

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN EFFORTS TO SELL ALFA NERO

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A major development in efforts to sell the Alfa Nero

There has been a major breakthrough in the government's efforts to sell the super yacht, Alfa Nero which the Antigua and Barbuda government acquired after it was abandoned here for over a year.

The country's Ambassador to the United States of America, Sir Ronald Sanders, announced on Tuesday that bidders in the government's auction to sell the Alfa Nero, no longer require a separate license from the Office of Foreign Assets

Control (OFAC) of the US Treasury to bid or be the eventual owner of the vessel.

OFAC has advised the Government of Antigua and Barbuda that bidders would no longer need to seek a separate license since the specific license, issued to the government of Antigua and Barbuda, authorizes U.S. persons and others to participate in an auction subject to the terms and conditions of the license.

Ambassador Sanders said that OFAC has emphasised that the license does not au-



Alfa Nero

thorize the sale of the vessel to persons who are otherwise

blocked by OFAC regulations.

He added that "Consequently, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda is pursuing intense due diligence on each of the bidders, including evidence of beneficial owners, source of funds, and whether or not they appear on a sanctions list." He said that "in the course of our due diligence the names of potential bidders are being shared with key law enforcement agencies internationally."

Sir Ronald said that "This latest step by OFAC is a welcome development because it relieves potential bidders of the further expense of getting a separate license and it advances the completion of the necessary steps for holding the auction." He remarked that the Government of Antigua and Barbuda has enjoyed beneficial cooperation from many agencies of the U.S. Government in this matter, which is greatly appreciated."

SCRUB LIFE CARES

GROW WITH THE FLO

WOMEN & GIRLS HEALTH EXPO

SATURDAY

27

MAY

TIME: 10:00AM - 3:00PM

CANA MORAVIAN CHURCH
GROUNDS

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SISTAH SOULJAHS
LAIKAN THORPE

Two people are in custody in connection with Monday's deadly shooting

The police have picked up two persons in connection with the shooting death of 25-year-old Roudi Shmaly, who died while performing the role of a 'Good Samaritan.'

They were picked up within hours of the shooting that happened at approximately 1:00 pm on Monday. A police spokesman said the two are being questioned as the investigations continue. No charges have yet been filed.

When charges are filed, it is expected that several charges could be brought against anyone who they believe may have had a role in the incident.

In a statement, STRATCOM said the police continue to appeal to the public for assistance with whatever information they may have, that may be relevant to the ongoing investigation.

A male armed with a gun robbed the Pick n Mix Mart on DeSousa Road and Shmaly, who operates the adjacent establishment, Chicken Hub, apparently heard the commotion, went into the superette to investigate, and upon entry, he was allegedly shot

in the head at close range. He was rushed to the hospital but was pronounced dead at the institution.

Anyone with information that can be of further assistance to the police is asked to contact the Crim-

inal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crimestoppers at 800-Tips (8477).



IBYC 2023
REROUTING
 YOUTH CONFERENCE

Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.
 ISAIAH 45:22

ANTIGUA
 Antigua Barbuda Defense Force
 Crabbs Training Facility

JULY
16-21

For more info
 IG: @ibycministries
 FB: IBYC Ministries
 W: ibycministries.com
 E: ibycministries@gmail.com

Antigua & Barbuda send condolences to Guyana over fire tragedy

The government and people of Antigua and Barbuda have reached out to the people of Guyana to express heartfelt condolences over the tragic loss of life, following a fire at a school dormitory in the country's interior.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne penned a letter to Guyanese President Mohammad Irfaan Ali, not only expressing sadness at the loss of life of nineteen young people but also the severe injuries to others.

PM Browne has instructed that one of the LIAT ATR aircraft travel to Guyana to assist with transporting victims to a burn centre in Barbados.

Following is the full text of the PM's letter:

GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

Office of the Prime Minister

*Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's
Antigua and Barbuda*

*Tel. (268) 460-5100
Fax. (268) 462-3225
pmsecretariat@gmail.com*

22 May 2023

H. E. President Mohammad Irfaan Ali
President's Office
Georgetown
The Cooperative Republic of GUYANA

Excellency:

I have learned of the tragedy that occurred in Guyana and of the loss of life of 19 young students in a fire that engulfed their sleeping quarters. Please accept my deepest sympathy on behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. The heartbreak which their parents are suffering surely impel us all to act to bring calm and peace to those who grieve.

My Government has also learned of the injured students whom the Guyanese authorities wish to fly out to Barbados, in order to provide them specialist medical treatment. A burn unit in Barbados is to be put to use to the benefit of these children, the world has learned.

I have authorized the use of the LIAT ATR that is being used for commercial purposes to immediately proceed to Guyana, in order to airlift those injured students and their medical personnel to Barbados. Working in collaboration with the Court-appointed administrator, I have indicated that all costs are to be borne by Antigua and Barbuda.

I pray for the speedy recovery of the injured students and express the sympathies of the people of Antigua and Barbuda for this immense tragedy. I also take this opportunity to reiterate, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.


Honourable Gaston Browne M.P.
Prime Minister

Trade Minister Greene underscores the importance of trade at OECS meeting

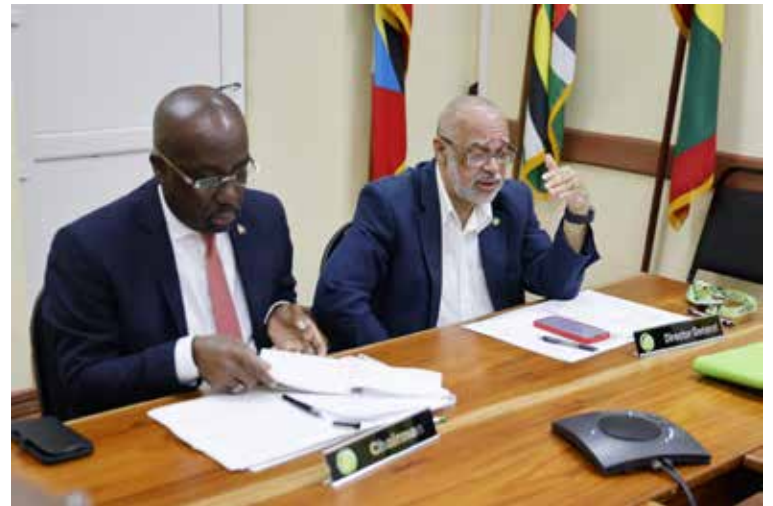
Antigua and Barbuda Trade Minister E.P Chet Greene has underscored the critical role that trade plays in the economies of the small, highly open and vulnerable island developing states that comprise the OECS.

Greene observed on Tuesday during his remarks at the opening of the 5th Meeting of the Council of Ministers of Trade now taking place in Castries, St. Lucia.

“The formulation, development, and implemen-

tation of a fit-for-purpose trade policy is a critical function of all our states. A key component of our trade policy is the coordination and harmonisation of strategies and work plans at the sub-regional level,” Greene stated.

He reminded his colleagues that at the 4th meeting last year, they took decisions that were aimed at strengthening the trade policy coordinating mechanisms and frameworks within the OECS. “In this regard, we endorsed the



Trade Minister E.P Chet Greene (left) with OECS Secretary General, Dr. Didicus Jules at the 5th OECS Trade Ministers Meeting in St. Lucia



Member of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation, Dr. Clarence Henry (right)

establishment of an OECS Trade Policy Committee and recommended elements of the six-year OECS Regional Private Sector Trade Facilitation and Engagement Strategy. I believe that the full realisation of these decisions will improve our coordinating and consultative capacity to bring sound analysis and recommendations to the Council for decision making,” he observed.

Trade Minister Greene also spoke about the sig-

nificant role that the OECS Commission plays in this process. “Strengthening the capacity of the OECS Commission to assess, evaluate, represent, and advance the trade policy interests of Member States, cannot be overlooked,” he emphasised.

