

TUESDAY 20TH JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 118 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# NODS URGES PREPARATION AHEAD OF STORM



Tourism Minister, the Hon. H. Charles Fernandez, left, looks on at the work site of Royalton CHIC Antigua last Friday. Story on page 9.

# **Local News NODS urges preparation ahead of pending storm**

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is appealing to residents to finalize hurricane preparedness ahead of the planned strengthening of tropical storm Bret, later this week.

In a statement, NODS advised that citizens and residents are being told that emergency kits should be stocked, and steps taken to protect lives and property.

Emergency kits should include canned foods, water, a flashlight, batteries, adequate medication, personal hygiene items, infant supplies, important documents, clothing, a first aid kit, and blankets or sheets that can be used as bedding.

If individuals must move to a shelter, such items should be taken, it was noted.

NODS is advising persons to first secure shelter with family and relatives and that public shelters should be the last resort.

Other preparations include ensuring that windows and doors on homes are secured, having shutters on hand, pruning dead or dying trees and overhanging branches, clearing the yard of loose items and debris, and lowering television and other antennae.

Residents are encouraged to continue monitoring the media for information coming out of the Met Office, regarding the latest weather systems.

Climatologist Dale Destin is predicting an above-normal Atlantic Hurricane Season for 2023, with the most recent forecast (May) predicting 18 named storms, including 8 hurricanes and 4 major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher). NODS, on Monday, published its 2023 list of hurricane shelters that are located across the country, and which can be accessed when the need arises.

A total of 47 shelters are included on the list and can be found in every constituency named district, including Barbuda, as advised by NODS.

Also on the list are the names of District Disaster Coordinators, their deputies, and their contact numbers.

The hurricane shelters are mainly churches and public schools.





### **Local News**

Police carrying out an investigation into the discovery of human skeletal remains found in the Diamond estate area in the eastern section of Antigua.

Not much is known about the identity of the deceased nor the cause of death. However, the police have indicated that they suspect that the deceased is a male based on the clothing items found on the scene.

Monday afternoon personnel from the police CSI Unit were on site combing the scene for potential evidence that would help them solve this mystery. Law enforcement swiftly secured

the area and initiated a thorough investigation.

PAGE 3

Just a few weeks ago, human remains were discovered at Mount Joy which is not far away from Diamond Estate. This could be one of the things that the police consider during their investigation.

### Surprise prison raid yields contraband items, no serious weapons

rity officials comprising the police, the defence force, and prison guards carried out a surprise raid of His Majesty's Prison in the wee hours of Saturday morning.

Prison sources said the raid happened at approximately 3:30 am on Saturday when the prison population was roused from sleep, as the security personnel conducted a thorough search of the cells.

The raid uncovered marijuana, cigarettes, cell phones, and what appears to be cocaine, during the operation. While no serious weapons were unearthed, the sources say there were several makeshift weapons believed to have been made within the prison walls by inmates.

When asked how these items were able to make it into the prison, the sources suggested that many items are simply thrown over the prison wall while others

A contingent of secu- are smuggled into the prison using increasingly creative ways.

population stands at 236 male inmates, just under

Currently, the prison 10 female inmates, and more than 30 persons on remand.



### **Local News** Banks urged to improve their service

Residents of Antigua and Barbuda who have long been complaining about the poor quality of service offered by commercial banks now have a powerful advocate helping to make their case.

That's because the Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank. Timothy Antoine, has concluded that he too is unhappy with the level of service offered by banks in the country and it's a point he raised when he met the Antigua and Barbuda Bankers' Association last Friday during his Country Mission to Antigua and Barbuda.

The meeting with the banking officials came after the Governor and his team had spent several days in the country meeting with a large cross section of people to hear their concerns.

He said issues related to bank services and fees dominated much of the discussion.

"We did hear, and we raised with our banks, concerns from the community about customer service by our banks. The banks said they are aware of these concerns and are working to resolve them as soon as possible.

"These include the updating of their systems, in some cases there is a little bit of a queue to get some of their providers to come and update the systems but are working to do that and eventually they expect some of the service offerings to improve," Antoine explained.

