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HOTEL WORKERS OFF TO JERSEY FOR SECOND YEAR

Story on Page 2



Some of the hotel workers who have secured jobs in Jersey pose with ABTA CEO Colin C. James, UK High Commissioner Karen Mae Hill and representatives of the ABHTA and the Ministry of Tourism. Some traveled overnight to take up the 6-month jobs.

Local News





Hotel workers are off to Jersey for a second year

Hotel workers in Antigua and Barbuda are benefitting from the work exchange programme for a second year, under an agreement which the Antigua and Barbuda government has entered into with the government of Jersey in the Channel Islands.

Organised jointly with the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in the United Kingdom and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) and managed by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA), the programme will see 27 local hotel workers being employed for six months by properties in Jersey.

Karen Mae Hill said the programme was initiated by the government of Jersey based on a study it conducted to see what country it was most compatible with, and Antigua and Barbuda emerged at the top of the list. She explained that following negotiations between the two governments, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed for the exchange programme for an initial three-year period.

"Their peak season is our off-season because of winter; Antigua and Barbuda welcomes most of its visitors in the winter months but for Jer-

High Commissioner in London, sey, their peak season is the summer months when some of our hotels have low occupancy or are even closed. This works well for both sides; it gives our young people a chance to make some money, to build their skills. They also learn how to navigate in a busier environment," she added.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Tourism Authority, Colin C. James said the ABTA is quite pleased with the candidates who are participating this year in the work programme, noting that they are ambassadors for the country while in Jersey.

"We are happy that the hotel sector and the authorities in Jersey have seen it fit to renew the programme which means that it has worked well. A lot of the properties that are represented here close during the summer months so these folks will have an opportunity to be gainfully employed right down until the start of our season and that's good!" he remarked.

He noted that the number booked so far is lower than those who took part last year, but he is more interested in the quality of service provided by nationals than in the numbers who participate.

He noted that other Caribbean countries have been asking to be added to the programme but so far, the government of Jersey is continuing cont'd on pg 3





Local News

New reverse osmosis plant arrives to help solve water issue

The government is making positive strides to bring relief to water consumers who continue to suffer from the lack of sufficient water to meet the daily demand for the commodity.

Faced with the effects of a prolonged drought and with other challenges, in both the production and distribution of water, consumers have had to do without water for several days, in some cases leading to much dissatisfaction in the society.

Now through the cabinet, Utilities Minister, Melford Nicholas, is reporting that a new plant, intended to expand water production, has arrived in Antigua and is to be installed at Fort James alongside the existing plant, located in that same facility.

Chief of Staff in the Of-



fice of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst, revealed that the minister informed the cabinet, that APUA has arrived at a novel way to deal with the problem of the turbidity of the water, during ground swells.

"A discussion was held about creating nearshore wells that could be 95 to 120 feet deep, and sufficiently wide to allow for pipes to be placed in them, to suck up brackish water for the reverse osmosis plant. In Barbuda, wells are utilized for securing water for the reverse osmosis plant; and at Pigeon Point, wells are also utilized. However, the other reverse osmosis plants rely on water obtained directly from the sea; plants are then turned off during times when groundswell, high winds, and rough seas cause the water to be filled with sand, shells, vegetation, and other debris that are harmful to the membranes in the reverse osmosis plants," the cabinet was told.

It was further explained that the wells will alleviate the challenge posed by the adverse conditions that cause potable water production to decline.

Antigua consumes more than 11,000,000 gallons of potable water daily. Another reverse osmosis plant, to be placed near Bethesda, would bring production to the same level as demand. More than EC\$120 million has been expended on the purchase of reverse osmosis plants by the Gaston Browne administration.

cont'd from pg 2 its association with A

its association with Antigua and Barbuda.

Further details of the programme were provided by ABHTA's Althea Watkins speaking at a brief Pinning Ceremony at the Ministry of Tourism, where the candidates were recognized for being selected for the programme.

"We are in the second year of this three-year agreement between both countries which has given additional Antiguan and Barbudan residents the opportunity to apply and work

in Jersey.

"The purpose of today's ceremony is to acknowledge and celebrate the Jersey participants who have secured a job in Jersey for 2023 and who have successfully completed the E.A.S.E (Exceeding All Service Expectations) training. This training was facilitated by Ms. Shirlene Nibbs, which provided participants with the history, knowledge, and skills required to deliver excellent customer service

while working in Jersey," Watkins indicated.

At least six of the candidates who participated in the programme last year were offered jobs; mainly to return to the properties where they had worked.



Local News Gov't considers option to acquire Cancer Centre

The government has expressed an interest in acquiring the Eastern Caribbean Cancer Centre, located adjacent to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre following its closure slated for the end of the month.

According to the Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst, the US\$15 million bill which the principal owner of the facility, Dr. Conville Browne, seeks to gain, is quite excessive and the government is not able to pay that amount.

"The object of the government is to acquire the facility so that Antiguans and Barbudans who currently receive treatment there,



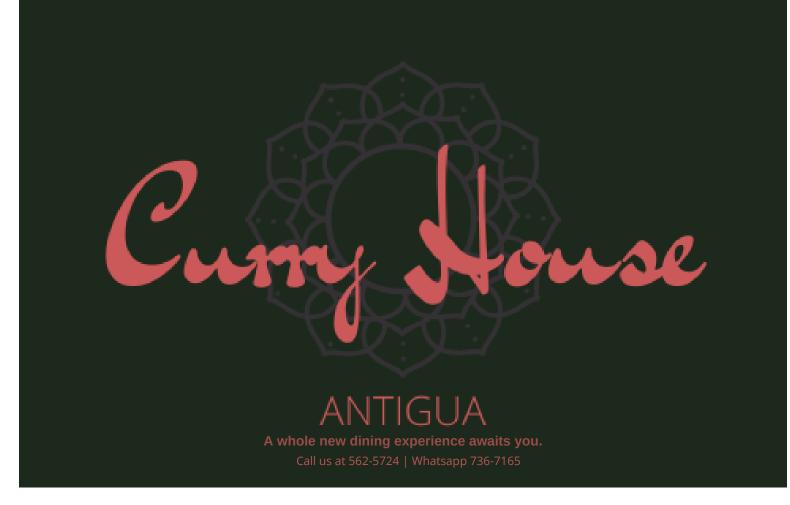
as well as those from the neighbouring islands may continue to do so.

"The challenge we face is that cost which he is demanding is much higher than we are prepared to pay or can afford. So, we are looking for alternate arrangements in the meantime. This means we have to negotiate a cost that is reasonable and one which the government can afford," Hurst stated.

The Chief of Staff revealed that Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph had informed the cabinet on Wednesday, of arrangements that have been put in place to ensure the care of cancer patients undergoing treatment at the centre currently, will have continued care after the centre closes.

"Those patients will have an opportunity to travel outside of Antigua and Barbuda at the expense of the Medical Benefits Scheme, to continue their specialized care," Hurst emphasized.

Hurst said the government is mindful that some patients may be too sick or may reach a point where they are too sick to endure the rigours of travel, and that is why the government is keen to have a solution to the matter as soon as possible, for the benefit of all.