The Antigua and Barbuda Trade minister also reported to the meeting about the OECS’ participation in the World Trade Organisation’s recent meeting in Geneva, where he led the OECS team as they presented their reports to the world body. A report of that engagement is among matters down for discussion at the St. Lucia meeting.

Trace Coordinator, Dr. Clarence Henry, is accompanying Minister Greene at the meeting.

Wed 24 Day 86° 20% ESE 11 mph Partly cloudy skies. High 86F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.		Wed 24 Night 78° 23% ESE 8 mph A few clouds. Low 78F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity 72%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 83%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:33 am	Sunset 6:34 pm	Moonrise 9:38 am	Moonset 11:08 pm
		Waxing Crescent	

PM Browne leads discussions on the MVI at the United Nations

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is in New York where he will attend a series of engagements primarily focused on actualising the progress made on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI).

Prime Minister Browne, together with former Prime Minister of Norway, Erna Solberg, are Co-Chairs of the United Nations High-Level Panel on the MVI, which seeks to introduce a more accurate reflection of the needs of countries whose vulnerabilities increase their exposure to external shocks.

Under the current measurements, like a country's

Gross National Income (GNI), vulnerable states are limited in the type of concessionary financing they can access, to recover from major disasters.

The MVI seeks to change this by developing an inclusive approach that not only considers a country's fiscal state but its ability to respond to major climatic events like disastrous hurricanes or global economic shocks.

During his visit, PM Browne as Co-Chair of the HLP will lead discussions at a two-day retreat at the United Nations Headquarters with economists, policymakers, and leaders of



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who have an abiding interest in bringing the MVI to reality.

The prime minister is also scheduled to hold bilateral discussions with UN Secretary-General, His Excellency António Guterres.

He will be joined in those discussions by Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, His Excellency Walton Webson, and Deputy Permanent Representative Tumasie Blair.

Prime Minister Browne and Secretary-General Guterres will dialogue on the progress of work so far on the MVI and the Fourth SIDS Conference that will be held in Antigua and Barbuda in 2024.

Prime Minister Browne

is also expected to make use of the opportunity to discuss the challenges arising from the economic fallout that gripped Antigua and Barbuda and other Small Island Developing States as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also on the Prime Minister's itinerary of meetings are bilateral discussions with Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Gilad Erdan, and the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the United Nations Her Excellency Dame Barbara Woodward.

Prime Minister Browne returns to the state on Friday. Attorney General and Minister for Legal Affairs, Steadroy Benjamin will assume the role of Acting Prime Minister.

NOTICE

TO: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
St. Johns
Antigua.

TO: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua.

Charlesworth Edwards
Potters Village
St. John's
Antigua
Tel: 268 721-4904

Dear Sir,

Re: Application of Liquor License

I Charlesworth Edwards, of Potters Village, with registered business, "Cocktails 4 You 268", situated at Potters Village in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua. My application will be made pursuant to section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992, in respect of premises known as "Cocktails 4 You 268" situated at Potters Village in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 3rd day of April, 2023

.....
Charlesworth Edwards
Proprietor

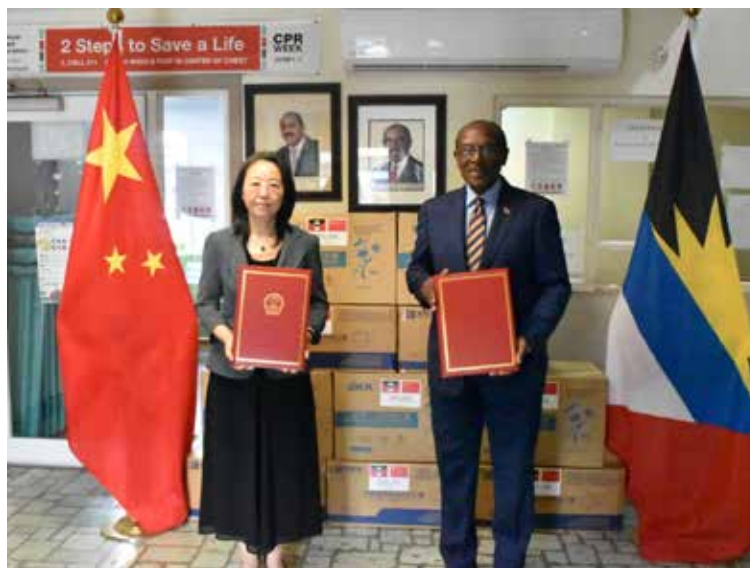
China donates to anti-COVID-19 campaign

While COVID-19 has been downgraded by the World Health Organisation (WHO) from a pandemic, individual countries are still contending with cases of the disease within their borders.

To this end, the People's Republic of China has donated equipment to the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation, and the Environment for use in its fight against the spread of the virus.

The donated materials include 50,000 medical masks and 1,000 sets of protective clothing, valued at an estimated ECD\$40,000. The equipment is to be used in the prevention and control of COVID-19.

Health Minister, Sir



Molwyn Joseph received the donation on behalf of the Ministry from Madame Zhang Yanling, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda.

"I will never forget the tremendous support we re-

ceived from the PRC, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic; you were always there, and you sustained us so that at no time during the pandemic did we ever run out of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE's)," Sir Molwyn noted.

He asked the ambassador to convey to Beijing that Antigua and Barbuda is appreciative of the gifts and that it will continue to stand with the people of China, especially in the international fora. "We do so with deep conviction, especially on the One China policy," he stated.

Ambassador Zhang said the donation was another example of the close ties that exist between Antigua and Barbuda and China. "Antigua and Barbuda and China have been reliable partners and we want to see this relationship grow from strength to strength in all areas, but especially in health as this is very important," she remarked.

Another centenarian celebrates today

The month of May could very well be called centenarian month with the number of people celebrating their 100th birthday and higher during the month.

Ethel Charles of Liberta is the latest centenarian celebrating this month. Today, May 24, is her 104th birthday. Ethel Charles nee Grant was born in Willikies in 1919. After she married Lauchland Charles in 1938, she moved to Liberta Village, where she still resides today. The marriage produced two daughters, Bernadeth and Joycelyn, who describe their mother as "one of the most generous people we know" – a sentiment echoed by many who know Mrs. Charles closely.

Affectionately known as Mother, Mother Charles, Comrade Charles, Sister Ethel, and Nennen, Mrs. Charles was the "Local Village Nurse/Doctor"

in Liberta at one time, and she adopted and fostered many people in the community. She had a passion for the arts and fervently believed that children should be provided with the necessary tools and opportunities to develop their minds and talents. During the formative years of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU), Comrade Charles established the Juvenile Division in Liberta.

As a staunch supporter of the AT&LU, Mrs. Charles played a significant role in rallying her Comrades and uniting the people of St. Paul's to "Bring home the seat," during elections.

Mother Charles has always been involved in the Anglican Church and in 1940, she joined the St. Paul's/St. Barnabas Mothers' Union (MU) where she was a highly active and staunch member for more than 75 years.



Ethel Charles

Calvin Ayre Foundation funds Medical Air Ambulance flights for 7-year-old burn victim and cancer patient

The Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF) continues to study philanthropy by coming to the assistance of families in need especially in times of medical emergencies.

The latest beneficiaries are two people; one a cancer patient who traveled to Suriname for treatment and the other a 7-year-old burn victim. The two families are extending heartfelt gratitude that their loved ones were able to be medically airlifted, through the financial assistance of the Calvin Ayre Foundation.

In separate flights over the weekend, 7-year-old burn victim, T'rique Jeffrey and Cancer patient, Deborah Carr's paths almost crossed. While Carr was returning home to her family after receiving treatment in Suriname, T'rique was being hurried off to a specialized burn care center in the Dominican Republic.

Media Relations Specialist for CAF, Jamilla Kirwan, said she received a call from a tearful mother and father of the 7-year-old boy late last week, requesting assistance for the US\$20,200 air ambulance flight. At the time, T'rique was in a medically induced coma in the ICU at Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC), after sustaining burns to 52% of his body. A medical report provided by the family indicated that T'rique had extensive burns to his left arm, chest/abdomen, back, both limbs and the chin/face from the unfortunate accident at home on the evening of May 16th.

