

\$1.8 BILLION BUDGET

Story on Page 2



The Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda went to Morris Bay in Old Road yesterday, immediately after the budget presentation, to take a look at the proposed site for the Callaloo Cay hotel development with another investor group that has expressed interest in undertaking the development.

\$1.8 billion budget presented to parliament

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance in Antigua and Barbuda announced a \$1.8 Billion dollar budget to the House of Representatives yesterday.

In making the announcement, Prime Minister Browne said that for the 2023 fiscal year, there will be an increase in revenue collections and more efficient management of expenditure.

The country's leader said that the \$1.8 billion dollar budget represents a 12.5 per cent increase over the approved figure for Budget 2022.

"The 2023 resource envelope is made up of \$1.04 billion in recurrent expenditure, \$161.2 million in capital expenditure, and \$605.8 million in amortization payments. The Budget will be partly funded by total revenue and grants amounting to \$1.13 billion. This leaves a financing requirement of \$676.7 million, which will be funded through securities issued on the Regional Government

Securities Market (RGSM) and disbursements from loans and advances," he stated.

He said that these amount to \$351.6 million and \$321.1 million, respectively.

An overall deficit of \$70.9 million, or 1.3 per cent of GDP is projected for 2023 along with a primary surplus of \$76.6 million or 1.4 per cent of GDP.

Prime Minister Browne made it clear that effective April 3rd, 2023, all concessions will be significantly reduced, and the discretionary waiver of duty on imports will be capped at 50 per cent.

The Prime Minister said that the projected fiscal outcomes for 2023 are an improvement over the estimated fiscal performance in 2022 and are aligned with the targets established in his government's strategy for fiscal and debt sustainability.

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries and the Ministry



PM Gaston Browne presenting the \$1.8 billion National Budget

of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment received the largest share of the \$1.8 Billion dollar Budget: Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, \$185 million; and the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment, \$147 million.

The Ministry of Education will focus on the expansion of the UWI Five Islands Campus to include US\$5 million to build a



new primary school in Five Islands. It is expected that construction will begin by the second quarter of this year.

Other projects in education include major repairs to the Irene B Williams Secondary School and completing the rehabilitation of the Boys Training School.

In health, the government is constructing a Dialysis and Renal Centre on the compound of the old Holberton Hospital.

Once operational, the Centre will help in the fight against non-communicable diseases and their impact on the social and economic wellbeing of nationals.

In addition, the new facility will enable the country to increase the number of kidney transplants and offer services to residents in other OECS territories.

Fri 03 Day		Fri 03 Night	
81°		73°	
6%	ESE 12 mph	23%	E 12 mph
Mostly sunny skies. High 81F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low 73F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 67%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 82%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:24 am	Sunset 6:14 pm	Moonrise 3:12 pm	Moonsset 3:55 am
○ Waxing Gibbous			

Household savings in the banks total almost \$150 million

The Antigua and Barbuda economy continues to show real growth as the country recovers from the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was highlighted by significant growth in both private sector and household savings deposited in local banks.

In a budget presentation lasting just under two hours, Prime Minister Gaston Browne pointed to these positive economic performances when he delivered the Budget 2023 under the theme: Reset, Recover and Revitalise.

The prime minister stated that there were real and tangible gains and benefits of the country's economic growth that resounded to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Additionally, he noted that in every sector of the society, there are visible

signs of the increase in employment, the growth in savings in the banks, and the enlarged investment by the private sector.

"In 2022, more than 900 employed or self-employed persons were added to the list of registered workers who are contributing to the Social Security Scheme.

"This is clear evidence that employment is increasing. Equally compelling, is that private sector savings in our banks grew from \$1.97 billion in 2021 to \$2.1 billion in 2022.

"This significant increase was due to an expansion of \$145 million in household savings; showing beyond any shred of doubt that greater income flowed to our people," he observed.

According to the prime minister, these figures show clearly that the

economic benefits in the country have filtered down to the ordinary men and women in Antigua and Barbuda.

"A major contributor to the expanded money supply is a 25 per cent upswing in foreign currency deposits from \$511 million in November 2021 to \$639 million in 2022.

"Again, this demonstrates the confidence that the private sector has in the policies that our government has been pursuing - and will continue to promote - in tourism, construction, infrastructural development, and other sectors," he revealed.

He added that the economy has returned to its pre-COVID upward trajectory of growth with the creation of employment, expansion of private sector investment and reduction in poverty.



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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Some West Africans now in Antigua may have used fraudulent documents

The government is currently investigating reports that at least four of the West Africans who traveled to Antigua and Barbuda via charter flights in December, may have crossed the country's borders using

fraudulent documents.

That's according to Information Minister Melford Nicholas, who revealed that the information is contained in a preliminary report presented to the government by the Im-

migration Department.

Nicholas stated that an alert has now been issued and that further investigations are required into the use of fake documents. It appears that those involved may have fraudu-



Information Minister Melford Nicholas

lently used the passports of another African country, and not the one to which they belong.

"This is a matter that has been identified by the efficacy of the border management system that we have, so the alert has gone out that we have to look further into this particular matter and to make a determination about who are the actors involved behind this particular fraud," he stated.

In elaboration, Nicholas said the border management system detected the fraudulent use of one particular document whose number was being used repetitively. He noted that further enquiries are needed to delve deeper into the matter.

The minister advised that the government is still intent on completing the investigation and upon completion of the report it will make a full disclosure

cont'd on pg 5

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Writ of Elections issued for Council elections in Barbuda

The electorate in Barbuda is going to the polls on March 29 to vote in four seats that became vacant by rotation according to the Barbuda Local Council

Act.

The Governor General Sir Rodney Williams signed the Writ of Elections paving the way for the by-elections. Nominations

day has been set for March 17 when candidates who are nominated will present their nomination papers to the Returning Officer, Lornamay Benjamin-Hughes.

Each prospective candidate must have a proposer and a seconder both of whom must be registered voters in Barbuda.

The Barbuda Local Government Act provides for the rotation of seats on the council on a biennial basis. The council is responsible for managing the day to day affairs of Barbuda.

cont'd from pg 4

of the findings to the public.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet held an intense discussion on the likely future of the hapless migrants who have found themselves stranded in Antigua.

The members took note of the decision of the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago to deny that Government the authority to deport West Africans to their homeland. Only a small number have indicated a desire to return.

Nearly two hundred female police officers undergo training

This weekend, close to two hundred female police officers within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda will be participating in a one-day, Policewomen's Retreat. The event will take place at the American University of Antigua-AUA Campus on Saturday, March 4th, 2023, under the theme: "Empowering Women in Law Enforcement."

A cadre of distinguished and dynamic female presenters from various professional backgrounds will be presenting on a number of topics aiming towards the development and empowerment of female police officers aspiring to be leaders, as well as enhancing their potential and efficiency as law enforcement officers.

