

SOME CRITICAL GOV'T WORKERS TO GET BETTER PAY

Story on Page 2



The inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Art week officially opened yesterday, at the Boom Restaurant at Gunpowder House at English Harbour. Local artists such as Heather Doram, left, and Antiguan/Canadian artist Kwame Delfish took part in the event. ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James, right, was also in attendance. *Story on page 6.*

Local News



Government to consider special arrangements for teachers, nurses etc.

The government is willing to review ways to offer better pay to some critical categories of workers, as it recognizes that it is not able to grant large increases to all workers in the public sector.

That is the word from Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Gaston Browne, speaking on the *Browne and Browne Show* on Saturday on the issue where the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) is threatening industrial action unless the government resolves outstanding issues related to their concerns.

While the government has satisfied roughly ninety percent of the demands of the teachers, one of the two remaining sticking points is the approximately thirty teachers out of a total of 340 who are yet to be upgraded. Education Minister Daryll Matthew, who also appeared on the programme, said the ministry has no record of those teachers and that the union had been asked to provide the names of these thirty teachers left to be upgraded. Once they

had provided the names, both the prime minister and the education minister have promised that they will be paid, upon verification of the information.

The other sticking point has to do with the new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the A&BUT and the government. The union is pressing for a date when negotiations will restart. Minister Matthew said the cabinet has informed the government negotiation team to recommence these talks and that they are scheduled to begin today, (April 17).

The teachers are asking for a 20 percent increase for all teachers while the government has set nine percent as its ceiling. PM Browne noted that if the government offered teachers a twenty percent increase, then it would have to do the same for all workers and that it simply was not affordable.

However, the prime minister seemed willing to look at other ways to increase the salaries of teachers and other special groups



Education Minister Daryll Matthew

without having to offer the same increases to all public servants across the board.

“We are willing to look at a situation for nurses, teachers and perhaps the police to look at a reclassification in which we could offer a higher gross percentage than the nine percent. That in itself would be challenging, but it would be an easier proposition than to be giving over ten thousand people a twenty percent increase,” he explained.

Matthew stated repeatedly that the government has no issue with the teachers,

noting that the two sides are not very far apart in terms of what the union has stated as its reasons to take industrial action. He explained that the fencing at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy has started, all the secondary schools have been lit and that security cameras are also being installed.

He further explained that the installation of the cameras takes time to complete because this work has to be done outside of school hours.

Matthew is also urging the A&BUT to remove its threat of industrial action as the government has exercised rationality and a willingness to dialogue with the union on every issue.

He stated that schools will reopen today for the start of the final term in the 2022-2023 Academic Year, and he is urging parents to send their children to school.

<p>Mon 17 Day</p> <p>83° </p> <p>A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.</p>		<p>Mon 17 Night</p> <p>75° </p> <p>A few clouds from time to time. Low around 75F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.</p>	
<p> 17%</p> <p> E 11 mph</p>	<p> 13%</p> <p> E 9 mph</p>	<p> Humidity 68%</p> <p> UV Index Extreme</p>	<p> Humidity 77%</p> <p> UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p> Sunrise 5:50 am</p> <p> Sunset 6:23 pm</p>	<p> Moonrise 4:04 am</p> <p> Moonset 4:12 pm</p> <p> Waning Crescent</p>		

IMO/UNHCR preliminary report reveals useful information about migrants

The preliminary report compiled by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) working in collaboration with the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) is now in the hands of the government and as it has promised, the report has been made public.

The report said, this preliminary analysis is based on responses provided by 110 individuals, representing migrant groups of interest during a rapid assessment conducted between April 1-10, 2023, in Antigua and Barbuda. “The migrant group of interest includes adults originating from West African countries who arrived in Antigua between November and December 2022. The data was collected using questionnaires created using The International Organization for Migration (IOM) Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) which forms part of a methodology designed by The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Both the tool and methodology were provided to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda prior to the start of field work,” the report stated, outlining its methodology.

Overall, the report provides insights into the migrant community on the issues concerning how they arrived in Antigua and Barbuda, what are their intentions whilst here, and what are the forces that drove them to travel to Antigua and Barbuda in the first place.

According to the report, on the question of migration, nearly all respondents (99%) claimed to have arrived in Antigua and Barbuda via air and 98% used their passport for travel. “Most respondents (51%) did not fund their own trip to Antigua and Barbuda; the majority of those (31%) had family pay for their travel. At the time of the assessment, most individuals claimed to be without regular migration status,” the report revealed.



Comptroller of Customs Raju Boddu, centre.

Additionally, 60% of the respondents claimed to have no plans of leaving Antigua and Barbuda while 36 % had plans on leaving. Most (76%) had no plans on returning to their country of origin / birth. A total of 94 % were afraid of returning to their country of birth/origin. When asked which country was their final destination most respondents (46%) said ‘Antigua and Barbuda’ followed by 16 % who said ‘The United States’. Most respondents said they needed information or support regarding work permits, employment/income generation and legal assistance (including migration status and refugee status determination).

A very high number of the respondents, a total of 82 %, said they had experienced discrimination while in Antigua. A total of 94% said they left their country of origin due to violence related reasons and 94 % answered they fear to return to their country of birth/origin. A total of 44% cited migrant status (work permits) as their major specific need, with 39 % citing employment and income generation. 29 % said they need legal assistance and legal status; 24% cited accommodation and assistance with shelter as their main need. An es-

timated 53 % of respondents said they received support since their arrival in Antigua. Most of the support took the form of ‘in-kind’ donations.

HEALTH & OTHER VULNERABILITIES

Approximately 10% of all respondents were found to have a chronic medical condition; 38% of females assessed were either currently pregnant or had been pregnant before. When asked about food intake, most respondents (75 %) reported to have either skipped meals, ate less than usual, or went at least a day without eating. Roughly 28 % said they need medical care.

DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

A total of 110 adults (78 male and 32 female) gave consent to participate in and completed the rapid assessment. Approximately 94% of respondents identified their country of birth as Cameroon. About 52% said Nigeria was their last country of residence. Most respondents (88%) were under the age of 40; and the majority (64%) selected ‘single’ as their marital status.

EDUCATION

Most respondents (44%) have completed a university degree. *The full report can be viewed at www.pointville.ag.*

Local News



Suspect in Old Road shooting goes to court this week

The police have arrested and charged 24-year-old Frederick Henry of Golden Grove with several gun related offences including attempted murder.

A STRATCOM report states that along with attempted murder, Henry is also charged with shooting with intent to murder, and unlawful possession of a firearm and ammunition.

According to the report, the charges stemmed from an incident at Old Road on

Tuesday 11 April, where he allegedly shot a male and a female around 11:30 pm the said night.

Further police investigations led to his subsequent arrest and charge. He is expected to appear before the court today.

The police are acting on the theory that Henry, an employee of the Carlisle Bay Resort, shot and seriously wounded fellow co-workers 33-year-old Dean Anthony and 32-year-old Morissa

Henry as they were walking to the hotel's gate, after finishing their shift on Tuesday night. Anthony managed to walk to the lobby after being shot, while Henry was found suffering from gunshot wounds in a parking lot on the property.

Another man who was earlier arrested along with Henry has since been released by the police.