Given the extent of his burns, the decision was made by doctors at SLBMC, to seek a transfer to an overseas specialized Burn Care Center that was better equipped to adequately manage the child's case.

Kirwan reports that since Royston



Royston Jeffrey (Father) on board air ambulance

and Latoya Jarvis, T'rique's parents accompanied their son to the Dominican Republic, Royston has updated her via WhatsApp, that the 7-year-old has had two surgeries, which were deemed successful.

"I will always be thankful and grateful to you guys," Kirwan said the emotional father responded in a voice note.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for Deborah Carr's family said they are happy to have their loved one back home and in their care.

In the request letter to the Foundation, the spokesperson indicated that

Carr had initially traveled to Suriname for treatment but, due to her extremely weakened state she would have needed to return home via air ambulance, accompanied by medical support.

The air ambulance cost the Foundation US\$62,000, a figure the family spokesperson said they would never have been able to afford.

Kirwan sends her best wishes to both families on behalf of the Calvin Ayre Foundation and Ambassador Calvin Ayre and pledged CAF's continued support to the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

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



**HOSTED BY
SENATOR COLIN O'NEAL BROWNE**

TALKING POINT

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

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

ChatGPT: Can China overtake the US in the AI marathon?

BBC - Artificial intelligence has emerged as enough of a concern that it made it onto what was already a packed agenda at the G7 summit at the weekend.

Concerns about AI's harmful impact coincide with the US' attempts to restrict China's access to crucial technology.

For now, the US seems to be ahead in the AI race. And there is already the possibility that current restrictions on semiconductor exports to China could hamper Beijing's technological progress.

But China could catch up, according to analysts, as AI solutions take years to be perfected. Chinese internet companies "are arguably more advanced than US internet companies, depending on how you're measuring advancement," Kendra Schaefer, head of tech policy research at Trivium China tells the BBC.

However, she says China's "ability to manufacture high-end equipment and components is an estimated 10 to 15 years behind global leaders."

The US' biggest advantage is Silicon Valley, arguably the world's supreme entrepreneurial hotspot. It is the birthplace of technology giants such as Google, Apple and Intel that have helped shape modern life.

Innovators in the country have been helped by its unique research culture, says Pascale Fung, director of the Center for Artificial Intelligence Research at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Researchers often spend years working to improve a technology without a product in mind, Ms Fung says.

OpenAI, for example, operated as a non-profit company for years as it researched the Transformers machine



learning model, which eventually powered ChatGPT.

"This environment never existed in most Chinese companies. They would build deep learning systems or large language models only after they saw the popularity," she adds. "This is a fundamental challenge to Chinese AI."

US investors have also been supportive of the country's research push. In 2019, Microsoft said it would put \$1bn (£810,000) in to OpenAI.

"AI is one of the most transformative technologies of our time and has the potential to help solve many of our world's most pressing challenges," Microsoft chief executive Satya Nadella said.

China, meanwhile, benefits from a larger consumer base. It is the world's second-most populous country, home to roughly 1.4 billion people.

It also has a thriving internet sector, says Edith Yeung, a partner at the Race Capital investment firm.

Nearly everyone in the country uses the super app WeChat, for example. It is used for almost everything from sending text messages, to booking doctor's appointments and filing taxes.

As a result, there's a wealth of in-

formation that can be used to improve products. "The AI model is going to be only as good as the data that is available for it to learn from," Ms Yeung says.

"For good or bad, China has a lot less rules around privacy, and a lot more data [compared to the US]. There's CCTV facial recognition everywhere, for example," she adds. "Imagine how useful that would be for AI-generated images."

While China's tech community may appear to be lagging behind the US, its developers have an edge, according to Lee Kai-Fu, who makes the argument in his book *AI Superpowers: China, Silicon Valley, and the New World Order*.

"They live in a world where speed is essential, copying is an accepted practice, and competitors will stop at nothing to win a new market," wrote Mr Lee, a prominent figure in Beijing's internet sector and the former head of Google China.

"This rough-and-tumble environment makes a strong contrast to Silicon Valley, where copying is stigmatised and many companies are allowed to coast on the basis of one original idea

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or lucky break.”

China’s copycat era has its problems, including serious issues around intellectual property. Mr Lee writes that it has led to a generation of hardy and nimble entrepreneurs ready to compete.

Since the 1980s, China has been expanding its economy, which used to be based mainly on manufacturing, to one that is technology-based, Ms Fung says.

“In the last decade, we have seen more innovation from Chinese consumer-driven internet companies and high-end Chinese designs,” she adds.

While Chinese tech companies certainly have unique advantages, the full impact of Beijing’s authoritarianism is still unclear.

There are questions, for instance, about whether censorship would affect development of Chinese AI chatbots. Will they be able to answer sensitive questions about President Xi Jinping?

“I don’t think anyone in China will ask controversial questions on Baidu or Ernie in the first place. They know it’s censored,” Ms Yeung says. “Sensitive topics are a very small part of the usage [of chatbots]. They just get more media attention,” Ms Fung adds.

The bigger concern is that US attempts to restrict China’s access to specialised tech can stymie the latter’s AI industry.

High-performing computer chips, or semiconductors, are now the source

of much tension between Washington and Beijing. They are used in everyday products including laptops and smartphones, and could have military applications. They are also crucial to the hardware required for AI learning.

US companies like Nvidia currently have the lead in developing AI chips and “few [Chinese] companies can compete against ChatGPT” given export restrictions,” Ms Fung says.

While this will hit China’s high-tech industries like cutting edge AI, it won’t affect the the production of consumer technology, such as mobiles and laptops. This

is because “the export controls are designed to prevent China from developing advanced AI for military purposes,” Ms Schaefer says.

To overcome this, China needs its own Silicon Valley - a research culture that attracts talent from diverse backgrounds, Ms Fung says.

“So far it has relied on both domestic talent and those from overseas with Chinese heritage. There is a limit to homogeneous cultural thinking,” she adds.

Beijing has been trying to close the gap through its “Big Fund”, which offers massive incentives to chip companies.

But it has also tight-

ened its grip on the sector. In March, Zhao Weiguo became the latest technology tycoon to be accused of corruption by authorities.

Beijing’s focus on certain industries can bring financial incentives and loosen red tape, but it may also mean greater scrutiny, and more fear and uncertainty.

“Zhao’s arrest is a message for other state-owned firms: don’t mess around with state money, particularly in the chip space,” Ms Schaefer says. “Now it’s time to get on with the job.”

How that message will affect the future of China’s AI industry remains to be seen.

Vaping: High lead and nickel found in illegal vapes

BBC - Vapes confiscated from school pupils contain high levels of lead, nickel and chromium, BBC News has found.

Used vapes gathered at Baxter College in Kidderminster were tested in a laboratory.

The results showed children using them could be inhaling more than twice the daily safe amount of lead, and nine times the safe amount of nickel.

Some vapes also contained harmful chemicals like those in cigarette smoke.

High levels of lead exposure in children can affect the central nervous system and brain development, according to the World Health Organization.

It is thought vapes are being used widely by secondary school children and Baxter College is not alone in trying to stop them vaping during school hours.

The Inter Scientific laboratory, in Liverpool, which works with vape manufacturers to ensure regulatory standards are met, analysed 18 vapes.

Most were illegal and had not gone through any kind of testing before being sold in the UK.

Lab co-founder David Lawson said: "In 15 years of testing, I have never seen lead in a device.

"None of these should be on the market - they break all



David Lawson says the results were the worst he has seen.

the rules on permitted levels of metal.

"They are the worst set of results I've ever seen."