The day's activities will be preceded by a brief open-



All-female Platoon: "Empowering Women in Law Enforcement"

ing ceremony that will be attended by the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Atlee Rodney, and other senior officers, along with officials from the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Public Safety, and Labour.

Presenters will focus on topics such as How to

reach your potential in a male-dominated organization; Self-development for Professional Advancement; Financial Wellness, and Women and Mental Health. The event is expected to run from 9 am to 2 pm.

Commissioner Rodney is fully supportive of

this undertaking by the female officers and wishes them a successful event. The first-ever local retreat for policewomen was held at the former Royal Antigua Hotel in October 2016, under the theme: "Strong Women Bonding Together to Make a Difference."

Two people are off to India on short courses

Two Antigua and Barbuda nationals Nadia James and Tammie Gage have been awarded fully paid scholarships from the Government of India.

They were awarded the scholarship under the ITEC program and will be traveling to India within the coming months to begin their courses.

The Honorary Consul of India to Antigua & Barbuda, Mr. Vijay Tewari congratulated the recipients and wished them a successful trip, as they make their way to India.

It is his hope that this encourages other individuals to take advantage of the scholarships offered under the ITEC Program, which are provided by the Government of India, on a regular basis.



Tammie Gage (left) Indian Consul, Vijay Tewari (centre) and Nadia James (right)

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A third way for global peace

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)

If developing countries, especially the small and vulnerable states, expected meaningful attention by the G20 to the myriad economic and financial challenges that confront them, their hopes were dashed by failed meetings of Finance and Foreign Ministers in February and March.

The members of the G-20 are: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the U.K. and the U.S., as well as the European Union. Small states have no voice at the meetings, unless one of them is invited for a brief presentation.

Both of the G20 meetings were dominated by profound differences over the Russian war on Ukraine. This caused global economic issues to be pushed to one side.

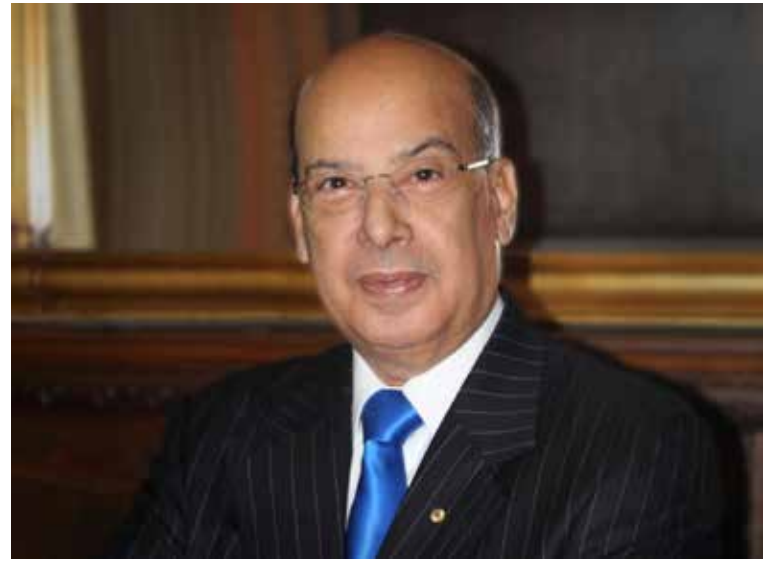
The failure of the Finance Ministers meeting, on 24 and 25 February, fore-

shadowed the collapse of the Foreign Ministers meeting on March 1 and 2. Reuters reported that, when a Communique was being negotiated for the Finance Ministers' meeting, Russia insisted that the document must not mention the word "war", insisting that the fighting in Ukraine is a "special military operation."

In any event, no Communique was issued by either of the two meetings. Instead, the Chairpersons - the Finance and Foreign Ministers of India - were forced to release short statements that did not amount to much more than saying that the major powers dug deeper into their entrenched positions on Ukraine, discarding everything else.

The Indian Foreign Minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, said there were "divergences" on the issue of the war in Ukraine "which we could not reconcile as various parties held differing views."

China and Russia reportedly objected to two paragraphs taken from the previous G-20 declaration in Bali last year. The paragraphs stated that the war in Ukraine was causing immense human suffering while exacerbating fragilities in the global economy, the need to uphold international law, and that "the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible." This was eminently accept-



Sir Ronald Sanders

able language, particularly as all parties, including China and Russia, had accepted it a year ago.

A plea by India's Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in a video presentation at the opening of the Foreign Ministers meeting, fell on deaf ears. But his message was right. Importantly, he lamented that the two main goals of the post-World War II international order - preventing conflict and fostering cooperation - were elusive.

"The experience of the last two years - financial crisis, pandemic, terrorism and wars - clearly shows that global governance has failed in both its mandates," he said.

India's hope for the year of its Presidency of the G20 meshes well with the overall interests of developing countries.

It emphasizes the demands of developing states for inclusive growth, cli-

mate finance, more representative multilateral institutions, and progress on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which were all reversed by the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

India's attention to the heavy burden of debt on developing countries, and, indeed, of industrialized countries as well, is also urgent. Every country now finds it difficult to service outstanding debt, given the demands of recovering and rebuilding damaged economies.

Even before the harmful impacts of Covid-19 and the global disruption, caused by the Russian war on Ukraine, the debt to GDP ratio was already unsustainable. After these two devastating events, debt to GDP ratio in many countries soared to over 100 per cent. Now commercial borrowing has become almost impossible,

cont'd on pg 9

cont'd from pg 8

given the continuing increase in interest rates.

Restructuring sovereign debt is both necessary and urgent. However, China has made it clear it will not participate in restructuring. China follows its own path, regarding money that it lends to friendly nations. And some Western countries have declared that they will not accept reducing debt owed to them, for their debtor countries to pay back China.

So, while differences between major powers persisted, the interests of the developing countries at the G20 were ignored.

Climate Change should also have featured meaningfully on the G20 agenda. It did not. No discussion took place, although countries that are victims of climate change expected movement on this issue before the next Climate meeting, COP28, in December.

The fact that developing countries - despite the presence of India and South Africa - could make no impact on the major powers at the G20, is deeply troubling.

This stark reality should spur all developing countries to do more, not less. The economies of the global economy are seriously undermined by the Russian war on Ukraine and its consequences, including the retaliatory economic and other actions taken by the European Union and the member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Orga-

nization.

Developing countries lack the resilience and financial resources of the rich countries to ride out this turbulent economic storm; they cannot afford to sit by in silence.

As positions become more entrenched and more strident between the powerful protagonists of the war on Ukraine, world peace is endangered with frightening prospects for all nations, including those involved in the conflict.

