

GOV'T COMMITS TO THE CARE OF CANCER PATIENTS

Story on Page 2



The fifth edition of the 'Play to Inspire' concert which has become a major event on the social calendar of Antigua and Barbuda takes place this Saturday, at the St. John's Pentecostal House of Restoration. On Tuesday, accompanied by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission to the UK, Karen-Mae Hill, the visiting performers paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Story on page 6.

Government commits to the care of cancer patients

The government is committing to continue providing specialized care for cancer patients beyond the proposed closure of the Cancer Centre of the Eastern Caribbean located on lands adjacent to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph addressed parliament on Tuesday on this matter as he sought to reassure the country that the closure of the centre will not bring an end to the care that patients currently receive at the facility.

He read from a letter sent to both Prime Minister Gaston Browne and himself from the principal owner of the Cancer Centre, Dr. Conville S. Browne who lives in the Bahamas. In the letter, the owner notified the gov-

ernment of his intention to close the Cancer Centre at the end of the month (effective Friday 28 April 2023, the last working day of the month).

In the letter dated March 20, 2023, he noted that whilst supporting the Cancer Centre for the past fourteen years, regrettably, he has to bring the operations to an end. He blamed what he termed the ‘sub-optimal performance’ support system of the Cancer Centre since its inception for the closure of the facility.

“The clinical operations for the Cancer Centre will be effectively suspended or terminated. In light of this, and effective immediately, no further patients will be accepted for treatment especially if their anticipated



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph

prescribed course of care may extend beyond Friday 28 April 2023. I have been unsuccessful in the search for a strategic partner or partners or even a new owner that can ensure the further development and sustainability of the centre as it has and was intended; to provide life-saving medical services inclusive of cancer and cardiac care, the two biggest killers in the OECS,” the letter stated.

According to the letter, the owners are still hopeful of finding a buyer for the Medical Pavilion, which houses the Cancer Centre

and Cardiac Care unit. It sets the proposed sale price at US\$15 million. The letter added that if the business is not sold by the end of this month then liquidation proceedings will likely follow.

Sir Molwyn revealed that the government started having discussions on this very possibility as much as a year ago when it became clear that the absence of profitability may at some point force the owners to cease their operations here. “When that business model was developed, it was anticipated that the Cancer Centre would have been able to get business from the other OECS countries hence the name Eastern Caribbean Cancer Centre. What transpired is that the other OECS countries did not fully support the cancer centre and when they did, it was just marginal, not enough to make it a sustainable busi-

cont'd on pg 3



<p>Wed 19 Day</p> <p>83° ☀️</p> <p>A few clouds from time to time. High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p>		<p>Wed 19 Night</p> <p>75° 🌙</p> <p>A mostly clear sky. Low around 75F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p>☁️ Humidity 65%</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 5:23 am</p>	<p>🌑 Moonset 6:06 pm</p>
		<p>● New Moon</p>	

No work permit fees for West African migrants

Persons from West African nations and others who arrived in Antigua and Barbuda between November and December last year, and who remained after the suspension of the air-bridge flights, can now legally work in the country without the need to pay for work permits.

The government has

now made it possible for these migrants to seek jobs and apply for work permits without having to pay the requisite fees.

This move brings the West Africans, most of whom are fleeing war and violence in their native Cameroon, in line with CARICOM and Dominican Republic nationals who

were recently granted this opportunity.

The move to make it possible for the West Africans to find work in the country followed the publication of a report, compiled by two United Nations agencies that conducted a series of interviews within the last two and a half weeks.

Nearly half of those in-

terviewed indicated they had tertiary education and desired to find work in the country.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has publicly stated that his government is very open to doing whatever is possible for the West Africans and other migrants, to be properly assimilated into the community.

Domestic workers complete a 10-week training course



AT&LU General Secretary, Alrick Daniel

Some twenty-four domestic workers have completed a ten-week training course, a joint undertaking of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU) and the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI).

AT&LU General Secretary, Alrick Daniel, said the course forms part of the union's commitment to empowering all workers in the country, by providing specialized training in critical areas.

He said the union approached the ABHTI, indicating that it needed to train a group of domestic workers and the institute then designed the course specifically for their benefit.

The course was conducted by tu-

tors at ABHTI under five modules: Human Resources/Self-Management, Accommodations, Workplace Safety, Quality Customer Care, and Basic Computer Skills.

The two-hour classes were held three days each week.

Daniel added that beyond this course for domestic workers, the union is encouraging workers who are interested in industrial relations to come forward to be trained in this critical area.

Additionally, the union plans to hold discussions with the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus to explore the possibility of designing specialized courses for its members.

cont'd from pg 2

ness," he revealed.

According to the minister, some in the community are making this development as a way of suggesting that the government does not care about cancer patients. "There has been some unnecessary alarm that has been injected into the community as if to say

the government has abandoned the patients. I want to make it clear, that is not only false, it is also malicious," he declared.

He noted that there is no evidence to suggest that the government has not already found the resources to send these patients overseas for continued cancer care. Some he noted, have opted

to travel to the Bahamas and there is even one case of an individual who will travel to Suriname for treatment.

Sir Molwyn disclosed that the country has already paid over \$9 million to the Cancer Centre to pay for every cancer patient requesting care. This he added, is done without consideration of a person's political affil-

iation. "Cancer care should not be a political matter. Everyone needing care receives it; this has been the policy of the government," he reiterated.

The minister revealed that the government already has plans in place to deal with the closure of the Cancer Centre. These plans are to be made public later.

Local News



Official Book of Congratulations opened at Government House

With the Coronation of the British Monarch less than a month away, Government House is honoring Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla with the opening of a Book of Congratulations.

The event took place on Tuesday at Government House where Governor General Sir Rodney Williams was the first to append his signature. The Coronation Ceremony is set for May 6, 2023, in London.

