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FAREWELL, DAME LORNA

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Antigua and Barbuda's oldest steel band – Caribbean Union Bank Hells Gate Steel Orchestra – traveled to the United States on Wednesday where they will headline a PANFest taking place in Virginia Beach, Virginia. *Story on page 7*

Supervisor of Elections signals intention to retire

Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon, has indicated to the government her intention to proceed to retirement. This is her final week on the job.

Dame Lorna was appointed on April 3, 2003, making her the longest-serving Supervisor of Elections since political Independence in 1981. She describes her time on the job as rewarding, noting that except for the elections of 2009, an outlier, all the elections she has supervised have been administered 'without a hitch.'

In 2009, several polling stations opened late, leading to much criticism of the Office of the Supervisor of Elections. Dame Lorna said several factors led to the late opening of the polls. These included boundary changes that necessitated the movement of electors

from one constituency to another, a shorter time to publish the Register of Elections, and the breakdown of the printing machinery the night before the elections.

"We learned our lessons from that election and since then everything has come out smoothly. In fact, one elections observer described one of our elections as 'flawless', she explained.

Dame Lorna described one of her most important accomplishments as adding 'gender' to the categories describing voters, which is a first for the English-speaking Caribbean. Now when the report of the elections is published, one will be able to determine the genders and ages of persons who participate in the plebiscite.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet invited the Supervisor to join its members



Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon

in order to bid her farewell, as she prepares to demit office. The office of Supervisor of Elections is a creature of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution, and the Parliament was required to set the age of mandatory retirement at 75 years. The Dame has not reached that age, but has spent more than 50 years in the service of the Government and prefers to enjoy her retirement while still in good health.

She was accompanied by the Deputy, Ian Hughes, and John Jarvis, the Chairman of the Electoral Commission. There has been a proposal to marry the Electoral Commission and the Supervisor's role when constitutional reform is being considered. There is some support for this proposal, and the Cabinet agreed, but no final decision has been made.

She was appointed to the post by the late former Prime Minister Sir Lester Bird, National Hero.



Negotiations between the gov't and nurses nearing conclusion

As nurses in Antigua and Barbuda celebrate Nurses' Week 2023, there are reports that the negotiations between the Nurses Association and the government are close to reaching an agreement.

That is according to the report presented to the Cabinet by Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph. No further details were immediately available, but both sides seem to have found a path to resolving the thorny problem of the rate of increase for the nurses. The association has been asking for a 15 percent increase with the government offering nine percent.

Sir Molwyn indicated that the association has demonstrated a willingness to be reasonable in its de-

mands with the government.



Cabinet sources say the success with the A&BUT formed the basis for the conclusion of the negotiations. Negotiations with several other unions, whose membership numbers are smaller, will soon commence.

However, the Cabinet has reiterated its assertion of a few weeks ago; as the largest employer, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda can provide only mod-



Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph

erate increases to wages and salaries, without requiring an increase in taxes to meet growth in expenditure.

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A call for a stronger healthcare system to withstand future pandemics

An official of the Ministry of Health is calling for the strengthening of the healthcare systems in Antigua and Barbuda and elsewhere to better cope with future pandemics.

Deputy Permanent Secretary, Janice Michael, made the call as she addressed Wednesday's opening of a regional 3-day workshop on the topic; 'Social Behaviour Change Communication' being held at the Trade Winds Hotel.

Michael observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the world that fundamental changes in healthcare systems and how they communicate and respond cannot wait; this is an urgent plea.

"COVID-19 revealed structural weaknesses in healthcare systems worldwide and negatively impacted individuals, societies, and economies. Countries, therefore, need to take transformative action to build stronger, more resilient healthcare systems that can better prevent, prepare for, and respond to future shocks while maintaining essential health services. We understand also that communication is fundamental to all layers of the healthcare system (as well as) the fact that effective communication can make the difference in a person's life or death," she emphasized.

She also noted that An-



Deputy Permanent Secretary MOHWSTE, Janice Michael, Acting CMO, Dr. Teri-ann Joseph and Social and Behaviour Change Specialist (UNICEF) Lisa McClean Trotman.

tigua and Barbuda and the wider Caribbean are not 'asleep' to this reality. "We are committed to ensuring that appropriate platforms and healthcare structures are designed to respond to any emergence of health crisis whether foreseen or unforeseen. Our human resource is our greatest asset with the spirit and willingness to adapt to the changing trends that will be instituted, in order for this change to take place," she declared.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environ-

ment in collaboration with UNICEF Eastern Caribbean /USAID is hosting the workshop that has participants attending from Barbados and Dominica as well as from Antigua and Barbuda. Participants include employees within the public health, social services, education, and disaster sectors.

The objective of the workshop is to understand:

What is social and behavioral change communication

Theoretical approaches for understanding drivers of health behaviors

Approaches that can be used in Social and Behaviour Change Communication – especially for Health Communication

Monitoring health interventions

The workshops will have a practical component where participants would work on an issue in their country and develop an action plan, using the knowledge gained in the workshop.

Acting Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Teri-Ann Joseph also addressed Wednesday's opening exercises.

Minister Fernandez attending CHTA meetings in Barbados

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez is in Barbados for a meeting of the Caribbean Hotels and Tourism Association's (CHTA) Caribbean Travel Marketplace business meetings being held at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Center.

Prior to the start of the CHTA meeting, the minister attended the CHTA's Caribbean Travel Forum, a new event that focused on the business of tourism in the Caribbean with specific topics such as multi-destination marketing, intra-Caribbean travel with an emphasis on air connectivity, sustainability, technology innovation, labour market, taxation, and linkages.

In a State of the Industry and Region Address delivered at the forum, CHTA President, Nicola Madden-Greig, provided a recap on Caribbean Tourism and the impact of the pandemic on the Caribbean Tourism Industry. "Travel continues to rise across the globe. The Caribbean as a region, is the fastest-recovering region in the world as far as tourism is concerned. It has been the effort of our many, public sector leaders, our prime ministers, our ministers of tourism, and also the private sector and the ministries of health and the CMOs that got us here," boasted the CHTA President.



Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley, during her keynote address, inspired those at the forum with an investment and a shared interest in the region and its development to be "Be shapers, not takers," a phrase that reverberated throughout other speaker's presentations during the day.

Other discussion topics included: Responsible and Resilience Tourism as well as Technology and its impact on Caribbean tourism.

Following the forum, Minister Fernandez indicated that "As Antigua and Barbuda moves to surpass our 2019 tourism arrivals, we are forging ahead



with a vision for our country's tourism industry, that includes continued sustainable tourism development that will provide opportunities for more local businesses and allow those employed locally to reap more benefits from the tourism industry."

Antigua and Barbuda's Directors of Tourism from the USA, UK & Europe, Caribbean, and Canada have also traveled to Barbados for today's start of Caribbean Travel Marketplace.

Caribbean Travel Marketplace allows tourism suppliers to meet face-to-face with wholesalers from around the world, selling Caribbean vacation travel over the course of two days of business meetings.



Local News



Egg farmers call for regulation on World Poultry Day

As Antigua and Barbuda joins the rest of the world in marking World Poultry Day, President of the Poultry Association, Emanuel Peters seeks regulation of the industry as there is often an oversupply of eggs that is hurting everybody.

He revealed that the local demand for eggs is approximately 5,000 cases per month, during what he termed 'high season,' which runs from October to January each year. For

the remainder of the year, the demand is 3,500 cases, but with more than 300 farmers producing eggs, he said the monthly production figure is 11,000 cases per month.

Peters shared that many of the people who are entering the market as egg producers are doing so with little or no knowledge of the industry and no training.

Against this backdrop, the association wants some standards set about who



can get into poultry production.

A statement from the

Ministry of Agriculture said since 2012, "World Poultry Day" has been observed on the 10th of May. Started in Europe, the International Poultry Council (IPC) paid tribute to the European breeders, hatcheries, poultry farmers, and processing plants for their contribution to "Food Security" in Europe. It noted that this commemoration aimed to let consumers and critics alike be aware of this fact. Poultry is birds that are reared with the intention to later slaughter and consume. Birds like domestic fowls such as chickens, turkeys, ducks, and geese are eaten and are a good source of protein.

"We are now producing and meeting our local consumption needs hence drastically reducing our importation of this commodity. Additionally, the Ministry of Agriculture

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Hells Gate to headline at PANFest in USA

Antigua and Barbuda's oldest steel band – Caribbean Union Bank Hells Gate Steel Orchestra – traveled to the United States on Wednesday where they will headline a PANFest taking place in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

A spokesman for the steel band said the occasion is the 20th annual Virginia International PANFest, being held on May 12th and 13th at the Virginia Beach Convention Centre, Virginia Beach.

“CUB Hells Gate Steel Orchestra sent a delegation comprising twenty-seven members, the majority of whom are young people ranging from ages 15 - 25. This Headline feature puts CUB Hells Gate Steel Orchestra as the first non-Trinidad and Tobago International steel band to headline this festival,” according to the spokesman.

The spokesman described the Virginia International PANFest as a celebration of Caribbean Culture



Caribbean Union Bank Hells Gate Steel Orchestra

that focuses on the musical importance of the steelpan. The two-day event includes educational steelpan workshops presented by world-renowned steelpan performers and educators and features steel bands from around the country (USA) and the Caribbean.

“For us, this is the start of a potentially beneficial relationship between festivals in the extra-regional terri-

tories and Antigua and Barbuda. It opens doors for opportunities for our creatives in the practical, theoretical, and developmental areas of the steelpan and culture.

“For our youths, many of them are experiencing air travel and especially the United States for the first time. Some of them, also considered among the less fortunate, will have the experience of their lives and be

exposed to a world of possibilities bigger and greater than our 108 square miles,” the spokesman remarked.

He added that the prominent role that CUB Hells Gate will play at the PANFest is a ‘big deal’ as it is a celebration of the contribution of community-based cultural institutions and the growth of the cultural industries of Antigua and Barbuda.

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through its Veterinary and Livestock Division has placed restrictions on the importation of eggs.

“However, sadly at times, there are gluts on the market, and often eggs have to be discarded due to a lack of machinery for the conversion/extraction of the eggs to suffice the demands for added value products such as dried eggs powder and dried egg white protein that are on the increase, especially in the hotel industry.

“Therefore, further development for this part of the sector is also needed,” according to the release.

Many farmers and schools have joined the quest to promote “Food Security” through the poultry and eggs sector and it has grown tremendously over time, however, there is room for expansion and improvement. The Ministry of Education has stepped up to the “Food Security” challenge and has implemented through the schools, both primary and secondary, a robust agricultur-

al science programme, of which the Ministry of Agriculture is very pleased.

Many of the schools are engaged in mixed farming (both crop production and or animal husbandry to include layers and broilers). Additionally, many private schools have also been contributing to the agricultural sector.

Consuming ‘local’ is the most nutritional, and hopefully in time, the more cost-effective and sensible course of action.

Chinese agricultural project donates to Cabinet

Members of the Long Ping Agricultural Project now being implemented in Antigua and Barbuda, with assistance from China Aid, has made a donation to members of the Cabinet from its first crop of vegetables.

While only a few months into the second phase of the project, the Chinese agricultural workers have started harvesting lettuce, cucumbers, Chinese cabbage, and squash among other vegetables.

The members of the Cabinet expressed their appreciation to the Chinese farmers for their donation, as well as for sharing their technical skills with local farmers. Under the project funded by China Air, the emphasis is being placed on introducing new pro-



duction techniques to the local farming community both in Antigua and in Barbuda.

They will also introduce several new vegetable crops and teach the local farmers how they are to be grown.

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Thames, Yorkshire and South West Water bosses refuse bonuses over sewage spill

By Gemma Dempsey

Bosses at three of the UK's water companies have decided not to take their annual bonuses after widespread public criticism over sewage pollution.

Thames Water's Sarah Bentley said it did not "feel right" to take the bonus, along with South West Water's Susan Davy and Yorkshire Water's Nicola Shaw.

The BBC has contacted the eight other major water companies to see if they will follow suit.

Campaigners have called for all UK water firm CEOs to waive their bonuses.

