

CABINET MOVES TO END CRIME WAVE



Story on Page 2

PM Gaston Browne (second from left) surrounded by the heads of the ABDF, the Police and ONDCP

Crime spree catches Cabinet's attention

The recent wave of criminal activities highlighted by a brazen daylight rape of a woman this week, has caught the attention of the Cabinet and it has decided to take decisive action to deal with the matter.

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, the Cabinet summoned the country's security apparatus to engage in a discussion that will come up with actions to stop the wave of gun-related crimes and other criminal acts being perpetrated over the past several weeks.

In attendance at the meeting were the heads of the security services and support staff, totaling twelve



Top security personnel meet with the Cabinet

officials. They were invited to address the issue of youth violence, robberies by young males bearing guns, and the report recently, of

the rape of a young mother during the daytime, a Cabinet source reported.

According to the source the Commissioner of Po-

lice, Atlee Rodney informed that sixty-five percent of all reported crimes occur in the City of St. John's; thir-

cont'd on pg 3

STUDENT SAFETY POLICY





STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

www.sicantigua.com
info@sicantigua.com
1 (268) 481-7800\04

Government discussing the acquisition of the Cancer Centre

The government is seriously pursuing efforts to acquire the Cancer Centre located at Michael's Mount.

On Wednesday, the Cabinet held discussions on the acquisition of the Cancer Centre at a cost that reflects the valuation undertaken by the Government's Valuation Officer.

While the owner was demanding 15 million USD; the valuation is between 6 and 9 million EC Dollars. The land on which the Cancer Centre is built is crown land.

Since the owner of the centre, Dr. Conville Browne of the Bahamas announced his intention to close the facility at the end of last month due to its lack of economic viability, the government has expressed an interest in its purchase to continue the cancer care that patients have been receiving.

However, the point of



disagreement has been over the value of the property. Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph has indicated that he is of the view that the asking price for the facility was more than its market value.

Both sides need to reach a compromise in their positions if the matter is to be resolved amicably and in short order.

Meanwhile, the cabinet

invited the owner of an office building in St. John's that has remained unoccupied for several years. The former CIBC building situated at the corner of High Street and Corn Alley, owned by an Antiguan businessman had been rented by the former administration and gutted. There was no further progress with the construction.

In 2014 an agreement was

entered into with the new Gaston Browne Administration to acquire the building, by way of unpaid taxes and other unmet obligations.

The owner reneged. He has now returned to the cabinet with another proposal to exchange land which he owns elsewhere, for crown land with an oceanfront.

The discussions are ongoing.

cont'd from pg 2

ty-five reported robberies occurred for the year thus far, and nine illegal guns have been taken from the streets in 2023, to date.

There have not been many incidents of youth violence since the execution of a plan put forward by the uniformed bodies. However, the police have concluded that older criminals are using young men to commit crimes.

The police propose the introduction of CCTV cameras in and around St. John's so that images of criminals can be captured. The police also proposed a VHF radio system to reduce

the response time after a crime has taken place.

The cost of the radio is estimated at USD350,000. The Commissioner also reported that with just a little more than 600 active duty officers and about 200 fire police, a little more than 2000 police recruits are required to meet the force strength that would be able to adequately address the crime situation throughout the nation.

Additionally, the Chief of Defense Staff of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF) Colonel Telbert Benjamin informed that 120 soldiers are required to fulfill the calculated

couchant of soldiers for Antigua and Barbuda's population.

He also reported that not only an increase in manpower, but VHF radios, military assets, and training are also required.

The source stated that the Cabinet thanked the Security Officials for their several reports and for pointing to the need to successfully fight crime.

The Cabinet also committed to immediately allocating the necessary resources needed for the security forces, so that they may be better able to tackle the crime situation in the country and to bring it under control.

Local News



National delegation attends 28th OECS/PPS Tender and TAC Meetings

A three-member team from the Medical Benefits Scheme and the Ministry of Health represented Antigua and Barbuda at the just-concluded 28th OECS/PPS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Pharmaceutical Procurement System) Tenders Committee meeting.

In attendance were Procurement/Central Stores Manager - MBS, Kerriann Benjamin, Inventory Manager - MBS, Sandra Jonas-Margetson, and at the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting - Medical Officer of Health, Ministry of Health, Dr. Oritta Zachariah. The meetings were held in St. Lucia from May 8-13, 2023.

During the Tenders Committee meeting, May 8-11, representatives from the nine (9) OECS Member States selected over eight hundred (800) medical products through the prescribed tenders process. The products will constitute the items available for use in the public health systems across the OECS from July 1st, 2023



– June 30th, 2025. Dr. Zachariah and the other Medical Officers from the OECS Member States, who comprise the Technical Advisory Committee met on May 12th, 2023, to review the list of medical products. During the discussions, products were added or deleted utilizing evidence-based criteria.

The OECS/PPS also engaged representatives from the Pharmaceutical/Medical Supply Industry in a hydride “Supplier Forum” on May 13th. The discussions were very frank and addressed some of the challenges faced

by OECS Members States, OECS/PPS, and the suppliers themselves. Recommendations were advanced by all parties to mitigate against the challenges identified so that they can all have more effective and efficient OECS/PPS procurement mechanisms, to satisfy the needs of the health systems across the sub-region.

Director of Pharmaceutical Services, Alfred Athill, was invited to address Members of the Tenders/TAC Committees on May 12th and also representatives from the industry in the Suppliers Forum.



FAO project supports female farmers

Two female farmers are receiving support from the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) who are embracing the benefits of protected agriculture.

The FAO says protected agriculture, also known as controlled environment agriculture or greenhouse farming, involves cultivating crops within enclosed structures such as greenhouses or net houses, providing an optimized environment to enhance crop growth while safeguarding against adverse weather conditions, pests, diseases, and other external factors.

“As part of the Water-Energy Food Nexus Project, the FAO has made a significant contribution to these farmers by providing essential resources to expand their production capacity. These resources include shade-cloth, lumber, and other building materials that will enable them to upscale their farming operations effectively. Funding is provided by the Government of Mexico under their cooperation arm, AMEXCID which is managing the wider



From left: La·eeqa Sekani - Beneficiary, Mali Barnes - FAO National Project Coordinator, Marilena Davis - Beneficiary, Oniecia Anthony-Martin - Extension Officer, Agriculture Extension Division

Resilient Caribbean Initiative Project across several CARICOM Member States,” explained FAO National Project Coordinator, Mali Barnes.

According to Barnes, the primary objective of the Water-Energy Food Nexus project is to empower farmers in Antigua and Barbuda by enhancing their access to water resources and building their capacity to utilize wa-

ter more efficiently. The project aims to promote innovative techniques such as hydroponics and other forms of protected agriculture, which maximize water usage and enable sustainable farming practices.