“The Governor General, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams commenced the collection of messages to Their Majesties. Lady Williams, previous Governors General of Antigua and Barbuda, and the British Resident Commissioner also added their messages,” a statement from Government House revealed.

Special arrangements have been made for the Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, and members



of the Cabinet to express congratulations this morning (Wednesday, April 19)

with the Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle, and other opposition parliamentarians scheduled for this afternoon.

Members of the Diplomatic Corps and senior civil servants are slated to sign the Book on Thursday with members of the public getting an opportunity on Friday.

The following schedule is provided to facilitate this process:

Tuesday April 18, 2023

Official Opening of the Book of Congratulations for Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla

Wednesday April 19, 2023

9 am - 12 noon - The Members of Cabinet

2 pm - 4 pm - The Leader of the Opposition

Members of Parliament
Thursday April 20, 2023

9 am - 12 noon - Members of the Diplomats

cont'd on pg 5

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Closing ceremony for Vetiver Green Business Project in Antigua

The event closing the formal relationship between the Gilbert Agriculture Rural Development Centre (GARDC) as the local contractor to the IICA-CBF EbA Facility funded project entitled Strengthening Coastal and Marine Climate Resilience through Upland and Coastal Ecosystem Based Adaptation (EbA) and Community Engagement, was fulfilling as it was inspiring. The event was also used to mark the achievements of an extremely important aspect of the project – the official launch of the vetiver-based green businesses.

Gregg Rawlins ECS Representative marked the events as “extremely time-

ly and relevant as it provides a suitable space for us to recognize the critical partnerships that have been forged during the life of the project and launch the vetiver-based green businesses, registered during the project. The event also provides a platform to showcase the products produced from vetiver in the Exhibition-Mini-market, thereby demonstrating the potential of vetiver for pursuing green business opportunities”.

Newly appointed Minister of Agriculture EP Chet Greene got the opportunity to participate in his first IICA-led action since his appointment in January 2023. In his remarks he re-



called his colleague former Minister of Agriculture Samantha Marshall speaking highly of this project during their Cabinet sessions in 2021-2022.

He expressed his satisfaction in seeing the end products derived from the vetiver grass thus far, which creates a new niche market for agro-processors. He committed his support to GARDC and other project beneficiaries in building their green business ventures.

“No project design or implementation is perfect, and this project was kicked off at the same time COVID-19 shut down the

world for almost a full 12 months in some Caribbean countries.

“But the impact of disruptions and project imperfections are far outweighed, when there are persons willing and committed to look and work past the flaws to deliver on the results for the benefit of those who need the intervention,” so emphasized Ms. Diana Francis, IICA Trinidad & Tobago Representative and head of the EbA PMU.

She indicated that the event serves two very inter-connected purposes, to recognize the outstanding partnership of the GARDC as a project local counterpart and to introduce and welcome into the green economy, entrepreneurship based on the nature-based solution promoted by the project, i.e., the vetiver grass.



cont'd from pg 4

ic Corps
 2 pm - 4 pm - Senior Public Servants
 Friday April 21, 2023 - May 31, 2023 (Work Days)
 Members of the General Public

10 am - 12 pm

01 pm - 03 pm

In Antigua and Barbuda’s system of Government, described as a constitutional monarchy, the nation’s Head of State is King Charles III and the monarch’s representative is the Governor General.

Local News



Musicians arrive for special concert

The fifth edition of the ‘Play to Inspire’ concert which has become a major event on the social calendar of Antigua and Barbuda takes place this Saturday, at the St. John’s Pentecostal House of Restoration.

The concert is headlined by the members of the UK-based Kanneh-Mason family who have delighted audiences both at previous concerts and other performances across Antigua and Barbuda.

On Tuesday, accompanied by the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission to the UK, Karen-Mae Hill, the visiting performers paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

PM Browne thanked the Kanneh-Mason family for their assistance in helping to develop the musical skills of the country’s youth through the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra (ABYSO), which will also perform in Saturday’s concert.

“I’m very pleased with the prog-



ress of ABYSO and your efforts would have helped to build capacity, literally helping us to develop our youth. We all know that classical music adds to the quality of life,” he stated.

The country’s leader also ex-

pressed the view that exposure to music at an early stage also helps young people in other areas of their development and is also a determinant of their progress later in life.

The prime minister also gave a personal commitment to help take the programme to the next level of development as this would only be of benefit to the country as a whole.





6TH

ANTIGUA and BARBUDA NATIONAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS' THEATRE FESTIVAL

APRIL 25-28

	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

Environment



Sargassum levels likely to be severe in Eastern Caribbean

Loop - Over the next three months, the influx of Sargassum seaweed is likely to be severe in the Eastern Caribbean, though at different volumes.

This is according to the March 2023 Sargassum Sub Regional Outlook Bulletin published by the UWI Centre for Resource Management and Environment Studies, Cave Hill, Barbados.

It says as forecast, most Eastern Caribbean islands have been seeing record amounts of sargassum in the first quarter of 2023, a period that is normally relatively free of the seaweed.

The outlook states the level of sargassum arriving now is already severe and is not expected to let up in the



Example of Sargassum landings (Photo credit: iStock).

coming weeks. There is still twice as much (202 per cent more) sargassum visible out in the Atlantic as seen this time last year.

According to the current outlook for mid-March to mid-April 2023, there will continue to be a marked dif-

ference between the islands of the Eastern Caribbean in the amount of sargassum they are likely to receive over the next three months.

Northern and Middle islands will see a lot more sargassum than customary for these months, whilst

Southern islands are expected to experience much less, although cloud cover in the current satellite image may be hiding some southern sargassum.

Northern islands will continue to receive very high volumes of sargassum, with only a short lull at the end of April before the summer sargassum season.

Middle islands are expected to receive fairly high volumes through mid-April, experience a lull at the end of April and then high volumes going into summer, similar to last year.