Ms Bentley received a £496,000 bonus last year while Ms Davy was handed £522,000. Ms Shaw has only recently joined Yorkshire Water but last year it paid out £878,000 in bonuses to directors.

Thames Water said its chief financial officer Alastair Cochran would also decline his bonus.

In 2022 the Liberal Democrats urged the British government to ban bonuses for water company bosses until sewage offences stopped.

The party said its analysis showed firms in England had paid executives nearly £27m in bonuses since 2020.

It said the numbers were "obscene" given 1,000 sewage spills a day were recorded in 2021.

Those figures have only got worse - Thames Water was last year named as among the worst performing companies for polluting waterways by regulator Ofwat.

In March a House of Lords committee said water bosses should not receive bonuses while targets were be-



Campaigners say sewage overflows are discharging much too often.

ing missed and the environment was being polluted.

It also criticised Ofwat, for failing to ensure companies had invested enough in infrastructure.

The government has said it is making water companies invest £56m to modernise infrastructure, much of which is decades old.

Thames Water said it was spending £1.6bn to modernise its sewage infrastructure and expand its team of leak engineers.

"Nevertheless, the turnaround plan is not yet where I want it to be... against this backdrop it simply doesn't feel right to take my bonus this year," Ms Bentley said.

But the pressure is on Thames Water. In March it was told by the Environment Agency (EA) to fix water leaks as part of its plans to tackle drought problems.

South West Water has faced similar levels of criticism. Last month it was fined a record amount of more than £2.1m after it admitted causing pollution in Devon and Cornwall.

And in November it was told to "urgently address" the impact of waste water discharges by Cornwall Council by curbing bonuses and dividends rather than increasing costs to consumers.

The company said the money Ms Davy would have received would instead go directly to customers via a shareholder scheme or be taken as a credit on their bill.

Annual reports from Yorkshire Water show Ms Shaw could have received up to £800,000 if the company met its performance targets for the year.

"I understand the strength of feeling about the issues linked to river health which is why I've decided that this year I won't be accepting a bonus," she said. "This is the right thing to do," she added.

The move by the three chief executives has been welcomed by the Consumer Council for Water.

Chief executive Emma Clancy said: "Bonuses add to people's current frustration with the water industry and

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Twitter will encrypt private messages, says Elon Musk

BBC - Twitter plans to introduce an encrypted messaging service on Wednesday, its owner Elon Musk has tweeted.

Direct messages sent on Twitter will be end-to-end encrypted - this means private messages can only be read by the sender and the recipient.

Mr Musk said he would not be able to see users' messages "even if there was a gun to my head".

He also tweeted about other new intended features for the platform, including voice and video calls.

When he bought Twitter in 2022, Mr Musk hinted at plans to turn it into a "super-app" with multiple functions. In China the super-app WeChat can be used for everything from social media and ordering food to payments and messaging, but there is not really a comparable platform in the West.

Since then he has made a number of dramatic changes to the social network, including the introduction of a subscription service, and the removal of old blue tick badges, previously used by Twitter as a tool in the fight



against the spread of disinformation.

Many Twitter users have called for its private messaging service to be made more secure for a long time. However, Mr Musk's timing could prove awkward for him in the UK, where the government's Online Safety Bill wants such messages to be accessible if requested by law enforcement. It says this will help to protect children from abuse.

Messaging platforms WhatsApp and Signal have both criticised this part of the Online Safety Bill, currently near the end of its journey through Parliament.

In April, they said they were concerned the legislation could undermine end-to-end encryption, which is considered by privacy campaigners and

activists to be an invaluable tool.

They were two of several messaging services whose heads signed a letter calling for a rethink, saying the bill, in its current form, opens the door to "routine, general and indiscriminate surveillance" of personal messages.

Facebook's parent company Meta has introduced encryption to its Messenger platform with some exceptions, including Marketplace chats.

Mr Musk said he expected encrypted messaging on Twitter "to grow in sophistication rapidly".

Cyber-security expert Jake Moore, from ESET, said Twitter was responding to demand from privacy-conscious users.

"Without the use of

end-to-end encrypted messaging, Twitter staff and the company itself have the opportunity to read people's messages," he told the BBC.

"Although this can reap huge rewards for the platform, with advertisers being able to micro-target users, it is a huge security risk to those messaging without such privacy protection."

A Home Office spokesperson told the BBC: "The Online Safety Bill applies to all platforms, regardless of their design and functionality. Therefore, end-to-end encrypted services are in scope and will be required to meet their duties of care to users.

"We have made clear that companies should only implement end-to-end encryption if they can simultaneously uphold public safety.

"We continue to work with the tech industry to collaborate on mutually agreeable solutions that protect public safety without compromising security."

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they would like much more openness and transparency on this issue."

But the Clean Rivers Trust said a nationwide overhaul of the sewage system was needed to cope with the growing pop-

ulation.

"Sewers that are discharging are having to take far more sewage as house building continues and the system can't cope," director Harvey Wood said. "The sewer system in this country is shot."

Prince Harry blames press intrusion for Chelsy break-up

BBC - The Duke of Sussex has blamed alleged illegal intrusion into his private life by journalists for the break-up of his relationship with Chelsy Davy.

In a witness statement, Prince Harry claimed Ms Davy decided that “a royal life was not for her” following repeated acts of harassment.

The claims emerged in a High Court case against Mirror Group Newspapers brought by several high profile figures.

MGN denies allegations of voicemail interception in the cases.

It also claimed some of the cases being brought are beyond a legal time limit.

Ms Davy and Prince Harry were in an on-off relationship between 2004 and 2010.

In a summary of his witness statement, the duke’s lawyers alleged unlawful activity “caused great challenges” in the relationship, and led Ms Davy to decide that “a Royal life was not for her”.

This included journalists booking into a hotel in Bazaruto, a small island off the coast of Mozambique, where Harry and Ms Davy had tried to escape to in order to “enjoy some peace and quiet”, the document reads.

The lawyers also said that mobile phonecalling



data to be used in the trial shows that Ms Davy was targeted for voicemail interception between 2007 and 2009.

The activities caused him “huge distress” and “presented very real security concerns for not only me but also everyone around me”, he said, adding that they also created “a huge amount of paranoia” in future relationships.

