

PM: 'NO PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO MIGRANT ISSUE'

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Activities marking the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Art Week continued with the opening of an exhibition at the Arrivals Hall at the VC Bird International Airport Terminal on Monday. First place winner in the 10-12 years category Alister Yhap, centre, displays his painting while receiving his prize. *Story on page 4*

Prime Minister Browne: 'No public inquiry into migrant issue'

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has reiterated his position that there is no need for a public inquiry into the issues surrounding the West African migrant issue that has gripped the country over the past several months.

Speaking in the House of Representatives on Monday in response to inquiries under the **Questions to the Prime Minister** item on the Order paper, PM Browne said all the relevant information on the issue 'are in the public domain' and therefore he will not be putting in place a public inquiry.

"This idea that there may have been some 'smoking gun' or circumstantial evidence of any form of wrongdoing by anyone member of the administration to warrant a public inquiry; there's none!" he declared.

He reiterated the point that the air-bridge was es-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne established between Antigua and Barbuda and Nigeria in good faith but that some capitalized on this opening to exploit the link with nefarious intentions; the smuggling of migrants into the United States. "None of us had any information about this. In fact, the operators of the airline tried to reach out to another Caribbean country but were turned down because the situation here

in Antigua and Barbuda was already publicized. It could have happened to any one of our countries," he further remarked.

PM Browne called upon the opposition member who raised the issue to provide even 'a scintilla of evidence of wrongdoing' so that he can make a determination on whether or not a public inquiry is necessary. "If there was evidence of col-

lusion in human trafficking or migrant smuggling, then fine, but you have not come up with any evidence," he stated.

The prime minister made the point that it was not what the opposition member may think or believe, but that there must be some evidence to verify that need for an expensive public inquiry.

"The reality is we have been very open. We brought in the IOM (International Organisation for Migration) we brought in the UN High Commission for Refugees and not one of them, of the more than one hundred interviewed, said they were part of any human trafficking ring. If they didn't say that to the international organization, do you think they will say that to a public inquiry? I don't think so!" he emphasized.

Industrial action by teachers affects schools' opening day

Public schools across Antigua and Barbuda opened their doors for the start of the third term of the academic year on Monday, but according to officials at the Ministry of Education operations in most of the schools were affected by industrial action spearheaded by the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (ABUT).

The officials said most of the country's secondary schools closed early as many teachers stayed away from the classrooms as part of the protest action

and that all the government's secondary schools except Sir Novelle Richards Academy and Glansville Secondary had to close early due to the industrial action.

Meanwhile, the ABUT is reporting that it met with the government negotiating team to discuss the new Collective Bargaining Agreement and that 'good progress has been made' in those discussions.

"The remaining issue is the up-

cont'd on pg 3



ABUT General Secretary Sharon Clifton-Kelsick

Buyers lining up to purchase Alfa Nero

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is the minister responsible for the Antigua Port Authority, which under law seized the Alfa Nero last Tuesday, has reported to parliament that there are several buyers with interest to purchase the vessel. PM Browne made the point during the parliamentary debate on Monday, where questions were poised regarding the vessel by Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle and the Barbuda Representative, Trevor Walker.

In responding to a question regarding the management and upkeep of the vessel, the prime minister said the government has now assumed responsibility for the weekly upkeep of the vessel including the payment of salaries of the crew, marina docking fees and fuel. However, he noted that as soon as the vessel is sold all the liabilities will be settled and the remaining funds paid into the treasury.

On the question of cost, PM Browne said the offers so far, range from US\$48 million to US\$60 million.

“We have a number of buyers already, and I am sure that within due course the boat will be sold, and those



outstanding bills will be settled,” he outlined.

In response to a question about how the selection was done for the management contract of the vessel, PM Browne explained that the Alfa Nero has been moored at the Antigua Yacht Club marina for more than a year and with no plans to move the vessel, it was natural to work out an arrangement with the company to assist with its management.

On the issue of the lifting of sanctions on the vessel, the country’s leader explained that this was a process involving the US government and that those

discussions have already begun. “As I indicated earlier, the sanctions will be lifted in due course and we are pretty sure that it will be done in short order and as a consequence, we will be able to retire all the liabilities and pay the remainder into the Consolidated Funds. There will be no net loss to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda,” he stated.

He further explained that getting the vessel de-listed as a sanctioned vessel is a process that has to be followed, but one that the government has already initiated.

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grades for the outstanding teachers (estimated by the ministry of education to be about 30) and the list has been sent to the ministry for the teachers to begin receiving their difference in salaries,” General Secretary Sharon Clifton-Kelsick stated.

She would not confirm the number of teachers whose upgrades are outstanding but indicated that until these payments are made the industrial action will continue. She reported that teachers have staged a ‘sit-in’ meaning that they

report to work but do not go into the classrooms to teach.

Over the weekend, Education Minister Daryll Matthew revealed that the payments for the 34 teachers who had monies owed to them as heads of department

were either paid or that their cheques were ready for collection at the ministry as of Monday.

Other demands by the teachers such as the fencing of a number of schools, including the SNRA had

already started. That work is estimated to cost over \$300,000. Security cameras at the schools are also being installed and that all secondary schools had lighting systems in place to assist with security at nights.

<p>Tue 18 Day</p> <p>83° </p> <p>12% E 13 mph</p> <p>Mostly sunny skies. High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p>		<p>Tue 18 Night</p> <p>75° </p> <p>13% E 11 mph</p> <p>Mostly clear skies. Low near 75F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p> Humidity 66%</p>	<p> UV Index Extreme</p>	<p> Humidity 75%</p>	<p> UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p> Sunrise 5:49 am</p>	<p> Sunset 6:23 pm</p>	<p> Moonrise 4:44 am</p>	<p> Moonset 5:09 pm</p>
<p> Waning Crescent</p>			

Attorney General responds to legal ruling

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin has sought to clear the air regarding a ruling by a High Court judge last week, that is being used to suggest that the government will soon be saddled with huge legal fees.

The matter involved the case where a man has been charged under the Sexual Offences Act and where the defense attorney argued that the charge was null and void, as the matter was brought by the police prosecution team without the written consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions, as prescribed by the Criminal Prosecutions Services Act of 2017.



Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin

The magistrate dismissed the claim, but the High Court judge ruled in the accused's favour last week.