Local News

Antigua & Barbuda well-placed to be festivals centre of the Caribbean

A weekend concert that will feature the internationally renowned Kanneh-Mason family of musicians as well as the Antigua and Barbuda Youth Symphony Orchestra, will help to solidify Antigua and Barbuda as the 'festivals country' in the Caribbean.

Those are the sentiments expressed by Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Karen Mae Hill, one of the persons involved in this 5th edition of the 'Music to Inspire' concert taking place on Saturday night at the St. John's Pentecostal House of Restoration on Lauchland Benjamin Drive.

"When you think about Carnival, when you think about Independence, when you think about Sailing Week which has a lot of festivities around it, we see a niche working with the Kanneh-Masons' to bring the world to Antigua and Barbuda for a week of music. This is not just classical music; it also features our music because we have found ways to incorporate the steel band into the things that we do. We have found ways to incorporate local music such as Antiguan folksongs arranged for the orchestra, and we have worship songs arranged for the orchestra and choir as well," she revealed.

High Commissioner Hill said the Kanneh-Masons' are one of the best assets available to the country, as they readily identify as Antiguans and Barbudans as their grandparents were Antiguans, and so too is their father.

"They have a strong connection to the country, and they are working with us to build this programme into something people all over the world and the region will come to Antigua and Barbuda to celebrate, music," she declared.

Caption

High Commissioner in London. Karen Mae Hill





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PAGE 5

Local News



UWI FIC to facilitate discussion on Republicanism

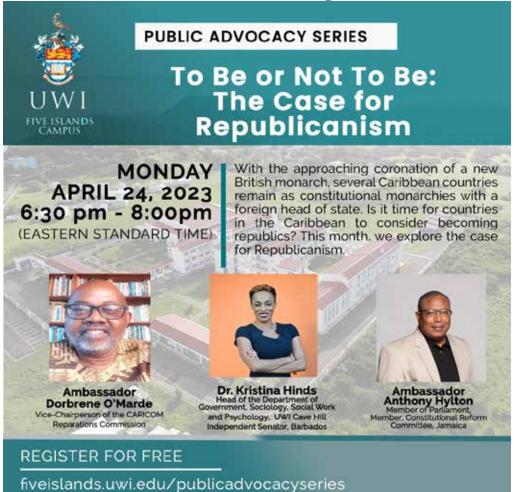
With the upcoming coronation of a new British monarch, The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus will explore the case for Republicanism in the Caribbean in the next edition of its Public Advocacy series. The April edition of the series will take place on Monday, April 24, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. with the topic: "To Be or Not to Be: The Case for Republicanism."

This month's speakers at the campus' Public Advocacy Series will be Dorbrene Ambassador O'Marde, Ambassador Anthony Hylton and Dr. Kristina Hinds. The panel brings together a wide range of experienced individuals in the areas of governance, politics, and reparatory justice.

Ambassador Dorbrene O'Marde is one of the vice chairs of the CAR-ICOM Reparations Commission and chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission.

Ambassador Anthony Hylton is a Member of Parliament in Jamaica for the constituency of Saint Andrew West and was recently appointed to the Constitution Reform Committee of Jamaica, which is in the process of reforming the country's constitution, including a review of its head of state.

Dr. Kristina Hinds is a Senior Lecturer in Political Science and Head of the Department of Government, Sociology, Social Work and Psychology at the University of the West Indies (UWI), Cave Hill Campus. Dr. Hinds was sworn into the Senate of Barba-



dos as an Independent Senator in April

2022.

This month's series will conclude the 2022/2023 series which has explored politics and policies related to Antigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean. The series will end with this exciting topic, as several of the contributing countries of The UWI remain constitutional monarchies and are in the process of discussing constitutional reform, including replacing the British monarchy.

The virtual event takes place on Monday, April 24, 2023, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (Eastern Caribbean time). Opening remarks will be delivered by Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal, Professor Densil Williams and followed by the discussion with the panel. Participants will be able to pose questions directly to the speakers during the discussion segment. Persons can register online at the campus' website: https://fiveislands.uwi.edu/publicadvocacyseries

EU funds access to open spaces project

The European Union is funding an 'access to open spaces campaign in the Eastern Caribbean which includes Antigua and Barbuda.

As part of the project, a tree planting exercise was held at the Villa Primary School on Thursday, with another planned for Liberta Primary today.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the parliamentary representative for the area, joined the Team Leader /

Counsellor, Human Devel- cally, and school officials. opment Delegation of the European Union to Barbados and the OECS, Dr. Florian Luetticken, officials of the Office of the National Authorising Officer which coordinates EU projects lo-

According to the literature, access to playgrounds and other outdoor areas on a school campus is as important to supporting learning, as traditional classrooms. With

cont'd on pg 8

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. John's, Antigua - Anjo Insurances, a leading insurance agent, announced today that it will be undergoing a comprehensive rebranding effort to better align with its core values of **integrity, service,** and **experience**.

The rebranding initiative comes as part of the company's commitment to deliver the best possible service and support to its customers, while maintaining the highest levels of integrity and professionalism.

"We are thrilled to unveil our new brand identity, which reflects our commitment to providing exceptional insurance solutions with honesty and integrity," said Harry Hobson, Office Manager. "Our new branding is a reflection of our dedication to offering unparalleled service and experience to our customers, while upholding our values of honesty and trust."

The new brand identity includes a refreshed logo and visual identity that embody the company's core values of integrity, service, and experience. The new look and feel of the brand will be reflected across all customer touchpoints, including the company's website, marketing materials, and customer support channels.

The rebranding effort is part of the company's ongoing commitment to improving the customer experience and delivering the best possible insurance solutions to its customers.

"We are excited about the future of our company and look forward to continuing to provide our customers with the exceptional service and support they have come to expect from us," said Harry Hobson. "We believe that our new branding will help us build even stronger relationships with our customers and ensure that we are always there for them when they need us most."

For more information about Anjo Insurances and its new brand identity, please visit **anjoinsure.com**.

Yorie Taylor Marketing Coordinator



+1 268 480 3050 www.anjoinsure.co Woods Centre P.O. Box 104 St. John's, Antigua

Local News Seven contestants to compete in Labour Queen Show 2023

The annual Labour Queen Show which has become a permanent feature of Labour Week activities for the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and the Antigua Trades and Labour Union has confirmed that seven young ladies will compete this year.

The contestants are Denesha Samuel representing St. Mary's South, Kasey Vitalis of St. Mary's North, Teresa Nanton - St. John's City South, Delisa Weste - St. Paul. Kafrisa Corbett - St. John's City West, Mekesha Browne - St. John's Rural North and Lenique Stanislaus of St. John's Rural South.