Southern islands can expect sargassum towards the end of March, remain clear during April and start to see sargassum again in May, but less than last year.

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Netflix ends DVD rentals as it faces new era

BBC - Netflix is shutting down the DVD rental service that launched the firm 25 years ago, one of a series of changes as the streaming giant enters a new era.

The company, which upended the television and movie industry as it moved from DVDs to online streaming, is now struggling to reignite growth.

As it tries to boost subscribers, the firm has cracked down on password sharing in some countries.

It plans to launch those measures more widely, including in the US, by July.

In a bid to bring in audiences, the company also introduced an advertisement supported, less expensive streaming option last year and cut prices in 116 countries in the three months to March.

Despite the moves, the company added just 1.75 million paid memberships in the January to March period.

It also forecast weaker growth in the months ahead which was lower than many analysts had expected.

Paolo Pescatore, analyst at PP Foresight, called the performance "mixed".

"The quarter raises more questions than answers," he said.

California-based Netflix has come a long way since it started shipping DVDs to



customers in 1998.

It launched its streaming service in 2007 and is now a global behemoth with more than 232 million subscribers around the world.

In the investor letter, Netflix described the DVD service, which will shut down in September, as the "booster rocket that got streaming to a leading position".

"We feel so privileged to have been able to share movie nights with our DVD members for so long, so proud of what our employees achieved and excited to continue pleasing entertainment fans for many more decades to come," the company said.

But despite its early lead, Netflix's dominance of the streaming industry has started to erode as competi-

tion has intensified.

It shed more than 1 million subscribers in the first six months of 2022.

Though it more than made up those losses later in the year, helped by subscriber gains in Asia, the decline jolted the firm, pushing it to hunt for new ways to drive growth.

In a letter to investors, Netflix said it was pleased with how members have responded to changes that require people to pay to share passwords.

It warned investors to expect some cancellations as it expands those measures, but said: "Longer term, paid sharing will ensure a bigger revenue base from which we can grow as we improve our service".

Netflix has estimated that more than 100 million

households share passwords in breach of its official rules.

In Canada, where the changes were introduced in February, its paid membership base is now larger and revenue growth has accelerated, it said.

Overall revenue was up 3.7% year-on-year to \$8.1bn. It reported \$1.3bn in profit, down from nearly \$1.6bn last year.

Paul Verna, principal analyst at Insider Intelligence said the results showed Netflix's paid password sharing program and ads business had hit "early speed bumps and even in the best-case scenario, will take a long time to scale [up]".

"These are worrying signs for a business that, despite still being a market leader, is struggling to get its mojo back," he said.

**TUES - FRIDAY
11AM - 2PM**



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'The Phantom of the Opera' closes on Broadway after 35 years

Loop - The final curtain came down Sunday on New York's production of "The Phantom of the Opera," ending Broadway's longest-running show with thunderous standing ovations, champagne toasts and gold and silver confetti bursting from its famous chandelier.

It was show No. 13,981 at the Majestic Theatre and it ended with a reprise of "The Music of the Night" performed by the current cast, previous actors in the show — including original star Sarah Brightman — and crew members in street clothes.

Andrew Lloyd Webber took to the stage last in a black suit and black tie and dedicated the final show to his son, Nick, who died last month after a protracted battle with gastric cancer and pneumonia. He was 43.

"When he was a little boy, he heard some of this music," Lloyd Webber said. Brightman, holding his hand, agreed: "When Andrew was writing it, he was right there. So his son is with us. Nick, we love you very much."

Producer Cameron Mackintosh gave some in the crowd hope they would see the Phantom again, and perhaps sooner than they think.

"The one question I keep getting asked again and again — will the Phantom return? Having been a producer for over 55 years, I've seen all the great musicals return, and 'Phantom' is one of the greatest," he said. "So it's only a matter of time."

The musical — a fixture on Broadway since opening on Jan. 26, 1988 — has weathered recessions, war, terrorism and cultural shifts. But the prolonged pandemic may have been the last straw: It's a costly musical to sustain, with elaborate sets and costumes as well as a large cast and orchestra.



"The Phantom of the Opera" cast appear at the curtain call following the final Broadway performance at the Majestic Theatre on Sunday, April 16, 2023, in New York. (Photo by Charles Sykes/Invision/AP)

The curtain call Sunday showed how out of step "Phantom" is with the rest of Broadway but also how glorious a big, splashy musical can be.

"If there ever was a bang, we're going out with a bang. It's going to be a great night," said John Riddle just before dashing inside to play Raoul for the final time.

Based on a novel by Gaston Leroux, "Phantom" tells the story of a deformed composer who haunts the Paris Opera House and falls madly in love with an innocent young soprano, Christine. Webber's lavish songs include "Masquerade," "Angel of Music" and "All I Ask of You."

In addition to Riddle, the New York production said goodbye with Emilie Kouatchou as Christine and Laird Mackintosh stepping in for Ben Crawford as the Phantom. Crawford was unable to sing because of a bacterial infection but was cheered at the curtain call, stepping to the side of the stage. The Phantom waved him over to stand beside him, Riddle and Kouatchou.

There was a video presentation of

many of the actors who had played key roles in the show over the years, and the orchestra seats were crowded with Christines, Raouls and Phantoms. The late director Hal Prince, choreographer Gillian Lynne and set and costume designer Maria Björnson were also honored.

Lin-Manuel Miranda attended, as did Glenn Close, who performed in two separate Broadway productions of Lloyd Webber's "Sunset Boulevard." Free champagne was offered at intermission and flutes of it were handed out onstage at the curtain call.

Riddle first saw "The Phantom of the Opera" in Toronto as a 4-year-old child. "It was the first musical I ever saw. I didn't know what a musical was," he said. "Now, 30-some odd years later, I'm closing the show on Broadway. So it's incredible."