“Every time he was in a relationship, or even a rumoured relationship, that whole person’s family, and often their friends, would be ‘dragged into the chaos’ and find themselves the subject of unlawful activity on the part of MGN,” lawyers said.

Prince Harry’s lawyers allege that his mobile phone number was recorded in a handheld device belonging to “prolific hacker and head of news at the Sunday Mirror” Nick Buckley.

The prince is also expected to allege that he experienced what was, in hindsight, voicemail interception in relation to 30 people with whom he had a close relationship.

He is expected to give evidence in June - the first time a senior royal will be a witness in court in modern times.

MGN has not admitted to any of the charges, although it said it “unreservedly apologises” for a separate instance of unlawful information-gathering against Harry and said that the legal challenge brought by the prince “warrants compensation”.

The article that incident referred to - regarding an MGN journalist instructing a private investigator to unlawfully gather information about Harry’s activities at the Chinawhite nightclub on one night in February 2004

- is not one of the claims being brought by the prince.

MGN said it would never be repeated.

In written submissions, MGN’s barrister, Andrew Green KC, said the publisher denied that 28 of the 33 articles in Harry’s claim involved phone hacking or other unlawful information gathering.

He said that stories came from a variety of other sources - including other members of the Royal Family.

Mr Green added that it was “not admitted” that five of the 33 articles contained unlawful information gathering.

Other celebrities have brought claims against MGN, with “test cases” - including Prince Harry’s - selected to go to trial from the wider group of claimants.

They include that of former Coronation Street ac-

cont’d on pg 13

Passenger charged with hiding camera in cruise ship restroom

Loop – A passenger on a Caribbean cruise has been arrested after a hidden camera with video of dozens of people, including children, was discovered in a public restroom, officials said.

Jeremy Froias was arrested last Wednesday in Puerto Rico and charged with video voyeurism and attempted possession of child exploitation material, according to court documents.

According to a criminal complaint filed in San Juan federal court, Froias boarded Royal Caribbean's Harmony of the Seas in Miami on April 29 for a seven-day cruise. The ship was set



to make land calls at Sint Maarten, Puerto Rico and the Bahamas before returning to Miami this past Saturday.

A day after the voyage began while the ship was in international waters, Froias put a hidden Wi-Fi camera in a public restroom on the ship's top deck between

a surfing simulator and a bar, officials said. A day after that, another passenger spotted the camera and alerted the ship's crew.

"The matter was immediately reported to local and federal law enforcement, and the guest involved was removed from the ship by authorities for further inves-

tigation," Royal Caribbean said in a statement.

The ship's security personnel seized the camera and found several hours worth of video files on a memory card, officials said. Footage included Froias hiding the camera and aiming it toward the toilet.

More than 150 people, including at least 40 children, appeared in the videos, investigators said.

Some were at least partially naked. Froias and the camera were eventually turned over to the FBI in Puerto Rico.

A defence attorney for Froias declined to comment on the case.

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tress Nikki Sanderson, comedian Paul Whitehouse's ex-wife Fiona Wightman and actor Michael Turner - who played Kevin Webster in Coronation Street and goes by his stage name Michael Le Vell. All are expected to give evidence during the six- to seven-week trial.

The court heard that Ms Sanderson felt like she was "public property" and experienced abuse in the street following "false insinuations" in articles published by MGN.

"[She had] people shouting at her in the street calling her a 'whore', 'slag' or 'slut' and even being physically assaulted on numerous occasions," barrister David Sherborne said.

Mr Turner was accused by fellow cast members of being a "mole" amid alleged phone hacking, the court heard.

The hearing is focusing on what senior executives at MGN knew about alleged phone hacking - including TV host Piers Morgan, who was editor of the Daily Mirror between 1995 and 2004.

Mr Sherborne told the court that unlawful information gathering was both habitual and widespread at three papers - the Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People - between 1991 and 2011.

He described "a flood of illegality", adding that "this flood was being authorised and approved of" by senior executives.

The barrister also accused executives of misleading the Leveson inquiry - the inquiry into the practices, culture and ethics of the press - something it denies.

In written arguments, Mr Sherborne said it was "inconceivable" that

Mr Morgan and other editors did not know about MGN journalists instructing private investigators to obtain information.

"The systemic and widespread use of PIs [private investigators] by MGN journalists to unlawfully obtain private information was authorised at senior levels," Mr Sherborne, who is also representing the duke, said.

Mr Morgan has repeatedly denied any knowledge of phone hacking or illegal activity at the Daily Mirror when he was editor.

"I've never hacked a phone. I've never told anybody to hack a phone," he told the BBC's Amol Rajan in an interview conducted before the trial began.

MGN has previously settled a number of claims against it in relation to stories obtained through unlawful means.

Regional News



Sint Maarten and Saint Martin border issue finally settled

Loop - Dutch Sint Maarten and French Saint Martin share an island in the Caribbean with both sides separated by a border which has been at the centre of a dispute regarding its location. It has finally been settled after nine years as to where the border lies.

Prime Minister of Sint Maarten Silveria Jacobs says since the end of 2022, reports have been in the media from both Kingdom level as well as from the side of France that an agreement had been reached on the location of the border between Sint Maarten and Saint-Martin.

These public discussions were deemed premature as the proposals had not yet gone through the proper channels of approval; the agreement had only been reached at the technical level and still had to be approved at the Ministerial level, on St Maarten, in the Kingdom Council of Ministers.

The approval process was finalised between both states in March this year. As such, the Prime Minister found it prudent to wait until all documentation and steps were finalised before making any public statements.

Prime Minister Jacobs will sign the treaty on Sint Maarten on May 26, on behalf of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Minister of Interior Gerard Darmanin will sign on behalf of the State of France.

Since 2014, there have been disagreements related to the border on the island. These disagreements came about when the French contested the Dutch claim over all the water in Oyster Pond. This led to several instances of direct confrontation between authorities from both sides of the island and unfortunately strained the long-standing relationship between both governments.



Sint Maarten (iStock)

In December 2017, the French filed a petition with the United Nations, signalling the existence of an international border dispute on the island. This triggered the need to come to agreements, as the deadlock that ensued after the petition would have led to Arbitration, which would not answer the need for a comprehensive approach to the entire border.