Head of the Planning Committee, Sharilyn James, said the show takes place this year on Sunday, April 30 at the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre in St. John's. She noted that the popularity of the show has grown in recent years as it is seen as a stepping-



stone for young women who wish to participate in the Queen of Carnival pageant. She added that several winners of the pageant have ended up as winners in the Carnival show or have ended up in the top three finalists.

cont'd from pg 6

careful planning, schools can make effective use of these communal spaces to help create the right school culture and support learning beyond the classroom.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has proven the value of these spaces in supporting high-quality teaching and learning. As schools

have tried to spread students out to maintain safe social distancing, many have taken advantage of outdoor areas to create additional learning spaces. Outdoor learning spaces can be an easy and cheaper way to offer better air quality, as well as a way to increase school capacity," it noted.

> Additionally, outdoor



spaces offer several opportunities to extend learning, and research suggests there are both educational and health-related benefits to learning outdoors. For instance, breathing fresh air can clear students' minds and help them think, by increasing the amount of oxygen their brains receive. Being outside, can also reduce stress and improve students'

emotional well-being.

The EU provided the benches, garbage receptacles, and signage for the two named schools. The Ministry of Agriculture provided fruit trees for the greening of the outdoor space, which forms part of the counterpart contribution to the project. This project was replicated in other countries during the COVID period.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Travel

POINCEXPRESS

Have a US green card? Avoid accusations of abandonment of status

Loop - Jamaicans and other Caribbean nationals in the US tend to travel back and forth, sometimes with little attention to the fact that, as lawful permanent residents, they have certain responsibilities to maintain physical presence and continuous residence in the US.

You could be in danger of losing your residency by remaining out of the country for extended periods. If this happens, there can be several negative consequences, so please be aware.

So if you are a green card holder who lives and works in a foreign country and have no "ties" to the USA, you are putting yourself at risk of being accused of abandonment.

Interestingly, too, don't forget that even with short visits to the US you may still be found to have abandoned your status. The same is true for just a visit here and there every year.

Do not remain outside of the US for more than six months continuously. If you do, you could trigger difficult questions from Customs and Border Patrol on your return.

You could be accused of abandonment of your green card status if you have been overseas for more than one year.

Several factors suggest abandonment of your green card status, so just being abroad is not enough.

However, it appears to be a kneejerk trigger for Customs and Border Patrol, so be prepared for extensive and sometimes disrespectful questioning.

Have your answers and evidence ready, and be prepared to fight to keep your status.

Do not sign, under any circumstances, any document that says you are abandoning your residency upon entry to the country. You may feel you



Attorney Nadine C Atkinson-Flowers (inset) are being coerced or rushed, so you ings. must stand your ground.

The signing of the abandonment form is almost impossible to resile from, as it will be construed that you did it voluntarily.

A good rule of thumb is that once you are accused of abandoning your green card, refuse to sign anything at all, just to be safe.

Rather, ask to see an immigration judge. It is only the immigration judge in an immigration court who can make that legal determination that you have abandoned your green card.

The court will require that you attend on a particular day and present evidence on which the immigration judge can determine if you actually abandoned your green card status.

Such evidence should include your intention when you were leaving the country. For example, it was to be a short visit, but a relative became severely ill.

Where you have employment abroad, you must ensure that you pay and file your US tax obligations annually.

Show proof of your deep US affiliations, such as your ownership or rental of residence or property holdShow the overall length of time in the US as further proof.

Point to your community ties and involvement developed and maintained before the departure from the US.

This would include the maintenance of bank accounts, utility bills, state identifications, driver's licences, club memberships, or other such ties to the US.

Where other members of your immediate family live in the US, such as your minor children and your spouse, that, too, is an important indicator that you have not abandoned your status.

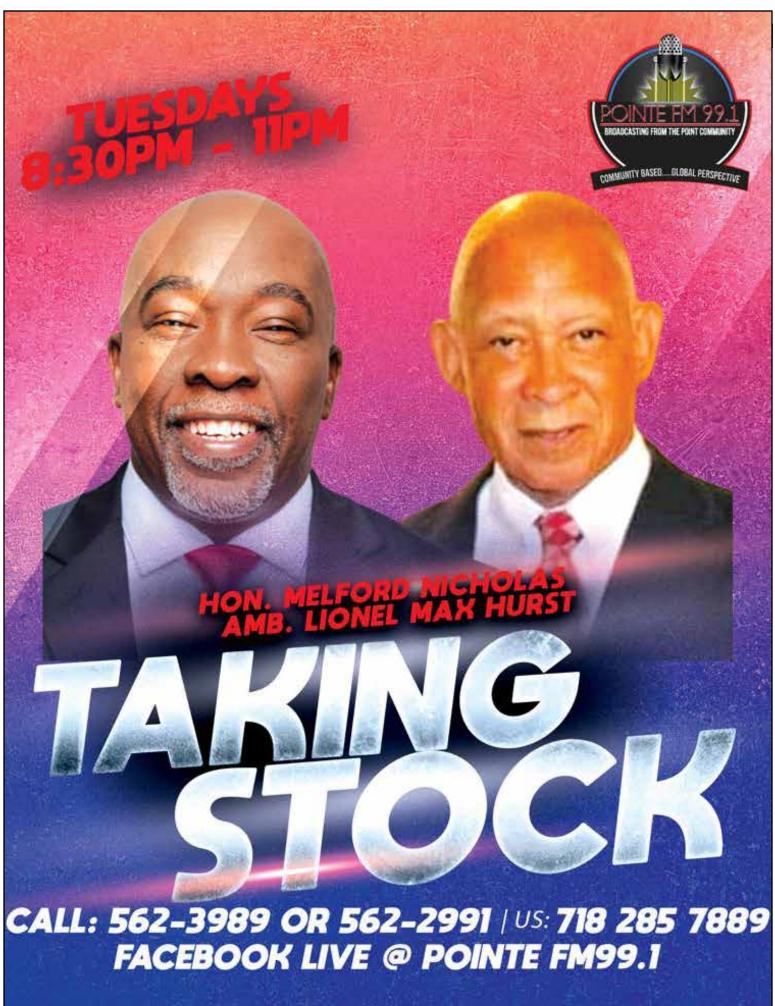
Finally, ensure that you keep physical copies of all documents that show you have made the USA your home. In this electronic age, people tend not to preserve information.

US immigration issues always require documentation in a paper format. The evidence you present is critical to a positive outcome.

We will have more on abandonment and other implications next week.

*This article does not constitute legal advice and is intended for informational purposes only.





WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

AGE 12 Environment Environment Mystery solved: Scientists ID Caribbean sea urchin killer

Loop - Last year, sea urchins in the Caribbean started getting sick — shedding their spines, dying off and throwing reef ecosystems into chaos. Now, scientists think they've caught the killer in this marine murder mystery.

A tiny single-celled parasite is to blame for the massive die-off, researchers reported Wednesday in the journal Science Advances.

"The case is closed," said study author Mya Breitbart, a marine microbiologist at the University of South Florida.

These long-spined sea urchins, or Diadema antillarum, are prickly black creatures that hide out in reefs across the Caribbean. They play a key role as "lawnmowers" of the reef, Breitbart said, eating up the algae that grows on corals.

But in January 2022, these animals started showing strange symptoms their sharp spines drooping and falling off, their suction-cup feet losing their grip — before dying off in droves, from the Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico to Florida.