“By equipping the women farmers with the necessary tools and materials, the FAO is enabling them to establish a more resilient and productive farming system. The materials provided through the project will support the expansion of their protected agriculture infrastructure, offering them greater control over the growing conditions and a heightened ability to protect their crops from external challenges,” he noted.

Through this collaboration, the FAO reaffirms its commitment to fostering inclusive and sustainable agricultural practices, promoting gender equality, and addressing the challenges faced by farmers in Antigua and Barbuda. By harnessing the potential of protected agriculture and efficient water management, the WEF Project is paving the way for a more prosperous and resilient agricultural sector in the region.



Italian Govt., City of Venice to help NPA with climate change adaptation measures

A delegation from the Italian Government has concluded a visit to Antigua and Barbuda during which they held discussions with the National Parks Authority on the issue of climate change.

The delegation included Professor Pierpaolo Camponstrini, Managing Director of the Consortium for Coordination of Research Activities Concerning the Venice Lagoon System (CORILA), the organization responsible for protecting the city of Venice, Italy against rising sea levels, flooding, and degradation of the historic city.

This visit was organized by the Italian Ambassador Gianni Piccato after his repeated visits and a keen interest in the heritage management challenges faced in Nelson's Dockyard National Park due to sea level rise, coastal erosion, and financial sustainability. He saw ways in which Italy could partner with Antigua and Barbuda.

"The City of Venice has faced decades of flooding and degradation due to salt-water intruding into its ancient buildings. With more than 50 years of experience in developing systems to protect the city without damaging the authenticity and integrity of the historic city, the heritage managers at the World Heritage Site of Venice are well-positioned



Left to Right: Dr. Christopher Waters, NPA Heritage Manager, Gregory Athill, Director of NPA Board, Dr. Pierpaolo Camponstrini, Managing Director of CORILA, Camilla Holme, Assistant to Honorary Counsel of Italy to Antigua & Barbuda, Mr. Carlo Falcone, Honorary Counsel of Italy to Antigua and Barbuda, Ann Marie Martin, Parks Commissioner, Dr. Gaetano Castellini Curiel, Deputy Coordinator of Expo Rome 2030, Dr. Vincenzo Pizzdante, Founder and COO of Connect2Italy

to lend their experience to our own Antigua Naval Dockyard and Related Archaeological Sites UNESCO World Heritage Site," an NPA release indicated.

In the talks, the National Parks identified several areas where technical assistance is needed. These are adapting to sea level rises to protect the Dockyard, engineering solutions for coastal degradation, especially the erosion under Fort Berkeley, and investigating the feasibility of solar tile technology.

Solar tiles are a new technology whereby photovoltaic panels are disguised as common roofing materials like wooden shingles but can produce solar power. Terracotta photovoltaic tiles

have already been trialed by a pioneering Italian Company, Dyaqua, at the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Pompeii. Not only are they aesthetically pleasing and can pass as real materials, but the tiles are also integrated into the roof system, making them significantly more hurricane resistant than traditional solar panels. Dyaqua has already committed to prototyping designs for the Dockyard's wallaba shingles.

Minister responsible for the National Parks, E.P. Chet Greene hailed this collaboration noting, "We are putting Antigua and Barbuda and our heritage sites on the international map where serious professionals are asking to collaborate with

our institutions like the National Park. The technology and learning opportunities piloted here can be expanded to the rest of the country and region, with Antigua and Barbuda leading the way in sustainable climate adaptation sympathetic to our heritage sites."

The meeting at the National Parks concluded with an agreement to establish a long-term Memorandum of Agreement between the National Parks and CORILA. This MOA will include technical support but also offer opportunities for Antiguan and Barbudans to gain experience and qualifications in coastal and hydro-engineering, heritage management, and conservation.



Tavia Hunte



David Matthias

Working adults encouraged to start retirement planning immediately

Experts in pension planning, retirement, social security, and investments encouraged working adults to pay closer attention to pension planning, stating that data shows that the population is largely under-pensioned and unprepared for life following retirement.

This was revealed during “Let’s Talk,” an online webinar hosted by Sagikor for participants of the Eastern Caribbean recently. All of the panelists at the webinar agreed that for the most part, people are not well prepared for life following retirement,

and it is important that persons consider developing multiple income sources before their retirement date.

Among the panelists was the Superintendent of the Antigua and Barbuda Social Security Scheme (SSS), David Matthias who provided great insight from the public sector perspective.

He said, “The misconception that a lot of people have is that social security is all you need to survive in retirement, but the unfortunate truth is, this is not so. How you live today is dependent on your salary; it’s important

to understand that social security only replaces a portion of that salary.

Therefore, how you live post-retirement is immediately affected by the decision to retire and receive a pension.












The simple rule that we at social security like to tell people, is that what you require to live today, is what you must plan to generate and more to live well over your expected lifetime,” Matthias explained.

The SSS Superintendent is urging anyone who is going to retire, not to consid-

er social security the be-all and end-all. “Insurance is important, an aggressive investment and savings plan, these are all necessary from early in one’s working years,” he added.

The webinar also introduced the types of savings and investment ideas individuals should consider and also encouraged young people, in particular, to get started as soon as they begin working.

The webinar panel was complete, with St Lucian motivational speaker and entrepreneur Anya Charles and Tavia Hunte - Principal at the Shivas School of Dance in Antigua and Barbuda, who reinforced that the matter of retirement was especially dear to them, as they understood that being fully prepared for retirement was a full-time personal responsibility, given their entrepreneurial status.

Thu 18 Day		Thu 18 Night	
86°		77°	
19% ESE 12 mph		22% ESE 9 mph	
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 86F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		A few clouds. Low 77F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
 Humidity 69%	 UV Index Extreme	 Humidity 79%	 UV Index 0 of 10
 Sunrise 5:35 am	 Sunset 6:32 pm	 Moonrise 4:39 am	 Moonset 5:48 pm
 Waning Crescent			

Local News



Former resident Cameron Singh releases his first book

Cameron Singh, a former resident of Antigua and Barbuda has released his first book, *Navigation and Discovery: A Path of Navigating and Discovering Through Your Journey of*

Faith.

“Navigation and Discovery; yes, this is a huge part of the journey called life.” Hear from a young professional. Cameron was able to rise to senior leader-

ship roles in the marketplace working in the private aviation industry. Hear about his journey of faith and how he was able to navigate and discover his true passion and calling that God called

him to live out,” the book’s introduction stated.