Kouatchou, who became the first Black woman in the role in New York, didn't think the show would ever stop. "I was like, 'OK, I'm going to do my run, 'Phantom' is going to continue on and they'll be more Christines of

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

color," she said. "But this is it."

The first production opened in London in 1986 and since then the show has been seen by more than 145 million people in 183 cities and performed in 17 languages over 70,000 performances. On Broadway alone, it has grossed more than \$1.3 billion.

When "Phantom" opened in New York, "Die Hard" was in movie theaters, Adele was born, and floppy discs were at the cutting edge of technology. A postage stamp cost 25 cents, and the year's most popular songs were "Roll With It" by Steve Winwood, "Faith" by George Michael and Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up."

Critics were positive, with the New York Post calling it "a piece of impeccably crafted musical theater," the Daily News describing it as "spectacular entertainment," and The New York Times saying it "wants nothing more than to shower the audience with fantasy and fun."

Lloyd Webber's other musicals include "Cats," "Jesus Christ Superstar," "Evita," "Sunset Boulevard" and "School of Rock." The closing of "Phantom" means the composer is left with one show on Broadway, the critically mauled "Bad Cinderella."

The closing of "Phantom," originally scheduled for February, was pushed to mid-April after a flood

of revived interest and ticket sales that pushed weekly grosses past \$3 million. The closing means the longest-running show crown now goes to "Chicago," which started in 1996. "The Lion King" is next, having begun performances in 1997.

Broadway took a pounding during the pandemic, with all theaters closed for more than 18 months. Some of the most popular shows — "Hamilton," "The Lion King" and "Wicked" — rebounded well, but other shows have struggled.

Breaking even usually requires a steady stream

of tourists, especially for "Phantom," and visitors to the city haven't returned to pre-pandemic levels. The pandemic also pushed up expenses for all shows, including routine COVID-19 testing and safety officers on staff. The Phantom became a poster boy for Broadway's return — after all, he is partially masked.

Fans can always catch the Phantom elsewhere. The flagship London production celebrated its 36th anniversary in October, and there are productions in Japan, Greece, Australia, Sweden, Italy, South Korea and the Czech Republic. One is

about to open in Bucharest, and another will open in Vienna in 2024.

Kouatchou, who walked the red carpet before the final show in a hot pink clinging gown with a sweetheart neckline and a cutout, said the bitterness was undercut by the big send-off. Most Broadway shows that close slink into the darkness uncelebrated.

"It kind of sweetens it, right?" she said. "We get to celebrate at the end of this. We get to all come together and drink and laugh and talk about the show and all the highs and lows. It's ending on a big note."



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 Dobrene O'Marde
Vice-Chairperson of the CARICOM Reparations Commission



Dr. Kristina Hinds
Head of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology, UWI Cave Hill
Independent Senator, Barbados



Ambassador Anthony Hylton
Member of Parliament,
Member, Constitutional Reform Committee, Jamaica

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St Kitts & Nevis PM condemns abduction of honorary consul in Haiti

CMC - St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrence Drew Tuesday said his government is continuing to monitor the situation in Haiti where the island's Honorary Consul, Harold Marzouka Jr had been kidnapped over the last weekend.

Drew, who is in Trinidad and Tobago attending a two-day regional symposium on violence as a public health issue, told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that "we are continuing to receive information" regarding the abduction.

Last Saturday, heavily armed people kidnapped Marzouka Jr, who is also a businessman in Haiti where armed criminal gangs are engaged in kidnapping for ransom.

"We are still gathering information and so far as we are concerned there has been no loss of life and we continue to work. But at this time, we



Prime Minister Dr Terrence Drew.

are continuing to get information," he told CMC.

In an earlier statement, the government said it is "outraged by the kidnapping" of its Honorary Consul and his father and that "the Consulate's official vehicle was also seized.

"The Government of St Kitts and Nevis expresses outright condemnation of this and other cowardly acts which lawless agents in Haiti

continue to indiscriminately utilise to terrorise Haitian citizens and residents alike.

"The Government of St Kitts and Nevis is deeply concerned about the safety of Mr Marzouka and hope that he will be returned to his home and loved ones soon. It is the Government's wish that the Marzouka family will find solace in the fact that the Government and people of Saint Kitts and Nevis stand

in solidarity with them at this undoubtedly traumatic time," the statement added.

It is calling on "those who are bent on committing these criminal and heinous undertakings to cease the violence," reiterating "the appeal to "international partners for short term assistance to address the security and humanitarian crises" in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

Brothers rescued at sea near Montserrat

Loop - Officers from the Royal Montserrat Police Service's Marine Unit rescued two brothers, who encountered difficulties while fishing off Montserrat, on Saturday.

According to police, the men were fishing off Isles Bay Beach when their vessel started to drift into the sea.

The men attempted to reach the shore but strong winds made it difficult for the brothers to manually propel themselves back to land.

A team from the Marine Unit led by

Captain Huggins successfully rescued the brothers who were met over two nautical miles from the beach on Saturday.

Police said on completion of the rescue Captain Jailall conducted a check on the vessel which the brothers used and found there to be no engine and or radio on the vessel. But he was pleased that both men had life jackets.

The marine unit advised fishermen and other seafarers to take precautions when going out to sea.



Members of the Royal Montserrat Police Service's Marine Unit rescuing two fishermen, who drifted out to sea on Saturday.

Bahamas: Govt MP expresses support for criminalisation of marital rape

Loop - When amendments to the Sexual Offences Act are brought to the Bahamian House of Assembly to criminalise marital rape, it will have the support of Minister of Works, Alfred Sears.

Sears gave the commitment today while speaking with reporters at the Prime Minister's Office.

“When the debate comes before Parliament, I can state as the Member of Parliament for Port Charlotte that I support the criminalisation of rape in any circumstance,” he said.