For marine scientists, it was deja vu: Another die-off swept through the region in the 1980s and slashed sea urchin populations by around 98 per cent.



This photo provided by researchers shows a ciliate parasite-affected sea urchin, centre, and a normal-looking one, left, in St. John, US Virgin Islands, in April 2022. (Ian Hewson/Cornell University via AP)

That case was never solved. But this time, an international team of researchers jumped into action, taking samples from sick urchins and healthy ones across the Caribbean to look for genetic clues.

They didn't see signs of viruses or bacteria, said study author Ian Hewson, who researches marine diseases at Cornell University. But they did spot traces of tiny single-celled organisms called ciliates, which only showed up in the sick urchins.

Though most ciliates don't cause disease, this kind has been linked with other aquatic outbreaks, making it a prime suspect, Hewson said.

To confirm they'd

caught the killer, scientists placed the parasites in tanks with healthy urchins grown in captivity to see how they'd react. Out of 10 urchins who were pitted against the tiny creatures, 60 per cent of them died — after showing the same symptoms researchers were seeing in the wild.

It's possible that this same parasite also caused the die-off in the 1980s, but scientists can't be sure, Breitbart said.

And they haven't figured out a way to treat the diseased urchins. But they're hopeful that knowing the source of the dieoffs will help conserve the reefs, especially once they learn more about how the parasites spread, Breitbart said.

These urchin deaths and other stresses have already transformed the reefs, added Don Levitan, a marine scientist at Florida State University who was not involved with the study.

Back before the first sea urchin die-off, Levitan recalled seeing reefs in the US Virgin Islands blanketed in the spiny creatures. Now, those reefs look much different — choked by algae, struck by coral disease and stressed out from rising temperatures.

"Coral reefs in the Caribbean are in trouble," Levitan said.

"We're at a different place than we were 30, 40 years ago."



Entertainment

Coroner: Aaron Carter drowned in tub from drug, inhalant

Loop - Singer and rapper Aaron Carter accidentally drowned in his bathtub as a result of sedatives he'd taken and gas used in spray cleaners he had inhaled, a coroner's report said Tuesday.

Carter, the younger brother of the Backstreet Boys' Nick Carter, was found submerged and dead at age 34 in the bathtub of his home in Lancaster, California, on Nov. 5, the autopsy report from the Los Angeles County Medical Examiner-Coroner said.

Sheriff's deputies had been the last people to see Carter alive when they visited his house at 2 a.m. on Nov. 4 for a welfare check after he had been seen and heard "huffing" an inhalant on an Instagram live video, according to a police report included in the autopsy findings. He asked the deputies to leave, and they did.

The autopsy found that the sedative alprazolam, often sold under the brand name Xanax, was found in his system, as was the compressed gas difluoroethane, which the report says is "a gas commonly used as a propellant in air spray cleaners," which "can induce feelings of euphoria when inhaled."

The two substances incapacitated him in the tub, and caused the drowning, the report said.



Singer Aaron Carter arrives at a premiere of "Saints & Strangers" at the Saban Theater in Beverly Hills, California, November 9, 2015. (Photo by Rich Fury/Invision/AP, File)

Later in the evening, after deputies checked on Carter, he missed an appointment with a drug counsellor, the police report said.

The following day, a person whom authorities called a house sitter at the time but whom the report identifies in quotes as a "housekeeper" came to Carter's house to offer him coffee. She let herself in when she got no response and heard his dogs barking, according to the report.

The woman found him submerged, wearing a T-shirt and necklace, in a Jacuzzi-style tub with the jets running and called 911. The operator told her to pull him out and perform CPR, according to the report. Paramedics immediately declared him dead when they arrived.

Investigators found several prescription bottles and multiple scattered cans of an electronic duster that he used for inhaling.

The report referred to Carter as "a celebrity with a known history of substance abuse" who had "multiple interactions with local police relating to the substance abuse." It cited a particular history of inhalant abuse and a recent relapse.

Carter began performing as a child in the 1990s, opening for acts including his brother's boy band and Britney Spears. His career peak came in 2000 with the triple-platinum album "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)," which produced hit singles including the title song and "I Want Candy." He also acted on television shows including "Lizzie McGuire," and appeared on the family reality show "House of Carters" and "Dancing With the Stars."

Carter for years had been open about his substance abuse struggles, detailing his issues with inhalants in a 2019 episode of the talk show "The Doctors." He also said in the interview that he was taking medications for acute anxiety and bipolar disorder.

Nick Carter said after his younger brother's death that "I have always held onto the hope that he would somehow, someday want to walk a healthy path and eventually find the help that he so desperately needed."

Regional News



Guyana: Police search for couple wanted in connection with cop's murder

Loop - The Guyana Police Force has issued wanted bulletins for a couple they believe can assist with their investigation into the disappearance and subsequent murder of Police Constable Quincy Lewis.

In the wanted bulletins, Police said Thakurdial Samaroo and Naqeeba Zahid Zafarali, also known as Naqeeba Zafarali, whose last known address is Lot 7 Ogle Front Road, East Coast Demerara are wanted for questioning in relation to the murder of Lewis.

The bulletins were issued today, hours after police found skeletal remains in a grave at the Madewini Sandpit area, on the Soesdyke/Linden Highway and they believed it might belong to Lewis.

Police believe Zafarali and Samaroo have fled Guyana.

Lewis has been missing since June 19, 2020.

In a statement yesterday, Crime Chief Wendell Blanhum said the discovery of the skeletal remains were



discovered as a result of an intense police investigation over the last few months.

In a statement on Wednesday, Blanhum said: "I wish to take this opportunity to commend the ranks of the Major Crimes Unit who worked tirelessly along with the newly appointed head of the Cold Case Unit to achieve this breakthrough and offer closure to the family of the deceased. "The Guyana Police Force will seek to send samples of the human skeletal remains unearthed today with the assistance of the suspects who remain in custody, for DNA testing.

The Guyana Police Force will also use all legal avenues available to ensure that the other two suspects are extradited to Guyana to answer to the allegations in relation to the death of the deceased," he commented.





Regional News

Bajans have every right to fish in Tobago under Treaty - PM Mottley

Loop - Barbadian fishermen have every right to fish in Tobago waters and vice versa.

This assertion was made by Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley on Wednesday, while speaking to the media at the sidelines of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) workshop on Climate Services to Support Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean at the Accra Beach Hotel.

While responding to claims made by All Tobago Fisherfolk Association (ATFA) in another section of the media on April 10, that Barbadian fishermen were overfishing in Tobago waters and forcing Tobagonian fish processors to go out of business, Mottley sought to clear the air about perceived tensions between Barbados and the twin-island republic, Trinidad and Tobago.

She revealed that the flying fish issue was discussed with Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Keith Rowley and relations were "extremely collegiate and friendly". Prime Minister Mottley said whether there was overfishing in Tobago waters should be determined by the fisheries department.



Prime Minister Mia Amor Mottley speaks with the media at the sidelines of a workshop hosted by the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

"What Prime Minister Rowley and I have agreed is that there is no way that either of the two of us can tell you whether there has been overfishing. We do not believe so.