According to the introduction the book will share Cameron’s story and readers will glean from his authentic story as he takes you on the journey of how he navigated through his late teens and 20s and discovered his purpose and calling to live out his faith. Cameron’s story is not perfect, it comes with a lot of obstacles, challenges, mountaintops, and more valleys than anyone could ever imagine.

“The journey of what we call life is a continuous journey of navigation and discovery. What are you working towards? What and how are you trying to navigate and discover?”

“My hope for this book is for people to learn from my story and take a few lessons from my experience, navigating and discovering through high school and university which was changing and continues to evolve,” writes Cameron Singh.

You can check out Cameron’s website www.CameronSingh.com where various formats of the Book and Study Guide are available including the audiobook. You can also catch *Navigation and Discovery* with Cameron Singh which is a podcast, where Cameron invites guests from different backgrounds to share their stories.





KEEP FIGHTING COVID-19!

Why should
I get the
COVID-19
vaccine?

00% of people who
died from **COVID-19**
were not vaccinated.
COVID-19 Vaccine is
safe and effective



**CONSIDER GETTING VACCINATED OR BOOSTED TODAY,
IT IS STILL YOUR BEST OPTION!**



For more information
or assistance:
Call (268) 462-5522
or visit us on **Lower High Street,**
St. Johns, Antigua.

unicef 
for every child

Technology



Elon Musk: I will say what I want even if it costs me

Twitter owner Elon Musk has defended his controversial social-media presence, saying he will “say what I want” even if it loses him money.

Mr Musk was responding to accusations of antisemitism on Twitter, after his tweet George Soros “hates humanity” was criticised by the Israeli government.

The tweet was seen as playing into frequently debunked conspiracy theories about the Jewish philanthropist.

But Mr Musk told CNBC he held no antisemitic views.

He also used the interview to call working from home “morally wrong” and criticise technology rival OpenAI.

Soros Fund Management cut back the shares it owned in Mr Musk’s Tesla company, in May.

But company founder Mr Soros is a regular target of conspiracy theories by right-wing figures in the US.

And the Israel Foreign Ministry retweeted a post from the country’s digital diplomacy director, David Saranga, sharing Twitter trending figures showing more than 27,000 tweets using the term “The Jews” following Mr Musk’s post.

Former Labour MP David Miliband, Foreign Secretary under Gordon Brown, called Mr Musk’s remarks “totally disgusting” and said he should retract them.

But this was not the only part of the interview to draw criticism.

Mr Musk was also questioned about a tweet in which he asked whether a mass shooting had been part of “a very bad psy-op” - a baseless conspiracy theory.

A “psy-op” - or “psychological operation” - is a military term for actions used to target and influence behaviours.

Mr Musk’s words carry considerable weight.

One of the world’s richest and most influential people, he also owns one



Elon Musk

of its largest social-media platforms - where he has the single biggest account, with nearly 140 million followers.

But in recent months, Mr Musk has increasingly been engaging with false or misleading claims on Twitter.

His remark about the Texas shooting - and Bellingcat, an investigative organisation that reported on it - are the latest in a series of such Twitter engagements by Mr Musk.

Previously, he had repeated misleading claims about: the Capitol riots, the Ukraine war, and extremist groups in the US.

While Mr Musk often tries to be careful with the wording of his tweets, he has been more explicit in promoting the false claim the Texas shooter did not have a neo-Nazi ideology and his online profile might have been a “psy-op”.

This is despite major news outlets reviewing and verifying the shooter’s online profiles and Texas police confirming he had extremist and neo-Nazi beliefs.

Some of Mr Musk’s recent tweets have been fact-checked by Community Notes, a Twitter feature that allows us-

ers to add context to false or misleading claims via a voting system.

Elsewhere in the interview, Mr Musk also took aim at working from home.

“It’s not just a productivity thing,” he said.

“It’s morally wrong.” And it was unfair some people, such as baristas or shop assistants, had to attend work in person while others did not.

Mr Musk also suggested the way OpenAI had developed technology such as ChatGPT was unsafe.

He said earlier on Tuesday that he was the reason OpenAI existed and in the interview added that he had come “up with the name”.

In March, Mr Musk was one of many public figures to sign a letter asking for artificial-intelligence development to be put on hold so safeguards and regulation could catch up.

But the following month, he created rival AI company X.AI.

OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman has not responded to Mr Musk directly but appeared before a Senate Committee on Tuesday calling for AI growth to be regulated.

**THURSDAYS
6:30PM - 8:30PM**



**HOSTED BY
CARL CHRISTOPHER**

THE NEXT LEVEL

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Amerindian village in Guyana fights gold mine over land rights

Loop - One of Guyana's smallest Amerindian villages is waging a monumental battle that could decide the amount of control that thousands of indigenous people have over their land in remote parts of this South American country.

The village of 225 residents is fighting in court to regain full control over ancestral land where gold miners once were invited in to boost community development but who now are considered unwelcome interlopers who carve up lands that provide food and medicine, and block access for the villagers' own, smaller-scale mining.

"It's like a part of us has been taken away," said Orin Fernandes, the village's toshao, or indigenous leader.

Called Chinese Landing for reasons residents no longer remember, the village is deep within lush forests of northern Guyana accessible primarily by riverboat.

The villagers, descendants of Caribs, have seen their land shrink as miners scrape back layers of rock and red soil that could otherwise produce pumpkin, cucumbers and cassava. The mining operation spans 3,400 acres (1,380 hectares), splitting the village in two and contaminating water in an area known as Tassawini, which means "clear water" in the Carib language.

"What's happening in Chinese Landing now is pretty emblematic of what is happening across the country in terms of mining and violation of indigenous people's rights," said Lan Mei, a Maryland-based attorney representing the village.

Guyana has some 78,500 Amerindians who represent nearly 10 per cent of the country's population. They live in more than 240 communities on some 6 million hectares (15 million



A congregant sings during a church service in Chinese Landing, Guyana, Sunday, April 16, 2023. Guyana has some 78,500 Amerindians who represent nearly 10% of the country's population. They live in more than 240 communities that often are home to large deposits of gold like Chinese Landing. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

acres) that often are home to large deposits of gold.

Gold represents roughly 15 per cent of Guyana's economic output, and even the national flag — "the golden arrowhead" — pays homage to the precious metal.

For Guyanese officials, gold mining has taken priority over efforts of indigenous communities to solidify titles over their lands and clarify their boundaries, said Michael Mc Garrell, a map specialist with Amerindian Peoples Association.

"They see indigenous title lands as not generating any sort of revenue for the country," Mc Garrell said.