He added that the banks have also recognized that there needs to be more engagement and public education around the use of digital channels to minimize long queues in the banking halls. Other things discussed include the Office of Financial Conduct which the ECCB is working to set up as a basis to receive, address and process complaints and concerns by customers with their financial institutions.

But it was the issue of establishing an account at the bank that the Governor found particularly exasperating.

"It is so difficult to open a bank account and this came up this week during our discussions.

"I am pleased to announce that we have invited recommendations from the banks about how this can be solved. We (ECCB) requested and the banks submitted and we are now recont'd on pg 5





### **Local News**

The chairman of the valued: that they will be al-OECS Authority has sounded an alarm that the sub-region faces an exodus of its young people, if enough is not done to include them in all aspects of development. Dr. Terrance Drew of St. Kitts and Nevis issued the caution during his address at the opening ceremony of the 73rd Meeting of the OECS Authority, which ends today in the St. Kitts and Nevis Capital, Basseterre.

He said there must be a sense of belonging and involvement among young people, which must be created by governments, otherwise, there can be trouble ahead for the subregion.

"Our youth need to feel that our countries have something to offer them. That they have opportunities for economic and social growth in their home countries; that they are

cont'd from pg 4

viewing.

"Addressing this problem may involve changes to the law but it is something that we will address.

"We make it far easier, we should make it almost as an economic right to open at least one account," he declared.

He however, not that under the current law the banks do reserve the right to open or close an account if it is not operated properly. He expressed support for the banks if their facilities are being used for criminal behaviour such as money laundering.

Despite this, he remained firm that it was too difficult for honest people to open a banking account here in Antigua and Barbuda. "That's where we have to draw the line." he stated.

lowed to contribute to their societies, that they will be able to earn livable wages, that they are being trained and invested with skills which would allow them to flourish at the national level and to compete at the global level," he stated. CARIBBEAN

Dr. Drew noted that the sub-region's youth will be of major priority during his tenure along with health, violence as a public health issue, security, energy and the environment.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne was among OECS heads attending the meeting.

Among the agenda items that were listed for their caucus was the status update on efforts being made to return the Eastern Caribbean to Category 1 Status within the Civil Aviation Sector, Accession of St. Martin and Regional Air Transportation.

### ACB MORTGAGE & TRUST SECONDARY SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

Open to citizens of Antigua and Barbuda who sat the 2023 National Assessment and will enter Secondary School in September.

APPLY NOW

#### VISIT WWW.ACBONLINE.COM FOR APPLICATION DETAILS

DEADLINE: JUNE 30TH 2023 🕈 🗿 in 🕞

PAGE 5

INE RODRIGUEZ

### **Local News**

#### POINCEXPRESS



### **CBH receives new equipment**

The Central Board of Health (CBH) is describing as 'a shot in the arm' the presentation of new equipment by the government.

A spokesman for the CBH said the new backhoe will better enable the department to carry out two of its most critical functions; the digging of graves for burial and the clearing of community drains of shrubs and other forms of blockage.

"The Central Board of Health is now better equipped to prepare burial sites at the Public Cemetery and Valley Road Cemetery with a new backhoe purchased by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda," according to the Principal Public Health Inspector, Julienne Mannix.

She further explained that before receiving the new backhoe the department only had one functioning piece of equipment to dig graves.

"The shortage of equipment meant that if we had two funerals running concurrently at the Public Cemetery and the Valley Church Cemetery this posed a problem for the department as the government offers a free service of digging and covering of graves," she stated.

The equipment was handed over to the Permanent Secretary within the Ministry, Ena Dalso-Henry on Monday at a brief ceremony held at the Department of Environment.

Also in attendance, along with Mannix, was the Acting Chief Health Inspector, David Matthery.





### **Local News** PAGE 7 **Health communicators attend** behavioural change workshop

The Communications or communities to develop Unit within the Ministry of Health is looking at ways to better connect with the public on issues of social and behavioural change.

Two officers within the Ministry, Monifa St. John and J'noure Smith-Kellman attended a Social and Behaviour Change Communications (SBCC) Workshop in Trinidad over the past week.