In "highlighter vapes" - designed with bright colours to look like highlighter pens - the amounts of the metals found were:

- * lead - 12 micrograms per gram, 2.4 times the stipulated safe exposure level

- * nickel - 9.6 times safe levels

- * chromium - 6.6 times safe levels

The metals were thought to come from the heating element - but the tests showed they were in the e-liquid itself.

The lab tests also found compounds called carbonyls - which break down, when the e-liquid heats up, into chemicals such as formaldehyde and acetaldehyde, also found in cigarette smoke - at 10 times the level in legal

vapes. Some even had more than cigarettes.

Manufacturers have to follow regulations on ingredients, packaging and marketing - and all e-cigarettes and e-liquids must be registered with the Medicine and Health Care Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). But the agency is not required to check the claims made in paperwork and has no power to investigate unregistered products.

MHRA head of e-cigarettes Craig Copland said the results would be reviewed to assess whether the vapes posed a health risk.

BBC News showed the findings to Baxter College pupils Leon and Oscar, whose vapes had been confiscated. They admitted in a previous interview they were hooked on nicotine and struggled to give up vaping.

The boys say it is easy to

ignore the risks.

"You won't really care, if you're addicted to it - you'll just forget about it," Oscar said.

Leon said regulation and policing should be doing more to tackle the problem.

"They're not really as bothered as they should be," he said.

Head teacher Mat Carpenter was horrified by the findings. He has installed sensors in the school toilets to try to reduce opportunities to vape.

"It's been part of youth culture for a long time and we are a long way behind the curve in influencing children's behaviour around this, which is why we need such a strong message," Mr Carpenter said.

"As a society we are capable of holding two messages, one that if you smoke

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already vaping can have a positive effect on your health, but children should not be vaping.”

University of Nottingham epidemiology professor John Britton, who sits on the Royal College of Physicians Tobacco Group, said inhaling metals could be dangerous.

“Lead is a neurotoxin and impairs brain development, chrome and nickel are allergens and metal particles in general in the bloodstream can trigger blood clotting and can exacerbate cardiovascular disease,” he said.

“The carbonyls are mildly carcinogenic and so with sustained use will increase the risk of cancer - but in legal products, the levels of all of these things is extremely low so the lifetime risk to the individual is extremely small.”

But Mr Lawson said there had been a much greater rise in illegal products recently and “some of these are hard to distinguish between the ones which are potentially legal”.

Prof Dame Helen Stokes-Lampard, who is Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, said she was “genuinely shocked” by the findings.

“Unregulated products need to be taken off our streets, out of our shops, and our young people need to be protected.

“Vaping is something we should be avoiding if we can, albeit better than smoking. If you have any suspicion that your child is using an

illicit vape, this is dangerous for their health. Please intervene,” she advised parents and carers.

The government has allocated £3m to tackle the sale of illegal vapes in England. It

wants to fund more test purchases and have the products removed from shops and is calling for evidence to help cut the number of children accessing vapes.

It is illegal to sell vapes

to under-18s. But a YouGov survey in March and April for Action on Smoking and Health suggests a rise in experimental vaping among 11- to 17-year-olds, from 7.7%, last year, to 11.6%.



The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission
presents

UMOJA
A Taste of Africa

A fundraising cocktail event in celebration of
African Liberation Day.

Date: Saturday May 27th 2023

Venue: Dennis Restaurant

Ffryes Beach

Time: 6pm-9pm

Dress Code: African Inspired

Tickets: \$100 (available from Commission
Members)

Door prizes to be won!

Eight tips for parents and teens on social media use

The US surgeon general is calling for tech companies and lawmakers to take “immediate action” to protect kids’ and adolescents’ mental health on social media.

But after years of insufficient action by both social media platforms and policymakers, parents and young people still bear most of the burden in navigating the fast-changing, often harmful world of secretive algorithms, addictive apps and extreme and inappropriate content found on platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat.

So what can parents and young people do now? Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has some tips.

“Our children and adolescents don’t have the luxury of waiting years until we know the full extent of social media’s impact,” Murthy said in an advisory released Tuesday. “Their childhoods and development are happening now.”

TIPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

— Reach out for help: If you or someone you know is being negatively affected by social media, reach out to a trusted friend or adult for help. Check the American Academy of Pediatrics’ guidance on social media.

— Create boundaries: Limit the use of phones, tablets, and computers for



US Surgeon General Dr Vivek Murthy testifies before the Senate Finance Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington, on February 8, 2022. The Surgeon General is warning there is not enough evidence to show that social media is safe for young people — and is calling on tech companies, parents and caregivers to take “immediate action to protect kids now.” (AP Photo/Susan Walsh, File)

at least one hour before bedtime and through the night to make sure you get enough sleep. Keep meal-times and in-person gatherings devicefree to help build social bonds and engage in two-way conversations with others. Connect with people in person and make unplugged interactions a daily priority.

— Be cautious about what you share: Personal information about you has value. Be selective with what you post and share online and with whom, as it is often public and can be stored permanently. If you aren’t sure if you should post something, it’s usually best if you don’t.

— Don’t keep harassment or abuse a secret: Reach out to at least one person you trust, such as a close friend, family mem-

ber, counsellor, or teacher, who can give you the help and support you deserve. Visit stopbullying.gov for tips on how to report cyberbullying. If you have experienced online harassment and abuse by a dating partner, contact an expert at Love is Respect for support. If your private images have been taken and shared online without your permission, visit Take It Down to help get them removed.

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS

— Create a family media plan: Agreed-upon expectations can help establish healthy technology boundaries at home — including social media use. A family media plan can promote open family discussion and rules about media use and include topics such as balancing screen/online time,

content boundaries, and not disclosing personal information

— Create tech-free zones: Restrict the use of electronics at least one hour before bedtime and through the night. Keep meal times and other in-person gatherings tech-free. Help children develop social skills and nurture their in-person relationships by encouraging unstructured and offline connections with others.

— Model responsible behaviour: Parents can set a good example of what responsible and healthy social media use looks like by limiting their own use, being mindful of social media habits (including when and how parents share information or content about their child), and modelling positive behaviour on your social media accounts.

— Empower kids: Teach kids about technology and empower them to be responsible online participants at the appropriate age. Discuss with children the benefits and risks of social media as well as the importance of respecting privacy and protecting personal information in age-appropriate ways. Have conversations with children about who they are connecting with, their privacy settings, their online experiences, and how they are spending their time online.

Guyana's partners pledge assistance following Mahdia fire

Loop - As Guyana observes three days of national mourning, several local, regional, and international partners have pledged their full assistance to the country following the devastating fire which took place at the Mahdia Secondary School girl's dormitory that claimed the lives of 19 children.

According to a report from the Department of Public Information (DPI), President of Guyana Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali provided the update, during his address, at the opening ceremony of the Twelfth Subregional ILO Meeting of Caribbean Labour Ministers at the Marriott Hotel on Tuesday.

He said work has started with many local and governmental stakeholders to get to the bottom of the tragedy and bring some relief to those affected, while the investigators continue their probe.

Due to the severity and nature of the deaths, DNA analysis is needed to



President of Guyana Dr Irfaan Ali (Photo credit: DPI).

identify the 13 female victims, who perished at the dormitory.

A team of experts from Barbados was expected to arrive on Tuesday to assist in the DNA analysis process to confirm the identities of these children.

The head of state expressed grat-

itude to these partners for their show of support, acknowledging the swift assistance of the CARICOM member states. The Republic of Cuba has also offered to provide full medical support in Guyana and to serve as a host country for any medical needs of the affected.

BVI: Fahie's co-accused to change plea in US drug trafficking case

By Dillon De Shong

There's a new twist in the money laundering and drug trafficking case against former British Virgin Islands Premier Andrew Fahie as one of his co-accused filed a motion to change their initial not guilty plea.

Attorneys representing Kadeem Maynard filed a notice for a change of plea hearing with Florida's Southern District Federal Court yesterday.

The matter is set to be



heard at 2 pm on June 12, 2023, before Judge Kathleen M Williams.

Federal prosecutors have until June 10 to submit their sentencing recommendations.