Chinese Landing secured its land title in 1976, and for a couple of decades, Amerindians mined that area with basic tools, selling small pieces of gold to feed families and build homes, complimenting earnings by hunting and growing crops

But the community entered into

an agreement with a Guyana businessman seeking to set up mining operations in 1998, and ever since the deal went sour in the early 2000s, there have been legal battles over who can mine there — with Chinese Landing residents currently shut out.

"It grieves me," said Emelda Fernandes, 66, who mined at age 12 but now is forced to farm peppers and cassava to survive. Meanwhile, her son uses a metal detector in the dusty surroundings of their wooden home to search for gold or scrap metal.

Tears fell down Fernandes' face as she switched to her native Carib language: "I was living here for such a long time, and now, I cannot work. ... Outsiders come and take away our rights."

The once-clear waters of the creek behind Fernandes' home now run yellowish-brown. Unable to afford bottled water, she and others drink from

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

and bathe there, which she says gives her stomach aches and skin rashes.

“We are really suffering,” she said.

Some students attend the village school in bare feet, and the community’s lack of access to mining has pushed it deeper into poverty.

The village’s vice toshao, Veron Millington, had to borrow \$1,500 from the Amerindian council to make ends meet and so that her son could graduate high school. He loves robotics and named a dog “Hawking” after the renowned British physicist.

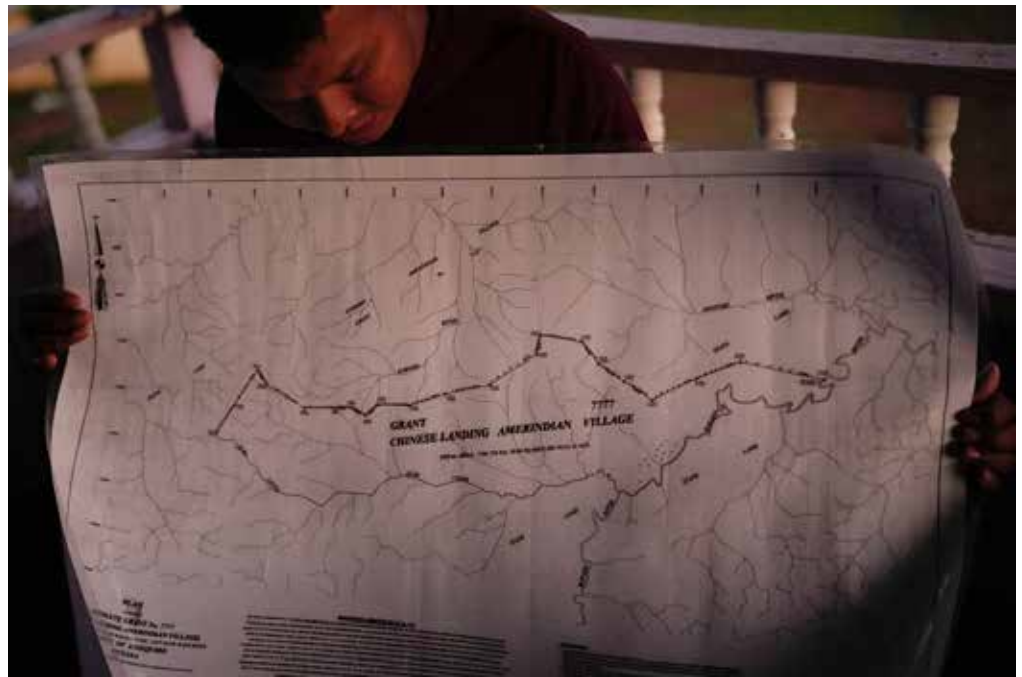
“I don’t know how I’ll pay it back,” said Millington, a retired teacher, adding that she hasn’t been able to pay rent since January. “I never envisioned that it would come to this. We feel like we’re not even part of Guyana.”

In 1998, former leaders of Chinese Landing signed an agreement with businessman Wayne Vieira that awarded him the right to mine in Tassawini after he obtained mining permits from Guyana’s Geology and Mines Commission.

The deal stated Vieira would employ from 20 per cent to 50 per cent of unskilled labourers from the village and award it 1 per cent commission on all gold mined. In addition, Vieira would develop education and health services in the village, according to a copy of the deal obtained by The Associated Press.

While Vieira provided a bounty of books for Chinese Landing’s school, Fernandes said he only employed villagers sporadically and never shared details on gold production, so the village never knew if it was truly getting its 1 per cent in royalties.

Jamela Ali, an attorney for Vieira, disputed the Amerindian leader’s account by saying that Vieira’s representatives “always offered” villagers work, and added that the businessman has repaired roads, a reservoir and an airstrip there. The attorney accused



Orin Fernandes, a toshao, or Indigenous leader, holds a map of Chinese Landing's Amerindian territory, in Chinese Landing, Guyana, Monday, April 17, 2023. Chinese Landing secured its land title in 1976. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

villagers of illegally mining in the area with heavy machinery.

The village scrapped the deal with Vieira in August 2004 and demanded that he remove all equipment and personnel, which didn’t happen.

In 2006, the country’s Amerindian Act included language saying that permission is needed from an indigenous community before small and mid-scale mining can take place on their land. And in 2010, the Geology and Mines Commission issued Vieira a cease work order for his mid-scale operation because he did not have a valid agreement with the village.

Vieira filed a lawsuit in response that went all the way to the Caribbean Court of Justice, which serves as Guyana’s highest court. It ruled in 2017 that the Amerindian Act did not give any authority to the mining agency to stop work on the mining permits.

The pace of mining increased after the ruling, and attorneys representing Chinese Landing say police and guards blocked villagers from mining in or entering the area.

Complicating the picture is a Canadian company, Alerio Gold Corp.,

which claims to have obtained rights to mine land previously controlled by Vieira. However, Vieira’s attorney disputed that, saying Vieira continues to control all four permits he originally obtained in the area, and that he has no connection to the company.

Alerio, which announced in April it found “significant” untapped reserves, did not respond to phone calls or emails seeking comment. Expanding the mine to a large-scale operation could make it more difficult for the community to halt it.

Newell Dennison, commissioner for Guyana’s Geology and Mines Commission, declined to comment on the Chinese Landing case, saying it was in court.

In 2021, the village filed its own lawsuit arguing that the government never should have had the authority to issue mining permits for any of its titled land. The case is being closely watched by activists and Amerindian leaders who hope it might set a precedent for other indigenous lands.

“This case really is about how much control a village has over its
cont'd on pg 14

Five natural remedies for dandruff

By Sharine Joseph

Dandruff is a common scalp condition that affects many people. It can cause flakes of dead skin to appear on the scalp, which can be itchy, unsightly, and even embarrassing. While there are many over-the-counter treatments for dandruff, some people prefer to use natural remedies instead. Here are five natural remedies that may help to treat dandruff.