The workshop, which was held by UNICEF, with funding provided by US-AID, focused on Social and Behavior Change.

Social and Behaviour Change is an interactive process of any intervention with individuals, groups,

**TO:** 

HER HONOUR **The Licensing Magistrate** District "A" Magistrate's Court Perry Bay St. John's Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE **Police Headquarters American Road** St. John's Antigua

I, Alejandro Charles, of Hatton, St. John's, Antigua DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Perry Bay, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6th, July, 2023 for a Tavern License for the premises known as "The Drinks Bar 58' situated at Hatton, in the Parish of St. John's in the Island of Antigua pursuant to Section 11(5) of the Licensing (Intoxicated Liquor) Act, Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 19th, June, 2023 **Cumberbatch & Associates** Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant communication strategies to promote positive behaviors which are appropriate to their settings and thereby solve the world's most pressing health problems.

This in turn provides a supportive environment that will enable people to initiate, sustain and maintain positive and desirable behavior outcomes.

SBCC is the strategic use of communication to promote positive health outcomes based on proven theories and models of behavior change.

SBCC employs a systematic process beginning with formative research and behavior analysis, fol-



Monifa St. John, left, and J'noure Smith-Kellman

lowed by communication planning, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

The workshop was facilitated by Social and Behaviour Change Specialist - UNICEF Dr. Lisa McClean-Trotman, Counseling Psychologist, Dr. Nicole Lynch, Advisor, Non-communicable Diseases and Mental Health -PAHO Dr. Gloria Giraldo, Advisor, Immunization -PAHO, Dr. Karen Broome and Specialist, Communications for Health Promotion - PAHO, Lisa Bayley.

As a part of the workshop, participants from various countries and departments had to select a target group and prepare a Social and Behaviour focused campaign to address the issue and the methods that will be used to monitor and evaluate, using different methods that were taught.

In addition to the participants from Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, Guyana, and Trinidad and Tobago were also represented.

### **Local News**



### Chinese Proficiency Competition held in Antigua and Barbuda

The annual competition among students in secondary schools where they showcased their ability to speak and write the language and interpret the Chinese culture, has just been completed with the Antigua Girls High School emerging as the winner.

Organised by the Embassy of the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Antigua and Barbuda, the highly anticipated 3rd Chinese Proficiency Competition for Secondary School students was held last week.

This event brought together 11 talented students from three institutions: Sir Novelle Richards Academy, the Antigua Girls High School, and Glanvilles Secondary School.

Speakers at the event included

the resident Ambassador of the PRC, Zhang Yanling, the Principal of Sir Novelle Richards Academy -the first institution in Antigua and Barbuda to introduce a Mandarin program-, Listine Bradshaw, and a teacher of the Glanvilles Secondary School, Shanise Looby

Ambassador Zhang encapsulated the progress made during the three sessions of Chinese Proficiency Competitions which have seen, among others, more contestants signing up for the Competition and wider participation in terms of judges and audience.

Her remarks also echoed the mission of the Global Civilization Initiative, which was proposed by China last March, and reiterated the Embassy's unwavering commitment to fostering educational and cultural exchanges between China and Antigua and Barbuda.

The remarks delivered by Bradshaw emphasized the role of the competition as a platform where local secondary school students can showcase their level of knowledge, in the learning of the Mandarin language and their appreciation for the Chinese culture and highlighted that learning Mandarin would help bridge the communication gap between the two countries.

Ms. Looby briefed the audience on the Mandarin program that Glanvilles Secondary School has implemented.

The contestants showcased their cont'd on pg 9





### **Local News**

### Tourism Minister visits Royalton CHIC Antigua work site

Tourism Minister, the Hon. H. Charles Fernandez, and Mr. St.Claire Soleyn, Director of Policy and Planning, visited the work site of Royalton CHIC Antigua on Friday to gain a firsthand view of the ongoing progress of the development.

This new five-star beachfront resort will comprise 227 rooms, including eight water bungalows, offering a luxurious and exclusive experience.