In this connection, the failure of the G20 meetings raises a screeching alarm that developing countries

should not ignore. If no movement was possible, even with India chairing these meetings, the clarion call for urgent collective action by developing countries should be heard by all. If ever there was a time for a revival of a genuine and practical non-aligned movement in the world, that time is now.

China, also, has an influential role to play in all this as an honest broker, taking no sides, aiding no protagonist, and promoting the established rules of the U.N. Charter and international law.

Efforts are urgent to re-

turn the world to an agenda, focused on tackling common problems such as disease and climate change; promoting human development including inequality and human rights; and engaging in dialogue to improve and enhance global rules that respect and uphold sovereignty and territorial integrity.

All developing countries should now work together, in all international fora, to present a third way to resolving global challenges, including conflicts.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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World Wildlife Day 2023 – Partnerships for Wildlife Conservation

Most of the wildlife that we see daily and often take for granted are celebrated annually today! When we say wildlife, we are referring to the undomesticated native animals and plants of Antigua and Barbuda that were not introduced by humans.

Think about all the birds, lizards, frogs, and insects that call Antigua their home, they deserve some love too! This year, the theme for World Wildlife Day is ‘Partnerships for wildlife conservation’. Every year on March 3, the United Nations (UN) has recognized this day as an international day to celebrate wild animals and plants and their contribution to our lives and the health of the earth.

This specific day was chosen because it is the anniversary of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which was signed on this day in 1973, making this year the 50th anniversary of the convention.

At the National Parks, we have been privileged to have formed partnerships with several governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that aid to conserve national wildlife populations. In 2021, the Na-



tional Parks Authority (NPA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Environment Awareness Group (EAG) for the Offshore Islands Conservation Programme (OICP), with the vision of “adaptively managed, flourishing offshore island ecosystems where wildlife thrives, people are meaningfully engaged, and sustainable use is valued and practiced for the benefit of all.”

Through this partnership, the NPA and the EAG have been able to collaborate on many more projects together. For example, the NPA has been able to assist the EAG with national records for turtle nesting in the prime nesting beaches within the NPNP boundaries. Additionally, the NPA works with the EAG to complete bird surveys that contribute to regional counts for birds across the Caribbean.

We have also formed strong partnerships with the Elkhorn Marine Conservancy (EMC), which is an NGO whose mission is “to enhance the resilience and local stewardship of Antigua’s marine ecosystems through



restoration, collaborative management and conservation.”

This partnership has shown major potential as both the EMC and the NPA have coral restoration nursery sites that were created for the enhancement of degraded ecosystems and the continued conservation of marine wildlife. Additionally, the professionals from the EMC assist the NPA with completing Atlantic and Gulf Rapid Reef Assessment (AGRRA) surveys which is a program that assesses key attributes of coral reefs in the tropical Western Atlantic to inform reef policies, legislation, management and conservation.

In closing, there are a few endemic wildlife from Antigua, Barbuda and our offshore islands that we want to highlight today. Endemic species are animals or plants that are only found in one specific area, community or country. Some notable species that we are celebrating today are the Antigua racer snake (*Alsophis antiguae*), Barbudan Warbler (*Setophaga subita*), Redonda ground dragon (*Ameiva atra*), ground lizard (*Griswold ameivia*), blackberry (*Catesbea melanocarpa*) and yellow dancing lady (*Tolumnia urophylla*). Please remember to look out for these wild animals and make a special effort not to harm them. Finally, always remember to LEARN, LOVE AND PROTECT!



Halcyon Steel bids farewell to a dedicated pannist - Fitzroy 'Blakey' Philip

We've been struggling for weeks to grasp that you're no longer with us. You were the humblest person we have ever met. You were a phenomenal musician.

When you joined Halcyon in 1978, as a 13-year-old kid playing the double guitar, you didn't let the disappointment of not making the stage side that year be a stumbling block in your quest to be among the best pannists anywhere in the world.

You cried; yes, you cried; and we shared your pain. But that pain was short lived as you made your triumphant return in 1979, this time on a single tenor, helping Halcyon win its third (3rd) panorama championship.

Since then, you've been an integral member of the bands ten (10) other panorama championships.

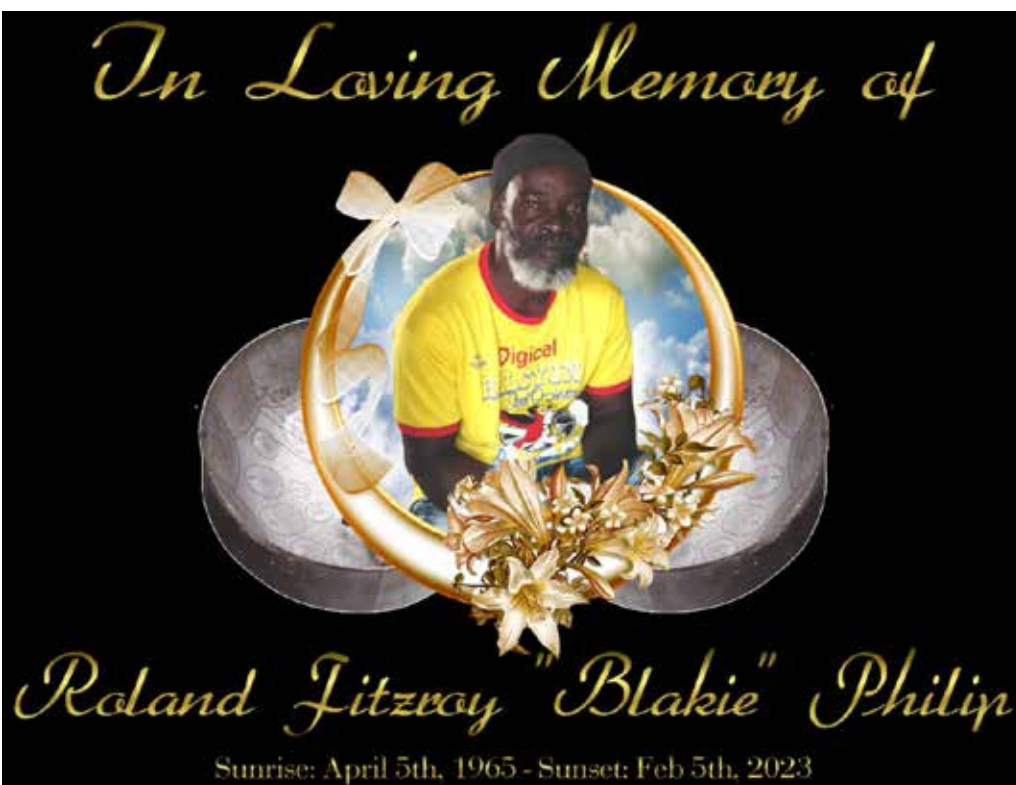
To Halcyon, you represented everything that was good and pure. You were indeed the "heart" of the band.