Tea tree oil

Tea tree oil is a natural antifungal and antimicrobial agent that can help to kill the yeast that can cause dandruff. To use tea tree oil, simply add a few drops to your shampoo or mix it with a carrier oil such as coconut oil and massage it into your scalp. Leave it on for 30 minutes before rinsing it off.

Apple cider vinegar

Apple cider vinegar has natural antifungal properties that can help to kill the yeast that causes dandruff. Mix equal parts apple cider vinegar and water, and apply the mixture to your scalp. Leave it on for 15 minutes



before rinsing it off. Repeat this process once or twice a week.

Aloe vera

Aloe vera has anti-inflammatory and antimicrobial properties that can help to soothe an itchy scalp and reduce dandruff. Apply fresh aloe vera gel directly to your scalp and leave it on for 30 minutes before rinsing it off. Repeat this process two to three times a week.

Coconut oil

Coconut oil is a natural moisturizer that can

help to hydrate your scalp and reduce dandruff. Warm up some coconut oil and massage it into your scalp. Leave it on for at least 30 minutes before rinsing it off. Repeat this process once or twice a week.

Baking soda

Baking soda is a natural exfoliant that can help to remove dead skin cells from your scalp and reduce dandruff. Mix baking soda with water to make a paste, and apply it to your scalp. Massage your scalp gently for a few minutes before rinsing

it off. Repeat this process once a week.

While these natural remedies may be effective in treating dandruff, it is important to note that everyone's skin is different. If you experience any irritation or allergic reactions, stop using the remedy immediately and consult a healthcare professional. Additionally, if your dandruff persists despite these natural remedies, it may be a sign of an underlying condition and you should seek medical attention.

cont'd from pg 13

titled land," said Mei, the US-based attorney. "It's also about the village's right to representation and to have its case heard in court."

Not everyone in Chinese Landing holds out hope that the community's access to mining can be restored any time soon.

Selwyn Miller, 27-year-old president of the village's Parent Teacher

Association, is seeking opportunity elsewhere. He somberly broke the news on a recent weekday morning before a classroom of a dozen children from third to sixth grade.

"I'm talking to you this morning because I won't be around for a period of time," he said, as the students fell silent.

"There will be no more work," he warned. "Don't think about mining.

Miss Natasha talked about that. Think about something else."

In his pocket, Miller had a lump of gold about the size of a flattened grape that he hoped would finance his trip to another region of Guyana where he planned to work as a miner to care for his four children after his wife died in childbirth. Hours later, Miller said goodbye to family and friends and departed Chinese Landing.

CXC launches investigations into possible Mathematics examination leak



Loop - The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC®) has launched investigations on learning of a possible paper leak today, Wednesday, May 17, 2023.

In a press release issued minutes ago at 5:12pm, CXC indicated it "is aware of the concerns that the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC®) Math Paper 02 which was written today was leaked.

"This matter is of great concern to us, we have com-

menced our investigations and will make a definitive statement once the investigation is completed. In the meantime, candidates can rest assured that this matter is being treated with the highest urgency."

The topic is making waves on Caribbean social media. Some are saying that the leak occurred in two territories however, CXC in its statement did not indicate if the investigations are in specific markets at this time.

Guyana opens Embassy in Qatar

Loop - Guyana made a big step in its relations with Qatar as it opened an embassy in Doha.

Speaking at the embassy, Ali thanked the Emir of Qatar, Amir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, for his support to Guyana.

"We are truly grateful and, as a nation, we pray for the continued prosperity and good health of the government, leadership and the people of Qatar. I want to thank all of our friends who are here to celebrate this momentous occasion," Ali stated.

Both countries have been diplomatic allies since 1996.

Ali said establishing the embassy is a significant step for both nations.

"We both promote peace, stability and sustainability and sustainability.



As we embark on this journey of enhanced bilateral relations, Guyana is pursuing a development path to create an economy and a country that will be different from where we are today," Ali stated as he noted Guyana will be working with Qatar in areas such as climate change and food security.

Guyana, Cuba and the Dominican Republic are the only Caribbean countries to have an embassy in the petrochemical rich Middle Eastern nation.

Safraaz Ahmad Shadood is Guyana's Ambassador to Qatar.

Ali is visiting Qatar with a delegation that includes Senior Minister in

the Office of the President with responsibility for Finance, Dr Ashni Singh.

The president has held several high-level meetings with Qatari officials including the emir, Prime Minister Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani and Chairman of Qatar Tourism and Group CEO of Qatar Airways Akbar Al Baker.

Regional News



Violence is not the answer says SKN Police Commissioner

By Dillon De Shong

Police Commissioner James Sutton has urged Kittitians and Nevisians to choose peaceful alternatives to solve their disputes.

Sutton's appeal comes on the heels of St Kitts and Nevis recording another murder this month.

"As law enforcement officers, we continue to collectively and individually encourage our people to refrain from resorting to violence as a way to resolve conflict. It does not work – the evidence and the statistics are there to prove that. In addition to vi-



olence creating more problems that it has ever solved, far too many of our people are being cut down in their prime," the top cop stated.

"St Kitts and Nevis is a small island developing

state; our most valuable resource is our people, our human capital. Nothing happens for our people without our people. To this end, it behoves us to practice restraint in times of tension or

strife, and seek a resolution that all parties can live to see."

Sutton said police officers are also negatively affected by each murder scene they visit.

"I implore us all to realise that the negative impact of violence reaches much further than the deceased. We owe it to best chance at a healthy, happy life. That is our responsibility to ourselves, to our communities, and to our country".

Sutton said the Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force has been working to combat criminal activity through "Operation Reassurance", which was launched last month.

Fourteen persons were arrested while six firearms were taken off the streets as a result of anti-crime operations.

The commissioner added changes were made to the community policing program to increase its impact and efficiency.

**The Hospitality Committee
of the
Zion Potters Moravian Church**

Invites you to our

FUNDRAISING BARBECUE

Date: Saturday 03rd June 2023

Time: 12 00 pm - 6:00 pm

**Venue: Potters Main Road
Under the Tent
Opposite the Potters Primary School**

Cost: \$20.00

Barbecue Items and Local Drinks will be on Sale

Melbourne bus crash: School children suffer “life changing” injuries

By Tiffanie Turnbull

A group of primary school children has suffered traumatic, “life-changing” injuries after a horrific bus crash in Melbourne, Australia.

The bus was carrying 45 students when police say it was hit by a truck from behind and rolled on Tuesday afternoon.