The Commissioner of Police is thanking members of the public who came



Frederick Henry forward to assist the police with their investigations.

He is also appealing to residents with information about illegal firearms and ammunition to share the information with the police by calling the anonymous Crimestoppers Tips Hotline at 800-8477.

Meanwhile, there has been another drowning involving an elderly male. This time the incident happened at Long Bay on Saturday when a 76-year old man drowned.

It was reported that around 10 am on Saturday 15 April, the deceased, formerly of Pares Village was bathing in the waters at Long Bay when he apparently encountered difficulties and called out for help.

A sea bather who was in close proximity went to his assistance and pulled him ashore.

The EMS were called on the scene and made several efforts to resuscitate him but were unsuccessful.

A medical doctor pronounced the man dead at approximately 12:22 pm

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A&B elected Finance Chair of World Customs Organization

Antigua and Barbuda has attained a first at the World Customs Organisation (WCO) when it was elected as chair of the WCO Finance Committee, the first Caribbean country to do so.

The Antigua and Barbuda representative at the WCO is Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, who will chair the proceedings of the Finance Committee over the next two years, beginning in June this year.

Canada-nominated Boddu received overwhelming endorsement while support and commendations were received from the United Kingdom, United States, China, Japan, Sweden, European Union, Germany, and Portugal.

He sits on the Finance Committee representing the Americas region, one of six regions with membership at the WCO.

“The Finance Committee will oversee the finances of the WCO, including approving its budget and ensuring that all spending is being done in accordance with the approved budget,” he explained. In a word, he added, the Finance Committee serves an oversight function within the WCO management framework.

Boddu has been a member of the Finance Committee since 2018; two years after he was elected

vice-chairman.

While Jamaica has headed the Capacity Building Committee and Haiti has headed the Enforcement Committee, Antigua and Barbuda will take up

the chairmanship of the Finance Committee as the first Caribbean country to do so.

“It’s both an honour and a privilege to be asked to serve as the Finance

Committee chair, and I am especially thankful for the confidence that has been reposed in me by my colleagues drawn from different regions of the world,” he remarked.



V. C. Bird International Airport and Codrington Airport are managed by Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority.

It is the strategic goal of ABAA for V. C. Bird International Airport to be the gateway of choice to the Eastern Caribbean and beyond.

ABAA is seeking individuals to fill the position listed.

The deadline for applications is
May 31, 2023.

NB: Only qualified applicants will be acknowledged.

Send applications and curriculum vitae to:
Vacancy: ABAA Senior Managers
c/o CoreConsult Inc.
Aflak Building, Friars Hill Road
P. O. Box 2118, St. John
Antigua and Barbuda
Email: jobs@coreconsultinc.com

NB: Selected applicants will be required to complete psychometric assessments.

VACANCY

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

JOB SUMMARY

Plan, implement, and oversee financial and administrative operations, serve as the custodian of all funds, assets, and securities, and provide direction and leadership to staff.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Minimum of bachelor’s degree in Accounting, Finance, Business Administration, Public Administration, Airport Management or a related field;
- Certification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor is desirable;
- Minimum of ten (10) years experience with progressively more responsibilities;
- A combination of education and experience that provides knowledge skills, and ability to perform the duties of this position will be considered.

CORE DUTIES

- Manage all financial operations;
- Oversee all treasury activities;
- Maintain maximum customer satisfaction within the guidelines and regulations of the airline industry;
- Monitor the organizational structure, staffing, service levels, and administrative systems required to accomplish the goals and objectives effectively and efficiently;
- Direct the development and implementation of the operational budget and monitor expenditures;
- Provide leadership to the team;
- Establish professional relationships in the internal and external stakeholders.

After a successful launch: ‘Carnival Is back!’

Antigua and Barbuda’s national festival – Antigua Carnival – got off to a rousing start before an audience of thousands, as both revelers and organisers seem anxious to dust off the rust from two years of no carnival because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The event started on Saturday with a T-shirt mas parade in St John’s which by the time they arrived at the site for the official launch of Carnival ’23, the revelers erupted into a frenzy of jumping and jamming led by the on-stage antics of the MC - Ibis the Livest.

Antigua Carnival was canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the Covid-19 pandemic and whilst it had returned in 2022, it was a scaled down event with the absence of many of the popular shows that make up the Carnival Programme line-up. This year, the Festivals Commission, responsible for planning and executing the carnival programme, is returning all the shows that patrons have come to expect, such as the Queen of Carni-

val, the Teenage Pageant, Junior Carnival, and Panorama.

Under the theme; *Mas, Music and Creativity*, the official launch was held at the Rising Sun Grounds just below the Old Parliament Building.

Thousands were in attendance and the commission did not disappoint, putting on an entertaining show to the delight of the audiences both at the grounds and those at home watching via LIVE broadcast.

Minister of Creative Industries, Honorable Daryll Matthew, in his welcome address recalled that the country had been through difficult times because of the absence of carnival, due to the pandemic.

However, he shared that he is happy that Carnival is back in all its glory in 2023.

“For two years, we could not have Carnival but we are here now, 2023. We have gone through the most difficult time, but Carnival is back! We have gone through periods when we miss playing mas, but Carnival is back!

PRE-EVENTS		SCHEDULE OF EVENTS			
SAT	JUL. 22	MR. & MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT	WED	AUG. 2	JR PARTY MONARCH
SUN	JUL. 23	QUEEN OF CARNIVAL	THU	AUG. 3	CARIBBEAN MELTING POT
THU	JUL. 27	OFFICIAL OPENING	FRI	AUG. 4	CALYPSO MONARCH
FRI	JUL. 28	YOUTH RAVE	SAT	AUG. 5	PANORAMA
SAT	JUL. 29	T-SHIRT MAS	SUN	AUG. 6	PARTY MONARCH
SUN	JUL. 30	JR CARNIVAL / JR CALYPSO	MON	AUG. 7	J'OUVERT / CARNIVAL MONDAY
MON	JUL. 31	JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW	TUE	AUG. 8	PARADE OF THE BANDS / LAST LAP
TUE	AUG. 1	DRUE'S DAY / EMANCIPATION WATCH NIGHT			

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“We miss calypso, pan, steel band, soca, the Queen of Carnival, but Carnival is back! We have gone through periods when we could not have our Teenage Pageant, but Carnival is back!

“So I want to use this opportunity to welcome all of you here to Carnival 2023. I want to use this opportunity

to encourage you to participate in whatever part of Carnival you enjoy. Make this Carnival the best ever,” he extolled the audience.

During the launch the seven Queen of Carnival delegates were presented to the audience; their first public appearance since they were sashed last Thursday.

Antigua and Barbuda Art Week officially opens

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is introducing a number of events to broaden the product offerings of the country’s tourism.

The latest is the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Art week which officially opened on Sunday, at the Boom Restaurant at Gunpowder House at

English Harbour. Tourism Minister, Honorable Charles Fernandez and ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James, were among officials who participated in the opening exercises. In his remarks, James provided about what is to come during the remainder of the

week. “Ladies and Gentlemen, you are in for a treat! Live music and spoken word will fill the air, colourful and poignant displays of Antigua and Barbuda art will dot the landscape, dancers in bright, cultural wear will

cont'd on pg 8



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES

POST OF DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the post of **Director of Finance** at the University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Antigua.