"Let the two fisheries departments meet and let them come to the conclusion based on the science and the evidence that is available."

Prime Minister Mottley voiced that the concerns regarding Barbadian fishermen plying their trade in Trinidad and Tobago was an "irrelevant" issue, as the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas gives any Caribbean person "the right to go and set up a business anywhere".

"The issue is irrelevant, when you have the fact that Barbadians can go into Tobago and set up a fish processing plant anytime tomorrow or today, in the same way Trinidadians can come here and own a hotel and establish a hotel....

"The right of establishment under the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas gives any Caribbean person, who lives in a country that is signatory to it, the right to go and set up a business anywhere.

"Now, we may have to help some of the fishermen if they want to do that, but the bigger issue is that there are some scientific issues with the sargassum seaweed and the pelagic [zone] and the flying fish - Let the fisheries department do their work," she insisted.

With the Caribbean threatened by not only climate change but also unsustainable fishing practices, the environmental champion, hopes for a regional agreement to protect the marine environment.

"If we can get an agreement that deals with conservation and the management of stock and preventing overfishing that is in the interest of all of us," remarked Prime Minister Mottley.

PAGE 15

Regional News



Suriname reintroducing visa requirements for a number of countries

CMC - Less than a year after Suriname abolished the visa requirements for all countries, the measure is being reintroduced for 21 countries.

From May 1, the visa requirement will apply to 21 countries whose citizens have been found to be abusing visa-free travel to Suriname, according to Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Business and International Cooperation Albert Ramdin.

They include the Caribbean nations of the Dominican Republic, Cuba and Venezuela. Others include India, Nepal, Pakistan, Bangladesh Kenya, Ghana, Somalia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, and Syria.

The decision to reintroduce the requirement was taken on Wednesday.

Although there has also been an increase in arrivals from China, Morocco, Romania and Colombia, the visa requirement for citizens of these countries has not been reinstated.

Ramdin noted that bilateral agreements with some of these countries on visa abolition were taken into account. Romania, a member state of the European Union (EU), is among those.

Paramaribo has requested that the EU abolish visa requirements for Surinamese.

"We don't want to jeopardize that matter unneces-



sarily," said Ramdin.

With regards to Colombia, the Foreign Affairs Minister said many Surinamese go to that country for medical treatment and that the government would not create unnecessary barriers.

"It is a weighing of interests that you make," he said.

Ramdin explained that when the government introduced visa-free travel on July 1, last year, the goal was to get as many tourists as possible to Suriname and to make the country more accessible to foreign investors.

However, he said, an evaluation was done and it was found, among other things, that travellers were using Suriname as a stopover.

"An in-depth review has been made over the past few months by the Immigration Department, Directorate of National Security and Foreign Affairs. What we see is confirmation that visa-free travel is not being used for the purpose for which it is intended," said Ramdin.

Adding that the visa ease was granted since Suriname did not have consular offices in all countries for visa applications to be made, he said: "A small group abuses this and that is something we cannot allow."

For the countries where the largest influx of travellers has been observed, the visa requirement has therefore been reintroduced. The influx from other countries is still being monitored.

Ramdin said while he understood that migrants were looking for places where they could have a better life, Suriname did not want to create problems for other countries.

"We also look at the national interest. We don't want problems with other countries because we have become a conduit. We don't want to be seen as a country that facilitates human smuggling and illegal movement of people," he said.

A group of 150 foreigners, including Pakistanis and Africans, was detained at the international airport last week after being denied entry to the country.

Ramdin said they will all be repatriated. Some have already been sent back home.

Ramdin emphasized that even without visas being required for travel, the country's immigration law was still in force and being allowed to travel visa-free did not guarantee admission to the country.

He pointed out that the Immigration Service checks whether passengers meet the conditions for entry into the country and those who do not meet the conditions are refused entry.

POINTEXPRESS International AROUND THE WORLD

PAGE 17

Lula's security chief resigns

BBC - The top national security adviser to Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva has resigned after video emerged showing the aide inside the presidential palace in Brasilia during rioting on 8 January.

Gen Marcos Gonçalves Dias stepped down after CNN Brasil broadcast CCTV footage of him talking to members of a mob.

The general denied accusations that he had facilitated the rioters' entry.

The government is now backing a congressional inquiry into the riots.

This comes on top of an investigation by federal police.

Gen Gonçalves Dias said he had arrived after the rioters.

CNN Brasil said it had analysed 160 hours of footage from 22 separate cameras.

In its report, the broadcaster showed footage of Gen Gonçalves Dias in the same corridor as some of the people who had stormed the building.

CNN says the footage was recorded in the corridor outside a room leading to the office of the president on the third floor of the palace.

The images appear to show the general pointing out the emergency exit to the rioters. There is no sound, so it is not clear what he says to them.

The general told Brazil-



Marcos Gonçalves Dias (right) was President Lula's top security adviser.

ian TV channel GloboNews that he "was removing people from the third and fourth floors so that they could be arrested on the second floor".

Gen Gonçalves Dias argued that his actions had prevented the ransacking of the third and fourth floor of the palace.

He added that he had handed in his resignation so that the investigation could proceed "in a transparent way".

Other footage broadcast by CNN appears to show members of the Institutional Security Bureau (GSI), which Gen Gonçalves Dias leads, handing out bottles of water to some of the rioters and shaking hands with them.

Gen Gonçalves Dias said those shown handing water to the rioters had been removed from their posts and were currently under investigation.

The presidential palace was one of three buildings in Brasilia which rioters opposed to the election of President Lula stormed on 8 January.

Opponents of the newly elected president had been camping out in front of army barracks across the country in an attempt at convincing the army to prevent the transfer of power from the outgoing far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, to Lula.

With their frustration growing after Lula's swearing-in on 1 January, they began to congregate in the capital.

On 8 January, they rampaged through the presidential palace as well as Congress and the Supreme Court, breaking windows and furniture as well valuables, such as a 17th-Century French clock. They caused millions of dollars of damage.

Security forces eventually regained control of the situation and detained around 1,500 people.

But the security forces came under heavy criticism

for not preventing the rioters from entering these key buildings.

The chief of security for the capital at the time of the attack, Anderson Torres, is in jail awaiting trial on charges of sabotaging efforts to protect the buildings.

President Lula's predecessor in office, Jair Bolsonaro, is due to testify within the coming days over his alleged role in inciting the rioters.

Prosecutors say he fanned the flames by questioning the legitimacy of the election result, which saw him narrowly lose to Lula.

Lula had opposed the congressional inquiry in order to avoid diverting political focus away from his economic measures.

But Institutional Relations Minister Alexandre Padilha told reporters the government would now support the inquiry as a way to clear things up after the resignation of Gen Gonçalves Dias.

Some members of the opposition have accused the government of allowing the rioters entry to the presidential palace.

"That's an absurd conspiracy theory," Mr Padilha said, according to Reuters news agency. "The leaked footage brought in a new political fact so we will support the inquiry, which in my opinion will put an end to yet another conspiracy theory."