Some 18 children - aged 5 to 11 - were rushed to hospital, many for emergency surgery. One remains in intensive care.

The truck driver has been charged with dangerous driving causing serious injury.

Australia has a below-average road safety record compared to other advanced economies. It ranks 20th of out of 36 OECD countries for road fatalities.



Police said the bus had only just left Exford Primary School, on the western fringes of Melbourne, when the collision occurred.

Children were trapped inside the bus before bystanders - including the truck driver and many of their teachers, who had

rushed to the scene - helped emergency responders to free them from the wreckage.

Surgeons worked into the early hours of the morning to treat those children seriously hurt. Their injuries included crushed limbs - forcing amputations - as well as head injuries, spinal injuries and serious cuts.

Seven children remain at the hospital in serious conditions, including one in intensive care, the Royal Children's Hospital said.

“It is just distressing, knowing what our kids have been through and I can just imagine their fear,” principal Lisa Campo told media on Wednesday.

The 52-year-old bus driver was also taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Prime Minister An-

thon Albanese was among those who thanked first responders and sent well-wishes to the families involved.


“Any accident is just horrific, the fact that it involves school students just breaks your heart,” he said.

Superintendent Michael Cruse said the scene of the crash was extremely confronting for all who were there.

“Some of the injuries are life changing [and] this incident was avoidable,” he said.

The 49-year-old truck driver - who suffered minor injuries - has since been charged with four counts of dangerous driving.

Investigations are ongoing, but Supt Cruse said “inattention” would be a key focus, and more charges are likely to be laid.



DO YOU HAVE AN UPCOMING EVENT, FUNDRAISER OR CHURCH ACTIVITY?

SEND US YOUR INFORMATION AND WE WILL BE HAPPY TO AIR IT.

EMAIL : notices99.1@gmail.com

@POINTEFM99.1

G7 summit: Taiwan looms large as Japan prepares to host leaders

By Shaimaa Khalil

At Japan's Naha airbase in Okinawa, the roar of F-15 fighter jets dwarfs the sound of commercial planes that share the same runway.

Three jets take off one after the other, to start the day's training - mostly scenarios involving combat and aircraft interception.

At least a couple of jets have gone on "real life scrambles" or emergency calls to intercept suspected Chinese aircraft, say those here.

These routine exercises have taken on a new sense of urgency, according to Lt Col Masatoshi Tanaka.

"We're very nervous," he says. "We've been facing airspace violations of Japanese territory every day. Chinese activities have expanded in number and quality. They involve UAVs [drones], bombers and reconnaissance planes. There are many active aircraft carriers in this area."

Naha is part of the Okinawa island chain, which is on the frontline of any potential conflict between China and the self-ruled island of Taiwan. The territory, which Beijing claims and has vowed to take by force if necessary, has become one of the biggest flashpoints in the world, especially as tensions soar between the US and China.

As China becomes more assertive, Taiwan's security has become a growing concern for Japan, which is hosting the G7 summit in Hiroshima this weekend. And with China expected to dominate the agenda at the summit, Japan's role as a key player in building regional stability has only grown.

The war in Ukraine and an increasingly volatile Indo-Pacific has pushed Japan to a "crucial position in the alignment of powers," according to Yoko Iwama, a professor of international relations at the National Gradu-



Amid tensions between China and Taiwan, Japan's role as a key player in building regional stability has grown.

ate Institute for Policy Studies.

"We are the linchpin of the network of American alliances and partnerships in the region and I think the Americans are aware of that," she said.

Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has certainly been making moves to reflect that. In March, Japan normalised diplomatic ties with South Korea after years of terse silence in what has been hailed as a «new chapter».

That same month, Mr Kishida met India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and then made a surprise visit to Ukraine and pledged \$30m (£24m) in non-lethal military aid.

Under him, Japan has announced the biggest military build-up since World War Two, pledging to double defence spending by 2027 - which would give it the third largest defence budget in the world. This illustrates both Tokyo's urgent need to show that it can defend itself, and also help its closest ally, the US.

Any defence scenario will involve the US, and Okinawa is home to the biggest concentration of US troops in Japan, but the country also needs to show that it can put up a fight. The hope is that this would be enough to

deter Beijing and avoid a conflict in the region.

But Japan is close enough to feel the ripples of a conflict that it does not want, but could be pulled into.

When China's military rehearsed "sealing off" Taiwan during three days of military drills in April, Japan's defence ministry said a Chinese aircraft carrier was some 230km (145 miles) south of Miyako Island, also part of the Okinawa chain.

When a furious China fired missiles after former US house speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit last year, at least five landed less than 100km from the westernmost Japanese island of Yonaguni.

"Geographically speaking we're very close to Taiwan and South East Asia, we feel a sense of crisis," says Yoshitaka Nakayama, the mayor of Ishigaki. The island is about an hour's flight from the Naha airbase and is a picturesque haven known for fishing and agriculture. Its white sands and crystal blue waters have long attracted holidaymakers and snorkelling fans.

Now, Ishigaki is also home to Japan's Self-Defence Forces' (SDF)

cont'd on pg 19

Nigeria ambush: Four killed in attack on US convoy in Anambra

By Chris Ewokor

Gunmen in south-eastern Nigeria have attacked a US convoy, killing four people, local police say.

They say two of the victims of Tuesday's attack in the Anambra state were US consulate employees, while the other two were police officers.

The attackers kidnapped three other people, and set their vehicle on fire.

Washington says no US citizens were in the convoy, which was travelling in the state plagued by violence and a separatist insurgency.

Nigerian police say the attack happened on the Atani-Osamale road in Ogburu region.

Police spokesperson DSP Ikenga Tochukwu says security forces were currently carrying out a rescue and recovery operation.



The Anambra state is plagued by violence and separatist insurgency.

In a statement to the BBC, the US confirmed that "there was an incident on 16 May in Anambra state", adding that Washington was working with Nigerian security services to investigate the attack.

"The security of our personnel is always paramount,

and we take extensive precautions when organising trips to the field," the US state department said.

The Nigerian authorities often blame violent attacks in the region on the Indigenous People of Biafra (Ipob) movement, which is fighting for a breakaway state in the

south-east of the country.

Anambra and other parts of the south-east have seen a sharp rise in attacks on security forces since Ipob launched an armed wing in December 2020.

The group has so far made no public comments on the issue.

cont'd from pg 18

newest military base. As farmers tend to their crops in the fields around it, soldiers man the gates and cranes and bulldozers move bits of earth as construction continues.