Maynard has been be-

hind bars since his arrest and extradition to Miami in 2022.

Maynard, his mother Oleanvine Pickering-Maynard and Fahie are accused of conspiring to traffic more than five kilograms of

cocaine into the US as well as launder money.

Pickering-Maynard, who is the former Managing Director of the British Virgin Islands Ports Authority (BVIPA), and Fahie have pled not guilty to the charges.

Fahie is currently on a US\$1 million bond while Pickering-Maynard remains imprisoned.

Both former government officials face lengthy prison sentences if convicted.

Caribbean leaders commit to regional digital integration

CMC - The Trinidad-based Caribbean telecommunications Union (CTU) says at least nine Caribbean countries have signed the Port of Spain Commitment on Digital Integration, signalling a commitment to collective action in pursuit of sustainable digital transformation across the region.

It said in addition to the nine countries, two senior advisors with responsibility for digital transformation signed the agreement that marked the culmination of discussions that took place during the executive sessions on Digital Leadership in the Caribbean last week.

The event was hosted by Trinidad and Tobago government in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and the CTU and reaffirmed the priority to be placed on advancing digital transformation (DT) to support social and economic growth in the Caribbean.

“The sessions created an enabling space in which the region’s most senior DT policymakers with the support of internationally-renowned thought leaders and speakers, discussed and shared information on their DT efforts,” the CTU said in a statement.

It said as a result, the meeting agreed to consider the creation of a Regional



Hon. Davidson Ishmael; Hon. Melford Nicholas; Hon. Konris Maynard; Hon. Curtis King; Robert L. Le Hunte, IDB; Sen. The Hon. Hassel Bacchus, and President of the CTU General Conference of Ministers; Tariq Alli, IDB; Secretary-General Rodney Taylor; Hon. Michel Chebat; Hon. Albert Jubithana; and Hon. Lennox Andrews. (Photo: CTU)

Government Cloud leveraging existing or planned government data centres across the Caribbean region, establish a regional data centre to provide a more cost-effective and resilient solution for data storage and management as well as develop a Regional C-SIRT (Computer Security Incident Response Team) to coordinate collaboration among national CSIRTS.

Delegates also agreed to enhance cybersecurity education, training, and awareness to build capacity, to address the skills gap in the cybersecurity industry; and to promote safe online practices and educate citizens on the risks associated with cy-

ber threats as well as develop a Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Regional Framework to protect critical infrastructure from cyber threats, identify vulnerabilities, and implement appropriate risk mitigation measures.

They agreed to pursue cross-border recognition of digital IDs, addressing issues such as data protection, and privacy and establish a shared repository of digital solutions (government-owned source code) allowing governments access to solutions required for their digital transformation efforts.

The meeting also agreed on the development

of a region-wide validation of national forms of identification and credentials based on an interoperable digital identity.

The 11 countries which formed part of the Commitment are: Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Haiti, Suriname, St. Kitts-Nevis; and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

“The CTU is eager to assist in moving this digital agenda forward, to promote regional ICT integration and accelerate digital transformation within the Single ICT Space,” said CTU Secretary General, Rodney Taylor.

Chinese citizens sue Florida over property buying ban

By **Kayla Epstein**

A group of Chinese citizens working and living in Florida is challenging a new law that bans them from buying property in the state.

The American Civil Liberties Union, a civil rights group representing the plaintiffs, said the law is unconstitutional and discriminatory.

The ban would also impact Chinese Americans, and people of Asian descent, the suit says.

Proponents of the bill have argued it will protect US national security.

The Florida governor's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The lawsuit takes place against the backdrop of strained relations between the US and China, and Republican Governor Ron DeSantis' soon to be launched presidential bid.

"Florida's discriminatory property law is unfair, unjustified, and unconstitutional," Ashley Gorski, senior staff attorney at the ACLU, said in a statement. "Everyone in the United States is entitled to equal protection under our laws, including citizens of other countries."

The plaintiffs, represented by ACLU and two other groups, say that in practice, Florida's law will lead to broad discrimination



Similar bills in other parts of the country have drawn protests from Asian Americans.

against these communities in the state, including everyday residents and American citizens.

The legislation applies to owning property within 10 miles of a "critical infrastructure facility" and also bars foreign entities from Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, and Syria.

Those zones include airports, military installations, spaceports, refineries, electrical power plants, water and waste treatment facilities, or seaports. Foreign entities are also banned from purchasing agricultural land.

The legislation focuses heavily on restricting sales to Chinese nationals and entities.

It makes it a felony for Chinese citizens or companies to buy property, or for a person or company to knowingly sell to them. For citizens of the other countries on the list, the penalty is a misdemeanour.

Both Republicans and

Democrats have expressed concern over the years about the potential for state-sponsored interference from China, Iran, and Russia in key American infrastructure, such as its power grid or voting systems.

Florida is also not the only state to take such action. Montana's Republican governor signed a measure in early May restricting Chinese businesses and nationals from purchasing agricultural land or property near certain critical infrastructure. Texas is also considering a bill along these lines.

Mr DeSantis, a Republican, signed SB 264 into law on 8 May, and it is scheduled to take effect on 1 July.

In a press conference on 8 May, Mr DeSantis said the law was part of an effort «to stop the influence of the Chinese Communist party».

The United States has a long history of discriminatory housing policies - both official and unofficial. Multiple civil rights cases have

been waged to end housing discrimination based on race, sex, ideology, or orientation.

During the 20th century, a practice known as "redlining" excluded many communities of colour, especially Black residents, from owning property in certain districts.

Asian Americans have also borne the burden of such policies throughout US history. Legal representatives referenced these moments specifically in arguing that the law would hurt Chinese immigrants.

"Xenophobic policies and rhetoric toward China stoke racial bias," said Bethany Li, legal director of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, one of the groups representing the plaintiffs.

The law has left many in the state's Asian community uncertain and fearful of their futures.

Ahead of the bill's passage, Chinese Americans protested at the Florida state capitol against the new restrictions.

One student, Victoria Li, told the Tallahassee Democrat she was concerned the «bill will affect people like me who want to own a home.

"We're scared, we're terrified," she said. "That's what we came here for. We have the American Dream."

Boris Johnson referred to police over potential Covid rule breaches

BBC - Boris Johnson has been referred to police by the Cabinet Office over further potential rule breaches during the Covid pandemic.

The department said it made the referral after a review of documents ahead of the Covid public inquiry.

The former PM, who was fined last year for breaking Covid rules in 2020, has strongly denied wrongdoing.

Both the Metropolitan and Thames Valley Police say they are assessing the information received.

The Cabinet Office said officials had been obliged to disclose the documents to the police under civil service rules.

The Times, which first reported the story, says Mr Johnson has been referred to Thames Valley police because his ministerial diary revealed visits by family and friends to Chequers - the prime minister's country house in Buckinghamshire - during the pandemic.

Thames Valley Police said it had "received a report of potential breaches of the Health Protection Regulations between June 2020 and May 2021 at Chequers, Buckinghamshire".

The Met Police released a similar statement but said their information related to potential breaches in Downing Street.

It is understood Mr Johnson has had no contact from the police.

The spokesman for the former prime minister said it was "totally untrue" that there had been further Covid rule breaches.

"The events in question were all within the rules either because they were held outdoors or came within another lawful exception. They include regular meetings with civil servants and advisers.

"It appears some within govern-



Both Boris Johnson and Rishi Sunak were fined for attending a birthday party in Downing Street.

ment have decided to make unfounded suggestions both to the police and to the Privileges Committee - many will conclude that this has all the hallmarks of yet another politically motivated stitch up.

The spokesman said Mr Johnson's lawyers had written to the Cabinet Office, as well as the Commons Privileges Committee, "explaining that the events were lawful and were not breaches of any Covid regulations".

The seven-member committee of MPs has been investigating whether Mr Johnson misled Parliament over Covid rule-breaking events in government buildings.