You were the "go-to" guy if anyone in any group forgot their music. Whether it was a song that was done as recently as the previous month or a song that was done many years before, you remembered it all.

But who was this man. While official court documents refer to him as, ROLAND FITZROY PHILIP; To his peers in Halcyon Steel Orchestra and the rest of the Pan World we simply call him BLAKEY.

This man was a genius in the musical realm. He was multi-talented, contributing as a soloist, percussionist, arranger, and pan player.

He was the real deal when it came to utility players; he could do it all. In the past, Blakey had proven himself



to be a formidable soloist, winning several prestigious competitions, including national solo championship in 1993.

When it came to training pannists, age was never an issue for him. He has collaborated with both large and small bands.

He was a member of the musical team that led the Halcyon Steel Orchestra to victory in the National Panorama in 2008 with the song "Hitman" by Latumba. He was also one of our musical instructors at our school pan.

We will always remember February 5, 2023. Blakey, your commitment to the Halcyon Steel Orchestra for forty five (45) years is truly astounding. We can never thank you enough for all you've done. We still feel like we're in a bad dream and

we are not ready to wake up without you.

However, ultimately, God is in control. We count ourselves incredibly blessed to have found someone on this planet as brilliant and extraordinary as you. You had a golden heart, which was evident in the music you created and the people you helped along the way.

Our love for you will never end. The song of your life may have concluded, but its unforgettable and melodious tune will live forever.

Infinite gratitude!! What can we say other than, "We love you!!" What a void you've left in our lives!!

REST IN PAN BLAKEY!!!
REST IN POWER AFRIKA!!!

From the general membership of Halcyon Steel Orchestra and the entire pan fraternity

Antigua Sailing Week



Race Chase Celebrate: Racing, cruising and charter fleets are building for ASW 2023

Hot off the heels of last week's RORC Caribbean 600 race entries for Antigua Sailing Week 2023 are building into a great spectrum of exciting and competitive classes for the 54th edition of this, another iconic Caribbean regatta. The event kicks off on 29th April and runs until 5th May.

The class splits offer virtually level boat-for-boat racing to just about everybody joining the action of ASW. Dedicated race boats, pro-crewed racer-cruisers, race-ready charter boats, and the latest generations of comfy but fast Swans and Bénéteaus are all finding a lot of competition in the CSA racing classes.

"Antigua Sailing Week is a well-proven yacht racing event that continues to deliver consistently superb race organization in world-class sea and wind conditions," says Race Manager Jaime Torres. "The regatta appeals to a huge variety of skippers and attracts boats of all sizes and types. Frankly, I wish I was taking part instead of working there but I look forward to welcoming everyone and wish them a fantastic racing experience!"

The highlights of the 2023 classes include:

CSA Racing

The high-performance Solaris 72 cruiser racer Black Pearl, skippered by Karl Pisek, joins a strong fleet of yachts in her class which include ASW notables such as Daniel Gribble's Tripp 65 Prevail from the USA and Adrian Lee's Irish Swan 60 Lee Overlay Partners.

The super-competitive CSA class that captures the core of the 40 to 45-foot racers that regularly travel the Caribbean circuit is packed full of past winners and well-known names, including Antigua's Bernard Evan-Wong with TAZ, Pamela Baldwin's J122 Liquid, and top



J122 Liquid will once again be chasing the winners' trophies in the CSA division © Paul Wyeth/ASW.

performing race charter boat El Ocaso, being sailed by owner Chris Body.

We look forward to a battle royale between Sir Richard Matthews ST370 Holding Pattern and Sir Hugh Bailey's Farr 45 Rebel. These two institutions of ASW racing went head-to-head last year, together dominating the Performance Cruising Class. This year they will pit their fast boats and top crews against each other but are now facing the competition against the much tougher CSA racing division. May the best Sir win!

2023 will be the second year for the only slightly more relaxed Performance Cruising class. This division also has a wealth of high-level talent demonstrated by Andy Middleton's First 47.7 EH01 and Raymond Rhineland's J133 Bella J.

Multihulls

Fast multihulls will be flying hulls again this year. We are pleased to welcome several spectacular Gunboats including two 60s, Fredrik Moe's Moementum from Jamaica and Rob Merwin's Cui

Bono from the US, plus Michel Larroche's Gunboat 62 Tribe. A newcomer to the Caribbean circuit, Oceans Tribute, a Crowther Tri, has been brought all the way from New Zealand by her owner Guy Chester.

RS Elite One Design

New to Antigua Sailing Week is a dedicated start line for the fast and nimble one-design RS Elite class. These unique keelboats are available for charter and only require two or three crew so it's a brilliantly cost-effective way to rock up and race with your favourite sailing buddies. Reach out to the ASW Race Office to get assistance with organizing a charter from owners of the local fleet of RS Elites. Crews can pitch themselves against some serious home-grown talent with the Caribbean's best skippers at the helm. One of them is St. Martin's Robbie Ferron, sailing Oozlumbird, who comments: "Everybody wants to sail and race in the Caribbean. It is sometimes prohibitive due to costs and manageability especially if you

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want high standards of your boat. But racing in Antigua in a RS Elite is financially easy and provides a high tech boat that is a real pleasure to sail. And then there's the huge advantage of having one design racing. It can't get much better than this!"

Bareboat Fleet

If sailing one design in a wet boat is not your thing, you are lucky! ASW's bareboat fleet is vast and splits into four classes, three of which are made up of practically identical boats! ASW charter sponsor Dream Yacht Charter has been working hard to supply a range of boats, while individual crew spots and whole boats are still available including some additional Dufour 460s which you can charter to go like-for-like up against the strong fleet of 460s, 412 and 520s already entered. You can keep your beers cold but the racing of these boats is hot - and highly competitive! Fun, fun in the sun! There is no easier way to step aboard a boat to enjoy the best Caribbean racing experience. Contact the race office for more information on charters.

Club Class

Club Class is one of ASW's greatest success stories and thanks to the variable rating system, there were five different Club Class daily winners last year. Skippers and crews loved it, and most of them are back in 2023 to gently challenge themselves. From huge, fast and classy big boats over 65 foot to the tiniest cruisers, sailing the



The unforgettable vibes of Reggae in the Park, part of the week's packed programme © Paul Wyeth/ASW

boat you have with the people you love on easy-peasy courses is what Club Class is all about.

Planning to join Club Class is Oyster 675 Seabird. Jonathan Hutchison and his crew are making their way towards Antigua across the Atlantic from Cape Town to the finish of the Oyster World Rally. They can look forward to meeting stiff boat-on-boat competition from Matthias Maus's classic S&S Swan 65 Alpha Centauri of London, celebrating her 50th year in style. "We are very excited about Antigua Sailing Week," says Jonathan. "During the Rally we entered a regatta in Tahiti, challenging our abilities, but we still managed to win the Cruisers Division. We can't wait to put her through her paces again in Antigua. Not to mention how much we look forward to all the fun events and par-

ties at the end!" ASW hopes to welcome other Oysters tempted to some racing as they finish their world tour.