According to the Attorney General, some lawyers have appeared on a weekend radio programme claiming

that the government will have to pay large sums of money to persons similarly charged.

However, he explained that the matter is not yet complete. That the High Court judge's decision has not yet come down in written form, but most certainly the government will appeal her ruling.

He said there's no need for public alarm on the issue and that the public should not worry.

He explained that the matter may take some time to be fully resolved but that in the interim, the status quo remains.

Exhibiting artists and School Art Winners for Art Week

Activities marking the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Art Week continued with the opening of an exhibition at the Arrivals Hall at the VC Bird International Airport Terminal on Monday.

The organisers of the event, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is putting on the exhibition to highlight the work of local artists and designers in the country. The following artists and designers have their works on display at the Arrivals Hall.

Visual Artists: Heather Doram, Stephen Murphy, Guava De Art, Glenroy Aaron, Carol Gordon Goodwin, Mark Brown, Emile Hill, Alex Ireland, Dylan Elias Phillips, Candi Coates, Mark Branker, Bert Kirchner, Ronald Si-



lencieux, Gilly Gobinet, Gerron Farquharson, Mene Lewis, Lem Uel, Jennifer Meranto, Anfrenette Joseph, Kelly Hull, Faye Edwards, Kendra Davis, Ishara Samuel, Maritza Martin, Zavian Archibald, Kwame Delfish *** visiting from Canada (ABTA invited guest - Antiguan Canadian), Sadiki Roberts, Kate Mayer *** visiting from the UK (was in Antigua for another exhibit and offered

cont'd on pg 5



Queen Bee rearing initiative taking place in the country

A programme is underway to increase the Queen Bee numbers in Antigua and Barbuda through an initiative involving the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperative (ABC), the Iyanola Agriculture Collective of St. Lucia with technical support from the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA).

The initiative has been ongoing over the past three weeks with the specific aim of rearing queen bees. This initiative is the upscaling of a completed project funded under the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, entitled *"To promote the growth and sustainable development of the local pollinators (Apiculture Industry) and local honey through training and production in collaboration with the SVGBA and the Ministry of Agriculture"* (2020 -2021).

A press release from the Ministry of Agriculture said one of the main objectives of the project was to support the development of an Api-

culture Industry in Antigua and Barbuda through development of business models for commercial apiaries and capacity building in beekeeping, and development of hive products.

The now completed project faced several challenges primarily brought on by the COVID -19 pandemic. Restrictions on movement and imposed curfews triggered implementation delays. In the end, the group embraced the opportunity to make slight adjustments to the project, and built a new and fruitful partnership with the Iyanola Apiculture Collective (IAC) through Mr. Richard Matthias, Master Beekeeper from Saint Lucia.

Through this partnership, the main objectives were still achieved and beekeepers in both Antigua and Barbuda were furnished with tools and equipment, trained in new hive monitoring technology, and benefitted from hands on mentoring and capacity building opportunities for queen rearing and



hive management. The team also scoured both islands' terrain, seeking out suitable sites for queen rearing, and evaluating potential foraging grounds for bees.

During the queen rearing training, Mr. John Fredrick and Mr. Richard Matthias from IAC, Saint Lucia guided the activities, which were divided into practical and theoretical sessions in both Antigua and Barbuda. Activities commenced in Barbuda with the prepping and setting up of starter colonies to produce queen cells, as well as re-introduction capacity building sessions in queen rearing and hive management practices for the local

beekeepers.

A total of Ninety larvae were grafted (90) in three batches, which resulted in 38 queen cells being produced. These will be distributed to the beekeepers in Barbuda. In Antigua, a total of one hundred and twenty-seven (127) larvae were grafted, which resulted in (111) queen cells produced an 87% success rate will be distributed to the membership of the Cooperative, in Antigua. The distributed queens will be monitored and evaluated by senior beekeepers within the Cooperative by collecting relevant data such as temperament, honey production as well as brood production.

Over twenty-five (25) local beekeepers benefited from this project including 15 women. Continuous training using this method of increasing our local honey bee population will be repeated at selective intervals during the year to strengthen the Cooperative as well as increasing the bee population in Antigua and Barbuda.

cont'd from pg 4

her pieces for the Boom exhibit), Mario Williams, Jan Farara, Nkoyez Ifah.

Fashion Designers:

House of Argent – Garrett Javan

Taotm – Launesha Barnes

Nicoya Henry Designs - Nicoya Henry

Art Competition Winners:

7-9 years:

Genesis Clarke (1st)

Addis Howell Uzuki (2)

Ann Mary Shinse (3)

Divine Baird (Hon Mention)

10 – 12 years:

Alister Yhap (1st)

Jordan Pilgrim (2)

Kenyiah George (3)

Mahai Singh (Hon. Mention)

Secondary Schools:

Meghan Smith (1st)

Shania Mckenzie (2)

Saanvee Kapur (3)

St. Kitts and Nevis Deputy Prime Minister and Antigua and Barbuda Housing Minister hold discussions on Housing experience

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Education, Youth, Social Development, Gender Affairs, Aging and Disabilities of the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Geoffrey Hanley on Monday paid a courtesy call on Minister for Works, Housing, Land and Urban Renewal, the Hon. Maria Browne on the margins of a sitting of Parliament.

Both ministers held discussions

around their experiences in the construction of homes in their various countries. They pledged to develop a line of communication as both governments advance their housing development plans for their communities.

Minister Browne and Minister Hanley also discussed other areas of development collaboration in Saint Kitts and Nevis and Antigua and Barbuda.



St. Kitts and Nevis Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Geoffrey Hanley, left, and Housing Minister Maria Browne

Lions doing great service!



The Lions Club of Antigua has been giving great service to the community for decades. The quarterly visits to the Clarevue Mental Hospital occur in December, March, June and September of each year. During these visits, the residents receive hot lunches donated by the Lions Club.

Vision Screening is a signature service project to the community of Antigua. This event took place recently, at the end of March 2023 where primary school children had an opportunity to participate in the vision screening; some received eyeglasses donated by the Lions Club.

Hot meals are also sponsored weekly by the Lions Club. It is an on-going service, mainly to the senior citizens that are shut-ins and the visually impaired at the Industrial Workshop.