In a statement, the committee said it had received additional evidence from the government last week and asked Mr Johnson for a response, both of which it would now take into account during its probe.

If the committee concludes Mr Johnson deliberately misled MPs over the events, he could potentially face a suspension from Parliament, which in turn could lead to a by-election in his Uxbridge and South Ruislip constituency.

Mr Johnson's spokesman also said it was "bizarre and unacceptable" that "no contact was made with Mr Johnson before these incorrect allegations were made both to the police and to the Privileges Committee". The Cabinet Office has denied the suggestion Mr Johnson was not given prior notice.

The Cabinet Office said the material it had passed to police came from the "normal" process of reviewing documents to be submitted to the public inquiry into the government's handling of the pandemic.

"In-line with obligations in the Civil Service Code, this material has been passed to the relevant authorities and it is now a matter for them."

The BBC has been told the matter was not considered by ministers or the cabinet secretary, who heads the civil service.

The public inquiry, which is separate to the privileges committee probe, will begin hearings next month.

Responding to the announcement, Labour's deputy leader Angela Rayner said: "These new allegations are for the police to examine but the government must explain who else knew

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US distances itself from Belgorod incursion into Russia

BBC - The US has distanced itself from an incursion into Russia - which Moscow says ended in the defeat of armed insurgents who entered from Ukraine.

Parts of the border region of Belgorod came under attack on Monday, in one of the most major cross-border raids since Russia invaded its neighbour last year.

Russia later released pictures of abandoned or damaged Western military vehicles, including US-made Humvees.

The US insisted it did not “encourage or enable strikes inside of Russia”.

A state department spokesman acknowledged reports “circulating on social media and elsewhere” that US-supplied weapons had been used, but said his country was “sceptical at this time of the veracity of these reports.”

In a news briefing on Tuesday, Matthew Miller added: “it is up to Ukraine to decide how to conduct this war.”



The Russian defence ministry released photos of abandoned or damaged Western military vehicles, including US-made Humvees.

Villages in Belgorod near the border were evacuated after coming under shellfire. Russia says 70 attackers were killed, and has insisted the fighters were Ukrainian.

But Kyiv denies involvement - and two Russian paramilitary groups opposed to Russian President Vladimir Putin say they were behind the incursion.

Monday’s raid led Moscow to declare a counter-ter-

rorism operation, giving the authorities special powers to clamp down on communications and people’s movements.

The measures were only lifted the following afternoon, and even then, one of the paramilitary groups was claiming it still controlled a “small, but our own piece of the Motherland”.

Belgorod’s governor said one civilian had died during the violence, and that

several others had been injured.

In a later development, Vyacheslav Gladkov said on Tuesday evening that Belgorod had come under fresh attack from a drone which dropped an explosive device and damaged a car.

He said the flying vehicle had been shot down and that there did not appear to be any new casualties.

The claims by the war-

cont’d from pg 18

at the time and why this has only now come to light.”

Liberal Democrat deputy leader Daisy Cooper, said Mr Johnson “should finally do one decent thing and consider his position as an MP”.

Lindsay Jackson, spokesperson for Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice, said Mr Johnson was “totally unfit for any form of public service,

never mind being the prime minister”.

But, speaking on his GB News programme, Conservative MP and former minister Jacob Rees-Mogg defended Mr Johnson, saying: “The latest stories are just another example of how those who don’t like Boris, mainly because of Brexit, are always looking for something to have a go at him on.”

Mr Johnson resigned as prime minister last July, in part due to public

anger over revelations he broke Covid lockdown rules.

In April 2021 he received a fine from the police for breaking lockdown rules after attending a gathering on his birthday in June 2020.

And, in May 2022, a report by then-senior civil servant Sue Gray set out a series of social events held by staff in Downing Street which broke the rules.

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ring sides have not been independently verified - although the BBC was able to establish that a building used by Russia's main security agency, the FSB, was among those hit during the violence. It is not clear what caused the damage.

Commenting on the hostilities in Belgorod, Russia's defence ministry said a "unit of the Ukrainian nationalist formation" had invaded its territory to carry out attacks.

One of its photos showed a wrecked vehicle with the words "for Bakhmut" written in Russian on the side. This appears to refer to the Ukrainian city which Russia says it has recently captured - a claim disputed by Kyiv.

As well as killing dozens of what it described as "Ukrainian terrorists" in artillery and air strikes, the ministry claimed to have driven the rest of the fighters back to the Ukrainian border.

But Ukrainian officials said the

attackers were Russians, from groups known as the Liberty of Russia Legion and the Russian Volunteer Corps (RVC).

Social media posts from the two paramilitary groups appeared to confirm their involvement.

Both groups also told Ukraine's public broadcaster Suspilne that they were creating "a demilitarised zone on the border with the Russian Federation from which they will not be able to shell Ukraine".

Any assaults on Russian soil make leaders in the Nato military alliance of Western countries nervous - meaning that the developments could prove a mixed blessing for Kyiv.

The cross-border incursion may be embarrassing for Moscow, and go some way to offset the bad optics for Ukraine of reportedly losing control of Bakhmut after months of intense and bloody fighting.

It is also likely to be part of

Ukraine's shaping operations ahead of its coming counter-offensive, aiming to draw Russian troops away from the south where Kyiv is expected to attack.

But it is not a development that is likely to be welcomed by the West.

The long-range weapons these countries have provided to Kyiv - although not used in this attack - still come with the proviso they are not to be used to hit targets inside Russia.

Despite official denials from Kyiv, it is hard to believe this raid was launched without assistance from Ukrainian military intelligence.

It plays into the Kremlin narrative that Russia's own sovereign security is under attack from malign forces backed by the West.

It is a narrative likely to be fuelled by reports that some of those who took part are linked to far-right extremism, reinforcing Moscow's claim that it is trying to rid Ukraine of neo-Nazis.

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Jamaica earn close win over Red Force Divas

Defending champions Jamaica defeated Trinidad and Tobago Red Force Divas by a narrow six runs to remain unbeaten in their quests to retain the West Indies Women's T20 Blaze title.

Playing in the second round on Sunday at Warner Park, St Kitts, Jamaica made 115 for nine after their top-order got them off to a solid start against some impressive Red Force Divas bowling.

Keneshia Ferron and Rashada Williams shared in a 23-run opening partnership before Ferron fell for six. Williams and Chedean Nation added 27 runs for the second wicket when Williams fell for a run-a-ball 32.

But it was the 47-run third wicket stand between Nation and Natasha McLean that gave the Jamaicans any real fighting chance of victory. Nation was dismissed for 32 and McLean 24, after hitting a lofty six.

Red Force Divas skipper Anisa Mohammed led the team's bowling with three for 19 and Lee-Ann Kirby picked up two for 18.

In their turn at the crease, the Red Force Divas looked frantic in their scoring as the Jamaica trio of Vanessa Watts, Celina Whyte and Neisha-Ann Waisome kept the scoring under control.

However, a middle order partnership between Britney Cooper and Mohammed gave the Red Force Divas a chance to pull off a dramatic



Defending champions Jamaica celebrate a dismissal of a Trinidad and Tobago Red Force batsman during their West Indies Women's T20 Blaze match at Warner Park in St Kitts on Sunday, 21st May, 2023. (CWI Media)

victory.

The pair added 38 together before Mohammed was bowled by Waisome for 16 off 12 deliveries and Cooper departed soon after when she was bowled by Whyte for 29 off 31.

In a nervous turn of events, Williams, who was captaining the team in the absence of Stafanie Taylor, had to turn to Chedean Nation to get the remaining overs in while rotating the other bowlers.

Nation took one for 18, but it was Waisome who did the trick as she finished with three for 16, as the Red Force Divas finished their innings on 109 for nine.

Barbados squeezed past Guyana with a three-wicket victory in the second match of the day. Batting first, Guyana's top order once again failed to fire, but Katarina Mentore found an able partner in Cherry-Ann Fra-

ser.