Colin Baldwin's Archambault 40 Sete Mares will be racing those big boys too. "As a crew, we love ASW," says Colin. "We are all but guaranteed fast, exciting courses, varied classes of yachts, and as for the après sailing, it's simply legendary!"

The action-packed programme opens with the Peters & May Round Antigua Race on Saturday 29th April followed by the English Harbour Rum Race Day and Welcome Party on Sunday.

Monday 1st May sees the Axxess Marine Y2K Race day with daily prize-giving and Captain's Cocktail, followed by another race day on Tuesday and entertainment with Reggae in the Park. After the challenging first few days of racing crews

can look forward to heading down to Pigeon Point beach for Wednesday's legendary Lay Day Beach Party to enjoy the hot barbecues, cold beers and fun games throughout the day, or simply relax with a glass of champagne on a beach lounger.

The week finishes up with the Locman Italy Women's Race Day on Thursday and racing, prizegiving and the big Closing Party on Friday 5th.

Antigua Sailing Week first took place in 1968 and more than 50 years later is firmly established as one of the 'greats' of the world sailing calendar. The high standard of racing is matched only by the spectacular party scene.

For further information on Antigua Sailing Week, please visit the official website: <http://www.sailingweek.com>

Bajan court rules public servants can participate in active politics

CMC – A High Court judge has ruled that the prohibition of public officers engaging in active politics is unconstitutional and inconsistent with the rights to freedom of expression and association outlined in the Constitution of Barbados.

Justice Westmin James delivered that judgment on Tuesday in the case of Natalie Murray, a public officer who sought constitutional relief after disciplinary action was contemplated against her after she spoke on a Barbados Labour Party (BLP) platform during the 2022 general election.

The regulation at the centre of the court action, General Order 3.18.1, states that officers and employees are expressly forbidden to participate actively in politics, including being adopted as a parliamentary candidate, canvassing on behalf of any party or candidate; acting as agents or sub-agents of any candidate for election; holding office in party political organizations; and speaking at political meetings.

“The regulation is overly broad, disproportionate and cannot be reasonably justified in a free and democratic society,” Justice James said.

“It is plain to the Court that General Order 3.18.1 is a sweeping, blanket ban, permitting of no exceptions. The restriction is absolute and universal to all public servants from lower level public servants . . . to the highest rank public servant.

“This sort of blanket restriction does not satisfy the qualification in the Constitution that the restriction be reasonably required for the proper performance of their function. It is therefore inconsistent with the general right guaranteed by freedom of expression and association,” he added.



“In the circumstances, I hold that General Order 3.18.1 has not satisfied the criterion of being reasonably required as it is disproportionate in not distinguishing between classes of civil servants as to the restraints imposed on freedom of expression and/or the types of political activity. It is therefore void for unconstitutionality.”

The High Court judge said, therefore, that the action brought against Murray, a temporary household facilitator in the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, was “invalid” and said that any disciplinary proceedings brought against her be permanently stayed.

He said General Order 3.18.1 was “a hindrance to her right to freedom of expression and association guaranteed under Sections 20 and 21 of the Barbados Constitution and is an improper and invalid restriction upon her as a lower-level public officer”.

In a letter dated March 8, 2022, signed by the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, Murray was informed that a disciplinary report was submitted regarding her appearance as a speaker on the political platform

of the BLP on January 6 and 16, 2022.

Although accepting that did happen and that she had been an active member of the ruling party for more than two decades, Murray contended that her participation in political activity had never hindered her effectiveness in her job.

Attorney General Dale Marshall told online newspaper Barbados TODAY that he was not surprised by the ruling and once he had studied it, he would “advise Cabinet of the import of the decision and make recommendations on how we should amend the regulations”.

“As the jurisprudence on Caribbean constitutions continues to develop, we will see many of the long-held thinking on rights and freedoms being modified or even being rejected outright. Such has been the case with the mandatory death penalty, buggery laws and now public service regulations,” he said.

“This is not the first case in the region where similar prohibition of public servants becoming involved in the political process has been ruled to be unconstitutional so I would not say that I am entirely surprised at the ruling.”

Grenada government fires Labour Commissioner after three months

CMC - After three and a half months on the job, the first woman to serve as Labour Commissioner has been fired because “she did not work out to be a good fit with the staff at the Ministry of Labour”, it was disclosed on Thursday.

Labour Minister Senator Claudette Joseph told a press conference that the Public Service Commission terminated the two-year contract of Valerie Thomas who began serving in the post from November 12, 2022.

“Upon review of the state of the relationship as requested by the Public Service Commission, it was decided by the Commission and the Ministry that it will be best for us to go back to the drawing board in our search for a Labour Commissioner that fits with the personnel,” Joseph said.

She did not say what triggered the review.

Joseph, who is also Attorney General, said Thomas also did not fit in with the Dickon Mitchell administration’s general outlook as it seeks



Valerie Thomas. Photo via CMC.

to take steps to improve the labour climate in Grenada for workers, employers and the members of staff at the Labour Ministry who are delivering on the services to stakeholders.

“So, we have ended the relationship and we will go back to the drawing with a new Labour Commissioner to be announced in the not-to-distant future,” she said.

In the meantime, Deputy Labour Commissioner Sparkle Greenidge

Courtney will perform the functions of Labour Commissioner, in accordance with the Employment Act.

Thomas was in the middle of her probationary period when she was fired with immediate effect, on February 28. Based on her contract with the government, she will receive one month’s pay in lieu of notice.

A graduate of the Cipriani College of Labour and Cooperative Studies, Thomas specializes in Labour Studies with an emphasis on Negotiations, Labour Administration, Labour Dispute Management and Tripartite Dialogue.

A news release issued by the Government Information Service to announce her appointment said her professional career includes employment with one of the largest trade unions in Trinidad and Tobago and highlights a sterling record of success before the Industrial Courts. Thomas also has experience in the Grenada Public Service, having worked for more than 17 years in General Administration and Human Resource Development.

IMF approves US\$1.7 billion for Jamaica

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) Thursday announced that its Executive Board has approved a total of US\$1.7 billion for Jamaica, the majority of which will provide insurance against risks from higher commodity prices, a global slowdown, tighter-than-envisaged global financial conditions, and new COVID outbreaks.

A statement from the Washington-based financial institution said about US\$968 million had been

approved for a 24-month programme under the Precautionary and Liquidity Line (PLL) arrangement.