November 2021, saw the Government of Sint Maarten adopt a more compromise-driven approach, that would prove to advance discussions and move the island closer towards the end goal, hence we are here today.

Following nine years of deliberation, we will finally put to rest the border issue on Saint Martin. Technical experts are working diligently to finalise the new iteration of our map, as there are 348 points that need to be transformed and placed on the map.

The border along the road in Cupecoy will shift north in favour of the Dutch. The border along the Marigot Hill Road will shift north in favour of the Dutch. Sint Maarten confirms Dutch sovereignty, that is authority over Higher Bethlehem.

The border along the road in Belle Plaine will shift west in favour of the

French. The border along the road leading to Oyster Pond will shift north in favour of the Dutch.

Oyster Pond will be shared on the principle of equidistance, between the French and the Dutch.

The changes mainly concern public areas and as such individuals are not impacted. The largest change is in Oyster Pond; the border runs through the middle of the pond, thereby giving an equal share of the water to both sides.

The Southern part of Oyster Pond will be retained by Sint Maarten (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and the Northern part to Saint-Martin (French Republic).

The persons that will be proportionally impacted have been informed. However, the new treaty ensures that the relevant authorities will ensure the rights of anyone impacted by the changes.

The Prime Minister elaborated by stating, "I would like to stress that the realisation of this treaty legally establish the boundaries of the Southern and Northern territories of the island but does not undermine the oneness and unity that we speak of among the people that call this island home.

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St Vincent: Court orders State and police compensate prison officer

CMC - A High Court judge has ordered three police officers and the Office of the Attorney General to pay compensation to a prison officer after he was wrongfully arrested and jailed in May 2020.

Justice Esco L. Henry ordered that the police officers and the Office of the Attorney General pay Kenson King, general, aggravated and exemplary damages with interest at the statutory rate, to be assessed on application to be filed and served on or before July 6.

Further, the judge ordered that the defendants pay King prescribed costs pursuant to law, based on the sum stipulated by the court at the assessment stage as the value of the claim.

The High Court heard that King was arrested on the instructions of a Superintendent of Police and head of the Criminal Investigations Department

(CID) on May 22, 2020.

But in his lawsuit claiming that the officers wrongfully arrested and imprisoned him, the prison officer further said that he was wrongfully detained for about 32 hours and released without being charged with a criminal offence. He sued the state and the three police officers for general, aggravated and exemplary damages and costs.

The police officers acknowledged arresting King for the offence of inciting violence and threats in relation to a Facebook post he had made and maintained that the arrest and detention were lawful and they denied liability.

In her ruling in favour of the prison officer, Justice Henry considered three issues, namely, whether King was arrested unlawfully, whether he was unlawfully detained, and to what remedy, if any, he was entitled.

King testified that he had been informed by the



police that he was being placed under arrest “for making a Facebook post that is liable to cause fear and alarm in the public”.

King was placed under arrest and taken to the Major Crimes Unit at the Central Police Station in Kingstown. He spent the night on a chair.

He said he was visited by his lawyer the following day and that the police had also asked if he was willing to give a statement. King declined to do so.

The Court heard that his attorney revisited him that day making certain inquiries of the police and that

he was released in the evening without being charged with an offence.

He said that to be required to sit for about 32 hours, except when showering, was oppressive and that it was also difficult to sleep in that position.

He told the court that the conditions were deplorable and complained about the stench of urine emanating from the cell located about three feet from where he was required to sit.

King said it was an assault on his dignity and integrity and was degrading. He also felt embarrassed and distressed.

cont'd from pg 14

The realisation of this treaty, in fact, has several benefits for all citizens of our island. Clarity on the borderline removes ambiguity and facilitates our long-term planning and development.”

The treaty will be advantageous for cross-border cooperation. Re-engagement on the border has led to the reopening of broader French-Dutch relationship and cooperation in areas that will benefit the population (education, health, and security agreements

are slated to be signed next month, for example). The treaty makes provisions for the establishment of a joint border commission and a cooperation platform to facilitate the continued cooperation between the governments on both sides.

The treaty also makes provisions to promote cooperation on all cross-border land and inland waterway connections of common interest. In the negotiations, Dutch Sint Maarten is ensured the right to access, freedom of naviga-

tion, mooring, and freedom to conduct artisanal fishing in both Simpson Bay Lagoon and Oyster Pond.

“I would like to thank everyone for their attention and those in attendance at today’s press conference. A special word of thanks to the technocrats involved over the past years on St Martin, in its entirety, as well as those in The Hague and Paris. Finally, I promise to share the map as soon as it becomes available.” concluded Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs.

Kaliningrad: Russia fury as Poland body recommends renaming exclave

BBC - The Kremlin has reacted furiously after a Polish government body advised using a different name for Russia's exclave of Kaliningrad on the Baltic Sea coast.

The Polish committee said the city and wider area should instead be called Królewiec.

This was the area's traditional name, it said, and the decision no longer to use an "imposed name" was partly a result of Russia invading Ukraine.

Russia said the decision was "bordering on madness" and "a hostile act".

"We know that throughout history, Poland has slipped from time to time into this madness of hatred towards Russians," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

For hundreds of years before World War Two, the area was known as Königsberg and was part of East Prussia. Królewiec is the Polish translation of Königsberg.

However, after World War Two, the city and wider region were placed under Soviet administration. The Soviets renamed it Kaliningrad after Mikhail Kalinin, one of the leaders of the Bolshevik revolution.

After the Soviet Union collapsed, Kaliningrad became part of the territory of Russia, making it an exclave - an area that is geographically separated from a country's main territory - located between Poland and Lithuania.

Kaliningrad is strategically important to Moscow because it houses the Russian Baltic Fleet at the port of Baltiysk and is one of Russia's only ice-free European ports.

On Tuesday, Poland's Committee on Standardisation of Geographical Names Outside the Republic of Poland said it was recommending with immediate effect that the city be known in Poland as Królewiec and the exclave's



Kaliningrad is home to one of Russia's only ice-free European ports - the other is on its Arctic coast.

wider area as Obwód Królewiecki.