The hot meals are prepared at the Zion Church of God on North Street. Appreciation is expressed to Lion



Septimus Rhudd MJF, Lion Larry Defreitas, Lion Alan Hosam MJF and Lion Bobby Reis MJF for sponsoring hot meals for the month of March and April. The meals are collected and distributed weekly by Lions Reginald Peterson MJF, Lion Gladston Joseph MJF, Lion Cathia Christopher and Lion Nakitia Williams.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER**

RUBIS partners to “Walk the Walk” for Autism with Rotary Sundown

Autism awareness and acceptance in Antigua and Barbuda receives another boost this month, as the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown joins with Team RUBIS and other supporters for the upcoming “Walk the Walk” for Autism.

The walk takes place on Saturday April 22nd, 2023, a day that organisers hope will bring recognition, education, and hope to the countless families impacted by this neurological disorder.

Reflecting on RUBIS’ contribution, Raphaelene Jackson, Sales Manager RUBIS, said the company was delighted to partner with Rotary Sundown to support this worthwhile venture, to increase awareness and acceptance of the autism disorder across Antigua.

Walk for Autism is Antigua’s largest autism fundraising event, dedicated to supporting the needs of people with autism and their families.

Rotary Sundown President, Nicree Mills-Jno Baptiste, said the goal of the Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown, is to change the future for all who struggle with Autism Spectrum Disorders.

“We are dedicated to funding training, screenings, assessments, and teaching aids, in addition

to raising public awareness about autism and its effects on individuals, families, and society; bringing hope to all who deal with the hardships of this disorder; and committed to raising funds necessary to support these goals.”

Caption

Rotary Sundown President Nicree Mills-Jno Baptiste (centre) received the sponsorship cheque from Sales Manager RUBIS, Raphaelene Jackson (left), assisted by colleague Curtis Francis.



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	DAY	NIGHT
APRIL 25	PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE	DANCE FESTIVAL
APRIL 26	NO SHOWING	PRINCESS MARGARET SCHOOL ST. MARY'S SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE
APRIL 27	JENNINGS SECONDARY SCHOOL OTTOS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL	JENNINGS SECONDARY SCHOOL OTTOS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL
APRIL 28	SIR NOVELLE RICHARDS ACADEMY IRENE B. WILLIAMS SCHOOL	SIR NOVELLE RICHARDS ACADEMY IRENE B. WILLIAMS SCHOOL

SHOW DATES

9:30 AM DAILY

7:00 PM NIGHTLY

APRIL 25-28

ADMISSION

\$10.00 CHILDREN

\$20.00 ADULTS

ADMISSION



Dominica's geothermal plant sees flow testing, study tour activities in April

It has been a busy first half of April for Dominica's geothermal plant.

Last April 6, Dominica Geothermal Development Company Ltd. conducted flow testing for the second production to determine how much power can be generated from the production well.

The plant is expected to generate 10,000 kilowatts of power upon completion, providing electricity to 23,000 homes in Dominica.

The flow testing will take a month, according to Dr Vince Henderson, Dominica's Planning, Economic Development, Climate Resilience, Sustainable Development, and Renewable Energy Minister.

In a report by Think Geoenergy, representatives from the Dominica Geothermal Development Company and the Iceland Drilling Company were both present at the event. In 2022, the report continued, the Government

of Dominica signed a contract with the Iceland Drilling Company for the drilling of two new geothermal wells.

In the same week, the geothermal plant also welcomed representatives from Eastern Caribbean countries for a study tour.

Under the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), the tour was part of the Geothermal Energy: Capacity Building for Utilisation, Investment and Local Development (GEO-BUILD) programme, and the tour is part of a campaign to learn about geothermal exploration and drilling and foster regional cooperation and collaboration on geothermal energy.

Delegates from Grenada, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Kitts and Nevis joined the tour that ran from April 3 to 5 April 2023.

"This project aims to contribute to the efforts of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the OECS Com-

mission to advance geothermal energy development in the OECS, and by extension, the Caribbean, by addressing the challenges of limited capacities of human resources, institutions, and regulatory frameworks for geothermal energy development," OECS wrote in a press release.

The government has invested \$50 million in the geothermal plant, one of Dominica's major projects that put the island on the map as the world's first climate-resilient country.

Part of the funding for the plant comes from the Citizenship by Investment (CBI) programme of Dominica.

Through the CBI programme, thousands of climate-resilient residential buildings and other important infrastructure are being built in partnership with MMC Development Ltd., a private developing firm that has been working closely with the government for almost a decade.

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Education



UNESCO: “\$97 billion barrier to reaching education targets”

Without an extra \$97 billion in funding, many countries won't be able to meet their national education goals for 2030, according to a new UN report released. The report calls for a quick review of funding.

The paper asks, “Can countries afford their national SDG4 benchmarks?” The Global Education Monitoring (GEM) Report of the UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) was



made to help with the spring meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). It focused on Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for

Sustainable Development, which is to make sure that everyone has access to high-quality education and that everyone has the chance to learn throughout their lives.


Findings showed that countries will need more money for schooling if they want to reach their goals.

Not only do we need to find more money, but we also need to find ways to make the money we have work better.

Sub-Saharan Africa has the biggest funding gap, at \$70 billion per year. The kids in this area have to drive the farthest to get to school, and almost 60% of kids who should be in upper secondary school aren't there.

The study found that about a third of the gap could be closed if donors kept their aid promises and put basic education first in the poorest countries.

Other important results *cont'd on pg 13*




PUBLIC ADVOCACY SERIES

To Be or Not To Be: The Case for Republicanism

MONDAY
APRIL 24, 2023
6:30 pm - 8:00pm
(EASTERN STANDARD TIME)


With the approaching coronation of a new British monarch, several Caribbean countries remain as constitutional monarchies with a foreign head of state. Is it time for countries in the Caribbean to consider becoming republics? This month, we explore the case for Republicanism.



