 287 votes needed.

If it had been successful, Emmanuel Macron would have had to name a new government, or call new elections.

A second no-confidence motion, tabled by Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally party, also did not pass.

Now both votes have failed, the controversial bill to raise the retirement age from 62 to 64 will become law.

The votes were held after Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne used a special constitutional power, called Article 49:3, to push the bill through without a vote last week.

It sparked angry protests at the weekend, with some demonstrators clashing with police and blocking streets with debris fires in central Paris, as well as cities



Opposition MPs held up signs protesting the government's pension age increase after the no-confidence vote.

around the country.

Monday's failed votes saw fresh protests in the capital, with a tense standoff between protesters and anti-riot police.

The first motion, which had the backing of several left-wing parties including the Green Party and the Socialist Party, was the only one likely to succeed.

When that vote failed, members of the left-wing contingent that voted for it held placards reading "continue" and "we'll meet in the streets", and shouted that the prime minister should resign.

"Nothing is solved,

we'll continue to do all we can so this reform is pulled back," hard-left La France Insoumise (LFI) parliamentary group chief Mathilde Panot said.

Before the votes, members of the opposition booed and jeered Ms Borne when she took to the podium for a debate, which grew increasingly tense.

The prime minister said that the government had "never gone so far" to find a compromise to pass the law.

Boris Vallaud from the Socialist Party, who backed the centrist the no-confidence vote, called on the government to "withdraw"

the pension reform or "submit it to the vote of the French people".

Mr Macron has argued that France's ageing population makes the current pension scheme unaffordable. But that is not a sentiment shared by all in parliament.

The author of the first no-confidence votes, Charles de Courson, said removing the government was "the only way of stopping the social and political crisis in this country".

However the leader of France's Republican party, Eric Ciotti, said last week they would not support the no-confidence motions.

Mr Ciotti said the decision to invoke the clause was "a result of many years of political failures" that demonstrated "a profound crisis in our constitution", but he did not believe the vote of no-confidence was the solution.

cont'd from pg 18

This means Mr Putin could technically be arrested in 123 countries - though neither China nor Russia are on that list.

Making a trip to Moscow so soon after the ICC's announcement suggests China feels "no responsibility to hold the Kremlin accountable" for atrocities in Ukraine,

Mr Blinken said.

Western leaders have been attempting since last February to isolate Russia, following its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

But they have been unable to establish a global consensus, with China, India and several African nations reluctant to condemn Mr Putin.

Sports News



Crushers, Tigers win opening matches in ABCA Two-Day contest

Pigotts Crushers and Jennings Tigers notched up victories in the opening round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship on Sunday.

Pigotts crushed Bolans Blasters by an innings and 272 runs at the Bolans playing field.

Centuries by captain Elroy Francis Jr. and middle-order batsman Jewell Andrew powered Pigotts Crushers to 433 for seven declared off 64.3 overs.

Francis slammed 133 off 135 balls with 13 fours and six sixes while Andrew struck 100 not out off 89 balls with 12 fours and three sixes.

The pair shared a fourth wickets partnership of 181 runs after Francis Jr. had added 165 runs for the third wicket with opener Essan Warner, who hammered 94 off 109 balls with 11 fours and three sixes.

Orlando Peters captured three for 88 and Captain Taiem Tonge picked up two for 66.

In reply, Bolans Blasters crashed to 78 all out in 20.1 overs with, the only batsman to reach double figures, Peter Bellanfanti getting a run-a-ball 42 with 10 fours. Alec Jno Baptiste bagged four for 25 and Jason Rodney snapped up three for 22.

Asked to follow-on 355 runs behind, Bolans Blast-



Pigotts Crushers captain Elroy Francis Jr. (File photo)

ers were bundled out in their second innings for 83 in 27.3 overs. Vishal Gobin, who also claimed a hat-trick, finished with impressive bowling figures of seven for 15 while Tyree Moore captured two for 16.

Jennings Tigers beat All Saints Pythons by 38 runs at the Jennings playing field. Jennings Tigers were dismissed in their first innings for 114 in 20.4 overs. Off-spinner Demitri Lucas claimed three for 25, Michael Marcellin took three

for 32 and Kadeem Josiah picked up two for 10.

Left-arm spinner Glen-ton Williams then snapped up five for 41 and pacer Jedidiah Martin captured two for 26 as All Saints Pythons were bowled out for 110 in 29.2 overs.

After gaining a slender lead of four runs, Jennings Tigers fell for 139 in 26 overs in their second innings. Captain Dahri Francis top scored with 36, while Lucas bagged four for 29, Marcellin took three for

53 and pacer Andra Samuel claimed two for 24.

Set 144 to win, All Saints Pythons crashed to 105 all out in 30.5 overs with Lucas getting 43. Winston Nelson snatched four for 24 and Williams took four for 40.

Victory as well for Rising Sun Spartans, who beat Combined Schools by 10 wickets at Factory. Combined Schools were bundled out for 63 in 19.5 overs in their first innings.

Michael Harilall took four for 16, Andre Edwards claimed three for 11, and Dean Williams picked up two for 12.