Mr Nakayama says they need to protect themselves: "Chinese ships are patrolling very closely. The equipment we have in terms of missile launchers is for defending ourselves. It's to protect us in case there are planes or ships that want to attack us. We're not looking for war."

Earlier this year nearly 600 troops moved here, including squads capable of launching land-to-ship and land-to-air missiles into the East China sea and

beyond.

Ishigaki and the neighbouring chain of islands are in close proximity to two flashpoints. One is the uninhabited Senkaku Islands which Japan controls but China also claims under the name Diaoyu Islands. The other is Taiwan, which is 200km away.

And Russia's invasion of Ukraine has heightened fears of a potential Chinese attack. As the war rages on there, parallels have been drawn on this side of the world.

There are some similarities, according to Prof Iwama.

"The leader type: Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping. But also the claim that a land that is controlled by some-

one else is yours," she said. "People see this and are afraid it could happen here."

She adds that watching large parts of Ukraine being bombed and shelled has brought up memories of World War Two.

"You could relate to what was happening," Prof Iwama says.

But those memories have also angered people in Ishigaki who fear that their home might once again be caught up in conflict. Okinawa, after all, was the site of a historic battle between the US and the Japanese armies.

Now, nearly eight decades later, a military base has renewed those fears, splitting a once close-knit community.



The Potters Tigers Football Team. (File photo)

Potters Tigers retain spot in ABFA's First Division

Potters Tigers have retained their place in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division next season.

The Tigers ensured they remain in the division by pulling off a 3-2 victory over Freemans Village in the final match of the First/Second di-

visions' playoffs series at the ABFA's Technical Center.

Ordel Samuel scored in the 44th minute, Vaurquanie Jackson converted an own-goal in the second minute of added-on time in the first half and Brian Davis scored in the 50th minute for Potters Tigers.

Malik Charles scored in the 4th minute and Ranique James had a 90th minute conversion for Freemans Village.

Potters Tigers earned the right to stay in the first division by virtue of winning the head to head match-up against Freemans Village after both teams finished with

the same amount of points and identical records at the end of the playoffs series.

Sea View Farm, who finished third in this season's second division, was the other team contesting the First/Second division playoffs series.

cont'd on pg 21

Ottos Full Throttle get second win in division one basketball league

Ottos Full Throttle claimed their second win in four games in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday night.

Kwame Payne produced a game-high 25 points with six rebounds and six assists to lead Full Throttle to an 81-71 victory against Spanish Heat, who lost for the fourth time in as

many outings.

Lincoln Weekes chipped in with 19 points and Marlon Davis had 13 points and eight rebounds for Ottos.

Steven Matthew had 24 points and nine rebounds; Israel Pulinario converted 16 points and grabbed 16 rebounds; Lorenzo MacDonald snapped up 20 rebounds and sank 11 points; while Antonio Cruzdehaa chipped in with 16 rebounds,

10 points and six steals for Spanish Heat.

The first division basketball league will continue with a double header at the JSC Sports Complex today (Thursday).

Braves will face Potters Steelers in the opening affair at 6:45 pm while Flyers will take on Cuties Ovals Ojays in the second encounter at 8:30 pm.

Willikies Super Stars roll on in Team Four Hand domino contest

The Willikies Super Stars have maintained their successful start to the second Team Four-Hand competition of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) league.

The Willikies Super Stars notched up their second win by scoring 52 points to beat the Ramplers with 27 points during the second round of Team Four Hand matches at the association's headquarters in Ottos Newtown.

Success as well for Bolans Revellers who chalked up 41 points to beat Unstoppables with 29 points, while Double Six won by default against Dominatrixx.

Parham Strikers are currently leading the second series of Team Three-Hand Competition which is being contested using the accumulated-points format.

Parham Strikers are leading the competition with a total of 165 points after the second round of matches. Double Six Diamonds and Unstoppables are in joint second place with 162



The Willikies Super Stars four-hand domino team. (File photo)

points while Dominatrix are currently in fourth position with 160 points.

They are followed by the C Team of Bolans Revellers and Moise Eagles jointly tied on 156 points,

Rising Stars with 149 points with the Double Six Ice and Ramplers jointly tied on 146 points.

Next are the Willikies Super Stars A Team with 143 points, Triple Dynamite

with 142 points and Legacy with 141 points.

Following are champions of the first team three-hand contest, the AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers A Team, with a total of 137 points, and the A Team of Bravo with 135 points.

In the lower end of the standings are the B Team of Bolans Revellers and Future jointly tied on 134 points while the B teams of Bravo and the Willikies Super Stars are currently tied in the cellar position with 121 points.

cont'd from pg 20

John Hughes have also secured promotion to next season's premier division. John Hughes achieved the feat by beating Cedar Grove Blue Jays 4-1 in the final match to win the Premier-First division playoffs series.

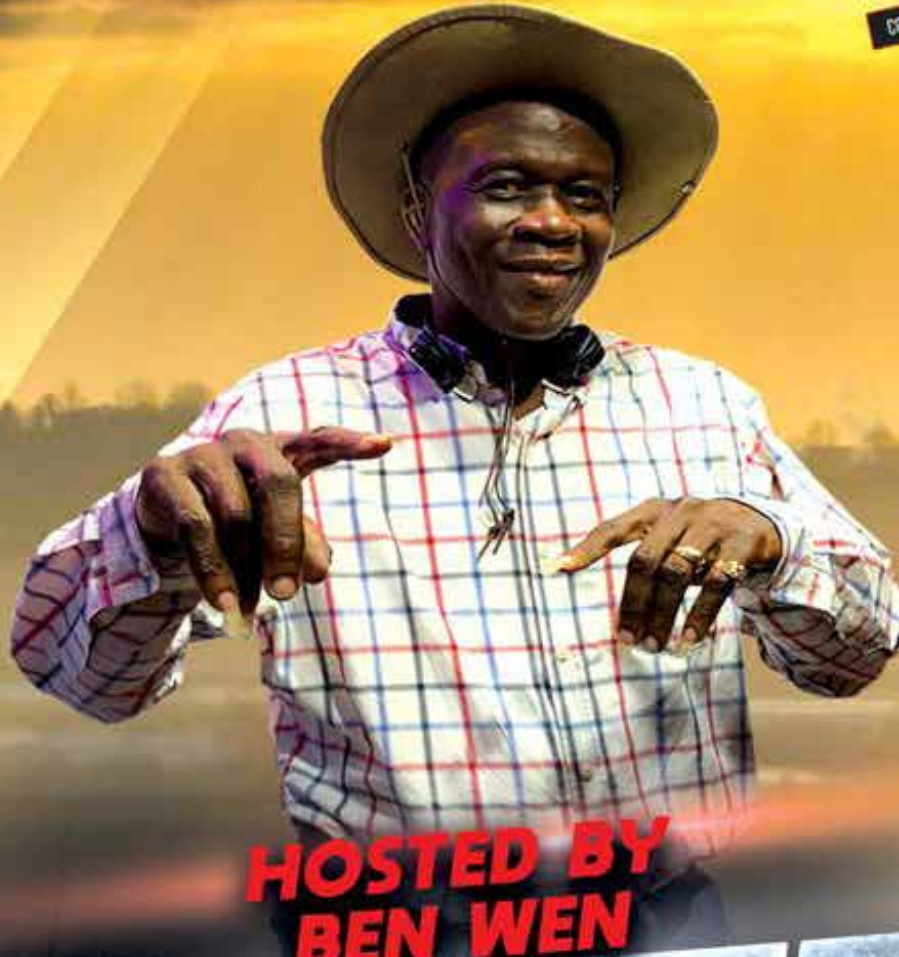
Deno Bryan scored a hat-trick for John Hughes with conversions in the 6th minute, 48th and 65th minute while their other goal