The resort will boast an array of amenities, including seven restaurants, one of which will be an overwater restaurant, sports and fitness facilities, swimming pools, a spa, and five bars.

With its opening scheduled for the spring of 2024, the Royalton CHIC Antigua will introduce a unique adults-only social vacation



experience to Antigua and Barbuda.

The management of the project falls under the supervision of the Blue Diamond Group, with certain aspects of the construction being subcontracted to local companies.





#### cont'd from pg 8

talents and linguistic abilities, leaving the audience captivated throughout the event.

Each contestant delivered a compelling speech, entirely in Mandarin, providing a glimpse into their personalities expressed through another language.

The students also displayed their diverse talents, with participants dancing, singing Chinese songs, playing musical instruments, reciting literature and poetry, and even presenting live paintings before a panel of judges, comprising individuals of Chinese ethnicity, as well as Antiguan and Barbudan nationals proficient in Chinese literacy.

### Letter to the Editor PORTERESS PAGE 10 Poor poor Shugy

#### Dear Editor,

I can't help but feel sorry for poor Shugy. He did not understand that he joined a political party that "na lub nobody." Even though he is not the

brightest bulb in the pack, he should have known that he did not fit, in the eyes of the intellectual Giselle. There is no love or loyalty in the UPP. That is their track record.

Giselle and Lovell manipulated Rural East and St. Paul to put in their favourites and kicked out Trevor Young and Driftwood. They did not suit the middle-class intellectual



**Crabbs Training Facility** 

16-2

#### For more info

IG: @ibycministries **FB: IBYC Ministries** W: ibycministries.com E: ibycministries@gmail.com UPP base. The history is there for all to see.

They have set Shugy up to disqualify himself so that they can slide in Harold Lovell.

They do not want either Pringle or Lewis as Leader so they will start a campaign to beg Lovell to come back. Then, they run him in what they think is a safe seat so that he gets to Parliament and takes over as Opposition Leader. They gave poor Shugy bad legal advice, as the only way he can resign from parliament is by resigning from the Party Whip, and that means resigning from the party.

Forget their noise. The Constitution is very clear in Section 41. And he cannot resign on that basis and then rejoin to face the By-Election. The law will not look kindly on this type of act of convenience.

Did no one find it strange that Lovell suddenly emerged to appear on the platform of a UPP Town Hall Meeting in St. Mary's South? They say he will be there as a lawyer, but why not their former Attorney-General Justin Simon? Lovell is by no means an expert in the Constitution.

But, he is there to test the waters.

Poor Shugy.

**True Davis** 



### Environment



### Climate change: Sudden heat increase in seas around UK and Ireland

#### By Justin Rowlatt

Some of the most intense marine heat increases on Earth have developed in seas around the UK and Ireland, the European Space Agency (Esa) says.

Water temperatures are as much as 3 to 4C above the average for this time of year in some areas, according to analysis by Esa and the Met Office.

The sea is particularly warm off the UK's east coast from Durham to Aberdeen, and off north-west Ireland.

The Met Office says the reason is partly human-caused climate change.

But other, less-understood natural and manmade factors appear to be driving temperatures up further. The Esa data shows sea water around virtually the entire coastline of the British Isles is warmer than usual.

Scientists warn that intense heat like this can kill fish and other sea life, sometimes on a huge scale.

Marine heatwaves - prolonged periods of unusually high sea surface temperatures - are also associated with more extreme weather because storm systems pick up more energy and can become more intense and longer-lasting.

The warm sea around the UK comes as air and ocean surface temperatures worldwide have been

The sea off the coast of Aberdeen, where this lighthouse stands, is particularly warm.

spiking sharply in recent months.

Global sea surface temperatures for both April and May were the highest ever recorded in Met Office data that goes all the way back to 1850.

In May the average ocean temperature was 0.85C higher than normal for the month, according to figures from the US National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

We have seen a series of extreme heat events around the world with unusually high temperatures helping fuelling record-breaking wildfires in Canada that blanketed New York and other North American cities in smoke.

Asia has also been affected, with monthly records broken in China and in parts of Siberia.