**Ambassador
Dorbrene O'Marde**
Vice-Chairperson of the CARICOM
Reparations Commission



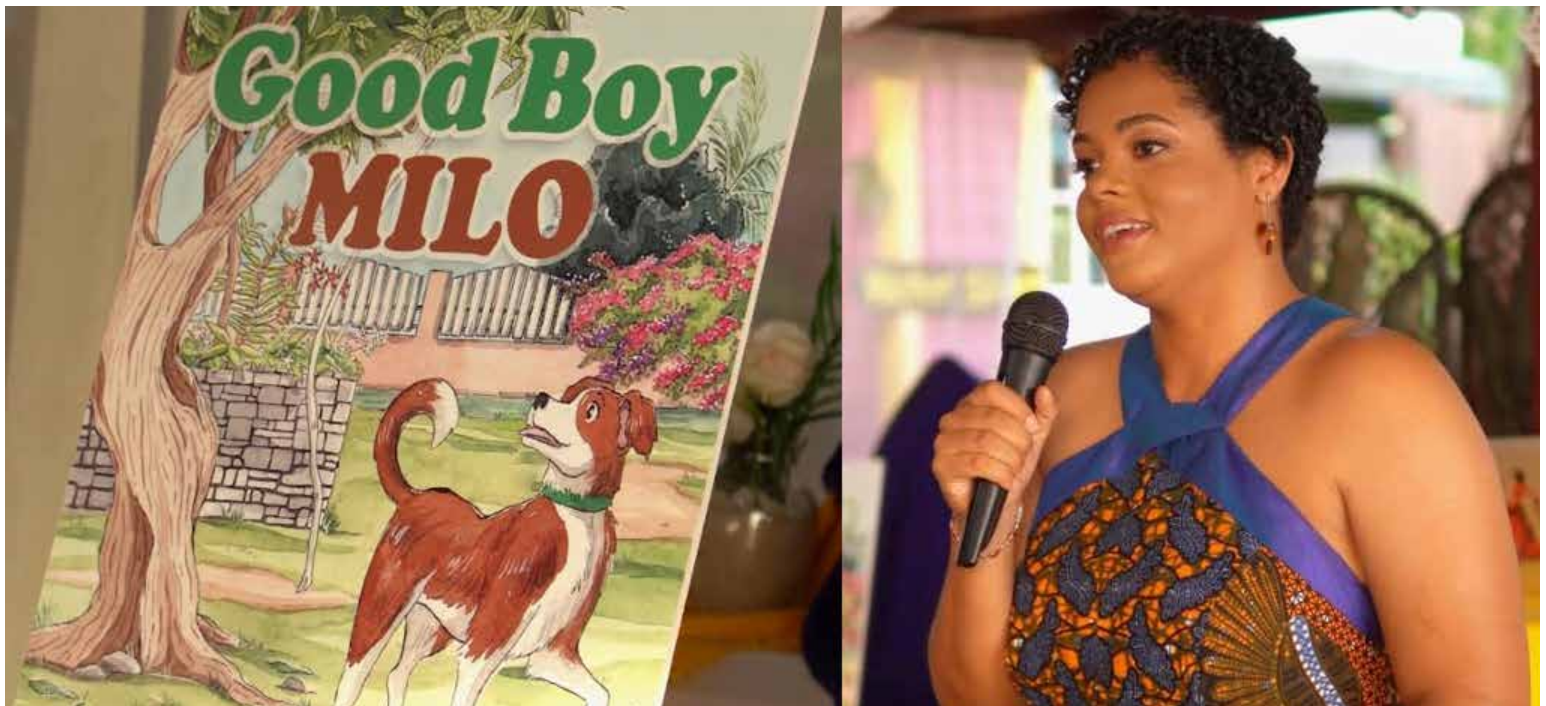
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Grenadian writer Alyssa Bierzynski releases “Good Boy Milo”

Grenadian writer Alyssa Bierzynski proudly announces the release of her second children’s book, “Good Boy Milo”.

The heartwarming story follows Milo the dog on an adventure to help a kite stuck in his favourite mango tree. With beautiful illustrations by Grenadian artist Elizabeth Lander.

“Good Boy Milo” is a perfect addition to any child’s bookshelf.

In “Good Boy Milo” children will follow Milo as he takes on the challenge of getting the kite back to the

sky with its friends. Milo’s determination and perseverance will inspire children to never give up, even when things get tough. The book is not only a fun and engaging read, but it also teaches important life lessons about problem-solving, determination and friendship.

“I am so excited to share ‘Good Boy Milo’ with children and families everywhere,” said author Alyssa Bierzynski, “The story of Milo and the kite is one that I hope will inspire children to be brave, curious and kind. My own love for books at

an early age inspired my journey of writing stories for children. I want to inspire children to use their imaginations while also opening their minds to new worlds and concepts they may not have been exposed to previously. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with the talented Grenadian artist Elizabeth Lander to bring this story to life. Sharing the rich culture and traditions of the Caribbean with the world is a dream come true.”

Illustrator Elizabeth Lander added, “Working on

‘Good Boy Milo’ has been an absolute joy. I was thrilled to collaborate with Alyssa on this project and to have the opportunity to illustrate such a beautiful story and showcase aspects of the Caribbean landscape that I hope will resonate with the readers. My wish is that children and adults alike will enjoy reading about Milo’s adventure as much as I enjoyed bringing it to life through art.”

“Good Boy Milo” will be available for purchase online and in local stores throughout Grenada, Carriacou and Petite Martinique.

Parents, teachers, and librarians are encouraged to add this book to their collection and share the inspiring story of Milo with children everywhere.

To purchase Good Boy Milo and for more information about Alyssa Bierzynski and her writing, visit her website at www.alybiz.com.

cont’d from pg 12

show that the number of pre-primary teachers needs to triple in low-income countries by 2030 and doubled in lower-middle-income countries.

In low-income countries, the number of first-grade teachers needs to go up by almost 50%.

Even though we don’t know the full effects of COVID-19 pandemic disruptions,

the study found that costs include making up for huge learning losses that made the learning crisis worse. Only half of children and teens are ready for the future because they have finished school and can read at least a little bit.

In the first year after the pandemic began in 2020, two-thirds of low- and low-middle-income countries cut their spending on public schooling.

Crime in the Caribbean: Skeritt calls for review of education system

By **Laura Dowrich-Phillips**

Roosevelt Skeritt, the Prime Minister of Dominica, has called for a review of the education sector in the Caribbean.

Speaking on a panel of CARICOM leaders at the Regional Symposium: Violence as a Public Health Issue – The CARICOM Challenge, Skeritt said a review of the school system could help to address the root of crime.

He said our school systems are focused solely on passing examinations.