The minister was pressed to give further comment as some Parliamentarians have been mixed in their response to amending the law to protect women from being sexually abused



Minister of Works, Alfred Sears. Photo: PLP

in their marriage.

Consultations on the amendments are currently taking place and it has split opinions from members of the public, particularly among religious leaders

who believe that rape cannot occur between a husband and wife.

An August 2022 court case, shed further light on the prevalence of marital rape when a woman claimed

she was sexually abused by her now ex-husband during divorce proceedings.

Justice Denise Lewis-Johnson of the Bahamian Supreme Court said in her judgement the man's alleged actions could not be considered rape.

“The court accepts that rape is a most heinous act of cruelty and a malicious violation of a person,” she said.

“However, on a strict reading of laws of The Bahamas, there is no rape in marriage. Pursuant to Section 3 of the Sexual Offences Act, the law does not allow for one spouse to rape the other.

“In this place we interpret existing laws and apply them; we cannot and must not succumb to the temptation to reform laws.”

Hike for the Cure

Saturday, 29 April, 2023 | 5:30 am

Route: Meet at Hermitage Bay and ends at Pearn's Point

Donation: \$35

Dress code: Wear your Walk for the Cure T-shirt

Package includes: Complimentary breakfast

Bring your good vibes!

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.

SIR LESTER BIRD MEDICAL CENTRE

Walk for the Cure

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Fox News settles Dominion defamation case for \$787.5m

By **Bernd Debusmann**

Fox News has settled a defamation lawsuit from the voting machine company, Dominion, over its reporting of the 2020 presidential election.

In a last-minute settlement before trial, the network agreed to pay \$787.5m (£644m) - about half the \$1.6bn initially sought by Dominion.

Dominion argued its business was harmed by Fox spreading false claims the vote had been rigged against Donald Trump.

The deal spares Fox executives such as Rupert Murdoch from having to testify.

The judge in the case is not required to give his approval for the settlement.

In a statement, Fox said Tuesday's settlement in one of the most anticipated defamation trials in recent US history reflected its "commitment to the highest journalistic standards".

The Fox statement added that the network "acknowledges the court's rulings finding certain claims about Dominion to be false".

Dominion chief executive John Poulos told a press conference the deal included Fox "admitting to telling lies, causing enormous damage to my company".

Justin Nelson, a Dominion attorney, told reporters that "the truth matters".



Fox chairman Rupert Murdoch (left, with son Lachlan).

"Lies have consequences," he added. "Over two years ago a torrent of lies swept Dominion and election officials across America into an alternative universe of conspiracy theories, causing grievous harm to Dominion and the country."

Mr Nelson added that for "democracy to endure", Americans must "share a commitment to facts".

Opening arguments in the case had been due to start on Tuesday afternoon.

The announcement of a settlement came after an unexplained delay of several hours once jury selection had finished, prompting speculation that talks were underway behind the scenes.

On Monday, Delaware Superior Court Judge Eric Davis announced that the start of the trial would be

delayed by 24 hours.

Although he gave no reason, US media reported that it was to give both sides an opportunity to reach a settlement.

On Tuesday morning, however, both sides appeared to be digging in for a lengthy trial.

Attorneys for Fox had repeatedly objected to the \$1.6bn in damages sought by Colorado-based Dominion, characterising the figure as massively inflated.

The "real cost" of the case, Fox said, would be the "cherished" rights to freedom of speech and of the press enshrined in the First Amendment of the US Constitution.

Dominion's lawsuit argued that the conservative network had sullied the electronic voting company's reputation by airing false-

hoods about the 2020 vote being stolen from former President Trump.

The lawsuit claimed that the false claims were partly an effort to win over viewers angry by Fox's decision to - correctly - call the crucial electoral state of Arizona in favour of Mr Trump's then-challenger, Joe Biden.

Two of the Fox executives responsible for the Arizona decision lost their jobs two months later.

Legal findings released ahead of the trial suggested that a number of Fox executives and journalists privately questioned and dismissed conspiracy claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen, but still put them on air.

Court documents show that Mr Murdoch referred to the claims about Dominion as "really crazy", but failed

cont'd on pg 17

Stranded Indonesian fishermen rescued after six days without food

BBC - Eleven Indonesian fishermen have been rescued after surviving for six days without food or water on a tiny island off Australia's coast.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said they were airlifted to safety on Monday from Bedwell Island, some 330km (205 miles) west of the town of Broome in Western Australia.

But nine others are feared dead.

The survivors said their two boats were hit by the powerful Tropical Cyclone Ilsa last week, sinking one boat.

Nine of the 10 crew members on that vessel are still missing.

The sole survivor is reported to have been in the ocean for hours, clinging onto a jerry can, before be-



One of the two fishing boats was washed ashore on Bedwell Island.

ing picked up by the fishermen from the other boat, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) reported.

That boat was pictured washed ashore on the small Bedwell Island.

The surviving fishermen were eventually spotted by an Australian Border Force

aircraft, and evacuated by a rescue helicopter to Broome, where they are being treated in hospital.

They are "all reported to be in good health despite their ordeal", a Border Force spokesperson said, as quoted by the ABC, adding that the government was now working to "repatriate the

group as soon as practical".

Cyclone Ilsa, the strongest storm in the region in about 14 years, hit Western Australia last week - but it spared populated areas from major damage.

Bedwell island lies near the Rowley Shoals - a series of coral reefs off Western Australia's coast.

cont'd from pg 16

to take any action.

In one series of text messages, top-rated host Tucker Carlson said some of the claims were "insane". Another host, Sean Hannity, said privately he did not believe them "for one second".

Fox has said the words were taken out of context.

Ahead of the trial, Judge Davis ruled that the claims against Dominion had already been proven false, emphasising that the falsehoods were "crystal clear".

Had the trial gone on, jurors would have been tasked only with determining whether Fox News acted with "ac-

tual malice" by broadcasting claims it knew to be false.