The other US\$764 million has been approved under the newly created Resilience and Sustainability Facility (RSF) to strengthen physical and fiscal resilience to climate change, advance decarbonisation of the economy, and manage transition risks.

The RSF is expected to catalyse funding for climate-related investment



from other official lenders and the private sector.

“Reforms in the RSF, built on Jamaica’s home-grown climate policy, were prepared in close collabo-

ration with the World Bank and other international partners. They create incentives to switch to renewables, reduce energy
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Ivory Coast and Guinea to repatriate nationals from Tunisia

BBC - Two West African states are repatriating their citizens from Tunisia following inflammatory remarks by President Kais Saied last week.

Mr Saied said that migration was a “plot” to change the country’s demographic profile, blaming “traitors who are working for foreign countries”.

Dozens of migrants from sub-Saharan Africa have since been detained.

Ivory Coast and Guinea said they were sending specially chartered planes to bring back their nationals.

“The most urgent thing is to save lives, to prevent injuries,” Ivory Coast’s government spokesman Amadou Coulibaly was quoted as saying by AFP news agency.



Some migrants from sub-Saharan Africa are camping outside their embassies in Tunisia.

Tunisia had an estimated 21,000 migrants from sub-Saharan Africa in 2021, according to official figures quoted by a local rights activist who accused Mr Saied of «inciting hatred» and

«racial discrimination against African migrants» physically assaulted.

Mr Saied has denied being racist.

After his comments, many migrants lost their jobs and housing overnight. Some have reported being

“These words gave so many people who already had these racist feelings a green light,” a student from southern Africa told the BBC’s Africa Daily pod-
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consumption, develop green financial instruments, and require proper management of climate risks in the financial sector,” IMF Deputy Managing Director and Acting Chair of the Board Bo Li said.

The IMF said in its statement that over the past few years, Jamaica has been buffeted by a difficult global environment featuring the COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the ongoing tightening of global financial conditions.

However, it said, supported by sound policy frameworks and policies prioritizing macroeconomic stability, the economy is now recovering strongly.

“As COVID waned, tourism has

rebounded to pre-crisis levels, and 2022 real GDP growth is expected to be around four per cent. Public debt is on a downward trajectory and the overall fiscal balance is in line with the medium-term fiscal framework,” it said.

“Pushed by global factors—in particular, the impact of the war in Ukraine on commodity prices—inflation has risen above the Bank of Jamaica’s target band but is declining since mid-2022.

“High commodity prices have resulted in an increase in the current account deficit, but international reserves remain at healthy levels. The financial system is well-capitalized and liquid.”

The IMF said the outlook points

to a continued recovery and inflation falling back within the Bank of Jamaica’s target range by end-2023. However, it said, the economy is facing significant external risks.

“The war in Ukraine may push commodity prices higher, a stronger-than-envisaged tightening of global financial conditions may curb capital flows and reduce remittances, and new COVID variants could disrupt tourism and trade,” it cautioned.

The IMF lauded the authorities’ response to recent shocks, describing it as well designed. It said the policies have struck the right balance in responding to shocks, protecting the vulnerable, countering inflationary pressures, and further securing debt sustainability.

California judge faces review for handcuffing 13-year-old in court

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

A California judge is facing a misconduct complaint after a 13-year-old was handcuffed and questioned in his courtroom.

At the time, the girl's father was appearing before US District Judge Roger Benitez to have his probation revoked.

Mr Benitez told the girl that she would also "wind up in cuffs" if she ever turned to drugs.

The father's lawyer claims the incident was "psychologically damaging".

According to the Los Angeles Times, the girl's father - who was not named - had completed a five-year prison sentence on drug distribution charges.

He was in Mr Benitez's federal courtroom in San Diego on 13 February in a bid to have his supervised

release revoked.

Speaking to the court, the father said that he feared that his daughter was "following the same footsteps" and encountering situations that will "lead her into the same path that I went down".

The comments prompted Mr Benitez to order a US marshal to "put cuffs on her". She then began to cry.

Transcripts of the incident show that Mr Benitez told the girl she was "an awfully cute young lady" but that she would likely "spend most of your life in and out of jail" if she became involved with drugs.

Her father was sentenced to 10 months back in prison.

"I hope the next time you're tempted to use drugs, even weed....you'll remember what happened



here today," Mr Benitez said.

"I hope you remember this mean, old face."

The courtroom incident was first reported by the "Above the Law" blog on 27 February.

While complaints against judges usually remain confidential, the report prompted chief judge of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to say that disclosing a review of the in-

cident was necessary and in the public's interest

In a court filing on 23 February, the father's attorney wrote that the incident was "psychologically damaging and harmful" and that the use of handcuffs on children can be "severely traumatising".

The father's probation case was later reassigned to another judge, who deemed that an additional prison sentence was no longer necessary as a result of the "distressing events that occurred".

The BBC has reached out to Mr Benitez for comment. In an email, he told Reuters that he is "prohibited from speaking about pending cases".

Mr Benitez - who was first nominated to become a federal judge by then President George W Bush in 2001 - gained national recognition for a series of rulings which struck down gun control laws in California.

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cast.

She said many sub-Saharan Africans were scared to go outside after others had their "houses set on fire, some beaten up, some harassed, some verbally insulted".

"We don't feel very safe to go to the authorities because we feel like some of them are also in on this... Some of my Tunisian friends say they feel ashamed to be Tunisian at this point because of what is happening."

Hundreds of Ivorians and Guineans have since registered with their countries' embassies to be repatriated.

"The undeclared goal of the successive waves of illegal immigration is to

consider Tunisia a purely African country that has no affiliation to the Arab and Islamic nations," Mr Saied said.

The African Union - of which Tunisia is a member - condemned the statement as "shocking", and warned against "racialised hate speech".

Tunisia tennis star Ons Jabeur on Wednesday posted a tweet condemning «discrimination» and calling for «the right of everyone to live with dignity».

About 80% of Tunisians believe that racial discrimination is a problem in their country - the highest figure in the Middle East and North Africa region, according to a survey published by BBC News Arabic last year.

Putin accuses Ukraine of border 'terrorist act' in Russian village

By Laurence Peter

Russian President Vladimir Putin says a Ukrainian sabotage group entered a Russian border region on Thursday and opened fire on civilians in a "terrorist act".

The governor of Bryansk region said "saboteurs from Ukraine" had fired at a civilian car in Lyubechane, a border village, killing two men and wounding a 10-year-old boy.

Kyiv strongly denied the Russian claim.

The alleged incident has not been independently verified.

Mykhaylo Podolyak, an adviser to Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky, tweeted that it was «a classic deliberate provocation». «RF [Russia] wants to scare its people to justify the attack on another country,» he said.

Russia has previously reported some Ukrainian missile and drone strikes on Russian border areas, including Bryansk region. But there have been no confirmed reports of Ukrainian ground forces infiltrating Russia.

Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) said FSB forces and regular troops on Thursday clashed with "Ukrainian nationalists" who had crossed into Russia and taken hostages.

The FSB said the "na-



Russian President Vladimir Putin

ionalists" were then hit with a massive Russian artillery strike and pushed back into Ukraine. They left a large cache of explosives in the village, the FSB alleged.

When Russia launched its large-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 President Putin branded the Kyiv government "nationalists" and "neo-Nazis", arguing that Russia had to act against them.

President Zelensky was democratically elected, has Jewish origins and has no far-right politicians in his government.

Speaking on Russian state TV on Thursday President Putin said "today they committed another terrorist act, another crime, penetrated the border area and opened fire on civilians".

"They saw that it was a civilian car, that civilians and children were sitting there, and opened fire. It is exactly such people who

set themselves the task of depriving us of historical memory. They will achieve nothing, we will put the squeeze on them," he said.

A video has appeared online claiming to show members of the Ukraine-based Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC) outside a local clinic. One armed man in the video, posted on Telegram, says they crossed into Russia.

The investigative journalism group Bellingcat Monitoring describes the RVC as "a unit officially formed last year made up primarily of anti-Putin, anti-Kremlin Russian far-right figures active in Ukraine".

A Bellingcat expert, Michael Colborne, has identified one of the men in the video as RVC leader Denis Kapustin, who also uses the surname Nikitin.

"This RVC seems to do very little actual fighting, or at least serious fighting, and

Kapustin may have physical combat sports training but he is not from any sort of military background," Mr Colborne told the BBC.

In a text post with the video the RVC said it "entered Bryansk region to show our compatriots that there is hope, that free Russians carrying arms can fight the regime".

Commenting on the RVC claim, a Ukrainian military intelligence official, Andriy Yusov, said "these are people who are fighting with arms against the Putin regime and those who support him... Perhaps Russians are beginning to wake up, realise something and take some concrete steps".

This week Mr Putin accused Ukraine and Western spies of intensifying operations inside Russia. Russian officials said a drone crashed in the Kolomna district just 100km (62 miles) from Moscow - though it was not confirmed to be Ukrainian - while two Ukrainian drones were allegedly shot down in southern Russia.

Previously Russia said drones had attacked an airbase in southern Russia used for launching bomber strikes on Ukraine. Kyiv has not claimed drone attacks inside Russia, accusing the Kremlin of propaganda.

Antigua and Barbuda draw last LI three-day match with Nevis

Antigua and Barbuda drew their final Leeward Islands Senior Men's Three-Day Tournament match against Nevis at the Elquemedo Willett Park in Nevis on Wednesday.

Set an improbable 442 runs for victory, Nevis ended the match on 174 for five off 44 overs in their second innings.

Opener Ross Powell topscored with 48 off 39 balls and fellow opening batsman Duan Webbe made 41 off 54 balls, while Jamie Cornelius chipped in with 34 off 26 balls.

Off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall claimed two for 13 and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams picked up two for 38 in 16 overs.

A century by diminutive allrounder Karima Gore was the highlight of the match as Antigua and Barbuda, who had won the toss and batted, made a mammoth 489 for nine declared off 100.3 overs in their first innings.

Gore smashed 175 off 225 balls with 21 fours. Gore featured in two century partnerships during his stay at the crease. He shared a fourth-wicket stand of 154 runs with Kenrick Scott, who made 84 off 98 balls with 13 fours.

Gore added 136 for the fifth wicket with Deran Benta, who made 57 off 98 balls and he also shared a 62-run third wicket part-

nership with opener Kofi James, who scored a quick-fire 74 off 70 balls with 10 fours and three sixes.

Fast bowler Nelson Bolan captured three for 100 and Jaden Carmichael picked up two for 80.

In reply, Nevis were all out for 245 in 64.5 overs in their first innings. Captain Kieran Powell struck 94 off 137 balls with 12 fours and two sixes. Carlon Bowen-Tuckett scored 42 and Ross Powell got 31.

Fast bowler Nino Henry took three for 25 in 12 overs, off-spinner Kofi James claimed two for 34 and fast bowler Kelvin Pitman captured two for 52 in 10 overs.

After gaining a first innings lead of 244 runs, Antigua and Barbuda then rattled up 197 for eight declared in 58 overs in their second innings to set the Nevisians their improbable victory target.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr slammed 61 off 108 balls and Gore struck 49 off 76 balls. Kimarni Nisbett bagged four for 47 in 15 overs and Kian Pemberton claimed two for 35 in 14 overs.

There was success for St. Kitts who beat Montserrat by nine wickets inside two days of their final round Leeward Islands Three-Day encounter at Warner Park in St Kitts on Tuesday.



Antiguan allrounder Karima Gore. (File photo)

Set a modest 40 runs to win, St. Kitts wrapped up victory by racing to 43 for one in 4.2 overs.

Montserrat had tumbled to 96 all out in 33.5 overs in their first innings after they were sent in to bat with Rashied Eddy grabbing six for 47 in 14.5 overs.

St. Kitts responded by making 236 all out in 69.5 overs in their first innings

with Xavier Saunders getting 53 and Deno Baker capturing three for 64 in 21.5 overs.

Trailing by 140 runs, Montserrat fell for 179 in 58.1 overs in their second innings. Joshua Grant topscored with 52 and opener Stevel Rodney made 47. Eddy bagged four for 52 to end with a match-haul of 10 for 99.

Sports News



Team A wins second practice match at CWI Rising Stars Under-19s Camp

The second practice match involving players at the Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Under-19s High Performance Camp ended with another victory for Team A at the Coolidge Cricket Ground on Wednesday.

Team A, skippered by Stephen Pascal, made 173 all out off 39.4 overs after they were sent in to bat by the Team B captain Nathan Sealy.

Jordan Johnson topscored with 52 off 55 balls with five fours and a six, while middle-order batsman Jewel Andrew of Antigua and Barbuda hit an unbeaten 45 off 56 balls. Andrew made a topscore of 37 off 62 balls for his team in the first practice match.

Tamarie Redwood captured three for 25 in 7.4 overs and pacer Reon Edwards picked up two for 17 in six overs.

In reply, Team B posted 178 all out in 44.3 overs.

Steve Wedderburn topscored with 71 off 107 balls with four fours and a six. Opener Mavindra Dindyal got the next best score with a knock of 28 off 43 balls as only five batsmen managed to reach double figures.

Deshawn James claimed three for

35 in eight overs and Antigua and Leeward Islands leg-spinner followed up his four-wicket haul in the first encounter by picking up two for 34 in 7.3 overs.

The players will engage in their third practice match at the Coolidge Cricket Ground, the home of Cricket West Indies, on Sunday.