Candidate should have a Master's Degree in Accounting, Finance or related fields of Business, be a member of a recognised professional body of Accountants and, have wide experience, (preferably in a University) of budgetary control, leadership of financial team,, and the application of modern accounting principles for effective governance of the financial structure of the campus. Additionally, experience in the use of Banner software would be an asset.

The Director of Finance is the Chief Financial Officer of the Campus and is responsible to the Principal for the general administration and control of the financial affairs of the Campus. The Director of Finance has responsibility for the overall management of the Bursary, and in particular, he/she is expected to oversee/manage the execution of the revenue generation plans for the Five Islands Campus. The Director of Finance is also responsible for the submission of accurate, timely and appropriate financial statements, statistics, reports and other information and advice, and the development, implementation and maintenance of accounting and financial policies and systems, as well as the financial management of special projects and fund-raising activities.

The successful applicant must demonstrate a working knowledge of the operations of financial institutions, and will be expected to work closely with the University Bursar who is responsible for the overall financial affairs of the University. He/she will assist in the preparation of annual and biennial estimates, financial reports, annual accounts, and other financial and accounting matters within the framework of the Financial Code of the University of the West Indies.

*The successful applicant will be expected to assume duties by **August 1, 2023 or as soon as possible thereafter**. The closing date for receipt of applications is **April 20, 2023***

An attractive salary package is offered. Full details of the remuneration package may be obtained from the Office of Administration by contacting us on **email:**

hrapplications@uwimona.edu.jm). Detailed applications giving **i)** full particulars of qualifications and experience, biodata; and **ii)** the names, titles, mailing and e-mail addresses, fax and telephone numbers of three (3) referees should be sent as soon as possible to the: **UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR, OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION, THE VICE CHANCELLERY, UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST INDIES, MONA, KINGSTON 7, JAMAICA, W.I., E-mail: hrapplications@uwimona.edu.jm.**

The University of the West Indies thanks all applicants, however, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

A&B cadets return after successful tour

The Antigua and Barbuda cadets who completed a tour of the United Kingdom, have returned to the country.

The UK High Commission's Office in St. John's, which organized the trip, reported that Cadet Lance Corporal Dante Browne and Cadet Corporal Daena Bird and their chaperone Regimental Sergeant Major (WO2) Vaughn Charles returned to Antigua and Barbuda last week, following their successful exchange tour in the United Kingdom, which was hosted by the Cumbria Army Cadet Force.

The British High Commission said it is grateful to Chief of Defense Staff – Colonel Telbert Benjamin, Commandant ABDF Cadets - Major Samuel

Roberts, Former Commandant ABDF Cadets - Major Alando Michael and their support team for not only hosting the Cumbria Army Cadet Force in October of 2022, but for their continued show of support for the exchange programme as well.

The High Commission also commended the Commandant Cumbria Army Cadet Force, Colonel Guy Harnby, and his team for hospitably hosting Cadet Bird and Browne and Regimental Sergeant Major Charles during their visit to the United Kingdom.

The High Commission said it continues to salute both cadets for making a significant impression during their visit.



Cadet Lance Corporal Dante Browne (left), Cadet Corporal Daena Bird and their chaperone Regimental Sergeant Major (WO2) Vaughn Charles (middle)



cont'd from pg 6

burst out at national landmarks, and inspired spectators will pick up paint brushes for interactive painting sessions with featured artists during the week. Here are just a few of the exciting things happening this week. Students in Antigua and Barbuda between the ages of 5 – 17, were encouraged to participate in the Antigua and Barbuda Art Week Schools' Art Competition being held under the theme 'Culture in Colour'. We sincerely believe the Art Week competition will motivate our students to take inspiration from Antigua and Barbuda's culture when creating art," he stated.

Unfolding over seven days from April 16 through April 22, 2023, the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Art Week will unite the country's greatest talents for a colourful and musical celebration of all things art and culture. A packed slate of engaging attractions will be complemented by a robust offering of interactive events for spectators, including art workshops, studio



tours, an outdoor movie screening, and over 30 artists exhibiting at the Boom at Gunpowder House and the V.C. Bird International Airport, all around the theme of "Culture in Colour".

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Opinion



Fishing for fight and flying fish

By **Tony Deyal**

The Irish playwright, George Bernard Shaw, believed, “If you want to tell people the truth, you’d better make them laugh or they’ll kill you.” This is why I write a humorous column. Then the Spanish philosopher, George Santayana, took it from yesterday to today and tomorrow, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

I was going to stop there and call this column “George”, then I saw a newspaper article about the fishy business that has raised its humongous head, bigger than even a whale shark, once more in the Caribbean. Before we get into the guts of the issue, I quote one of the great Caribbean leaders, another George, Sir George Alleyne, former head of PAHO (Pan American Health Organisation) who advised, “Forget the past - the future will give you plenty to worry about.”

While a fish that is not smart is called a dumb bass, I didn’t know any fish that is as dumb as the two Caribbean governments which went to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague, Netherlands, to resolve a conflict between Barbadians and TNT (Trinidad and Tobago).

What was it about? Not frying fish but flying fish. In early 2000, flying fish moved south of Barbados to Tobago. Barbadians who made a living from that industry had no choice but to follow the fish. TNT exploded. The legal officer of the Foreign Ministry insisted that TNT did not want a big bunch of boats from Barbados to descend “on our waters”. TNT coast guards arrested two Bajan fishermen and confiscated their catch. The Barbados prime minister made it clear that he would not let TNT take advantage of ordinary citizens of his country. Both sides supposedly won when the

arbitration eventually ended in 2006. However, as one Barbadian lady responded, “(They) draw a line in the ocean over flying fish! Mi dead!”

Now the All Tobago Fisherfolk Association (AFTA) has written to the Tobago-born, TNT prime minister to deal with the Bajan fishermen. The AFTA president said “enough is enough”. So, as the past repeats itself, this was my view in 2003 and repeat it today for the those Caribbean people who see the parts as parts, but with a feeling of, and for, the whole region.

PARABLE OF THE FISHES

Flying fish are very smart creatures. While we extol the intellectual capacity of whales and dolphins, the flying fish are forgotten. This is to ignore both language and ecological fact. The term for a group of whales can be “group” and in some special cases like the Orca “pods”. The use of the term “group” by whales to mean “group” shows that they are prosaic in the extreme and much of the intellectual capacity of their large brains is devoted to getting caught and supported in splendour by Sea World. Some are known as “pods”, but this is also the term for groups of dolphins. Again, there is a certain lack of imagination in these species. Flipper notwithstanding, they seem destined for Disneyland.

The flying fish are different. Perhaps because they travel in schools they have an intellectual dimension that the other marine creatures lack. This is why, once upon a time, all the flying fish of the Caribbean got together to launch a major initiative, the Caribbean Single Marine Ecology (CSME). Refusing to be bound by national economic zones and frontiers, the flying fish decided that they were one Caribbean and they should come and go as they please. In that, they preceded and even pre-empted the Car-



Tony Deyal

ibs and Arawaks for whom the entire Caribbean was home long before Columbus brought the Bible, slavery and syphilis with him’

While there was hardly a ripple at the sub-surface level, there were many waves. First, there was Barbados which had dared call itself ‘The Land of the Flying Fish’ without asking permission from the fish. While the fish felt proud of being so honoured, they also did not like to be compromised or tied down. The Caribbean was theirs and they wanted to be free to swim wherever and whenever they pleased. Sometimes, when they spoke, the inevitable Barbadian accent was noticeable and drew comments from other fish, but generally they were allowed to roam the regional waters, caricom-ing and carigoing, without let, hindrance, passport or the inevitable caricomess. “Oi from Oistins,” one flying fish confided, “but oi am now a Caribbean Seatizen.”