Despite the mammoth pay-out, some legal experts believe the settlement was overall a positive outcome for the network.

Syracuse University professor and First Amendment expert Roy Gutterman said: "Looking down the line at a six-week trial, this was going to be gruelling for everyone involved and likely embarrassing for Fox.

"But a verdict against Fox could have been even costlier, and had serious implications on subsequent rulings on the actual malice standard and the First Amendment itself."

Civil litigation attorney Michelle

Simpson Tuegel told the BBC that the settlement "speaks to the massive threat Fox saw from this litigation".

"The reputational harm of having executives, including chairman Rupert Murdoch, and hosts take the stand seems to have moved the parties towards a resolution," Ms Tuegel added.

Fox still faces a second, similar defamation lawsuit from another election technology firm, Smartmatic, which is seeking \$2.7bn.

Dominion still has legislation pending against two conservative news networks, OAN and Newsmax.

The company has also sued Trump allies such as Rudy Giuliani, Sidney Powell and Mike Lindell.

Woman shot dead in New York state after friend pulled into wrong driveway

By George Wright

A man has been charged with second-degree murder in the US after he allegedly shot and killed a 20-year-old woman as the car she was in mistakenly drove up the man's driveway.

Kaylin Gillis was with three other people in New York state on Saturday.

They accidentally drove into the driveway of Kevin Monahan in the town of Hebron, police say.

As the driver was leaving, Mr Monahan, 65, allegedly opened fire on the vehicle, hitting Ms Gillis.

"This is a very sad case of some young adults who were looking for a friend's house and ended up at this man's house who decided to come out with a firearm and discharge it," Washington County Sheriff Jeffrey Murphy told a news conference.

The area is rural, and the driveways are poorly lit at night. None of the group had exited the vehicle or attempted to enter Mr Monahan's house before he allegedly opened fire, Mr Murphy said.

"There's clearly no threat from anyone in the vehicle," Sheriff Murphy said. "There's no reason for Mr Monahan to feel threat-



Kaylin Gillis was in the car with three friends when she was killed.

ened."

The friends drove away from the house and attempted to call for help in a nearby town, but Ms Gillis was pronounced dead by paramedics.

Mr Monahan was "uncooperative with the investigation and refused to exit his residence to speak with police", the sheriff's office said in a news release.

An attorney for Mr Monahan, Kurt Mauser, told CNN he was unaware that the bullets he fired had hit someone and had no idea why police were on his property.

Hebron Town supervisor Brian Campbell told Northeast Public Ra-

dio that it's "very easy for people to get lost on back roads here".

"You don't know how many times I've been awakened early in the morning [by] people lost, run out of gas, over a ditch, you go tow them out, put them on their merry way. You never think of your own safety even," he said.

In a statement sent to CBS News, the BBC's US media partner, Ms Gillis's family called her "a kind, beautiful soul and a ray of light to anyone who was lucky enough to know her".

They said the 20-year-old was an artist and a "Disney fanatic" who was looking forward to starting

college in Florida so she could become a marine biologist.

"Our family will never be the same but we will be guided by Kaylin's positivity, optimism, and joy as we learn to live with her loss."

On Tuesday, the Schuylerville Central School District held a press conference where former school officials spoke about how much she will be grieved in the "close-knit community".

Ms Gillis graduated in 2021, and two of her younger siblings attend school in the district.

A GoFundMe page was created to help Ms Gillis's family "with funeral and other expenses".



Ages 7-18

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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**YORKS BASKETBALL
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Friday April 21st

Saturday April 22nd

**CEDAR GROVE
SPORTS COMPELX** **4pm-
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Sunday April 23rd

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Swetes and Rangers win latest matches in premier league

There were wins for Swetes and Ottos Rangers in their penultimate matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Monday night.

Both teams recorded 2-1 wins in their respective premier league group phase matches during a double header at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Roy Gregory scored a winner by converting a penalty two minutes before the end of regulation time as Swetes snatched their victory over Cedar Grove Blue Jays in their Group 3 affair in Monday's opening game.

Following a goalless first half, Shackwon Simon put Swetes ahead with a conversion in the 50th minute. But their lead was short-lived as the Blue Jays equalized six minutes later via a penalty which was converted by Jamour Martin in the 56th minute.

However, Simon ensured Swetes secured all three points by scoring the winning goal from the penalty spot in the 88th minute. Their seventh win in 17 matches lifted Swetes to 25 points with one game remaining.

The Blue Jays remain in 14 place with 10 points after suffering their 13th loss in 17 matches.

The Blue Jays have avoided automatic relegation



The Swetes FC team in a huddle before the start of a premier division league match at the ABFA Technical Center earlier this season. (ABFA)

but will enter a playoff with the third and fourth place finishers in the first division, with the winners booking their spot in the premier division next season.

Ottos Rangers claimed their 2-1 victory over Five Islands in their Group 2 affair in Monday's second encounter.

Junior Benjamin scored both goals for Rangers with his first conversion coming in the 45th minute on the stroke of halftime to give

his team a 1-0 halftime advantage.

Samuel Semper scored in the 62nd minute to equalize for Five Islands, but Benjamin scored in the 89th minute or one minute before the end of regulation time, to snatch victory for his team.

Their 8th win in 17 matches lifted Ottos Rangers to 25 points, the same as Swetes. But Swetes are currently occupying sixth place ahead of Ottos Rangers in seventh position by virtue of a superior goal difference.

Five Islands will remain second from bottom of the 16-team competition on three points after slumping to their 14th defeat in 17 encounters.

Five Islands, who will join bottom team Liberta Black Hawks in being automatically relegated to the first division next season, is the only team yet to win a match in the current premier division league, which will conclude with the final round of matches this weekend.

Buckleys 3J's claim second win in ABSCA 30-Over contest

Fresh from capturing the T-10 championship, Marko Inc/Grill Box Buckleys 3J's have notched up their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Men's 30-Overs Aside Competition over the weekend.