was converted by Nosakhare Edoleyi in the 90th minute.

Ajarnie Matthew scored a consolation goal for Cedar Grove in the 49th minute.

Bendals, who finished fourth in this season's first division league, was the other team that contested the Premier/First divisions' playoffs series, which brought the 2022/23 ABFA's domestic league season to a conclusion.

**SUNDAYS
10AM - 1PM**



**HOSTED BY
BEN WEN**

COUNTRY ROAD TRIP

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Quarter-finals line-up decided in Primary Schools Cup

The teams for the quarter-finals of the Primary Schools Cup football competition have been decided following the final set of preliminary round matches.

Greenbay Primary won their last two preliminary matches in Group A to qualify for the quarter finals as one of the two best overall third place finishers to advance to the knockout phase of the competition.

Greenbay beat Old Road Primary 3-0 and hammered Foundation Mixed 15-0 in their last two preliminary round encounters.

Greenbay Primary advanced to the knockout phase after finishing as the second best overall third place finishers.

Greenbay Primary secured the last quarter-final berth by virtue of a superior goal difference after finishing with 13 points, the same as Villa Primary in Group C and Freemans Village Primary in Group B.

Villa missed out after suffering a 4-1 defeat to Group C winners TN Kirnon Primary in their last preliminary encounter.

JT Ambrose Primary claimed the other quarter-finals spot available to the best overall third place finishers by securing draws in their last two preliminary round matches in Group B.

JT Ambrose played to a 3-3 draw with Freemans Village and also secured a 2-2 draw with the combined Freetown and Newfield primary schools.

Parham beat Nelvie N Gore Primary 3-0 in their last preliminary round match to finish second and joined Group C winners TN Kirnon Primary in the quarter finals.

Pigotts Primary beat Pares 2-0 and Gospel Light Elementary prevailed



Parham Primary is one of the teams to advance to the quarter-finals of the Primary School Cup football competition. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

1-0 against Cedar Grove Primary in the final set of Group C preliminary round matches.

Potters Primary won Group B and Liberta Primary finished as runners-up to qualify for the quarter-finals.

In the last set of preliminary round matches, Potters defeated St Peter's Primary 5-1 and hammered Freemans Village 4-0, while Liberta trounced Sea View Farm Primary 7-1 and beat Cobbs Cross Primary 9-2.

Cobbs Cross beat the combined Freetown and Newfield primary schools 4-3 while Sea View Farm and St Peter's Primary fought to a 1-1 draw in the other Group B matches.

Defending champions Golden Grove won Group A and Jennings Primary finished second to qualify for the quarter-finals. Golden Grove beat Jennings 6-1 in their final match in the

preliminaries.

Foundation Mixed School beat Urlings 3-0 in their final preliminary round match to record their only win in the competition.

Olivia David Primary also prevailed 3-2 against Urlings Primary, while Five Islands Primary were 3-1 winners over Old Road Primary.

The quarter-finals will be contested with double headers at the TN Kirnon School and the Golden Grove playing fields tomorrow, Friday, 19th May.

Potters and Jennings primaries will clash at 3 pm and JT Ambrose will face TN Kirnon Primary at 4 pm at the TN Kirnon School's playing field.

Liberta will take on Parham at 3 pm while Greenbay Primary will clash with Golden Grove Primary at 4 pm at the Golden Grove playing field.

CWI appoints Nichols and Mathurin as new Non-member Directors

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has appointed Hallam Nichols and Gail Mathurin as new members of the CWI Board of Directors for a one-year period.

The new non-member (independent) Directors were appointed following the Board of Directors meeting on Thursday, 11th May.

Nichols is an experienced and successful businessman based in Barbados, while Mathurin is a former Jamaica High Commissioner to London as well as Director-General of CARICOM's Office of Trade Negotiations.

With Mathurin being named as a director, it now means that CWI will for the first time in its history have two women on the Board of Directors.

The other non-member Directors are Debra Co-

ryat-Patton, a Trinidadian attorney; and Manniram Prashad, a past Minister of Tourism, Industry and Commerce for Guyana who were both re-appointed for a one-year period.

CWI President Dr Kishore Shallow said, "We are privileged to have these two esteemed professionals, Ms. Mathurin and Mr. Nichols, as new Directors of CWI.

"They bring a wealth of experience with a global perspective and are highly knowledgeable about the dynamics of commercial and trade in our region. Undoubtedly, the organization will benefit immensely from their involvement and the return of Directors Coryat-Patton and Mr Prashad."

Dr Shallow added, "Appointing two women out of the four positions



Hallam Nichols

for independent directors is consistent with the aim to bring more diversity to the boardroom of Cricket West Indies. Both Ms. Mathurin and Mrs. Coryat-Patton are first-rate experts in their respective fields, and with enthusiasm, I look forward to their meaningful contributions to the Board."

Mr Nichols said, "I am honored to have been afforded the opportunity by Dr. Kishore Shallow and Cricket West Indies to serve in this capacity and offer my years of experience in business to help advance the West Indies cricket's agenda.

"I am particularly keen in helping to shape the busi-

ness of sport, as cricket still has tremendous untapped potential for us here in the Caribbean. I look forward to contributing to put smiles back on the faces of our people."

Ms Mathurin said, "As a long time, passionate fan and supporter of West Indies cricket, I am very honoured to be appointed as an Independent Director to the Board of CWI.

"I am looking forward with great excitement to working with the President, Dr. Kishore Shallow, other members of the Board and the Secretariat of CWI, in addressing the challenges facing our cricket at this time."



Gail Mathurin (CWI Media)