“There is absolutely no time in the five hours or so that the students spend in the school setting for anything to do with the well-being and welfare of the children.

We don’t take time to understand where they come from their economic circumstance and to appreciate their behaviours in the classroom,” he said.

He said there is a need for an urgent review and it would help to dry

up the recruitment ground for violent behaviours.

He said anti-social behavior could lead to violent behavior and the use of guns and other weapons.

Skeritt said sports and physical education have taken second place and extracurricular activities in the classroom no longer exist as more emphasis is placed on academic performance.

“We boast of the percentage of passes at CXC but we fail to pay attention to the 20 or 30 percent of those who did not make it to the matriculation level,” he said.

“We are focused on those who do well academically but we fail to pay attention to the mental and emotional state of our children.”

Asking about parents, guardians, clergy, and the business community, Skeritt said we have abdicated our responsibility in taking care of our children.



Prime Minister of Dominica Roosevelt Skeritt.

United States, Cuba resume migration talks

CMC - he United States Department of State says the Biden administration has resumed talks with Cuban officials on the implementation of the US-Cuba Migration Accords.

“This bilateral discussion reflects a commitment by both countries to regularly review the implementation of the Accords,” said the State Department in a statement.

It said the Department of Homeland Security’s Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Western Hemisphere David Cloe led the US inter-agency delegation, and Cuba’s Vice Foreign Minister



Carlos Fernandez de Cossio led the Cuban delegation.

“These migration talks provide an opportunity for discussions on mutual implementation of the Migration Accords, comprising a series of bilateral agreements between the United

States and Cuba completed in 1984, 1994, 1995 and 2017,” the State Department said.

“The US delegation highlighted areas of successful cooperation on migration, while also identifying issues that have been

obstacles to fulfilling the goals of the Accords,” it added. “Engaging in these talks underscores our commitment to pursuing constructive discussions with Cuba where appropriate to advance US interests.

“Ensuring safe, orderly, humane and regular migration between Cuba and the United States remains a mutual interest of both countries, and is consistent with US interests in fostering family reunification and promoting greater respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba,” the State Department continued.

St Kitts & Nevis diplomat kidnapped in Haiti

Loop - The deputy-general counsel of St Kitts and Nevis was among three people kidnapped by armed bandits in Haiti on Saturday.

According to reports, Harold Marzouka Jr, who is also the CEO of Haiti Plastics, was travelling through the Delmas community in the Haitian capital Port-au-Prince with two other businessmen when their convoy was pounced on.

Vehicles belonging to the businessmen were set on fire.

Loop Caribbean News attempted to contact St Kitts and Nevis Foreign Affairs Minister Denzel Douglas for a

comment on the incident but our calls were unanswered.

Kidnappings for ransom have increased in Haiti recently as armed gangs seized control of several communities due to political instability in the country.

Haitian-Americans Jean-Dickens Toussaint and Abigail Michael Toussaint were released last week after spending one month in their captors' custody.

NBC news reported the couple had travelled to Haiti in March to visit sick relatives when they were kidnapped while travelling to Leogan, which is about 27 miles west of Port-au-Prince.



Deputy General Counsel of St Kitts and Nevis, Harold Marzouka Jr.

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FBI makes arrests over alleged secret Chinese ‘police stations’ in New York

By Holly Honderich

US prosecutors have arrested two men in New York for allegedly operating a Chinese “secret police station” in Manhattan’s Chinatown neighbourhood.

Lu Jianwang, 61, and Chen Jinping, 59, both New York City residents, face charges of conspiring to act as agents for China and obstruction of justice.

They are expected to appear in federal court in Brooklyn on Monday.

China has previously denied operating the stations, calling them “service centres” for nationals overseas.

Mr Lu of the Bronx and Mr Chen of Manhattan worked together to establish the first overseas police station in the United States on behalf of China’s Ministry of Public Security (MPS), the US Department of Justice alleged on Monday.

The outpost was closed in the fall of 2022, the department said, after those involved became aware of an FBI investigation into the station.

“This prosecution reveals the Chinese government’s flagrant violation of our nation’s sovereignty by establishing a secret police station in the middle of New York City,” said Breon Pearce, the top prosecutor in Brooklyn.



The stations are believed to be among at least 100 operating across the globe in 53 countries, including the UK and the Netherlands. And last month, Canada’s federal police announced an investigation into two Montreal-area sites thought to be police outposts.

“The PRC’s actions go far beyond the bounds of acceptable nation-state conduct. We will resolutely defend the freedoms of all those living in our country from the threat of authoritarian repression,” said assistant attorney general Matthew Olsen, from the Justice Department’s National Security Division.

According to prosecutors, Mr Lu was closely connected to Chinese law enforcement, and was enlisted to help China with “repressive activities” in the US beginning in 2015,

including harassing Chinese dissidents.

In 2018, he allegedly participated in efforts to push a purported PRC fugitive to return to China, including repeated harassment and threats to the individual and his family, living in China and the US. And prosecutors said he was also enlisted to locate a pro-democracy activist in China. Mr Lu denied these actions when confronted by US authorities.

He and Mr Chen were questioned by authorities in October 2022, when the FBI conducted a search of the suspected station. Their phones were seized as part of the search and both men admitted they had deleted communication with an official from China’s Ministry of Public Security who was allegedly directing their behaviour in the US, prosecutors alleged.

If convicted, both Mr Lu and Mr Chen face up to 25 years in prison.

Chinese embassies in the US and Canada have said the locations are “overseas service stations” opened during the pandemic to assist nationals abroad with driver’s licence renewal and similar matters.

But human rights groups have accused China of using the outposts to threaten and monitor Chinese nationals abroad.

FBI director Christopher Wray said last November that his agency was monitoring reports of such stations, calling them a “real problem”.

“To me, it is outrageous to think that the Chinese police would attempt to set up shop, you know, in New York, let’s say, without proper coordination,” Mr

cont’d on pg 17

Sudan fighting: EU ambassador assaulted in Khartoum home

By *Antoinette Radford*

The EU's ambassador in Sudan, Aidan O'Hara, has been assaulted at his home in Khartoum, which is gripped by deadly fighting between rival forces.

The Irish diplomat was not "seriously hurt", Irish Foreign Minister Micheál Martin has confirmed.

Mr Martin described the attack as a "gross violation of obligations to protect diplomats".