International AROUND THE WORLD



Yemen: Almost 80 die in Ramadan crush at Sanaa school

BBC - At least 78 people have been killed in a crush at a school in Yemen's rebel-held capital, Sanaa, during a charity event for Ramadan, officials say.

The incident began after hundreds crowded into a narrow street in the Bab al-Yemen area late on Wednesday to get handouts of $9 (\pounds7)$ from a merchant.

Video showed people screaming for help and others trying to pull them free.

Later footage appeared to show dozens of bodies on the ground, as well as shoes and clothing strewn over steps.

Officials from the rebel Houthi movement accused organisers of failing to co-ordinate with local authorities and said they had been detained.

Yemen has been devastated by a civil war that escalated in 2015, when the Iran-aligned Houthis seized control of large parts of the west of the country from the internationally-recognised government and a Saudi-led coalition intervened in an effort to restore its rule.

The fighting has reportedly left more than 150,000 people dead and triggered one of the world's worst humanitarian crises, with two thirds of the population - 21.7 million people - in need of some form of aid. An economic breakdown caused by the war has left many unable to afford food and other essentials.

Poor people made their way to the Maeen School in central Sanaa on Wednesday night after being told that a local merchant would be handing out zakat (alms) ahead of the festival of Eid al-Fitr, which marks the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

The head of the Houthis' Supreme Revolutionary Council, Mohammed



The health ministry said 13 people injured in the crush were in a critical condition in hospital.

Ali al-Houthi, posted a photo on Twitter apparently showing hundreds of people queuing outside the school before the crush.

Mr Houthi said the merchant received people via a back gate that was reached by a narrow street and steps. This resulted in overcrowding and a crush when the gate was opened, he added.

He also blamed the Saudi-led coalition for causing an "economic catastrophe" with its military campaign against the rebels and blockade of the country.

Alaa Saeed, 28, who was among those injured in the crush, told AFP news agency: "There were many people who came to receive charity money."

"People jostled on top of each other, and my head was pressed against the wall because of all the pushing."

The Associated Press quoted two witnesses who said Houthi forces fired into the air in an attempt at crowd control, apparently hitting an electrical wire which resulted in an explosion. This caused panic that led to the crush, they added. However, witnesses told the BBC that the Houthis fired shots into the air after the crush began in order to clear a path to the casualties.

One of the witnesses said the crowd was forced to gather in the narrow street because the school's main gate was closed. The crush happened as people in the queue were pushed up the steps into others who had received their handouts and were trying to leave, he added.

A health ministry official said women and children were among the 78 people killed in the crush.

Another 77 people were injured, according to the ministry. Thirteen were in a critical condition in hospital on Thursday, while the rest were discharged after receiving treatment, it added.

"It was a huge crowd. They fell on me, and I got hurt," a boy who was injured in the crush told rebel-run Al-Masirah TV at one hospital.

The president of the Houthis' Supreme Political Council, Mahdi al-Mashat, expressed his condolences to the victims' families and ordered the *cont'd on pg 19*



International AROUND THE WORLD

Six-year-old shot after basketball rolls into North Carolina man's yard

By Nadine Yousif

Police in North Carolina are searching for a man accused of shooting a sixyear-old girl and her father after their basketball rolled into the suspect's yard.

Two other victims, a woman and a man, were also injured.

Police said the suspect, 24-year-old Robert Louis Singletary, remains at large.

Mr Singletary faces four counts of first-degree attempted murder.

Police have also charged the suspect with two counts of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and one count of possession of a firearm by a felon.

The suspect was previously known to police for allegedly assaulting his girlfriend with a sledgehammer in December.

Police in Gaston County first received a 911 call at 19:44 local time on Tuesday (00:44 BST on Wednesday) about the shooting.

Investigators later reported that a six-year-old child and her father were both seriously injured. An

cont'd from pg 18

formation of a committee to investigate the incident, according to Al-Masirah.

The head of the Houthis' General Zakat Authority meanwhile said it would pay $$2,000 \ (\pounds 1,600)$ to each family who lost a relative, while the injured would get around \$400 (£322).

The UN's special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, said he was "pained and

adult female was grazed by a bullet and a second adult male was shot, they said.

A neighbour told reporters that the shooting unfolded after a basketball rolled into the suspect's yard.

"They were playing basketball, and a ball rolled into his yard. They went to go and get it. It was just crazy," said Jonathan Robertson, who lives in the Gaston County neighbourhood. "We just never expected it in a million years. We never expected anybody would break a gun out amongst all those kids."

Police said the suspect went inside his home and came out with a gun before he fired indiscriminately at neighbours.

Mr William and his daughter were struck as parents were rushing to gather their children.

The child has since spoken out about the shooting in an interview with a local ABC news channel.

"The bullet came back and the bullet went in my cheek," said the six-yearold, who is not being named



Police said they have conducted an overnight search for suspect Robert Louis Singletary, who remains at large.

by the BBC due to her age.

She added that her father remains in hospital in Charlotte. He is being treated for a punctured lung and liver problems after he was shot in the back.

Police have issued warrants for Mr Singletary's arrest, said Gaston County Police Chief Stephen Zill in a statement on Wednesday.

Chief Zill added that "this sort of violence will not stand".

"We conducted a largescale search overnight for Mr. Singletary and we have partnered with the United

deeply saddened by the tragic stampede on the eve of Eid".

Amnesty International's deputy Middle East director, Grazia Careccia, called for a swift, impartial and transparent investigation into the disaster.

"There must be justice for the victims of this horrific yet preventable incident which cost so many people... their lives," she said. States Marshals Regional Fugitive Task Force to aid us as we continue to search," he said.

The shooting is the latest in a string of gun violence incidents across the US involving young Americans who are reported to have mistakenly approached the wrong person or home.

In Texas, 18-year-old cheerleader Payton Washington was shot and seriously injured on Tuesday after she mistakenly tried to enter the wrong vehicle in a parking lot near Austin, Texas.

In New York state, 20-year-old Kaylin Gillis was shot and killed on Saturday after a friend drove their car down the wrong driveway.

And last Thursday in Missouri, 16-year-old Ralph Yarl was shot in the head and arm when he rang the doorbell at the wrong address.

PAGE 19

Sports News



National volleyball association to stage beach tournament this weekend

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association (ABA-VA) has taken a one-week break from it national hardcourt and indoor local club league to move outdoors to stage a beach tournament this weekend.

The ABAVA will be hosting a two-day Beach volleyball tournament at Pensioners Beach tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday.

Coordinator and coach Olsen "Karratt" Joseph said a total of 18 teams, comprising nine males and nine females, will be participating in the tournament, which will commence at 9 am on both days.

Joseph said the tournament, which will be conducted according to international rules, is geared towards attracting more persons to play beach volleyball.

"We will be trying to conduct this tournament according to international rules. This event is being held just to get more people involved in beach volleyball because there is a lot of beach tournaments happening now and we need more people to play on



Players compete during an ABAVA beach volleyball tournament at Fort James Beach in December 2022. (Photo courtesy ABAVA)

the beach," Joseph stated.