In response, Rising Sun Spartans declared their first innings at 190 for four in 21.2 overs. Owen Graham slammed 115 of just 59 balls with 12 fours and eight sixes while Tassilo Allen struck 44 off 34 balls with eight fours and a six.

Facing a deficit of 127 runs, Combined Schools were dismissed for 127 in 45.1 overs. Melique Jacobs made 31, while Harilall captured five for 39, Graham snapped up two for eight and Ozan Williams claimed two for 33.

Set one run to win, Dillon Wills dispatched the first ball bowled by Antwone Willock to the boundary as Rising Sun achieved victory at four without loss.

The other two first round matches ended in draws.

Strictly Business continue unbeaten run in T10 softball contest

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business continued their unbeaten run in the Men's Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) T-10 Competition at Dredgers on Sunday.

Strictly Business crushed Sisserou by 62 runs to record their third win in as many matches. Strictly Business won the toss and batted, scoring 117 for five from 10 overs.

Kerry Mentore slammed 46 and Winston Roberts made 26, while Randel Winter picked up three for 24. In reply, Sisserou were restricted to 55 for five. Charanlal Ramjohn got 22 and Owen Graham claimed two wickets for nine runs.

Strictly Business' encounter against PMS and the match between Dredgers and Byrson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets were rained out. Each team received five points.

But Dredgers defeated 300 Club by 45 runs. Dredgers made 143 for five as Mervin Higgins hammered 74 not out with 11 sixes and a four and Vernel Isadore struck 31. Denfield "Mandy" Weatherhead captured four for 24.

In response, 300 Club could only muster 98 for five. Kennedy Tonge made 34 and Veston Lewis got 30. Kirk Douglas snatched two for 16 and Mervin Higgins claimed two for 28.

Marko Inc/Grill Box Buckley's 3J's snatched a 17-run win against Sisserou at Powells. Buckley's 3J's made 102 for three from 10 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat. Gregson Merrick hit 24 not out and Ashfield Weatherhead made 23. Randal Winter captured two for 29.

Sisserou were limited to 85 for three with Charanlal Ramjohn getting 51 and Anthony Mathurine hitting 21 not out.

Brysons Shipping & Insurance Bullets won by default against Old Road who could not field a team.

PMS pulled off an 11-run victory over Lil Lincs Supermarket Antigua & Barbuda Defence Force Warriors in their encounter at Potters. PMS made 106 for four. Walter Carr cracked 31 and Denzil Roach made 18, while Quincy France took two for 11.

The ABDF Warriors were limited to 95 for six. Sewande Ambrose struck 29 and Vaughn Charles made 24. Terrance Thompson snatched three for 21 and Bertram Miller claimed two for nine.

Marko Inc /Grill Box Buckley's 3J's defeated Lil Lincs Supermarket Antigua & Barbuda Defence Force Warriors by 23 runs. Buckley's 3J's scored 96 for five with Rodney Williams hitting 25 not out, while Jeff Lawrence grabbed three for



Kerry Mentore struck 46 for Strictly Business in their victory over Sisserou in the Men's Division of the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) T-10 Competition at Dredgers on Sunday. (Photo courtesy ABSCA)

11.

In reply, ABDF Warriors were restricted to 73 for seven with

Vaughn Charles and Shaquille Richards each scoring 18. Rodney Williams snapped up three for

23.

However, all matches in the Women's Division of the ABSCA T-10 Competition were rained out on Sunday.

All teams involved in the rain affected matches will receive five points each.

Sports News



Double success for Sea View Farm in Curtly Ambrose contest

Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm won both matches in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Parish League Sir Curtly Ambrose limited overs competitions over the weekend.

Sea View Farm beat Urlings by 35 runs at Sea View Farm. Rolston "Triss" Philip struck 75 and Alfred Jarvis made 32 to guide Sea View Farm to 161 for nine. Kerry Burton claimed four for 24.

In reply, Urlings tumbled to 125 all out. Sean Bailey Jr cracked 38 while Jamie Willock and Elroy Francis Sr. each got 22.

Sea View Farm also trounced Old Road by 51 runs at Old Road. Sea View Farm made 214 for three. Abdiel Hughes cracked 69, Rolston Phillip hit 39 while Tazio Watson and Emroy Lee each scored 35. Kerry Burton picked up two for 34.

Old Road were then restricted to 163 for six. Xanden Hobson struck 58, Peter Richards made 25 and Taj Liburd got 20.

Freetown crushed Old Road by 150 runs at Freetown. Cleton Payne



slammed 53 and Javier Drew struck 46 in Freetown's total of 191 for six. Vernon Roberts captured three for 34.

Drew then snapped up six wickets for nine runs and Jared Phillip claimed three wickets for six runs as Old Road crashed to 41 all out.

Antigua Masters secured a 28-run victory over Police at the Police Recreation Ground.

Richie Thomas hammered 76 to lift Antigua Masters to 154 all out in 30.1 overs. Lashorn Barnard captured four for 36 and James Cornelius took three for 19.