It said the name Kaliningrad was unrelated to either the city or the region and had an "emotional and negative" resonance in Poland.

Mikhail Kalinin was one of six Soviet Politburo signatories to the order to execute more than 21,000 Polish prisoners of war in the forests of Katyn and elsewhere in 1940.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its propaganda efforts had prompted Poland to re-evaluate controversial "imposed names", the committee added.

"Each country has the right to use in its language traditional names constituting its cultural heritage, but it cannot be forced to use names unacceptable by it in its language," the committee said.

Moscow initially blamed the Nazis for the Katyn Massacre when the Germans discovered the mass graves in 1943.

Because Moscow imposed a communist regime on Poland after World War Two, the relatives of the victims were unable to publicly discuss or find anything out about the crime for five decades. Russia only acknowledged its

responsibility for the massacre in 1990.

Although the state committee's recommendation is not binding, it is expected that Polish state bodies will now refer to Kaliningrad as Królewiec. Poland's foreign ministry has issued a positive assessment of the name change.

Poland has also begun to fortify its border with the exclave following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Polish military has erected a temporary 2.5m-high razor wire fence and last month began work to install cameras and motion sensors along the 232-km border. Anti-tank obstacles have also been positioned at border crossings.

Polish officials are concerned that Russia could use that border as a new migrant route into the EU, following reports of increased direct flights from the Middle East and elsewhere to Kaliningrad.

Poland has erected a 5.5m-high steel fence along part of its border with Belarus after an increase in migrants crossing into Poland, Lithuania and Latvia from there.

House Republicans release probe into Biden family finances

By Kayla Epstein

House Republicans have unveiled what they say are records of \$10m (£8m) in payments to members of the Biden family from foreign entities.

Oversight Committee Chair James Comer said Joe Biden's relatives had used the family name to enrich themselves, and the president was "involved".

The report itself does not substantiate these claims or implicate Mr Biden. It does not allege illegal conduct.

The White House called the report "baseless innuendo".

Republican leaders pledged to aggressively investigate Mr Biden, his administration and his family when they took over control of the US House of Representatives in last year's midterm election.

Mr Comer has faced pressure from within his party to release findings from the House Oversight Committee's ongoing inquiry into the Biden family.

In January, he said he would investigate «influence peddling» by Mr Biden's family.

Wednesday's report is the most detailed accounting yet of what House Republicans say they have uncovered.

The roughly 30-page report detailed what lawmakers say are various companies and financial records



James Comer and House Republicans unveil a report into Biden family financial transactions.

tied to family members of Mr Biden, including his son, Hunter Biden, and daughter-in-law, Hallie Biden.

The report contains records of bank transactions, obtained through subpoena, that Republican lawmakers allege are linked to Romania and China.

"We believe that the president has been involved in this from the very beginning. Obviously, we're going to continue to look," Mr Comer told reporters Wednesday.

The report does not show payments to Mr Biden.

Neither does it provide explicit evidence to back up the Republican lawmakers' central claim that Mr Biden's family sought to enrich itself using the family name, or that these business dealings influenced Mr Biden.

Mr Comer and his col-

leagues stopped short of alleging illegal activity.

"Congressman Comer has a history of playing fast and loose with the facts and spreading baseless innuendo while refusing to conduct his so-called 'investigations' with legitimacy," White House spokesman Ian Sams told BBC in a statement.

"He has hidden information from the public to selectively leak and promote his own hand-picked narratives as part of his overall effort to lob personal attacks at the President and his family," Mr Sams added.

Republicans have vowed to aggressively investigate President Biden and his family after congressional Democrats investigated and impeached Donald Trump twice during his presidency.

They wrested control of

the US House of Representatives from the Democrats in last year's midterm election, granting them power over committees and the ability to conduct investigations and oversight of the Biden administration.

Republicans have focused on Mr Biden's younger son, Hunter Biden, and his foreign business dealings.

Federal prosecutors are currently investigating Hunter Biden over issues with his taxes and a gun purchase.

He has been under investigation since 2018.

Hunter Biden has struggled publicly with addiction and has faced scrutiny for his personal business dealings.

The White House maintains his father was not involved in and did not benefit from his work.

Seeking Global Solutions: 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC)

By Liang Leorine

The 20th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) drew the attention of the world and shed light on a process and vision that will have long-lasting effects on the global community.

Since World War II countries are struggling to find a sustainable path to peace and prosperity for all its citizens who are experiencing regular conflicts, civil strife, economic crisis, natural and manmade hazards, epidemics and pandemics, financial failures, and wars.

Institutions like the United Nations are providing the multilateral space for continued dialogue with the hope of finding solutions to these problems and challenges. Despite these efforts, the international community continues to search for a sustained pathway that would enable peace, prosperity, social and economic development.

The recently held congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) has drawn the attention of many academics, journalists, and governments around the world to its approach as a country to national planning and implementation.

The preparatory process leading up to the congress highlights an effective engagement of citizens in dialogue, promoting a strong sense of ownership of a national vision for the People's Republic of China.

Democracy in its true sense was at work allowing for exchanges of views at all levels and thorough research of the issues of interest to the ordinary citizens.

According to President Xi Jinping at the start of the process, "Democracy

must be given full play. Investigation and research must be strengthened; opinions must be sought widely, and wisdom from across the society must be collected."

It was clear that the CPC Congress was a culmination of a deeply consultative process among its members, organizations, and communities throughout the length and breadth of China.

The theme of the congress was "holding high the great banner of socialism with Chinese characteristics, fully implementing the Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era, carrying forward the great founding spirit of the Party, staying confident and building strength, upholding fundamental principles and breaking new ground, forging ahead with enterprise and fortitude, and striving in unity to build a modern socialist country in all respects and advance the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation on all fronts".

The theme is a well stated blueprint that captures what President Xi Jinping affirms as a "common prosperity for all and material, ethnic, cultural, and ecological advancement (that) are pillars in China's process of socialization modernization."

He further articulated that "China will not only pursue economic growth as a whole but also quality growth that reduces inequality, tackles corruption, increases collective prosperity, and restores the ecological integrity of the natural world."