Marco Inc/Grill box Buckley's 3J's romped to a 36-run over Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets.

Buckleys 3J's won the toss and batted, scoring 145 all out in 24.3 overs. Denley Thomas slammed 47, Nigel Fergus struck 25 and Steve Martin made 22. Essan Warner grabbed four for 33 and Kimani George captured three for 37.

In reply, Bullets were dismissed for 109 in 20.3 overs. Bernel Peterson hit 32 and Morrison Browne scored 28. Wendell Burton picked up three for 21, Bryan Burton claimed three for 24, Steve Martin took two for 17 and Zavear Otto captured two for 25.

Dredgers and Rackaman Construction Strictly Business also recorded their second win in as many matches. Dredgers crushed Old Road by 97 runs. Dredgers won the toss and batted, scoring 210 for six off 25 overs.

Mervin Higgins hammered 54 and Vernal Isadore slammed 46 not out. Hezekiah Weston captured three for 34 and Clarence Francis claimed two for 36.

Old Road then tumbled to 113 all out in 15 overs with



The Marko Inc/Grill Box Buckleys 3J's softball cricket team. (File photo)

Hezekiah Weston getting 27. Stelbert Plant grabbed five wickets for 15 runs.

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business pulled off a seven-wicket win against 300.

Batting first, 300 made 139 all out in 25.3 overs. Veston Lewis slammed 71 and Kennedy Tonge cracked 46. Charles James snapped up four wickets for 26 runs, Aurthur Crogman bagged two for 13 and Owen Graham claimed two for 26.

Strictly Business then cruised to victory at 143 for three in 13.4 overs. Kim George struck 52, Egbert Francis made 28 not out and Charles James scored 27.

Success as well for PMS who trounced Sisserou by 50 runs. PMS made 181 for

eight off 24 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Walter Carr slammed 55 and Paul Lamkin scored 22. Iverson Joseph captured four for 41 and Isaiah Viville picked up two for 36.

Chasing 182 to win, Sisserou were all out for 131 in 9.4 overs. Fedrick Jno Hope struck 27 and Karl Simon scored 24. Nicolas Thomas picked up three for 22 and Terrance Thompson captured three for 40.



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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



Matthews century leads Warriors to title in Hong Kong

A brilliant century and excellent bowling from West Indies Women's captain Hayley Matthews led Warriors Women to the FairBreak Invitational title on Sunday, with a convincing 93-run win against Falcons Women.

Matthews hit 11 fours and nine sixes in 123 from 52 balls and was the rock upon which Warriors built a challenging total of 230-4 from their allocation of 20 overs in the final at the

Kowloon Cricket Club in Hong Kong.

She returned to capture two for 14 from three overs with her off-spin, and was named Player-of-the-Match.

This enabled Warriors to restrict Falcons to 137 for eight in their 20 overs.

It was the second time in less than one month that Matthews was part of the winning side in a global women's Twenty20 tournament.



Warriors Women celebrate after winning the FairBreak Invitational title at the Kowloon Cricket Club in Hong Kong on Sunday, 16 April, 2023. (CWI Media)

She played a starring role in Mumbai Indians Women winning the inaugural Women's Premier last month, when she was voted Most Valuable Player.

Matthews held the Warriors innings together after they were sent in to bat, and she dominated all four stands of which she was a part, including a 68-run stand for the third wicket with South African Mignon du Preez.

When Matthews was dismissed in the 15th over, Warriors were 155 for four, and Scotland all-rounder Kathryn Bryce struck eight fours and two sixes in 52 from 20 balls to lead the charge in the closing overs.

Bryce shared an unbroken fifth wicket stand of 75 with her captain Ameri-

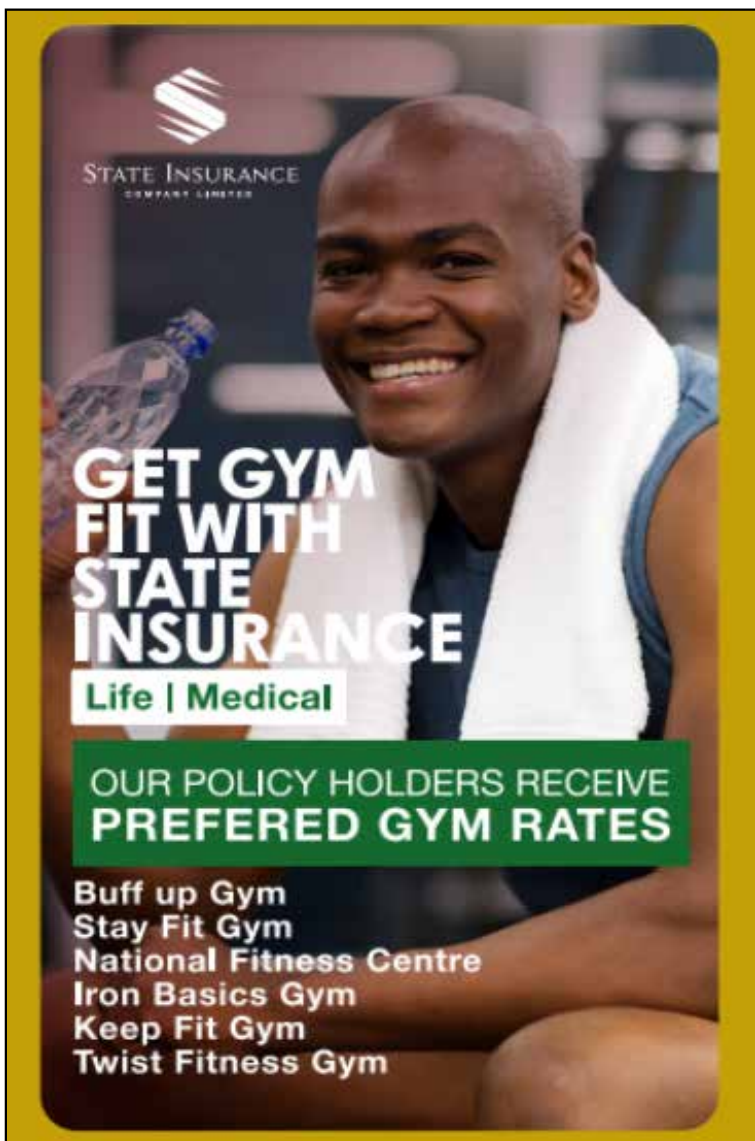
can Sindhu Sriharsha, who was not out on 25.