"There are a lot of beach tournaments in different age categories, from Under-19s going right up to seniors, being held all over the world these days, so we have to put on our own tournaments to get people participating, so it will give us a larger pool of players from which to select our various national teams for regional and international competitions." Most beach tournaments are held using teams comprising two, three or four players, which is also less expensive for national teams to travel for overseas tournaments due to the smaller number of players that are required when compared to hard court and indoor tournaments.

Joseph said the beach tournament also provides the national association with another avenue to teach *cont'd on pg 21*

Another innings victory for AGS in schools' cricket

The Antigua Grammar School (AGS) defeated an opponent by an innings for the fourth time in seven encounters this season during the latest round of matches in the Under-19 Boys Division of the Inter-Schools' Cricket Championship.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy became the latest victims, crashing to an innings and 95-run defeat against the Antigua Grammar School on Wednesday. The Antigua Grammar School batted first and scored 171 for three off 28 overs in their first innings.

Shamar Pereira struck 61 off 57 balls with seven fours, Ronaldo Antigua scored 37 and there was a contribution of 41 extras to the Antigua Grammar School's overall total. Jared Jno Baptiste captured two wickets for 26 runs in 12 overs.

In reply, Sir Novelle Richards Academy were bundled out for 39 in 16.5 overs in their first innings in which 23 extras were the single highest contributor.

Jewel Andrew snapped up five wickets for three runs, Anthony Pierre captured two wickets for five runs and Isaiah Attwood claimed two wickets for nine runs.

Asked to follow-on 132 runs behind, the Sir Novelle Richards Academy crashed to 37 all out in 16 overs in their second innings.

Attwood grabbed four wickets for three runs, Pierre claimed three wickets for nine runs and Andrew picked up two wickets for three runs.

There was no play in the other matches with Clare Hall Secondary and Jennings Secondary winning by default over the Ottos Comprehensive School and All Saints Secondary respectively.



Sports News PAGE 21 **New Evolution stay unbeaten** in youth football league

New Evolution maintained their unbeaten run in the Under-17 Division during the latest round of matches in the Gomez/ Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League.

New Evolution maintained their perfect record by snatching a 3-2 victory over Gray's Green in their top of the table clash at the Fort Road playing field.

Evolution New are now sole leaders of the Under-17 division with 15 points after recording their fifth win in as many matches.

It was the first loss in five matches for Gray's Green, who slipped into joint second place with Willikies on 12 points.

Soccer Academy secured their third win in four matches by pulling off a 2-0 victory over Generation Next FC(GNFC) Rebels.

But the other two Under-17 matches were not played. Wing and Villa Lions were given 3-0 victories by default over Free-



The New Evolution Football Team. (File photo)

mans Village and Liberta Black Hawks who failed to show up for their encounters.

Villa Lions and Willikies were victorious in the Under-15 Division. Villa Lions hammered Earthquake 7-2 while Willikies coasted to a 3-0 win against Five Islands.

However, the Under-15 encounter between GNFC Rebels and Gray's Green ended in a 1-1 draw.

cont'd from pg 20

and expose new players to the sport of volleyball.

Joseph adds that this weekend's beach tournament is also being used to provide a short break from the current national hardcourt and indoor club league, which commenced last month at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The local club volleyball league will resume at the YMCA Sports Complex with the start of the second round of games in both male and female competitions next Wednesday, 26th April.

TAMO FC and Northern Patriots secured wins in the Under-13 boys division. TAMO FC prevailed 2-0 against Green Bay Hoppers while Northern Patriots snatched a 1-0 win against Pigotts Bullets.

But the Under-13 boys' division encounter between Villa Lions and GNFC Rebels ended in a 1-1 draw.

In the Under-11 Boys' division, Pigotts Bullets beat Villa Lions 3-0 while Villa Lions rebounded to overcome the Liberta Black Hawks by the same score line.

There were wins for TAMO FC, Pigotts Bullets and GNFC Rebels in the Under-9 category.

TAMO FC beat Liberta Black Hawks 3-0, Pig-

otts Bullet prevailed 3-0 against Five Islands and GNFC Rebels also recorded a 3-0 win against Five Islands. TAMO FC and GNFC Rebels fought to a 1-1 draw in their Under-9 Boys' division affair.

In the Under-7 Boys' division, Pigotts Bullet A secured a 3-0 win against Earthquake and a 2-1 victory over GNFC Rebels 1.

Pigotts **Bullets** 1 claimed 2-0 wins against **GNFC** Rebels 1 and GNFC Rebels A, while TAMO FC defeated Earthquake 3-0 and prevailed 2-0 against GNFC Rebels A.

In the Girls' Division, Cutting Edge FC1 recorded a 3-0 win over Cutting Edge FC A while Wadadli United FC and GNFC Rebels battled to a 2-2 draw.





Sports News

Sea View Farm secure spot into first division playoffs

Sea View Farm have claimed one of the two available spots to enter into the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) first division playoffs.

The third and fourth place finishers in the second division will enter into a round robin playoff with the 10th place finishers in the first division to seek qualification into the first division next season.

Sea View Farm achieved the feat by salvaging a 3-3 draw with Real Blizzard at the AB-FA's Technical Center in their final match to finish their second division campaign in third place with 33 points from 18 encounters.

Like they did in their penultimate match, which they lost 3-2 against Bethesda, Sea View Farm once again squandered a two-goal advantage against Real Blizzard.

Bertrand Chastenet scored his first of two goals in the 11th minute and Markland Wright scored in the 14th minute to give Sea View Farm a two-nil lead.

But Karl Hampson scored his first of two goals by converting a penalty kick in the 30th minute and scored his second in the 53rd minute to enable Real Blizzard to draw level at 2-2.

Sea View Farm re-



The Sea View Farm football team. (File photo)

gained the lead when Chastenet scored his second goal in the 71st minute, but once again Real Blizzard was able to equalize via an Amos Christian's 84th minute conversion. Real Blizzard finished their second division campaign with 26 points from their 18 matches.

The other qualifying spot into the first division playoffs will either be taken by Bethesda or Freemans Village. Bethesda, who have finished their quota of matches, are currently in fourth place on 31 points.

But Bethesda can be overtaken by Freemans Village who are currently in fifth place on 30 points with one game remaining. Freemans Village will claim the spot if they draw or win their final match against Golden Grove.

Jennings United, who won the second division and gained automatic promotion to next season's first division league, trounced Young Warriors 6-0 in their final match at Jennings to finish at the top with 46 points from their 18 matches.

Rhezal Gomes scored twice for Jennings United with goals in the 5th and 37th minute. The other goals for Jennings United were scored by Shaquille Watkins in the 23rd minute, Daryl Massicot in the 27th minute, Jean Pierre Williams in the 71st minute and Kemon Samuel in the 73rd minute.

Young Warriors finished second from bottom of the second division with 10 points from their 18 matches.

PAGE 23

Bottom team TAMO FC ended their second division campaign with a 2-1 win over promoted Attacking Saints in their final encounter at McPond in All Saints.