ALSO A PROBLEM

TNT was also a problem. A few fish processors in Tobago wanted to make a killing both of the fish and the Barbadians who were forced to buy back fish they considered their own. The Trinis sniggered at the discomfi-

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cont'd from 10

ture of the Barbadians and their embarrassment of having to buy Tobago flying fish to keep alive the myth that Barbados was the land of the flying fish. Soon, there was a complete role reversal. The fish had a whale of a time enjoying the wider waters. Not so the humans. The philosophers of the flying fish schools divided the two warring human factions into carps and snappers. One group carped and the other snapped. The fish enjoyed the respite, flying around to their hearts' content, unconcerned about embargoes and trade agreements.

As fish, their perspective was personal and they saw everything on a scale of one to 10. They gave the dispute "one" in terms of content and significance, but hoped it would continue for as long as possible. They did not like their companions being fried and

converted into "cutters" (Barbadian sandwiches), and welcomed the Coast Guard cutters as they guarded their precious feeding grounds which had become grounds for contention and confrontation. In fact, they were quite relieved when they heard one of the protagonists in the dispute say that he had other fish to fry.

The flying fish were philosophical. "Every dogfish will have his day," they thought to themselves, "Today is ours. Tomorrow, who knows?" They had hoped that by going beyond the national boundaries and territorial waters they would start a trend that the other inhabitants of the region, the flippered, finned and feeted, would enthusiastically follow. Now they realised they were wrong. By daring to choose to create one Caribbean Sea, they were now deepening the dread divide that keeps the islands separate and apart.

However, while things were going swimmingly for them, what happened to everyone else was no longer their concern. It was water under the bridge.

In Barbados, and in Trinidad and Tobago, nobody had a fish-eye view of events and the situation deteriorated with threats and counter-threats on both sides, accusations of lies and damned lies and, like a beached whale, the whole matter was blown and bloated out of proportion. The sardines all saw themselves as sharks, hammerheads to be exact. And now they're back again threatening the Bajans.

Tony Deyal was last seen saying if this story has a moral, it is that there are times when the big fish in little ponds must venture into the deeper waters where they will learn that unless we swim together we will sink separately. Instead of the fishes feeding us, we will feed the fishes.



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CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

Twitter staff cuts leave Russian trolls unchecked

By Grigor Atanesian

Hundreds of Russian and Chinese state propaganda accounts are thriving on Twitter after Elon Musk wiped out the team that fought these networks, the BBC has found.

The unit worked to combat “information operations”, coordinated campaigns by countries such as Russia, China, and Iran, made to influence public opinion and disrupt democracy.

But experts and former employees say the majority of these specialists resigned or were laid off, leaving the platform vulnerable to foreign manipulation. The BBC has spoken to several of them. They asked for anonymity, citing non-disclosure agreements and threats they received online.

“The whole human layer has been wiped out. All Twitter has left are automated detections systems,” a former senior employee said.

In a BBC interview on Tuesday, Musk claimed there was “less misinformation [on Twitter] rather than more” under his tenure. He did not comment on active state troll farms on the platform nor the team that used to fight them.

We approached Twitter for comment but received no response other than a poo emoji - the standard auto-reply from the company to any press enquiry.



Accounts meddling into the Brexit debate and US selections were in part managed from this office building in St Petersburg, Russia.

‘Troll farms’

Organised groups of people posting coordinated messages are called ‘troll farms.’ The term was first used by Russian reporters who exposed one of roughly 300 paid employees run by Yevgeny Prigozhin, head of the Wagner mercenary group.

Since then, troll farms influencing elections and public opinion have been uncovered in many countries, from Poland and Turkey to Brazil and Mexico. They have also been used as a propaganda tool in ethnic conflicts and wars.

Now, a new group of Russian trolls is active on Twitter.

It supports Putin’s war in Ukraine, ridicules Kyiv and the West, and attacks independent Russian-language publications, including the BBC Russian Service. Many of these trolls’ accounts have been suspended, but dozens are still active.

Darren Linvill, associate professor at the Clemson University Media Forensics Hub in South Carolina, says the network appears to originate from Prigozhin’s troll factory.

Mr Linvill and his colleagues have also discovered two similar Russian-language troll networks, but from an opposite camp. One tweets in support of Ukraine, and another promotes Russian opposition, including the jailed Putin critic Alexey Navalny.

While they have all the markings of troll accounts, including random numbers in the Twitter handles and coordinated behaviour, these networks appear to remain undetected by the platform.

The Clemson University team is also tracking pro-Chinese accounts targeting users in both Chinese and English about issues of importance to the Chinese government.

With only a skeleton crew remaining, Twitter does not have resources to swiftly detect, attribute and take down this foreign propaganda, according to former employees.

While the platform also established partnerships with research institutions that detected information operations, scholars say they have not heard anything from Twitter since November.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis signs six-week abortion ban into law



Pro-choice activists marching in Miami, Florida on 24 June.

By Alys Davies

Florida's Republican Governor Ron DeSantis has signed a bill banning most abortions after six weeks, paving the way for drastic changes in access to the procedure across the state.

Opponents argue six weeks is before many women know they are pregnant.

The law will not go into effect until a court rules on an ongoing legal challenge to the existing 15-week ban.

"We are proud to support life and family in the state of Florida," the governor said in a statement.

He claimed the law would "defend the dignity of human life and transform Florida into a pro-family state".

The state has been a safe haven for those seeking abortion in the country's south-east since *Roe v Wade* - which gave women in the US the constitutional right to abortion - was overturned last year.

The state's current 15-week limit on abortion is one of the most lenient in the south-east, with many travelling from other states to Florida to have the

procedure.

The six-week ban makes exceptions for abortions in cases of rape or incest, as long as the woman can provide documentation such as a police report or a restraining order.

Mr DeSantis signed the bill late Thursday night just hours after Florida's Republican-led House of Representatives approved the ban on Thursday, with 70 voting for and 40 voting against. It had been passed in the state Senate on 3 April.

"A woman's right to choose, I've heard people talk about that," Republican lawmaker Kiyon Michael said during the debate, as quoted by CNN. "Well, that right to choose begins before you have sex."

In a statement shortly after Mr DeSantis signed the bill, the Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates said the ban's exceptions for rape or incest would not provide "meaningful access to patients in need".

The group argued the bill as a whole would "shut down a critical abortion access point for millions

across the southeast, Caribbean, and Central and South America".

The fate of the new six-week abortion law is still contingent upon another ruling from Florida's Supreme Court.

Florida's highest court is hearing a challenge brought by abortion clinics to the state's existing 15-week ban. The latest law signed by Mr DeSantis contains language that says the six-week ban would only go into effect if Florida's highest court upholds the 15-week law that is already in place.