Falcons got off to a fast start with England international Danni Wyatt and Sri Lanka Women's captain Chamari Athapaththu going at 10 runs an over.

When Wyatt was caught behind off Bryce for 20 and Athapaththu went in similar fashion to Matthews, the task became harder.

Falcons captain Suzie Bates, the former New Zealand Women's captain, made 25 and United Arab Emirates international Theertha Satish got 29 and tried to keep up with the imposing run rate.

Their dismissals in the 12th and 16th overs respectively, left Falcons with a mountain, which last year's beaten finalists were unable to overcome.



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Spinners Bishop and Nedd eager for first in first-class

Left-arm spinners Joshua Bishop and Ashmead Nedd are eagerly looking forward to their first taste of first-class action, as they prepare for the Headley Weekes Tri-Series, which gets underway today (Wednesday).

Bishop and Nedd, are both 22 and have been named in the West Indies Academy squad. They face Team Headley in the first of three four-day matches at Coolidge Cricket Ground here in Antigua. First ball daily is 10am (9am Jamaica).

“We just looked at it as an opportunity to put ourselves against more experienced players that have been around for quite a while and test out ourselves,” Bishop told CWI Media.

“I’m definitely looking forward to it, from CG United Super50 (last November). We had a fairly decent tournament but I’m really looking forward to the four-day challenge.”

Bishop led the Academy’s attack during the CG United Super50 with eight wickets, while Nedd finished with five wickets at an economy rate of just over four runs.

Overall, Bishop has taken 40 wickets in 28 List A games while Nedd has claimed 22 from 17 ap-



Left-arm spinners Joshua Bishop, left, and Ashmead Nedd are eagerly looking forward to their first taste of first-class action, as they prepare for the Headley Weekes Tri-Series which gets underway at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua today. (CWI Media)

pearances. Both have also played in the Caribbean Premier Leagues regional T20 tournament.

“I’m also looking forward to the challenge,” said Nedd. “It will be the first time I’m playing four-day cricket, so it’s a good feeling to be playing four-day, first class cricket. It will be an enjoyable two weeks.”

Bishop and Nedd will be part of a unit which also includes Kirk McKenzie, Kevlon Anderson, Keagan Simmons, Ackeem Auguste, Teddy Bishop, Tevin Imlach, Kevin Wickham and Ramon Simmonds, all of whom have already played first class cricket.

They will come up

against a Team Headley side led by West Indies wicketkeeper Joshua Da Silva and including Darren Bravo, Kieran Powell and Shayne Moseley, who have already played at the Test level.

“There are a few players that we know keenly well from the other teams ... so it’s just for us to do our homework and share it with the rest of the team,” Nedd said.

All matches in the Headley Weekes Tri-Series will be streamed LIVE on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel with live scorecards and ball-by-ball scoring on the Windiescricket.com live match

centre.

SQUADS: West Indies Academy: Kevlon Anderson, Ackeem Auguste, Joshua Bishop, Teddy Bishop, McKenny Clarke, Tevin Imlach, Joshua James, Johann Layne, Kirk McKenzie, Ashmead Nedd, Kelvin Pitman, Keagan Simmons, Ramon Simmonds, Kevin Wickham and Nyeem Young.

Team Headley: Joshua Da Silva (captain), Sunil Ambris, Darren Bravo, Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge, Chaim Holder, Akeem Jordan, Marquino Mindley, Shayne Moseley, Gudakesh Motie, Anderson Phillip, Kieran Powell and Teyvyn Walcott.

Wins for Pythons and Tigers in T20 Explosion tournament

All Saints Pythons and Jennings Tigers recorded their second win in three matches in the Cool and Smooth T20 Explosion at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Monday.

Pythons pulled off a 25-run victory over Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in the second match of Monday's double header.

Chasing 133 runs for victory, Bethesda Golden Eagles could only muster 107 for seven off their allotted 20 overs.

Sadique Henry made 23 off 25 balls and Shacyoy Floyd scored 21 off 17 balls. Christopher McBride captured three for 13.

Batting first after winning the toss, Matthew Forde slammed a half century as All Saints Pythons made 132 for five off their 20 overs.

Forde hammered 64 off 43 balls with five fours and three sixes, while Liam Naylor contributed 33 off 34 balls with two fours and a six. Jamaul Fernandez picked up three wickets for 15 runs.

Jennings Tigers beat Bolans Blasters by 34 runs in the opening match on



The Jennings Tigers team celebrate after picking up a wicket during their match against Bolans Blasters in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Monday, 17th April, 2023. (CST20)

Monday.

Set 113 runs to win, Bolans were blasted out for a paltry 78 in 15.2 overs. Orlando Peters top scored with 34 off 27 balls with four fours and a six.

Craig Rainford grabbed three wickets for 14 runs,

Ben Sexton picked up two wickets for two runs and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams captured two wickets for 14 runs.

Jennings Tigers made 112 all out after winning the toss and opting to bat. D'Ahri Francis hit a top

score of 25 off 29 balls and Matthew Miller chipped in with 18.

Michael Harilall grabbed three wickets for six runs, pacer Taiem Tonge captured two for 16 and Zidane Clarke took two wickets for 25 runs.