Police then tumbled to 126 all out in 30.1 overs. Malique Gerald and Shawnisha Hector each got 22 and Lynton Africa made 21. Richie Thomas grabbed three for 16, Gregg Skepple took three for 34 and Vaughn "Hungry" Walsh captured three for 35.

However, the other two matches were rained out over the weekend. The game between Police and Mahico at the Police Recreation Ground and the encounter between Urlings and Freetown at Urlings were abandoned as no result due to rain.

Jennings crush OCS in schools' cricket

Jennings Secondary School (JSS) trounced Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) by 125 runs in the latest round of matches in the Under-15 Division of the Inter-Schools' Cricket Championship.

Dale Johashen slammed 72 not out and Tanez Francis struck 31 as Jennings Secondary powered their way to 150 for eight in 24 overs. William Pitman snapped up five wickets for 12 runs.

In reply, Ottos Comprehensive were bundled out for 25 in 10.4 overs with William Pitman scoring 10.

Dale Johashen grabbed four wickets for two runs and Giovanni Thomas claimed three wickets for seven runs.

The Antigua Grammar School romped to a 10-wicket win against the Irene B Williams Secondary.

Donte Odlum snapped up three wickets for eight runs as Irene B Williams

were dismissed for 24 in 7.1 overs with Adriano Joseph getting 10.

The Antigua Grammar School wrapped up the match by scoring the required 25 runs without the loss of a wicket.

Princess Margaret School crushed the Sir Novelle Richards Academy by 58 runs.

Princess Margaret made 115 for five off 12 overs. There was a top score of 45

extras while opener Nazair Williams struck 40. Shawn Balgobin captured four for 17.

In reply, Sir Novelle Richards Academy were restricted to 57 for eight in 12 overs.

There was a total of 36 extras while opener Cheldon Charles, who was the only batsman to reach double figures, scored 14. J'quan Athanaze claimed three for 18.

Antigua & Barbuda Swimming Federation elects new executive

A new executive of the Antigua & Barbuda Swimming Federation has been elected with Edith Clashing chosen to serve as President for a four-year term.

The incoming president said that she looks forward to working with the other members of the new executive and stakeholders to realize a number of initiatives, including finding a home for the local swimming fraternity.

Edith Clashing, a veteran swimming administrator, noted that athletes and coaches have already shown their capacity to work hard

despite challenges, but there is a dire need for an improvement in the facilities.

The survival and growth of the sport are contingent on improved facilities, she added.

The new executive is expected to hit the ground running as it is already shaping up to be a busy year for swim athletes.

At the elections held over the weekend, other members elected to serve on the executive includes Kem Warner, who will perform the role of Vice President with special focus on Pool competitions.

Margarita Fernandez will serve as Vice President with special responsibilities for Open Water swimming.

Janelle Charles-Williams will also perform duties as Vice President with special focus on Aquatic Development.

Andrea Roberts-Nicholas was elected as Secretary and Pooja Ti-vary chosen as Treasurer.

The new executive of the Antigua & Barbuda Swimming Federation was slated to hold its first meeting last night to develop its work programme.



Rangers beat Hoppers in premier league

Ottos Rangers pulled off a 3-1 victory over Greenbay Hoppers in one of three rescheduled matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters over the weekend.

Rangers had to come from behind to claim their victory after Rodney Lawrence scored in the 54th minute to give Hoppers a 1-0 lead following a goalless first half.

But Junior Benjamin scored twice within a four-minute span to give Rangers a 2-1 lead. Benjamin scored in the 64th minute to draw Rangers level and his 67th minute conversion put his team ahead.

Jalmaro Calvin sealed Rangers' win with a 73rd minute conversion. Their seventh win in 15 matches carries Ottos Rangers to 22 points and up to seventh place on goal difference.

Greenbay Hoppers remain on 19 points and slipped to 10th in the standings after suffering their sixth loss in 15 encounters.

The other two matches ended in draws. Bottom team Liberta Black Hawks continued their mini resur-



The players of the Ottos Rangers team converge in a huddle prior to the start of one of their matches in the premier division league at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters earlier this season. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

gence by securing a 0-0 draw with Pigotts Bullets in the opening game of Sunday's triple header.

After being hit with a six-point deficit for failing to show up for a few matches at the start of the competition, Liberta Black Hawks are now out of the minus point column.

However, the Black Hawks remain in the cellar of the 16-team competition without a point after recording their third draw in 14 encounters.

Pigotts Bullets advanced to 16 points but remain in 13th place after claiming their fourth draw in 15 matches.

Tyrique Tonge scored a hat-trick but could not stop SAP from only managing a 3-3 draw with Willikies Warriors in the second game on Sunday.

Tonge scored in the 41st, 43rd and 52nd minute to give SAP a 3-2 lead after Willikies were given a 2-0 advantage via a 17th minute conversion by Nad-

re Thomas and the first of two goals by Novelle Francis Jr. in the 25th minute.

Francis Jr. scored his second goal of the match in the 71st minute to equalize for Willikies. Willikies advanced to 21 points but slipped from seventh to eighth place after salvaging their third draw in 15 matches.

SAP advance to 20 points and slipped from eighth to ninth place after drawing for the second time in 15 encounters.