Florida's conservative Supreme Court is expected to side with anti-abortion activists and rule the 15-week ban is constitutional.

National debate over abortion in the US has been raging since a federal judge suspended the original approval of a widely used abortion drug, mifepristone, last week.

That suspension was later blocked by an appellate court, and the Biden administration has said it will ask the Supreme Court to restore full access to the drug.

Shyne slams Belize's travel stance on Haitian and Jamaican nationals

By *Melissa Wong*

Belize's Opposition has denounced what it says is the Briceno Administration's violation of the CARICOM free movement rights of Jamaican and Haitian Nationals guaranteed under the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

This follows an announcement made in late March in which Cabinet determined that Belize will invoke Article 226 (a) of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which will allow for the Minister of Immigration to immediately impose a visa requirement for Haitians wishing to visit Belize and to require Jamaican nationals to provide evidence of fully paid non-refundable hotel reservations prior to boarding flights to Belize.

In a statement, Opposition leader Shyne Barrow said these rights have been tested and affirmed all the way to the CCJ in 2013 when the CCJ ruled that Shanique Myrie, as a CARICOM national, had a right of entry to any CARICOM Nation under a 2007 decision by the conference of heads of government on the free movement of citizens within the community, without harassment or undue impediments.

The opposition said the Briceno Administration must not lead Belize down a path of whimsical deci-



Opposition Leader of Belize, Shyne Barrow.

sion making that will undermine the institution of CARICOM, the objective of regional integration and our ultimate aspirations for a single market economy.

"Visa requirements for Haitians is discriminatory and violates their rights to hassle free movement guaranteed by our CARICOM agreements and affirmed by the CCJ.

Requiring anything more, such as non refundable accommodation that places undue economic burdens, from Jamaican Nationals traveling to Belize than you would another CARICOM National was explicitly frowned upon by the CCJ," said the opposition leader.

The opposition said

the Briceno Administration must ensure Belize is a committed member of the CARICOM Community and find solutions derived from meaningful deliberations with all the Heads of States that are in keeping with the framework of regional integration and the single market economy.

It ended by stating: "Lest we find ourselves increasingly isolated and a threat to the CARICOM community successive Governments of Belize have helped to build."

Prime Minister John Briceno in response to the opposition's criticism during a recent interview with local media said he believes the opposition leader is suffering from at-

tention deficit disorder and just wants attention.

The prime minister said Barrow knows what is happening, 'we did not take this lightly.'

"Utterly it is his father, the prime minister then, that required Haitians to get a Visa coming to Belize contrary to the Treaty of Chaguaramas. I do not remember or recall the opposition of the leader back then calling out the UDP saying that you're moving contrary to the Treaty of Chaguaramas.

It is our government that said you know we need to implement the Treaty of Chaguaramas and to remove the Visa waiver."

Meanwhile, in relation to Jamaican Nationals, the prime minister said Belize is seeing the same trend but it is not as pronounced as the Haitian nationals.

"So what we again have said that it is something we are considering, we have not done it as yet. But what we agreed to, the Minister of Immigration has said that he will be speaking with the Ministry of Tourism in Belize and also with his counterpart for the Foreign Minister of Jamaica and the Minister of Immigration to see how best we can address this.

We welcome Jamaicans to come to Belize and as I said earlier Jamaica has

cont'd on pg 15

Narcotics found near beach in St. Kitts and Nevis

Loop - Police in St Kitts and Nevis have seized a quantity of drug contraband suspected to be Hashish, which was found on the Southeast Peninsula.

According to reports on April 13, acting on information received, police personnel at the Frigate Bay Police Station, ANU officers journeyed to Turtle Beach on the Southeast Peninsula.

There, they encountered one brown package that was observed to have been emitting a strong smell of Cannabis. The RSCNPF's Crime

Scene Investigation Unit took evidential photographs of the scene and the suspected narcotics.

The suspected contraband was taken into Police custody where a further inspection revealed three packages containing 60 transparent packages containing a brown substance suspected to be Hashish. The contraband weighed in at 30 Kg.

To date, no citizen or resident has been held accountable for the find.

Investigations into the matter are ongoing.



Drugs found along the Southeast Peninsula in St Kitts and Nevis.

Bahamas: Bodies found in apartment, person of interest in custody

CMC - Police in The Bahamas say a 23-year-old man is assisting their investigations after the partially decomposed bodies of two female family members were found in an apartment on Friday.

"Police responded and on arrival to the residence, they had to breach the door to get inside as the door was locked.

"Upon entering the apartment, they discovered two females partially decomposed with what appeared to be lacerations



to the upper body," police press liaison chief, Superintendent Chrislyn Skippings told reporters.

A police statement said

that quick response by Criminal Investigation Department officers led to the arrest of a suspect and that the victims may have been

dead for more than a day.

The police have since warned people to be aware of those with whom they associate.

"I know sometimes we as a Bahamian people, we want to give people second chances – we have to know who they are. At some point, you may hear a voice saying to you this is going in the wrong direction – you have to listen to it."

The killings come less than a week after three people were murdered during a 24-hour period.

cont'd from pg 14

been a close ally of Belize from the start of our nationalist movement. We've had this history together. We work together... and Prime Minister Holness and myself we are personal friends... From time to time we call one another and so it is not something we are just going to do just on a whim.

It is something we are trying to find how best to address that issue of Jamaicans that come to Belize for them to be able to go to the United States.

So that decision has not been made... it is a decision we are looking at, we are discussing it with the Ministry of Tourism, Foreign minis-

ter, Minister of Immigration... he has been in contact with his counterparts in Jamaica."

Meanwhile, Minister of Foreign Affairs for Belize, Eamon Courtenay, tweeted on Thursday: "There are no restrictions on Jamaicans wishing to visit Belize. Unu welcome so pull up!"

Sudan crisis: Further fierce fighting as clashes spread



Thick black smoke was seen over Khartoum (satellite image ©2023 Maxar Technologies)

By Robert Plummer

Fierce clashes have been reported across Sudan as fighting between rival armed factions continues to spread.

The escalation came on the second day of clashes between the army and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) paramilitaries which have now left at least 59 dead.

The Sudanese army said it had taken hold of RSF bases in Port Sudan, Kasala, Kadaref, Demazin and Kosti.

The RSF claimed to occupy sites in Omdurman and Darfur, as well as Merowe Airport in the north.

But later accounts indicated that the army had regained control of the airport, with the military saying they were dealing with “small pockets of rebels”.

Witnesses in Sudan told Reuters news agency that the army appeared to be gaining the upper hand in the country’s power struggle after blasting RSF bases with air strikes.

Earlier, the two sides observed a temporary humanitarian ceasefire to allow the wounded to be evacuated.

It followed complaints from doctors’ unions that it was difficult for medics and sick people to get to and from hospitals while the fighting was raging.

The brief pause in the fighting came as a chorus of international voices called for a permanent end to the violence.

Leading Arab states and the US have also urged a resumption of talks aimed at restoring a civilian government, while the African Union has announced that it is sending its top diplomat, Moussa Faki Mahamat, to try to negotiate a ceasefire.

Egypt and South Sudan also offered to mediate between the warring factions, according to a statement by the Egyptian presidency.