Around 185 people have been killed and more than 1,800 injured in three days of fighting, according to the UN.

The city has seen air strikes, shelling and heavy small-arms fire.

Both the army and a paramilitary group called the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) claim to control key sites in Khartoum, where residents have been sheltering from explosions.

Mr Martin described the ambassador as an "out-



Aidan O'Hara became the EU ambassador to Sudan in 2022.

standing Irish and European diplomat who is serving the EU under the most difficult circumstances".

"We thank him for his service and call for an urgent cessation of violence in Sudan, and resumption of dialogue," he said.

Earlier, EU foreign

policy chief Josep Borrell tweeted that the security of diplomatic premises and staff was a "primary responsibility" of the Sudanese authorities.

EU spokeswoman Nabila Massrali told AFP news agency the EU delegation had not been evacuated

from Khartoum following the attack. Staff security was the priority and security measures were being assessed, she added.

US state department spokesman John Kirby said there were currently no plans to evacuate US personnel, despite ongoing security concerns and the closure of Khartoum's airport.

But he urged all Americans to treat the situation "with the utmost seriousness".

The conflict has forced many civilians to shelter in their homes amid fears of a prolonged conflict that could land the country in deeper chaos.

cont'd from pg 16

Wray said. "It violates sovereignty and circumvents standard judicial and law enforcement cooperation processes."

In a separate complaint unveiled by US officials on Monday, 34 MPS officers were charged with using fake social media accounts to harass Chinese dissidents in the US and spread official Chinese government propaganda.

Prosecutors claimed that all of the accused belong to an elite task force known as the 912 Special Project Working Group, whose purpose is to "target

Chinese dissidents located throughout the world, including in the United States".

"As alleged, the PRC government deploys its national police and the 912 Special Project Working Group not as an instrument to uphold the law and protect public safety, but rather as a troll farm that attacks persons in our country for exercising free speech," US Attorney Peace said.

All 34 of these defendants are believed to live in China or elsewhere in Asia.



Wreckage appeared on the ocean surface, but it took years to find the plane's location on the seabed.

Air France and Airbus cleared over fatal 2009 Rio-Paris crash

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

A French court has cleared Air France and Airbus of charges of involuntary manslaughter over a deadly crash in June 2009 which killed all 228 people on board.

The Airbus A330 operated by Air France stalled during a storm and plunged into the Atlantic Ocean.

The court said even if errors had been committed, a causal link between them and the crash could not be proved.

Families of the victims reacted angrily to the acquittal.

They appeared stunned when the verdict was read out at the end of the lengthy public trial.

Danièle Lamy, the president of the association which represents the victims, said the families were “disgusted” that their long fight for justice had come to nothing.

“All that remains of these 14 years of waiting is despair, dismay and an-

ger,” Ms Lamy said.

Claire Drousseau, whose niece died in the crash, said the verdict was a severe blow to those left behind: “Our lost ones have died a second time. I feel sick.”

It was the first trial for corporate involuntary manslaughter to be held in France.

Air France and Airbus had always denied the charges, for which they were facing a maximum fine of €225,000 (£200,000; \$247,000).

The companies said pilot error was to blame for the crash.

The investigation revealed that the plane had encountered a high-altitude thunderstorm hours after departing from Rio de Janeiro.

When the air-speed sensors froze and gave false readings, the pilots failed to follow correct procedure and lost control of the plane, which plunged into the ocean.

The judge said there had been several acts of negligence by both companies, but that there was not enough certainty to hold Airbus and Air France liable for the crash.

“A probable causal link isn’t sufficient to characterise an offence,” the judge said in her statement before a packed court room.

Air France expressed “its deepest sympathy” to the relatives and Airbus reaffirmed its “total commitment (...) in terms of aviation safety”.

All 12 crew members and 216 passengers on board the flight were killed when the plane crashed into the sea from a height of 38,000ft (11,580m), making it the deadliest incident in French aviation history.

The wreckage of the plane was discovered after a long search of 10,000 sq km (3,860 sq miles) of sea floor.

The victims hailed from 33 different countries.



THE MITCH LEAGUE



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The Northern Vybz Community Group in conjunction with the Hon. Charles 'Max' Fernandez, MP for St. John's Rural North along with the Principles of the Mitch League and Provizion Athletics Prime invites children in the constituency between the ages 7-18 ages to the Northern Vybz Basketball Camp in the Cedar Grove and Yorks Communities.

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Friday April 21st

Saturday April 22nd

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Sunday April 23rd

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 Call Jozaine Joseph 764-4340 or Margo Ryan 464-5062

Senior women's cricket team engage in trial matches

The Amanda Edwards XI snatched a nine run victory over the Cheyanne Moses XI in a T20 Trial Match involving members of the Antigua and Barbuda Senior Women's Cricket Team at the Police Recreation Grounds on Sunday.

The Amanda Edwards XI won the toss and batted first, scoring 171 for two off their allotted 20 overs.

Terez Parker hit an unbeaten 56 off 47 balls with nine fours and Amanda Edwards struck 52 not out off 50 balls with six fours. The pair shared an unbroken third wicket partnership of 136 runs.

Chasing 172 to win, the Cheyanne Moses XI made a good attempt but fell short as they were restricted to 162 for five off their 20 overs. Kimberly Anthony starred with the bat, smashing 77 off 70 balls with 11 fours.

Tayari Tonge gave good support with a run-a-ball 34 with two fours. Tonya Martin captured two wickets for 32 runs.

The Amanda Edwards XI had suffered a 73-run loss against the Jenison Richards XI in a 35 overs aside trial



Amanda Edwards (File photos)

match, involving the same group of players, at the same venue on Saturday.

Opener Kimberly Anthony hammered 85 off 90 balls with 12 fours to lift the Jenison Richards XI to 206 for four off their 35 overs. Terez Parker made 31 and Tayari Tonge chipped in with 28. Isaiah Attwood picked up two wickets for four runs.

In reply, the Amanda Edwards XI were dismissed for 133 in 28.1 overs. Kerry Mentore Jr top scored with 35,



Kimberly Anthony

Dale Johashen made 31 off 29 balls and Tonya Martin contributed 24.

Jenison Richards captured three for 15, Anthony Pierre claimed two for 11 and Cheyanne Moses picked up two for 18.