The pair rebuilt the Guyanese batting innings with fearless strokes against an experienced Barbados bowling attack. Mentore finished on 32 not out and Fraser 35 not out as they shared in a 69-run partnership to help Guyana reach 91 for three off their 20 overs.

Barbados were cruising in the opening overs as Guyana put down a number of catches in the field. But Kaysia Schultz blew a hole in the Barbados top order, as she bagged the wickets of Trishan Holder for 19 and had Aaliyah Alleyne caught behind for a first-ball 'duck'. Ashmini Munisar earlier accounted for Kycia Knight for 16.

Once again skipper Shakeria Selman held her nerve to score 17 not out and Shamilia Connell made 14 to take Barbados to victory at 92 for seven with one ball

to spare. Schultz captured three for 13.

The Windward Islands defeated the Leeward Islands by 46 runs in the first match of the day. Batting first, Windwards posted 128 for four from their 20 overs, thanks to a valiant 37 from opener Jannillea Glasgow.

The Windwards lower order made up for a lack of runs from the top, as Pearl Etienne struck a quick-fire 24 from 19 deliveries, while youngster Kimone Homer and Qiana Joseph each made 21 not out.

Amanda Edwards led the Leewards run-chase with a hard-fought 39 off 61 balls, skipper Saneldo Willett provided the best support with a run-a-ball 15 as the home side finished on 82 for six off their 20 overs.

Zaida James had two for 21 while Pearl Etienne, Qiana Joseph and Afy Fletcher had one wicket a piece.

Blackhawks, Lions and Pythons secure wins in ABCA's two-day contest

Cup-holders PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, New Winthorpes Lions and All Saints Pythons all secured victories in the 6th round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

The Black Hawks beat Pigotts Crushers by three wickets at Ball Beef in Liberta. Captain Elroy Francis Jr struck a century as the Crushers batted first and made 243 in 52.4 overs.

Francis Jr slammed 127 off 121 balls with 19 fours and two sixes while opener Kadeem Henry scored 48. Karima Gore captured four for 63 and Rahkeem Cornwall claimed three for 43.

Gore narrowly missed out on a century as Liberta responded with 290 off 65.2 overs. Gore struck 96 off 111 balls with 11 fours and four sixes. Cornwall made 58 off 47 balls with eight fours and three sixes while Kadeem Phillip chipped in with 32. Demari Benta took three for 34 and Henry claimed three for 64.

Facing a deficit of 47 runs, Crushers tumbled to 136 all out in 32 overs in their second innings. Trevorson Atley hit 31 not out while Gore grabbed six wickets for 36 runs to end with a match haul of 10 for 99.

The Black Hawks achieved their victory target of 90 for the loss of seven wickets in 17.4 overs. Joshua Thomas made 39 while Benta snapped up six wickets for 35 runs.

The Lions defeated Combined Schools by six wickets at New Winthorpes. Combined Schools made 186 off 53.2 overs after being sent in to bat. Captain George Elvin just fell short of a century as he was out for 97 off 96 balls with 12 fours and three sixes.

Asher Murray Cornelius slammed a century as New Winthorpes then de-



Captain Elroy Francis Jr struck a century for Pigotts Crushers in a losing effort against Liberta Black Hawks. (File photos)

clared their first innings at 211 for seven off 59.2 overs. Cornelius struck 103 off 183 balls with 11 fours and two sixes. Ishmael Peters made 43 while Kylano Isaac captured three for 39.

Trailing by 25 runs, Combined Schools then declared their second innings at 81 for eight off 38.1 overs. Shamar Pereira topscored with 32 while Jermaine Otto grabbed four wickets for nine runs and Orandel Boston captured three for 38. The Lions then achieved their victory target of 57 for the loss of four wickets in 13.2 overs.

The Pythons overcame Bolans Blasters by 10 wickets at Mock Pond in All Saints. Sent in to bat, Bolans made 145 for nine off 39.3 overs with captain Dwayne Fordyce getting 59, while Kadeem Josiah snapped up six for 36.



Gore slammed a half century and claimed a match haul of 10 for 99 to inspire PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks to victory over Pigotts Crushers in the 6th round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

In reply, All Saints made 202 in 41.5 overs. Malone Joseph struck 58, captain Andra Samuel scored 38 and opener Tron Payne made 34. Omar Francis claimed five for 60 and Orlando Peters took four for 71.

Facing a deficit of 57 runs, Bolans declared their second innings at 62 for seven off 16.2 overs. Michael Marcellin snapped up five for 26. Set just six runs to win, the Pythons achieved their victory target without the loss of a wicket in 2.1 overs.

However, the match between Empire Nation and Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles

cont'd on pg 23

Francis leads Old Road to victory over PMS in softball cricket contest

Clarence Francis slammed a century and grabbed a four-wicket haul to inspire Old Road to an emphatic 82-run victory over PMS in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Caribbean Alliance Insurance 30-Over Competition.

Francis hammered 107 and Hezekiah Weston cracked 96 to propel Old Road to 233 for two off 22 overs. Francis then captured four for 63 to help restrict PMS to 151 for seven off their 22 overs. Denzil Roach scored 34 and Denfield Roach made 32.

Molvin James just missed out on a century but was instrumental in leading 300 to a 58-run victory against Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets. Molvin James cracked 91 not out to guide 300 to 165 for five off 30 overs.

In reply, Bullets were all out for 107 in 18.4 overs with Bernel Peterson hitting 31 and Kenroy Simon scoring 28 not out. Kennedy Tonge grabbed four for 34, Denfield Weatherhead claimed three for 39 and Veston Lewis captured two for 15.

Marco Inc/Grill Box Buckleys 3J's won by default over Lil Linc Supermarket ABDF Warriors, who were unable to field a team. Dredgers also



Old Road's player Clarence Francis claimed a victory by default against Sisserou, who also failed to show up for their encounter.

Foster Jonas, Harley Maintenance Potters Uprising defeated Jennings Rockets by four wickets in the ABSCA St John's Co-Operative Credit Union Women's 15-Over Competition.

Rockets won the toss and batted, scoring 77 for six off their 15 overs. Denese Parker made 19 not out and Kushana David scored 18.

Potters Uprising achieved victory at 78 for six off their 15 overs. Joanne Thomas struck 19 and Nolia Hodge scored 18. David had two for 13 and Valarie Isaac claimed two for 19.



Old Road's batsman Hezekiah Weston (Photos courtesy ABSCA)

Sagicor Life Enforcers won by default over Daryll Matthew Clippers, who were unable to field a team. Flyers also won by default against Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets who also failed to show up for their encounter.

cont'd from pg 22

ended in a draw at Bethesda. Empire won the toss and batted, scoring 203 all out in 44.1 over. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr hammered 83 and Justin Athanaze struck 38. Oshale Simon bagged five for 67 and fast bowler Kelvin Pitman took three for 39. Bethesda responded with 164 all out in 45.1 overs. Opener Shacoy Floyd

hit 42 and Deran Benta scored 36. Athanaze captured seven wickets for 23 runs.

Wes Rising Sun Spartans and Jennings Tigers also fought to a draw in their two-day encounter at Rising Sun in St John's. Sent in to bat, Rising Sun made 215 in 54.1 overs. Captain Kerry Mentore cracked 77 off 73 balls and Junior Henry

scored 30. Left-arm spinner Glenton Henry took five for 46 and Matthew Miller claimed four for 31.

In reply, Jennings Tigers made 180 in 58.1 overs. Cameron Miller topscored with 76 and Jedidiah Martin struck 33 not out. Mentore captured three wickets for five runs and Owen Graham captured three for 42.

After gaining a lead of

35 runs, Rising Sun were all out for 120 in 32.3 overs in their second innings. Junior Henry made 30 while Williams grabbed seven for 34 to end with a match-haul of 12 for 80.

Set 156 runs to win, Jennings Tigers had reached 100 for seven off 20 overs in their second innings at the close of play. Graham picked up four for 32.