Unlike the negative propaganda and unsubstantiated criticism by Western media, the Communist Party of China (CPC) has in a very significant

way proven to the world that it has a very transparent and all-inclusive method of planning and implementation of national social and economic programmes and projects. The rapid growth experienced by China in the past 40 years is evident and represents a high level of stability in the country. China has led the way in eradicating extreme poverty in most communities ahead of schedule and has met recent challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, through its zero-tolerance approach.

The interests of the Chinese people have been safeguarded by the CPC in national development, and the principle of peace has been prioritized by the Party in all aspects of its foreign policy.

There are many Caribbean countries with diplomatic relations with the Peoples Republic of China, that welcome the country's approach to diplomacy and its all-embracing way of dealing with them as equal partners with a shared vision for the world.

Over the past half-century, cooperation between China and Caribbean countries has yielded fruitful results, which sets an example of countries developing ties based on mutual respect, equality, and common development.

Therefore, the CPC National Congress presented "a new choice", a vision that can help to provide a global solution for the many political, social, and economic challenges.

In his report to the 20th CPC National Congress, President Xi stressed that China is offering "a new choice" for humanity to economically advance outside of a unipolar, western-led

cont'd on pg 19

Renegades enhance chances of reaching semi-finals in T10 contest

Renegades enhanced their chances of clinching a semi-finals berth in the Joma Caribbean T10 Cricket Competition by pulling off a 14-run victory over Rangers in the penultimate round of preliminary round matches at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Tuesday.

The Renegades, who were sent in to bat, made 69 for seven off their 10 overs in the encounter, the second game of a triple header.

Elroy Francis Jr, who led the side in the absence of captain Nino Henry, hit a top score of 34 off 30 balls. Michael Marcellin picked up two for 10 and Rangers skipper Kofi James had two for 12.

In reply, the Rangers were restricted to 55 for three off their 10 overs with Kadeem Henry capturing two for 10.

Their 5th win in nine matches propels the Renegades to second place in the standings behind leaders Rockets, the only team to already secure one of the



Elroy Francis Jr led the Renegades to victory over the Rangers in the Joma Caribbean T10 Cricket Competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Tuesday, 9th May, 2023. (File photo)

four spots into the semi-finals.

The Rockets ensured they continue to lead the standings in the preliminaries by notching up their seventh win in nine outings, cruising to a nine-wicket victory over the Hawksbills in the first game of Tues-

day's triple header.

The Hawksbills won the toss and opted to bat, scoring 86 for seven off their 10 overs. Captain Justin Athanaze slammed 29 off 12 balls with three sixes and a four while Michael Dover chipped in with 21 not out off 15 balls.

Opener Kerry Mentore then slammed an unbeaten half century as the Rockets achieved their victory at 89 for one with two balls to spare.

Mentore hammered 58 not out off 32 balls with four sixes and five fours while fellow opener Shaquan Hewlett chipped in with 20 off 24 balls.

The Chargers also stayed in contention for a berth into the semi-finals by securing their fourth win in nine outings with an eight-wicket victory over the Pacers in Tuesday's last encounter.

The Pacers won the toss and batted, scoring 57 for eight off their 10 overs. Orlando Peters took two wickets for eight runs and Amahl Nathaniel picked up two for 12.

In reply, the Chargers completed their victory by racing to 61 for two with three overs to spare. Wilden Cornwall Jr hit a top score of 29 off 24 balls, while Malique Gerald captured two for 18.

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framework of colonization, domination, and inequality. He asserted that China stands resolutely against aggression and interference in the sovereignty of other nations."

The Belt and Road initiative which is designed to promote mutually beneficial development projects with China and their global partners, has the potential according to the World Bank, to

reduce poverty for nearly 40 million people worldwide through its transport projects alone.

China's opposition to sanctions has maintained diplomatic and economic channels critical to creating an environment for peace, allowing for poorer nations in the Global South to grow and develop.

The peoples of the world are screaming for new approaches to solv-

ing global poverty, climate change, war, and public health crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and China is offering that new approach.

It is therefore clear that the CPC is taking a path that is very important for the future of the entire planet, providing an alternative model of cooperation to countries seeking development without sacrificing sovereignty, stability, and peace.

Dowdye among winners at Sir Reginald Samuel Classic

Kasiya Daley of Panthers and Geolyna Dowdye of Phoenix were among the winners at the 10th Sir Reginald Samuel Track & Field Classic at the YASCO Sports Complex over the weekend.

Daley sped to gold in the Under-17 Boys 200 meters final in a time of 21.06 seconds to finish ahead of Wings Sports Club's Cleon Joseph, who clocked a personal best of 21.98 seconds. Juda Ashe of Phoenix came third.

Dowdye, who made the finals at last month's regional CARIFTA Games in the Bahamas, won the Under-20 Girls 200 meters in a time of 23.91 seconds. Sage Connor of Heart & Soul Track Club came second and Janisha Spencer of Phoenix finished in third place.

Kettia Ambrose of Panthers captured the sprint double by winning the Under-17 Girls finals of the 100 and 200 meters.

Ambrose clocked 11.75 second to win the 100 meters with Taryn Augustine of Top Notch Track Club of the British Virgin Islands finishing second and Syesha Thomas of Sir Novelle Richards Academy taking third place.

Ambrose then ran a time of 25.14 seconds to win the 200-meter final ahead of Taryn Augustine of Top Notch Track Club in second place and Sidaunte Smith of Roots Athletics in third place.

Cleon Joseph of Wings Sports Club won the Under-17 Boys 100 metres in 10.93 seconds. Juda Ashe of Phoenix came second and Kemari Gumbs of Full Stride Track Club of Anguilla finished third.

La'Nica of Power Speed and Endurance captured the Under-20 Girls 100 meters final in a time of 11.92 seconds, while Terrone Webster of Full Stride Track Club won the Under-20 Boys 100-meter final by clocking 10.81 seconds.

Sprinter Miguel Francis clocked 10.31 seconds to win the Open Male



From left to right: Janisha Spencer of Phoenix, Geolyna Dowdye of Phoenix and Sage Connor of Heart & Soul Track Club on the podium for winners of the Under-20 Girls 200 meters final during the 10th Sir Reginald Samuel Track & Field Classic at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday, 6th May, 2023. (CPTSA Wings Sports Club)

100 meters final. Kadeem Campbell and Richard Richardson of Panthers finished second and third respectively.