At the same time the

extent of the sea ice in the Antarctic is the lowest on record for this date by a large margin.

Professor Albert Klein Tank, the head of the Met Office's Hadley climate research centre, does not believe the array of global temperature records signals that the Earth has passed some kind of climate tipping-point.

"All of these elements are part of natural variation within the climate system which are coming together to elevate sea-surface temperatures to higher levels", he says.

The unusually high temperatures have continued into this month.

The first 11 days of June were the hottest ever recorded worldwide for this time of year, the EU's Copernicus climate and weather monitoring service reported last week.

It said this is the first time that global air temperatures have exceeded pre-industrial levels by more than 1.5C during the month of June.

The scientific consensus is that keeping long-term global temperatures below that 1.5C threshold is essential to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

The current high temperatures are expected to be temporary though; the 1.5C threshold relates to average temperatures over a 20 or 30-year period.

But experts expect more temperature records to be broken in the coming months because the Pacific Ocean is expected to continue to warm thanks to the development of an El Niño event.

Scientists are already cont'd on pg 13

#### POINCEXPRESS

### Environment



The coast off County Durham, pictured here, has seen some of the biggest temperature increases

#### cont'd from pg 12

predicting it is likely to make 2024 the world's hottest year.

El Niño is the most powerful fluctuation in the climate system anywhere on Earth.

The El Niño Southern Oscillation, or ENSO, to give it its scientific name, is moving into its hot phase when warm waters come to the surface off the coast of South America and spread across the ocean driving significant heat into the atmosphere.

But the most dramatic increase in sea surface temperature right now is in the North Atlantic.

In May temperatures were 1.25C above the long-term average, the highest deviation ever recorded in a single month, according to the Met Office.

Scientists are not sure why we are seeing this record heat in the waters around the UK and across the North Atlantic, but they say climate change is certainly playing a crucial role. As we continue to pump vast quantities of planet-warming carbon dioxide into the atmosphere we are driving up global temperatures. But other factors are likely also playing a role.

Professor Michael Mann, an atmospheric scientist at Penn State University, says weaker than average winds have reduced the amount of dust from the Sahara Desert in the atmosphere.

Saharan dust blocks and reflects some of the sun's energy out of the atmosphere, moderating sea temperatures.

The trade winds have been unusually light this year and, at the same time, a persistent weather pattern with easterly winds from the continental US may also have helped warm the sea surface.

Another factor could be the effects of a reduction in pollution from shipping.

Regulations reducing the sulphur content of fuel burned by ships were brought in by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) in 2020.

This significantly reduces the amount of aerosol particles released into the atmosphere, the IMO says.

But aerosols that pollute the air can also help reflect heat back into

space, so removing them may have caused more heat to enter the waters.

It looks like the impacts of the exceptional temperatures in the North Atlantic are already beginning to be felt.

The eastern tropical Atlantic is the main spawning ground for North Atlantic hurricanes and the Met Office says an Atlantic tropical storm looks likely to form east of the Caribbean by the middle of this week.

Julian Heming, a tropical cyclone expert at the Met Office, says it is very unusual to see a storm developing in that area so early in the season.

Hurricane development is normally supressed during El Niño periods, but the Met Office's forecast suggests an above average season for tropical storms and cyclones in the North Atlantic basin this year because of the high surface temperatures.

The Met Office says we can expect the hot weather to continue.

It says there is a 45% chance - significantly higher than usual - that the UK will have what it describes as a "hot summer".

### PAGE 14 The World Around Us POINTERPRESS **Uganda ADF school attack: I** covered myself in blood to hide

Student Godwin Mumbere managed to run away from the school.

BBC - Student Julius Isingoma has told the BBC how he miraculously survived a night-time assault by suspected Islamist rebels on his school dormitory in western Uganda.

TUESDAY 20TH JUNE 2023

"I smeared the blood of my dead colleagues in my mouth, ears and on my head so that the attackers would think I was dead," he said, when we met him at Bwera General Hospital in Kasese district.