Antigua and Barbuda's athletes to participate in ALBA Games in Venezuela



The Wadadli Warriors domino team which will be part of the Antigua and Barbuda contingent attending the ALBA Games in Venezuela from 21st to 29th April, 2023. (Photo: ABNDA)

A 23-member Antigua and Barbuda contingent will leave the twin-island state today (Tuesday) to participate in the 2023 Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA) Games in Venezuela.

The contingent will represent Antigua and Barbuda in five sporting events during the 5th edition of the ALBA Sporting

Games, which will be held from 21st to 29th April, in 30 sporting facilities spread across Miranda, La Guaira, and Caracas.

The Antigua and Barbuda contingent includes three track and field athletes, Richard Richardson, Timon Emanuel and Kadem Campbell, along with coach Evans "Jawak-
cont'd on pg 21

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ie" Jones.

A five-member team will carry the nation's flag in the Billiards competition. The team comprise captain Bernard Dowdy, Terrence Phillips, Dale Bryan, Edmond Brann and Jason Roberts and will be accompanied by manager Lawrence Jardine.

Carol Faye Bynoe will manage a five-member domino team, Wadadli Warriors, comprising Michael Roach, Renfield Davis, Aldis Benjamin, Francine Hector and Desiree Parker.

Antigua and Barbuda will also be represented by a three-member team in Fencing. They are Daena Bird, Okeema Barnes and Dante Browne, who will be accompanied by coach Vaughn Charles and Chaperon Aleathea Cabral.

Director of Sports Heather Samuel Daley and Candace Jones from the Ministry of Sports, the local coordinators, will also be a part of the Antigua and Barbuda contingent at the event in South America.

Cuba, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and St. Lucia are among the other Caribbean countries taking part the event.

Russia is set to send a team of 48 athletes to this year's ALBA Games in Venezuela. It was revealed last month that Venezuelan Sports Minister Mervin

Maldonado had invited Russia to compete while the country remains frozen out of most of international sport, due to the invasion of Ukraine.

It has now been reported that Russia has accepted, and they are due to compete under their own

flag. Russia is due to take part in boxing, beach volleyball, karate, table tennis, trampolining, weightlifting and rhythmic gymnastics.

The competitions in 35 different sports are projected to attract up to 3,500 athletes from 11 countries. The ALBA Games were

last held in Venezuela in 2011.

The Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America (ALBA) was founded on December 14, 2004 by then-Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and late Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

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Jennings Grenades on verge of clinching first premier league title

Jennings Grenades are on the verge of winning their first Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League title.

The Grenades need to win their final game against Empire to be assured of the title in this season's top domestic league.

Jennings moved one step closer to their inaugural title by trashing Parham 8-0 in their penultimate game of the season, a Group 1 game in the premier league's second round phase at the ABFA's Technical Center on Sunday night.

Ridel Stanislas scored a hat-trick with conversions in the 12th, 62nd and 78th minute. Tev Lawrence opened the scoring as early as the second minute for Grenades, who went on to take a 5-0 lead at halftime.

The other goals for Grenades were scored by Rakeem Henry in the 14th minute, Barrington Blake in the 24th minute, Jordan Britto in the 29th minute and Keanu Barrett in the 57th minute.

Parham remained on 21 points after crashing to their 8th loss in 17 matches with one game left. Grenades continue to lead the competition after recording their 15th win in 17 matches to advance to 45 points.

However, Grenades are being pushed all the way by closest rivals All Saints United, who kept up the pressure on the league leaders by romping to a 6-0 drubbing of Greenbay Hoppers in their Group 2 encounter on Sunday.



The Jennings Grenades football team. (File photo)

Ajani Thomas scored twice for All Saints with goals in the 28th and 70th minute. Leroy Graham scored the opening goal in the 9th minute for All Saints United, who led two-nil at halftime.

The other goals were converted by Nazir McBurnette in the 64th minute, Dia Martin in the 86th minute and Kwazim Theodore in the 90th minute.

All Saints United remained in second place as they advanced to 43 points, two behind Grenades, after recording their 14th win in 17 matches with one game remaining. Their 7th loss in 17 matches has left Greenbay Hoppers on 22 points with one game remaining.

Forward Raheem Deterville scored a hat-trick as Old Road ensured they will finish in fourth place in this season's premier division by

prevailing 4-2 against Willikies in their Group 4 affair on Sunday.

Deterville scored in the 8th minute, converted a penalty in the 60th minute and had an 87th minute conversion. Old Road also benefitted from an own-goal, which was scored by the Omarie Hazlewood of Willikies in the 48th minute.

But it was Willikies who scored first and took a one-nil lead when Phil Nicholas converted a penalty in the 7th minute. Willikies' second goal in the match also came via a penalty, which was converted by James Simon in the 68th minute.

Old Road will remain in fourth place after securing their 8th win in 17 matches to advance to 31 points with one game left to play. Willikies will remain on 24 points after losing for the 7th time in 17 outings.

West Indies Women's Emerging Players boost number of qualified women's coaches in the Caribbean

Seventeen (17) players from the recent West Indies Women's Emerging Players High-Performance camp are now accredited cricket coaches.

The players successfully completed both the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Foundation Coaching and CWI Competition Coaching (Level 1) accreditation courses, boosting the number of female Level 1 coaches in the Caribbean.

The players completed the coaching qualifications at Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) on the 26th and 27th March while in Antigua for the Emerging Players High-Performance Camp from 13th March to 2nd April.

The High-Performance Camp was geared towards players aged 25 and under as part of the ongoing strategy to develop the pool of talent across the region.

The coaching courses were part of the camp's activities which included holistic support across technical, tactical, physical, mental and personal development areas.

The 17 women's players now have the skills and understanding to be able to take on coaching sessions with junior players in their communities and across the region, which in turn increases the chances



Some of the players at the recent West Indies Women's Emerging Players High-Performance camp at the Coolidge Cricket Ground from 13th March to 2nd April, 2023. (CWI Media)

of developing more junior talent in the region.

CWI Coach Development Manager, Chris Brabazon and CWI Talent Pathway Manager, Steve Liburd guided the players through the courses and the subsequent assessments as part of the two-week High-Performance camp.

Brabazon stated, "We need more female role models in our cricket ecosystems across the region and the courses provide these young players with the confidence to be able to lead cricket sessions at their clubs and within their communities and will help

to inspire and encourage future generations of players.