The Rising Stars Under 19s High-Performance camp is being hosted at the Coolidge Cricket Ground from 21st February to 9th March.

Twenty-nine of the best Under 19 players in the region are participating in the camp in the build-up towards the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup in 2024.

The players were selected based on performances during the Rising Stars age-group tournaments in 2022.

Later in the year, CWI will host the 2023 regional age-group Rising Stars, presenting the opportunity for other players to compete for selection to the squad ahead of the ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup.

The Rising Stars Under 19s High-Performance camp involves targeted coaching sessions and physical preparations as well as sessions geared towards the players' off-field development.



Antiguan and Leeward Island middle-order batsman Jewel Andrew. (File photo)

Willikies Superstars end Dominatrixx's perfect run in domino league

Willikies Superstars ended Dominatrixx's perfect run in Team Four-Hand matches in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) League.

Dominatrixx suffered their first loss in the competition when they were beaten 60-25 by Willikies Superstars during the fifth round of matches at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ot-

tos over the weekend.

Willikies Superstars now join Dominatrixx and Ramplers at the top of the Team Four Hand competition with identical records of four wins and one defeat after five rounds of matches.

Ramplers joined the leaders by virtue of winning their fifth round encounter against Double Six by default.

Bolans Revellers recorded their first win in the competition by trouncing Unstoppables 75-15 in their fifth-round encounter.

Leaders Dominatrixx continue to excel in the Team Three-Hand competition. Dominatrixx and the Bolans Revellers B Team were declared joint winners of their latest match by default after the Bravo A Team failed to show up for their

fourth-round encounter.

In other fourth-round matches, Rising Stars chalked up 78 points to win their encounter with Parham Strikers who had 75 points and Legacy with 57 points.

Unstoppables recorded 82 points to beat the Willikies Superstars B Team with 68 points and the Bolans Revellers C Team who had 65 points.

cont'd on pg 21



Princess Margaret School's Craig Massiah, center, prepares to take a free-throw shot during his team's encounter against the Antigua Grammar School in the Inter-Schools' Basketball Competition at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday. (Photo courtesy School's Basketball League)

Double wins for AGS in schools' basketball league

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) recorded two wins in the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools' Basketball Competitions at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

The Antigua Grammar snatched a narrow six-point win against the Princess Margaret School (PMS), prevailing 38-32 in their Junior Boys' Division affair.

Raheem Sawyer sank 15 points and Jamali Liverpool converted 12 points for the Antigua Grammar School while Craig Massiah shot a game-high 21 points for the

Princess Margaret School.

The Antigua Grammar School also pulled off a 48-25 victory over the Ottos Comprehensive School in the Senior Boys Division.

Jaleyle Joseph sank 13 points and Naeem Joseph scored 11 points for Antigua Grammar School.

Meanwhile, Ottos Comprehensive School extended their unbeaten run in the Cool & Smooth Inter-Schools' Netball Championship at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday.

Ottos Comprehensive

School kept their unbeaten run intact in the 18 and Under Division by cruising to a 14-8 victory over Clare Hall Secondary.

There was success as well for the Antigua State College, who prevailed 18-14 against the Irene B Williams Secondary in the same division.

The Antigua Girls High School's Second Team also kept their unbeaten record intact by securing a 7-3 victory against the Princess Margaret School in the 13 and Under Secondary category.

Leaders Antigua Girls High School also extended their unbeaten record to eight wins in as many games with an 11-7 victory over defending champions Princess Margaret School in the 16 and Under Division.

Ottos Comprehensive School trounced Christ the King High School's First Team 21-3 in their encounter. But Christ the King High School's Second Team pulled off an 11-7 victory against the St Mary's Secondary School.

The All Saints Secondary School overcame Irene B Williams Secondary 17-12, while Glanvilles Secondary prevailed 8-4 against the Clare Hall Secondary School in their 16 and Under Division encounters.

cont'd from pg 20

Triple Dynamite celebrated success as well, recording 76 points to prevail against Future with 74 points and the Double Six A Team with 64 points.

Moise Eagle Warriors scored 73 points to win their match against Ramplers, who

secured 71 points, and the A Team of Wilkies Superstars with 69 points.

The Bolans Revellers A Team amassed a total of 78 points to win their game against the B Team of Bravo, who finished second with 66 points, and the Double Six A Team in third with 58 points.

Jennings United extend lead atop Second Division league

Unbeaten leaders Jennings United have opened up a four-point gap at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division league.

Jennings United consolidated their position as league leaders by coasting to a 4-0 victory over Golden Grove at the Jennings playing field in one of four second division matches on Wednesday.

The goals were scored by Ori-an Isaac in the 20th minute, Rhezal Gomes in the 38th minute, Shaquille Watkins in the 40th minute and Kimon Samuel in the 66th minute.

Their 10th win in 12 matches lifted Jennings United to 32 points, four points ahead of Sea View Farm in second place. Golden Grove remain on 17 points after slumping to their sixth loss in 13 matches.

Sea View Farm jumped to second place by grabbing a 3-0 win against Young Warriors at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, all three goals were scored after the halftime interval. Markland Wright converted a penalty in the 78th minute, Jamil Williams scored in the 87th minute and Nathan Willock added the third and final goal in the 88th minute.

Their ninth win in 12 matches lifted Sea View Farm to 28 points while Young Warriors remain third from bottom of the 15-team competition on eight points after suffering their 8th loss in 12 outings.

Sherville Jarvis scored a hat-trick



The Jennings United Football Team. (File photo)

as Attacking Saints hammered bottom team TAMO FC 9-1 in their encounter at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Jarvis had conversions in the 10th, 32nd and 39th minute while Joshua Samuel scored twice with goals in the 57th and 61st minute.

The other goals for Attacking Saints were scored by Shakeem Lanquedoc in the 49th minute, Rashawn Martin in the 60th minute, Malone Joseph in the 76th minute and Michael Stowe Jr in the 83rd minute.

Diamond Charles had the lone conversion for TAMO FC, who remain in the cellar position with three points after crashing to their 11th defeat in 12 matches.

Their 8th win in 12 matches lifted Attacking Saints to 27 points, the same as Freemans Village. But Attacking

Saints remain in fourth place behind Freemans Village in third by virtue of an inferior goal difference.

Real Blizzard also recorded a 3-0 victory over Bethesda at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Following a goalless first half, an own-goal, which was scored by Devonte Ralph in the 60th minute, gave Real Blizzard a 1-0 lead. Karl Hampson converted a penalty in the 67th minute and Tahari James scored in the 90th minute to wrap-up Real Blizzard's victory.

Their sixth win in 12 matches allowed Real Blizzard to advance to 21 points and overtake Bethesda to fifth place in the standings. Bethesda remain on 18 points and slipped down into sixth place after suffering their 5th loss in 13 matches.