Men's 10K Run Champion Kamar Thomas, center, is flanked by fellow Hurricane Power colleague and second place finisher Devon James, right, and third place winner Keon Barnwell, left, on the winners' podium during the presentation of awards at the Hurricane Power 5K and 10K Run & 5K and 10K Walk at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday, 21st May, 2023. (Photos courtesy Hurricane Power Club)



Women's 10K Run winner Tanika James, second left, accepts her trophy from Cliff Williams, second right, during the presentation of awards at the Hurricane Power 5K and 10K Run & 5K and 10K Walk at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday, 21st May, 2023. Hannah Charles, right, came second and Yolanda Joseph, left, took third place in the Women's 10K Run.

Thomas retains title as champion of Hurricane Power 10K Run

Kamar Thomas has successfully defended his title as the Hurricane Power 10K Run Champion.

Thomas, who emerged victorious in last year's race, retains the title during the Hurricane Power 5K and 10K Run & 5K and 10K Walk, which started and concluded at the YASCO Sports Complex on Sunday.

Thomas clocked 34 minutes and 0.75 seconds

to capture the overall title in the Men's 10K Run. His Hurricane Power colleague Devon James captured second place with a time of 38 minutes and 34.59 seconds. Keon Barnwell came third in 42 minutes and 19.09 seconds.

Tanika James of Hurricane Power won the overall title in the Women's 10K Run. James completed the race in a time of 50 minutes

and 16.02 seconds.

Her Hurricane Power colleague Hannah Charles claimed the runners-up spot by clocking 50 minutes and 23.84 seconds. Yolanda Joseph took third place with a time of one hour, eight minutes and 33 seconds.

The Men's 10K Walk was won by Peter Adams, who covered the distance in a time of one hour, 20 minutes and 51 seconds, while

Gilrick Pryce claimed second place with a time of one hour, 28 minutes and 12 seconds.

Sharon Joseph captured the Female 10K Walk by clocking one hour, 21 minutes and 57 seconds.

The overall title in the Men's 5K Run was won by Hurricane Power's Stevorn Gordon, who completed the race in 22 minutes and

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Windies drawn in Group A for ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifiers

The West Indies have been drawn alongside the Netherlands, Nepal, United States, and hosts Zimbabwe in Group A of next month's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup Qualifier tournament.

The ICC has unveiled the two groups, match schedules and venues for the 10-team tournament from 18th June to 9th July. All matches will start at 9am local time (3am Eastern Caribbean Time/2am Jamaica Time).

Group B features Sri Lanka, Ireland, Scotland, Oman and United Arab Emirates (UAE). The ten teams will be competing for the two remaining places at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup which will be played in India in October

and November later this year.

West Indies face the USA in the opening Group A fixture on Sunday 18th June at Takashinga Cricket Club, followed by Nepal on Thursday, 22nd June at Harare Sports Club.

West Indies meet hosts Zimbabwe on Saturday, 24th June at Harare Sports Club. The fourth preliminary match will be against the Netherlands on Monday 26th June.

Each side will play the other teams in their group once with the top three from the groups progressing to the Super Six stage from Thursday, 29th June to Friday 7th July. The teams will each play three Super Six matches against the sides

they did not meet in the group stage.

All points won in the groups will be carried over to the Super Six stage apart from those gained against the bottom two from each group. The final will be played at Harare Sports Club on Sunday, 9th July. The two finalists will both progress to the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

West Indies Head Coach Daren Sammy said, "We know what's at stake and the singular focus is to secure one of the two spots for the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2023.

"We trust in our preparation and, now that we know the matchups, we will plan accordingly. These are exciting times ahead for this confident bunch of young men. Our duty is to also make our fans proud and we intend to do exactly that."

FULL WISQUAD: Shai Hope (captain), Rovman Powell (vice-captain), Shamarh Brooks, Yannick Cariah, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Kemo Paul, Nicholas Pooran and Romario Shepherd.

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53.03 seconds.

Evrick Williams finished second by clocking 23 minutes and 14.31 seconds while Darell Byers came third in a time of 25 minutes and 04.34 seconds.

The overall title in the Female 5K Run was captured by Anika James of Hurricane Power with a time of 25 minutes and 49.57 seconds.

Isoke Perry clocked 26 minutes and 40.81 seconds to secure the runners-up spot while Sophie Boen took third place by completing the race in 27 minutes and 46.21 seconds.

Kavel Davis won the Women's 5K Walk in a time of 43 minutes and 36.13 seconds. Makala Fleming secured second place by clocking 45 minutes and .24 seconds while Philis Steven finished third in 48 minutes and 04.80 seconds.

The Hurricane Power Club would like to thank the Sandals Resort, J Tittle construction, Fitz Fresh Fruits, Hutchinson Limited, Anjo Wholesale, Hurricane Construction Services, Stone Wall Reloaded, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and all the participants for their support and assistance.



WOMEN'S TRY SAILING & DINGHY RACING EDITION

Sponsored by **LOCMAN ITALY** | **Sunday | 28** | **May 2023** | Location: **National Sailing Academy**

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10.00 am	Venture, RS Fevas, RS
10.45 am	Zest, Laser
11.30 am	

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Thomas provisionally suspended by ICC for corruption

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has provisionally suspended West Indies and Antiguan cricketer Devon “Boobie” Thomas, slapping seven charges under its anti-corruption code on him, including “contriving to fix” matches.

Thomas, who was named in the West Indies squad for the forthcoming three-match One Day International (ODI) series against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Dubai, has 14 days to respond.

The charges against 33-year-old Thomas are with regard to his conduct while playing in three franchise-based tournaments - the Lanka Premier League (LPL), the Abu Dhabi T10 and the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

In a media statement yesterday, Tuesday, 23rd May, the ICC said Thomas had breached the anti-corruption codes at all three tournaments and its anti-corruption unit had been authorised by all three boards in question - Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC), Emirates Cricket Board (ECB) and Cricket West Indies (CWI) - to conduct the investigation on their behalf.

The most serious charge against Thomas - of attempting to fix a match - is from the 2021 edition of the LPL when he played for Kandy Warriors. Incidentally, Thomas played just one game in that edition of the LPL.

Overall, Thomas faced four charges under the SLC anti-corruption code on his conduct in that tournament. The four charges are of “contriving or being party to an agreement to



West Indies and Antiguan cricketer Devon Thomas. (File photo)

fix or attempt to fix, contrive or influence improperly the result, progress, conduct or other aspects of matches”, “failing to disclose... full details of an approach” to the ACU, “failing or refusing, without compelling justification, to cooperate” in an ACU investigation, and “obstructing or delaying” the investigation by “concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other information.”

Thomas also faced a single charge under the ECB code for failing to disclose details of an approach made to indulge in corrupt conduct during the 2021 edition of Abu Dhabi T10, when he was a part of the Pune Devils team.

The remaining two charges are from the last two editions of the CPL when he played for St Kitts & Nevis

Patriots and Barbados Royals, respectively.

One of the charges concerns, again, failing to disclose an approach.

The second charge is about failing to report the “receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or benefit (a) that he knew or should have known was made in order to procure a breach of the CPL Code, or (b) could have brought the player or the game of cricket into disrepute.”

Thomas last played for West Indies in the day-night Adelaide Test against Australia in December 2022, his only appearance in the format. He has also turned out for West Indies in 21 ODIs and 12 T20Is since his international debut in 2009.

Meanwhile, Cricket West Indies (CWI) claimed in a statement, “It has been made aware that charges have been laid by the International Cricket Council’s (ICC) Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), involving West Indies player Devon Thomas.

“CWI is not directly involved in the process but remains firm in denouncing corruption in cricket, and fully supports the ICC ACU in its efforts to uphold the integrity of the sport.

“While the matter continues, CWI will not make any further comments in respect of these charges. In collaboration with ICC and the West Indies Players’ Association (WIPA), CWI remains committed to sensitizing and educating our players and officials on anti-corruption in sports.”