Kadeem Campbell won the Open Male 200-meter final in 21.37 seconds, while Osie Gardner of Paramount Performance won the Under-20 Boys 400 metres final in 48.94 seconds.

Terrone Webster of Full Stride Track Club clocked 21.66 seconds to win the final of the Under-20 Boys 200 meters. Caandre Pascal and Dwayne Flemming of Power Speed and Endurance finished in second and third places respectively.

Chidindu Ohaegbulam of Wadadli Athletics captured the title in the Under-20 Boys Long Jump with a leap of 4.58 meters.

Gerilyn Barnes of Power Speed and Endurance won the long jump in Under-17 Girls division with a jump of 5.35 meters.

Maliek Francis of Wings Sports Club won the Under-17 Boys Javelin with a throw of 48.62 meters. Jomari King of SupaNova came second with Asiah Bailey of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy finishing third.

Overseas athletes from Tortola and Anguilla as well as athletes from several local track and field clubs participated in the two-day event, which is organized by the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, in honour of Sir Reginald Samuel, designer of the National Flag of Antigua & Barbuda.

AGS and PMS advance to final in schools' cricket

The Antigua Grammar and Princess Margaret School are through to the final of the Under-15 Boys Division of the Inter-Schools' Cricket Championships.

The Antigua Grammar advanced to the final after recording an eight wicket victory against the Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the first semi-finals.

The Sir Novelle Richards Academy batted first and made 70 with Cheldon Charles getting a top score of 17. Anthony Pierre snapped up three for 10 and Joshua Roberts captured two for 12.

The Antigua Grammar School then achieved victory by scoring 74 for two in 11.2 overs. There were 24 extras, Hosea got 21 not out while Pierre and Matthew Miller each contributed 14.

Princess Margaret defeated Jennings Secondary by 13 runs in the second semi-finals.

J'Quan Athanaze struck 20 as Princess Margaret were all out for 61 with Tanez Francis grabbing five wickets for one run and Giovanni Thomas taking two wickets for eight runs.

In reply, Jennings Secondary crashed to 48 all out. Deandre Ralph snapped up four wickets for six runs, Athanaze took two for 10 and Kenque Mentore captured two for 11.

Meanwhile, Foster Jonas, Harley Maintenance Potters Uprising snatched a three-run victory over Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (AB-

SCA) St John's Co-Operative Union 15 overs Competition at Powell's on Tuesday night.

Potters Uprising won the toss and batted, scoring 95 for three off their 15 overs. Nolia Elvin ham-

mered 52 not out and Joann Thomas made 22.

In reply, Bullets just fell short as they could only muster 92 for four off their 15 overs. Rachael Greaves struck 34 and Annette Frank made 26.



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Sports News

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John Hughes beat Bendals in first match of playoff series

John Hughes and Freemans Village have made winning starts in their respective Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) playoffs series which got on the way at the Technical Center on Tuesday.

Troy Jules scored a hat-trick and Garcel Morrison converted twice as John Hughes came from behind to inflict a 5-1 drubbing of Bendals in the opening match of the premier/first division three-team round robin playoff series.

Jules had conversions in the 32nd minute, 40th and 42nd minute while Morrison scored in the 75th and 82nd minute after Okeski Ledeatte had given Bendals a 1-0 lead with a 24th minute conversion.

John Hughes and Bendals missed out on automatic promotion to the premier division by finishing third and fourth respectively in the first division.

The first division was won by Garden Stars with Green City finishing second to claim the two automatic spots for promotion into next season's premier division league.

The premier and first division playoffs also involve Cedar Grove Blue Jays, who finished in 14th place in this season's premier division. The winner of the three-team playoff series will secure a spot in next season's premier division.

Freemans Village launched their campaign in the first/second division three-team round robin playoff series by pulling off a 2-1 victory against Sea View Farm in the opening encounter.

Azari Edwards scored in the 13th minute to put Sea

View Farm ahead but Freemans Village recovered to score twice to win the match via conversions from Malik Tejorne Charles in the 40th minute and Darius Hector in the 44th minute.

The first/second division playoffs involve Sea View Farm and Freemans Village

and Potters Tigers. Sea View Farm and Freemans Village finished third and fourth respectively in the second division, while Potters Tigers finished 10th in the first division. The winner of the series will secure a berth in next season's first division league.



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UAE to host West Indies for three ODIs in June

As part of their preparations for the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier in Zimbabwe, the West Indies men's cricket team will play three One-Day Internationals (ODIs) against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Sharjah next month.

The day-night matches will be played on Monday, 5th June, Wednesday, 7th June and Friday 9th June. Both teams will depart for Zimbabwe at the end of the series for their World Cup qualifying campaign which begins on 18 June.

The all-important tournament will confirm the remaining spots for the 10-team ICC Cricket World Cup in India in 2023.

General Secretary of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), Mubashshir Usmani said, "We are delighted to host a former World Champion side like the West Indies ahead of the qualifying tournament in Zimbabwe.

"In recent months, our team has produced some sensational performances in the ODI format which



Members of the West Indies team celebrate taking a wicket during a one-day match. (CWI Media)

have helped raise UAE cricket's profile.

"Our qualification for the tournament in Zimbabwe is a testament of our recent achievements. We want to ensure we provide the best possible preparation to our team and this series will most certainly help in achieving the goal.

"We look forward to welcoming the West Indian team. We want to thank Cricket West Indies for

their continuous support towards cricket development in the UAE."

Jimmy Adams, Director of Cricket for Cricket West Indies said, "This is our first ever bilateral tour against the UAE and we are pleased to have agreed to this historic three-match ODI Series as it will provide a good opportunity for our players to get some preparation ahead of the ICC Cricket World Cup

Qualifiers.

"It will also allow those players not going to Zimbabwe to get some valuable experience at the international level in foreign conditions, which would be hugely beneficial to their growth and development.

"We are happy to work closely with the ECB to arrange the three matches and we see this as a partnership which can grow in the future."