About 40 people - 37 of them students - died in the attack on the secondary school in the small town of Mpondwe on Friday night.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni blamed the attack on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), adding that they were "possibly working with other criminals because I hear that school had some wrangles". He did not elaborate, but vowed to hunt down the militants in their hideouts across the border in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The ADF has not yet commented.

It was formed in the 1990s and took up arms against Mr Museveni, alleging persecution of the minority Muslims population.

Its leader reportedly pledged allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) group in 2016.

But it was not until

April 2019 that IS first acknowledged its activity in the area, when it claimed an attack on army positions near the border with Uganda.

This statement marked the announcement of IS's "Central Africa Province" (Iscap).

Six students are believed to have been abducted as the militants retreated to DR Congo.

Julius was among six people who managed to survive the assault which lasted for several hours.

He did not identify the attackers, but said they were gun-wielding men who launched their attack at about 22:00 local time.

They came to the boys' dormitory but the students had locked it after realising they were in danger.

"When they couldn't

open the door they hurled a bomb inside the dormitory and then used hammers and axes to break down the door," he said.

Julius was standing behind many of the students who had formed a shield near the door and were shot dead when the militants got into the dormitory.

There were cries as the students were gunned down, hacked or shot to death.

He quickly climbed to the top of a bunk bed, removed some of the wooden planks of the ceiling, and jumped inside to hide.

From there, he helplessly watched his colleagues being brutally murdered by the assailants, who then set fire to mattresses and left.

"I was overwhelmed by the smoke and dropped back down into the dormitory with a thud," he said.

The militants heard the thud and came back.

It was at that point that Julius knew he had to come out of the attack alive.

"I lay next to the bloodied bodies of my friends and thought very fast. Then I smeared a lot of blood into my ears, mouth and on my head and when the militants came, they checked my hand for a pulse and left," Julius said.

Another survivor, Godwin Mumbere, was in the same dormitory as Julius.

The 18-year-old recalled the assailants going to the girls' dormitory, dragging them out and hacking them to death with machetes.

They then came to the boys' dormitory, broke down the door and started attacking the students.

> The bed Godwin was cont'd on pg 15



## Health & Wellness Dengue fever crisis forces Peru minister to resign

BBC - Peru's health minister, Rosa Gutiérrez, has resigned as the country struggles to control a dengue fever outbreak.

Dengue fever is an infection spread by mosquitoes, most common in tropical and subtropical climates.

The outbreak has caused record-breaking deaths and infections, with at least 248 dead and reported cases surpassing 146,000.

Under pressure over her handling of the crisis, Ms Gutiérrez announced her decision to stand down on Thursday.

Lawmakers had summoned Ms Gutiérrez to face a motion to remove her from her post, but she resigned beforehand.

She had previously claimed that the virus would be contained within 15 days, Peruvian media re-



File pictures of a worker spraying fumigation vapour to stem the spread of dengue virus at Esperanza cemetery in Lima, Peru.

ported.

In a post on Twitter, President Dina Boluarte accepted her minister's departure, vowing to "redouble" efforts to improve public health.

Cyclone Yaku bought torrential rain to the country's north in April and May, leading to a huge upsurge in numbers of mosquitoes, which carry the disease.

Officials fear the situation will worsen when the El Niño climate phenomenon brings further heavy precipitation later in the year.

Last week, President

Boluarte declared a state of emergency to cover most regions across the country, although most of the fatalities have occurred in the north.

Symptoms of dengue include a high fever, severe headaches, swollen glands and rashes.

#### cont'd from pg 14

hiding under was overturned and his friends who were on top fell to the ground and were killed.

"The attackers saw me but thought I was dead," he told the BBC.

But they went out and came back into the dormitory to ensure everyone was dead.

"It was at this point that they shot me in the hand and set the dorm ablaze," he said.

Godwin was brought back to reality by the shouts of another student who said they were dying.

He ran out of the dormitory, scaled

the school gate and ran to a nearby hardware store through a cocoa plantation. He got to a lodge and hid under a vehicle until he was rescued.

Clarice Bwambare, the senior administrator of Bwera General Hospital, told the BBC they started receiving the bodies of students and residents at around 01:00 - about three hours after the attack started on Friday night.