For its part, the UN World Food Programme has suspended its opera-

tions in Sudan after three of its workers were killed on Saturday.

The RSF, led by Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, has claimed to control key sites in the capital, Khartoum.

However, that assertion was rejected by Sudan’s leader, Gen Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, who heads the country’s governing Sovereign Council.

Sudan state television is reported to have stopped transmissions, but it was not immediately clear what caused the break in programming.

Sudan has been run by a council of generals since a coup overthrew the country’s long-standing authoritarian president, Omar al-Bashir, in 2019.

The violence broke out on Saturday after days of tensions over the roadmap for the country’s transition to civilian rule.

One of the main sticking points is over the plans to incorporate the 100,000-strong RSF into the army and who would then lead the new force.

Dubai fire: Sixteen killed in blaze at Al-Ras apartment building

BBC - Sixteen people are dead and nine others injured after a fire at a residential building in Dubai, local media report.

The blaze happened in the Al-Ras area, one of the oldest parts of Dubai. It is home to many migrant workers and traders.

The fire broke out on the fourth floor of the five-storey building, according to local media reports.

Dubai Civil Defence said it was caused by a lack of compliance with building security and safety requirements.

Fire crews arrived on the scene at 12:41 local time (09:41 GMT) on Saturday.

The Al-Ras area is near the city's gold and spice markets, which are popular tourist attractions.

Dubai Civil Defence told UAE newspaper The National that an investigation into the deadly blaze was under way.



The fire happened near the Dubai Creek in one of the oldest parts of the city.

It said it was important that “residential and commercial building owners and residents” fully comply “with security and safety requirements and guidelines to avoid accidents and protect people’s lives”.

Among the dead are four Indian and three Pakistani nationals, local media say.

Salinga Gudu told The National

that his brother Gudu Saliyakoonda, a watchman from India’s Tamil Nadu state, had died trying to save residents inside the building.

“I was so scared because that is the building my brother works in. He went up to help and never came back down,” he said.

No-one has yet been arrested as part of the investigation.

Hike for the Cure

Saturday, 29 April, 2023 | 5:30 am

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For more information on registration contact **Natasha Charles** at 484-5137 or **Khadijah James** at 484-5064.

All funds raised will be donated to Breast Friends and The Oncology Department at The Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Centre.

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Fumio Kishida vows G7 security boost after smoke bomb

By **Mattea Bubalo**

Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has vowed to boost security as ministers from overseas visit the country, after an apparent smoke bomb was thrown at him.

He was evacuated unharmed on Saturday from a public event, with witnesses describing a person throwing an object, followed by smoke and a loud bang.

Japan hosts ministers from the world's seven richest nations on Sunday.

Mr Kishida said the country must "maximise its efforts" on security.

"At a time when high-ranking officials from all over the world are visiting... Japan as a whole

needs to maximise its efforts to ensure security and safety," Mr Kishida told reporters on Sunday.

"It's unforgivable such a violent act was committed during an election campaign," he added.

Also on Sunday, police said a 24-year-old suspect detained at the scene had been carrying a knife and a possible second explosive device.

After the incident, which happened during a campaign event in Wakayama, Mr Kishida addressed a crowd in another location, saying: "I'd like to apologise for worrying many people and causing them trouble."

Video from Japan's public broadcaster NHK



The moment the smoke bomb flew towards PM Kishida, who has his back turned.

showed officers piling on top of a person, believed to be the suspect, as people ran away from the scene.

A dramatic photo showed the moment the device flew through the air.

The person was arrested on suspicion of obstruction of business and later identified by authorities as 24-year-old Ryuji Kimura. The motivation for the apparent attack is still unclear.

He was carrying a knife when he was arrested and a possible second explosive device that he dropped after bystanders and police tackled him, Kyodo news agency reported.

Violent attacks are extremely rare in Japan. But there is nervousness about security around politicians after former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was shot dead while on the campaign trail last year.



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**CEDAR GROVE
SPORTS COMPELX** **6pm-
8pm**

**YORKS BASKETBALL
COURT** **4pm-
8pm**

Friday April 21st

Saturday April 22nd

**CEDAR GROVE
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Sunday April 23rd

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John Hughes strengthen position; Lion Hill drop crucial points in first division promotion race

John Hughes strengthened their position while Lion Hill dropped crucial points in their quest to claim the last automatic spot to join First Division winners Garden Star in gaining promotion to the premier division next season.

Troy Jules and Deno Bryan each scored twice to propel John Hughes to a 5-1 drubbing of Bolans at the Bolans playing field.

Jules scored in the 16th and 90th minute while Bryan had conversions in the 29th and 76th minute. The other goal for John Hughes was scored by Garcel Morrison in the 37th minute. Dennison Stevenson scored a consolation goal for Bolans in the 85th minute.

Their 11th win in 19 matches lifted John Hughes to 36 points and ensured they remain in second place, the other position to gain automatic promotion to the premier division at the end of the season.

Bolans slipped to fourth from bottom of the 12-team competition on goal difference after crashing to their 9th loss in 18 matches to remain on 19 points.

Lion Hill, who inflicted the first defeat on Garden Stars for the season by pulling off a 2-1 win over the first division winners in their previous outing, were brought back down to earth by slumping to a 1-0 loss to host Bendals in the latest round of matches.

Okeski Ledeatte scored the lone goal of the match in the 77th minute to give Bendals a 1-0 victory over Lion Hill. Their 10th win in 19 matches allows Bendals to overtake Lion Hill into third place as they advanced to 33 points.



The Lion Hill football team. (File photo)

Their fifth loss in 19 matches has caused Lion Hill to slip from third to fifth place on goal difference as they remain on 32 points.

A 32nd minute conversion by Joel Lynch gave Green City a 1-0 win against Young Lions at Bendals on Friday. Their 10th win in 17 matches has lifted Green City to 32 points, the same as Lion Hill. However, Green City will move ahead of Lion Hill into fourth place by virtue of a superior goal difference.

Young Lions have slipped from sixth to seventh place after suffering their 11th loss in 19 matches to remain on 24 points.

Fort Road overtake Young Lions into sixth place after securing a 1-1 draw with West Ham at the Fort Road playing field on Friday. Michael Richards scored in the 54th minute to equalize for West Ham after a 19th minute conversion by Alren Lewis had given Fort Road a 1-0 halftime lead.

The result lifted Fort Road to 25 points from 18 matches, while West Ham remain second from bottom as

they advanced to 10 points from 17 outings.

Garden Stars, who have already been crowned winners of the First Division, came from behind to record their 17th win in 19 outings by romping to a 5-1 win against Police at the English Harbour playing field.

Allan Martin scored twice for Garden Stars with goals in the 72nd and 77th minute. The other goals for Garden Stars were converted by Courtney Clarke in the 19th minute, Sedique Adams in the 32nd minute and Karique Knight in the 74th minute.

Chad Vidal had scored in the 12th minute to give Police a surprising 1-0 lead. Garden Stars increased their unassailable lead as they advanced to 52 points, 16 points ahead of John Hughes in second place.

Police will remain in 8th place on 23 points after suffering their seventh loss in 18 encounters.