"It also provides the players with a greater understanding and appreciation of the role of a coach and hopefully we may have planted a seed for them to consider becoming a professional coach one day."

The continuous High-Performance camp continues CWI's increased investment into the women's game and forms part of the overall High-Performance Pathway.

CWI's strategic plan has committed additional resources into developing the women's cricket at ev-

ery level. This High-Performance Camp at CCG played a vital role in developing the talent pool and producing the next generation of West Indies Women's players.

Participating players and newly accredited Level 1 Coaches: Earnisha Fontaine, Cherry-Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajnabi, Jannilea Glasgow, Sheneta Grimmond, Trishan Holder, Zaida James, Djenba Joseph, Qiana Joseph, Mandy Mangru, Ashmini Munisar, Abini St Jean, Shalini Samaroo, Shunelle Sawh, Kaysia Schultz, Steffie Soogrim and Kate Wilmott.



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



Antigua gears up for the 2023 Antigua Wingfoil Championship



Antigua is gearing up for the exciting 2023 Antigua Wingfoil Championship, set to take place from May 1st to May 3rd. The event features two days of fast-paced slalom-style course racing, followed by a Long Distance race on the final day, which coincides with the Antigua Sailing Week Lay Day.

Competitors will commence the race from Falmouth Harbour, and competitors will make their way along the south side of the island towards Turners Beach, and cover an 8 nautical mile stretch. The route takes them inside of Cades

Reef before turning the corner and arriving at Turners Beach.

The Long Distance Race, also known as de downwinder takes the competitors out to open water where they can surf downwind on the wind swell. According to the organizer of the event, Maxim van den Pol "Going out on open water without a chase boat is not something you typically do because there is always the risk of breaking something. This is a unique and exciting opportunity to get out there in a safe and organized way"

To ensure the safety of

all competitors during the long distance race, several chase boats will be in place to follow them. In addition, all competitors are required to carry a GPS tracker in the form of an app downloaded on their smartphone.

Telecom provider Apua Inet is providing sim cards with the necessary data for the tracker to operate seamlessly.

The organization has adopted two classes to ensure fair competition for all participants: Pro and Leisure. According to Maxim van den Pol, the organizer of the event, "The Leisure Class is intended for those new to

the sport and who want to join in on the fun while the Pro Class is for those with racing experience and who want to push their limits."

The 3-day event aims to bring together local wingfoil enthusiasts, regardless of their level of experience. Sacha van der Wouden, the event organizer, believes that "It doesn't matter if you are just starting out or a seasoned pro with many races under your belt. It is about having fun on the water and sharing the passion for this amazing sport."

Local kiteboarding and Wingfoiling school Kelsick Kiteboarding has partnered with the event, adding to the excitement. The school is giving away a 2023 North Nova wing to the winner of both the Pro and the Leisure Class. Owner of Kelsick Kiteboarding, Jake Kelsick, expressed his enthusiasm for the sport being endorsed by Antigua Sailing Week, saying "Let the games begin! I am really excited to see this great new sport being endorsed by Antigua Sailing Week."

cont'd from pg 26

Chris Greves grabbed three for 21, spinner Kadeem Henry snatched three for 23 and Demari Benta took two for 34.

Contrastingly, Jennings Tigers claimed their second win as well by snatching a one-run win against the All Saints Pythons in Sunday's opening encounter.

Chasing 151 to win, All Saints Pythons fell run short as they could only muster 149 for nine off their 20 overs. Matthew Forde cracked 41 off 26 balls with three fours and two sixes.

Michael Dover struck 27 off 17 balls, Tron Payne got 22 off 18 balls and Christopher McBride chipped in with 20 off 23 balls. Winston Nelson claimed two for 17 and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams had two for 24.

D'Ahri Francis smashed 93 off 55 balls with seven fours and six sixes and Jedidiah Martin struck 25 not out off 22 balls in the Jennings Tigers total of 150 for six off their 20 overs.

Leg-spinner Kadeem Josiah captured three for 15 and Forde picked up two for 21.

Black Hawks soar to another win in T20 Explosion

The Liberta Black Hawks continue their impressive form in defense of their title by notching up their third win in as many matches in the Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion on Sunday.

The Black Hawks beat the New Winthorpes Lions by 53 runs in the last game of a triple header on the fourth day of the competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

Set 146 to win, New



Pigotts Crushers wicketkeeper batsman Jewel Andrew continued his fine form by slamming a half century against Bolans Blasters in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday, 16th April, 2023.

Winthorpes Lions were restricted to 92 for nine off their 20 overs. Mikkel Gavia top scored with 31 off 35 balls and Bartlette Henry made 22.

Man of the Match Andre Bailey grabbed three wickets for seven runs and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr snapped up three for 15.

Bailey had slammed an unbeaten 42 off 33 balls with four boundaries and opener Kofi James also hammered 42 off 24 balls with four fours and three sixes to guide the Black Hawks to 145 all out in 19.4 overs.

Ishmael Peters snatched four for 29, Michael Leask captured three for 22 and Govia claimed two for 25.

Pigotts Crushers demolished Bolans Blasters by 105 runs in Sunday's second encounter to record their second win of the tournament.

Opener Kristan Kallicharan and Jewel Andrew both struck half centuries to power Pigotts Crushers to 211 for four off their 20 overs.

Kallicharan slammed 57 off 33 balls with five fours and four sixes, while Andrew cracked an unbeat-



Liberta Black Hawks player Andre Bailey, left, accepts his man of the match award from singer and musician Trevaughn 'Lyricsman' Weston at the end of his team's Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion match against New Winthorpes Lions at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday, 16th April, 2023. (CST20)

en 54 off 28 balls with seven fours and two sixes.

Kallicharan shared a 105-run opening stand with Essan Warner, who hammered 41 off 33 balls with four fours and two sixes. Captain Elroy Francis Jr chipped in with 29 off 18 balls, hitting four fours and a six. Bolans skipper Kerry

Mentore captured three for 32.

In reply, Bolans Blasters crashed to 106 all out in 14.3 overs. Mentore, who opened the innings, top scored with 27 off 12 balls and his opening partner Richie Berrington made 24 off 17 balls.

cont'd on pg 25