Following a goalless first half, conversions by Adonijah Dyett in the 53rd minute and Jahiem Grant in the 63rd minute gave TAMO FC a two-nil lead. Ofarie Charles scored for Attacking Saints in the 84th minute.

It was the second win for TAMO FC, who finished in the cellar position with seven points from their 18 matches. Attacking Saints, who claimed the other automatic promotion spot by finishing sec*cont'd on pg 25*





Sports News PAGE 25 **Three U/17 teams remain unbeaten in Youth League**

Gray's Green, New in as many outings. Evolution and Willikies Warriors are still unbeaten in the Under-17 Boys Division of the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League.

All three teams won their latest matches at the Fort Road playing field to improve to a perfect 4-0 records and remain as the only unbeaten teams in the division.

Gray's Green recorded a 6-0 drubbing of the Liberta Black Hawks while New Evolution also cruised to a 6-0 victory over Wings FC, who were beaten for the fourth time

Willikies Warriors made it four wins in a row by snatching a 2-0 victory against Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) Rebels.

Villa Lions were awarded a 3-0 victory by default over Freemans Village who failed to show up for their encounter. Freemans Village are yet to win any of their four matches.

Villa Lions claimed their third win in as many appearances by snatching a 2-1 victory over Gray's Green FC in the Under-15 Boys Division at the St. Anthony's Secondary School's playing field.

Willikies were held to a 2-2 draw by GNFC Rebels in their Under-15 Boys division encounter.

Pigotts Bullets had mixed fortunes in the Under-13 Boys Division at the American University of Antigua (AUA) playing field.

Pigotts Bullets claimed their second win in the competition by surging to a 3-0 victory against Earthquake FC.

However, Bullets lost for the third time in five outings when they were beaten 2-0 by the GNFC Rebels.

in their final encounter at the St Johnston's playing field.

Jaden Coates scored the other goal for Blackburn Palace in the 33rd minute while the goals for Wings were scored by Terri Simon, who converted a penalty in the 50th minute, and Raheim Andre with a 64th minute conversion.

Wings ended their campaign with 22 points while Blackburn Palace finished with 13 points.

Iandre Hodge scored twice with goals in the 69th and 72nd minute as Belmont FC ended their campaign with a 3-2 win over Golden Grove at Golden Grove. Joshua Blenman scored the other goal for Belmont in the 31st minute.

Jermaine Severino had a 34th minute conversion and Alvin George scored in the 70th minute for Golden Grove, who remain on 23 points with one match remaining. Belmont finished their quota of 18 matches with 26 points.

Northern Patriots claimed their second win in three matches by pulling off a 3-0 victory over TAMO FC.

GNFC Rebels recorded their third win in four matches by securing a 3-1 victory over Villa Lions FC in the Under-11 Boys Division at the AUA playing field. It was the third loss in as many outings for Villa Lions.

Pigotts Bullets claimed their third win in four matches by romping to a 3-0 victory over Liberta Black Hawks, who lost for the second time in three appearances.

The GNFC Rebels prevailed 3-0 against the Liberta Black Hawks in the Under-9 Boys Division.

TAMO FC secured their first point in three matches by salvaging a 1-1 draw with Five Islands FC, who had won their previous three matches.

In the Under-7 Division matches, GNFC Rebels A romped to an emphatic 8-0 drubbing of GNFC Rebels 1. TAMO FC prevailed 3-0 against Pigotts Bullets FC A and Pigotts Bullets FC 1 beat Earthquake FC 3-0.

In the Girls Division, GNFC Rebels snatched a 2-1 win over Cutting Edge FC A and Cutting Edge FC 1 prevailed 1-0 against Wadadli United FC.

cont'd from pg 23

ond behind Jennings United, ended their campaign with 40 points from 18 outings.

English Harbour missed out on snatching a spot into the playoffs after battling to a 2-2 draw with FC Master Ballerz in their final match at English Harbour.

Leon Bailey scored in the 57th minute and Teejay Thomas had a 58th minute conversion as FC Master Ballerz came from two-nil down to secure the draw.

Goals by Delroy Simpson in the 4th minute and Nigel Graham in the 20th minute had given English Harbour a two-nil halftime lead. English Harbour finished their campaign on 30 points from 18 outings while FC Master Ballerz ended with 26 points from their quota of matches.

Diondre Harrigan scored twice by converting two penalty kicks in the 40th and 85th minute as Blackburn Palace prevailed 3-2 against Lingies CPTSA Wings



Tigers end Black Hawks winning run in T20 Explosion

Jennings Tigers have ended the unbeaten run of reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks in the current Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion Tournament.

The Tigers roared to a five-wicket win over the Black Hawks in the third match of a triple header at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Wednesday as Liberta suffered their first loss after winning their first four-matches in this year's tournament.

The Tigers' third win in five matches was set up by their bowlers, who dismissed Liberta for 102 in 18 overs after the Black Hawks won the toss and opted to bat.

Ben Sexton grabbed four for 17, Lachlan Bangs snapped up three for 13 and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams bagged three for 27 in a fine bowling effort.

Kofi James top scored for Liberta with 32 off 28 balls and opener Malique Walsh with 19 and Wilden Cornwall Jr with 11 were the only Black Hawks' batsmen to reach double figures.

Jennings Tigers then secured victory by scoring 106 for five with 11 balls to spare. D'Ahri Francis led the way with 27 off 18 balls and Matthew Miller was not out on a run-a-ball 19.

Bolans Blasters and New Winthorpes Lions both secured their second wins in the competition in the other two matches on Wednesday.

Bolans Blasters snatched a 16-run victory against the All Saints Pythons in the day's second encounter.



Players of the Jennings Tigers run unto the field to congratulate and celebrate with their team mates after beating Liberta Black Hawks in the Cool & Smooth T20 Explosion at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Wednesday, 19th April, 2023. (CST20)

Overseas player Richie Berrington struck 39 off 33 balls, Kerry Mentore cracked 28 off 20 balls and Orlando Peters scored 18 as Bolans made 130 for six off their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Off-spinner Demetri Lucas took two wickets for eight runs and Matthew Forde captured two for 30.

In reply, All Saints Pythons were restricted to 114 for nine off their 20 overs with Michael Marcellin getting 25 not out off 29 balls. Morton Browne claimed three for 10, Michael Harilall took three for 17 and Kerry Mentore picked up two for 33.

New Winthorpes Lions defeated Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles by nine wickets in Wednesday's opening encounter.

Sent into bat after losing the toss, Bethesda Golden Eagles tumbled to 102 all out in 19.2 overs with Sadique Henry getting 22 off 21 balls and Darren Benta scoring 20 off 25 balls. Michael Leask captured two for 15 and Ishmael Peters claimed two for 28.

Leask then hammered an unbeaten 47 off 26 balls with three fours and five sixes, while opener Michael Palmer struck 36 not out off 25 balls with three fours and three sixes as the Lions sped to victory at 107 for one 9.4 overs to spare.

It was the fourth loss in as many matches for the Golden Eagles who remain perched at the bottom of the eight-team round-robin competition without a point.

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