Potters Tigers advanced to fourth from bottom on goal difference after pulling off a 4-2 victory over bottom

cont'd on pg 21

Crushers gets first win in T20 explosion

Pigotts Crushers claimed their first win in two matches by pulling off a 41-run victory against the New Winthorpes Lions in their encounter in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday.

Pigotts Crushers made 145 for six off their 20 overs with Chris Greves getting a top score of 36 off 24 balls. Jewell Andrew contributed 30 off 25 balls and Captain Elroy Francis Jr chipped in with 23 off 20 balls. The Lions' captain and fast bowler Nino Henry captured three for 25.

Chasing 146 to win, New Winthorpes Lions crashed to 104 all out in 18.2 overs. Michael Leask made 42 off 36 balls with three fours and two sixes. Elroy Francis Jr grabbed four for 21 and pacer Shalome Parnell snapped up three for 17.

All Saints Pythons had trounced Pigotts Crushers by 54 runs in their opening affair on Friday. Overseas players Christopher McBride and opener Liam Naylor slammed half centuries to power All Saints Pythons to 190 for four off their 20 overs.

McBride hammered 59 off 41 balls with seven fours and a six and shared in a 69-run third wicket partnership with Naylor, who smashed 51 off 40 balls with four fours and a six.

McBride was also involved in a 56-run fourth-wicket stand with Matthew Forde, who slammed an unbeaten 37 off 23 balls with three sixes and a four.

Naylor added 44 runs for the second wicket with Shane Burton, who



Captain Elroy Francis, 3rd left, leads his Pigotts Crushers team off the field after claiming victory over New Winthorpes Lions in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday. (CST20)

made 22 off 20 balls with three fours and a six. Shalome Parnell captured two for 36.

Pigotts Crushers were then restricted to 134 for seven off their 20 overs. Jewell Andrew top scored with 46 off 39 balls with four fours and a six while captain Elroy Francis Jr struck 26 off 29 balls.

Opener Essan Warner and Chris Greves each made 17. Forde claimed two for 13 and off-spinner Demetri Lucas took two for 28.

New Winthorpes Lions had claimed a 21-run win against Jennings Tigers in their opening encounter on Friday.

New Winthorpes made 131 all out in 19.5 overs. Bartlette Henry slammed 42 off 48 balls, Michael Palmer struck 35 not out off 32 balls and captain Nino Henry got 21 off nine balls.

Jedidiah Martin captured three for 33, Ben Sexton claimed three for 34 and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams picked up two wickets for nine runs.

In reply, Jennings Tigers were restricted to 110 for seven off their 20 overs. Captain Paul Miller top scored with 31 off 28 balls while D'Ahri Francis and Martin each made 18. Mikkel Govia picked up three for 13 and Ismael Peters took two for 21.

cont'd from pg 20

team JSC Progressors at the Potters playing field.

Delon Moore scored twice for Potters with goals in the 30th and 53rd minute while their other goals were

scored by Watendy Grayman in the second minute of added on time in the first half (45+2 minutes) and Ordel Samuel in the 90th minute.

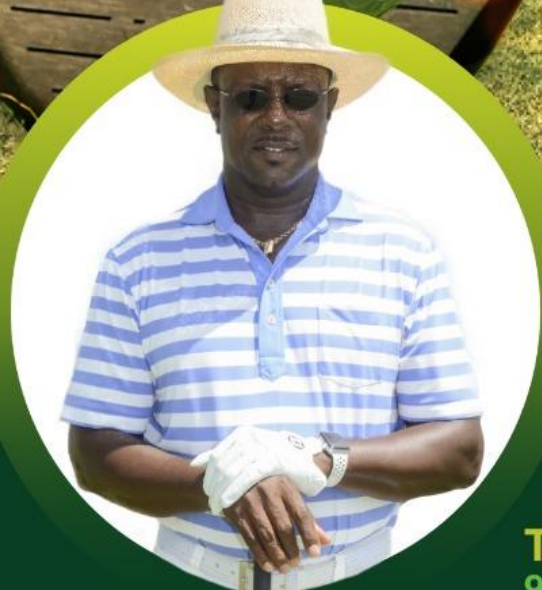
Elmore Lewis had a

28th minute conversion and Andre Williams scored in the 69th minute for JSC Progressors, who remain in the cellar position on six points after crashing to their 14th loss in 18 outings.

Potters will join Bolans on 19 points after recording their fifth win in 19 matches. However, Potters will overtake Bolans into 9th place by virtue of a superior goal difference.



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Villa Lions crash to second 4-3 defeat in premier league group phase

Villa Lions' chances of finishing among the top two teams in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League ended on Saturday night.

For the second successive week, Villa Lions suffered a 4-3 defeat, this time at the hands of SAP, during their second Group 3 encounter in the second game of a triple header at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Shaquan Telemaque scored a hat-trick for SAP after his team-mate Danneil Osbourne had given their team a 1-0 halftime lead with a 14th minute conversion.

Following the interval, Telemaque scored twice in a three-minute span with goals in the 52nd and 54th minute to give SAP a 3-0 lead. Villa Lions' midfielder Sean Tomlinson scored his first of two goals in the 63rd minute to reduce the deficit.

But Telemaque restored SAP's three-goal advantage when he scored in the 65th minute to complete his hat-trick. Midfielder Dajari Barthley converted a penalty for Villa in the 68th minute and Tomlinson scored his second goal of the match in the seventh minute of added on time (90+7 minutes) to make it 4-3.

But SAP held on to secure their 8th win in 17 matches to advance to 26 points with one game re-



The SAP FC starting X1 in one of their premier league encounter earlier this season. SAP stunned Villa Lions 4-3 in their encounter at the ABFA's Technical Center on Saturday, 15th April, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

maining. Their fourth loss in 17 matches has left Villa Lions rooted in third place on 37 points with only one game remaining.

The latest result means that Villa Lions will finish third since they can only attain a maximum of 40 points, which has already been attained by league leaders Jennings Grenades on 42 points from 16 matches and second place team All Saints United on 40 points from 16 encounters.

Pigotts Bullets and Empire recorded wins in the other two matches on Saturday. Bullets beat Tryum 3-0 in Group 4 in the opening

encounter. The goals were scored by Isaac Hughes in the 20th minute, Joseph Jacobs in the 26th minute and Kimon Harrigan in the 64th minute.

Their fifth win of the season lifted Bullets to 20 points with one game remaining while Tryum will remain on 25 points with one game left.

Forward Rakeem Joseph scored a hat-trick as Empire came from behind to trounce bottom team Liberta Black Hawks 5-1 in Group 1 in Saturday's feature match.

Joseph had conversions in the 25th minute, the sec-

ond minute of added on time in the first half (45+2 minutes) and the 59th minute, while the other goals for Empire were scored by Elsworth Mack in the 53rd minute and Lauchand Thomas in the 83rd minute.

Makhai Browne had given the Liberta Black Hawks a 1-0 lead with a 21st minute conversion.

Their seventh win in 17 matches has lifted Empire to 24 points with one game remaining, while Liberta who will be relegated to the first division next season, remain rooted in the cellar position without a point with one game left.



MATCH SCHEDULE

APRIL 13TH - APRIL 29TH

THURSDAY APR 13TH

4:30PM	Liberta Blackhawks	VS	Empire Nation
8:30PM	Bethesda Golden Eagles	VS	Bolans Blasters

FRIDAY APR 14TH

4:30PM	Jennings Tigers	VS	New Winthorpes Lions
8:30PM	Pigotts Crushers	VS	All Saints Pythons

SATURDAY APR 15TH

12:30PM	Liberta Blackhawks	VS	Bolans Blasters
4:30PM	New Winthorpes Lions	VS	Pigotts Crushers
8:30PM	Empire Nation	VS	Bethesda Golden Eagles

SUNDAY APR 16TH

12:30PM	All Saints Pythons	VS	Jennings Tigers
4:30PM	Bolans Blasters	VS	Pigotts Crushers
8:30PM	New Winthorpes Lions	VS	Liberta Blackhawks

MONDAY APR 17TH

4:30PM	Bolans Blasters	VS	Jennings Tigers
8:30PM	All Saints Pythons	VS	Bethesda Golden Eagles

TUESDAY APR 18TH

4:30PM	Jennings Tigers	VS	Empire Nation
8:30PM	Liberta Blackhawks	VS	Pigotts Crushers

WEDNESDAY APR 19TH

12:30PM	New Winthorpes Lions	VS	Bethesda Golden Eagles
4:30PM	All Saints Pythons	VS	Bolans Blasters
8:30PM	Liberta Blackhawks	VS	Jennings Tigers

THURSDAY APR 20TH

12:30PM	Pigotts Crushers	VS	Empire Nation
4:30PM	Liberta Blackhawks	VS	Bethesda Golden Eagles
8:30PM	All Saints Pythons	VS	New Winthorpes Lions

FRIDAY APR 21ST

4:30PM	Bethesda Golden Eagles	VS	Pigotts Crushers
8:30PM	New Winthorpes Lions	VS	Empire Nation

SATURDAY APR 22ND

4:30PM	All Saints Pythons	VS	Liberta Blackhawks
8:30PM	Empire Nation	VS	Bolans Blasters

MONDAY APR 24TH

2:30PM	All Saints Pythons	VS	Empire Nation
6:30PM	Jennings Tigers	VS	Pigotts Crushers

TUESDAY APR 25TH

4:30PM	New Winthorpes Lions	VS	Bolans Blasters
8:30PM	Bethesda Golden Eagles	VS	Jennings Tigers

THURSDAY APR 27TH

4:30PM	Semi-Final 1
8:30PM	Semi-Final 2

SATURDAY APR 29TH

4:30PM	Third Place Match
8:30PM	Finals



SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS CRICKET STADIUM





The Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad female volleyball team. (File photo)

Da Squad stay perfect in female volleyball league competition

Reigning female division champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad remained on course for a successful defense of their title in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABA-VA) Local Club League.

The unbeaten league leaders Da Squad notched

up their sixth win in as many outings by pulling off a straight-set 3-0 victory over former champions Paragons when both teams met at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Da Squad dominated the encounter on their way to recording a 25-5, 25-21, 26-24 victory over the

Paragons, who lost for the third time in six outings.

Newcomers Royal Cruisers grabbed their first win in five outings by claiming a 3-1 victory against North Coast Hardware Starz Juniors in their female division bottom of the table clash.

In a match-up which

brought together two teams with identical 0-4 records, having lost their previous four encounters, Royal Cruisers prevailed 25-22, 24-26, 25-15, 25-22 as Starz Juniors remain winless and in the cellar position after five outings.

But Royal Cruisers lost for the fifth time in six outings when they were beaten in straight sets by Starz Seniors who claimed their fifth win in six games to remain in second place behind Da Squad.

Starz Seniors coasted to their victory, prevailing 25-11, 25-18, 25-16 in the lopsided affair.

Stoneville recorded their second win in six appearances by securing a straight-set victory over bottom team North Coast Hardware Starz Juniors.

Stoneville dominated the game to win 25-10, 25-14, 25-11 against Starz Juniors, who lost for the sixth time in as many encounters.

cont'd from pg 26

Bethesda Golden Eagles in their second match on Saturday.

Bethesda made 128 for seven off their 50 overs. Captain Deran Benta struck 43 off 37 balls, Jamaul Fernandez made 34 off 30 balls and Nosthusha Kenjige scored 20.

Off-spinner Justin Athanaze claimed three for 19, left arm pacer Nathan Edwards picked up two wickets for eight runs and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie took two for 25.

Empire then achieved victory by scoring 129 for five with 11 balls to spare. Darren Nedd hammered an unbeaten 58 off 48 balls with five fours and three sixes. Opener Mikyle Louis chipped in with 29 off 21 balls. Veteran leg-spinner Anthony Martin picked up two wickets for seven runs.



James claims the Inet man of the match award for his brilliant century against the Bolans Blasters. (CST20)

Black Hawks make winning start in defense of T20 Explosion title

A brilliant century by all-rounder Kofi James propelled reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks to their second win in as many matches in defense of their Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion title.

James struck the first century of the tournament as the Black Hawks soared to a crushing 180-run victory over Bolans Blasters at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday.

James hammered 124 off 64 balls with 11 sixes and seven fours to lift the Black Hawks to 221 for two off their 20 overs. James shared in a 133-run second wicket partnership with Karima Gore, who struck an unbeaten 57 off 32 balls with six fours and two sixes.

James also put on 93 runs for the first wicket with fellow opener, Jamaican overseas player Leroy Lugg, who made 37 off 22 balls with four fours and two sixes.

In reply, Bolans Blasters were restricted to just 62 for seven off their 20 overs with Captain Kerry Mentore, who made 20, the only batsman to reach double figures.

Spinners Hayden Walsh Jr and Kadeem Phillip each picked up identical, two

wickets for five runs, while Dexter Sween picked up two wickets for 11 runs.

The Liberta Black Hawks and Bolans Blasters recorded wins in the opening matches of this year's competition on Thursday.

The Black Hawks soared to a four wicket-win over Empire Nation, who won the toss and batted, scoring 123 for six off their allotted 20 overs.

Tyrone Williams Jr top scored with 37 off 27 balls, fellow opener Mikyle Louis made 24 off 19 balls and Captain Kenrick Scott cracked 21. Off-spinner Kofi James claimed two for 13.

Liberta Black Hawks then achieved victory by scoring 126 for six with seven balls to spare. Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall slammed 29 off 19 balls, Karima Gore struck 26 off 21 balls and Joshua Thomas cracked 20 not out off 23 balls. Darren Nedd, Williams Jr and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie each picked up two wickets.

Bolans Blasters romped to an emphatic nine-wicket win against Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles.

Taiem Tonge snatched



Kofi James leaves the field after scoring a blistering century against Bolans Blasters in their match in the Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion Blasters at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday.

three for 17 as Bethesda were bowled out for 113 in 18.5 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat. Gavin Tonge top scored with 27 off 19 balls and Melvin Charles made 20.

Bolans then blasted their way to victory, racing to 114 for the loss of one wicket with 4.1 overs to spare.

Overseas-based play-

er, Scotland's Richard Berrington, slammed an unbeaten 66 off 49 balls with eight fours and two sixes. Orland Peters was not out on 27 off 24 balls and Kerry Mentore got 19.

Empire rebounded to record their first win of the tournament by securing a five-wicket victory over

cont'd from pg 25