He noted that out of the 20 bodies they received, 18 were those of students.

Five survivors are currently recuperating at the hospital. One of them is a girl who is in critical condition at the intensive care unit. A surgeon advised that she cannot be moved because of a severe head injury from being hit with a hammer by the rebels.

Mr Bwambare said only one body had not been claimed from the mortuary.

On Sunday, grief-stricken families buried 21 of the students, according to Uganda's New Vision newspaper.

Lying on his hospital bed, Julius expressed regret that he could not attend their funerals. He said he wished he was a soldier who could fight back and save the lives of his friends and colleagues.

### **Regional News TCI: Body found, murder** investigation underway

Loop - Detectives from the Serious Crime Unit of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force are currently investigating a murder following the discovery of a body off the shoulder of the road on Millennium Providenciales Highway, this morning.

The unidentified male is 5' 8" ft tall, slim built, about 150 to 160 pounds, and appears to be between the ages of 18 to 25. The body was clad only in black shorts with white stripes on one side.

The male victim was barefooted and has distinctive scars on his upper chest and a short haircut.



the assistance of the public in positively identifying the male victim.

Based on preliminary information a call was placed The RTCIPF is seeking to the Police Control Room today at around 6:58 am indicating that the lifeless body of a male was laying on the roadside.

RTCIPF officers arrived at the location and found the

bleeding body with what appeared to be a wound to the head.

An autopsy is expected to be performed today to determine the cause of death.

### **Former Prime Minister of Grenada** on King's Birthday Honours list



Former Prime Minister of Grenada. Tillman Thomas.

Five Grenadians have been recognised in the King's Birthday Honours List for 2023.

The Birthday Honours list recognises people who have given exceptional service to the UK abroad and internationally.

A government notice states His Majesty King Charles III has been graciously pleased to give orders for the following appointments to the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (Civil Division) to the undermentioned.

Former Prime Minister of Grenada Tillman Thomas was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Grenada.

Thomas served as Grenada's Prime Minister from 2008 to 2013. He was also the island's Opposition leader from 2003 to 2008.

Meanwhile, two nationals have been awarded Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE). They are Augustine Jeffrey for services to Culture and Paul Phillip for services to Sport.

And two nationals were awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). They are Pasupuleti Gita Kishore Kumar for services to the field of Business and Kimberlain Mills for services to Culture.



# **Regional News**

CMC - The law firm representing the embattled Local Government and Regional Development Minister, Nigel Dharamlall says their client has denied involvement in any sexual assault of a 16-year-old child.

"All the allegations are denied," said the law firm of Hughes Fields & Stoby, which is headed by prominent criminal and civil attorney Nigel Hughes, who confirmed that Dharamlall has retained the services of a firm of Attorneys at Law to represent him and protect his interests

"Mr Dharamlall remains willing and disposed to assist in a full investigation of the matter," said Hughes.

On Sunday, President Irfaan Ali said that he has "no problem" with a request made by Dharamlall, to proceed on leave to facilitate the investigation.

"The minister has requested leave for a full probe into the allegations and I have no problem with it. I have agreed," Ali told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) in a telephone interview.

He made it clear that his administration "will not stand in the way of any probe" insisting also that "I was never ever formally informed of it (the allegation).

"I was never written to, I have never received any formal letter," said Ali.

Hughes has appealed to



Nigel Dharamlall (File photo CMC)

an end to the speculation, particularly on social media, regarding the embattled minister, saying no further statements will be issued by or on behalf of Dharamlall.

"In the interest of a fair investigation and the necessity to protect the interests of all parties concerned, we urge that speculation, wild accusations, pre-mature judgments and unsupported conclusions be avoided," he said.

Meanwhile, Red Thread, a women and children's rights advocacy organisation, has criticised what it termed the disrespect for the child and her family due to the publishing of the information, including graphic details, on social media.

"It is not easy for any-

one, let alone a young girl to speak out against such atrocities meted out to them. What should have been an opportunity to do what is right for this young woman has turned into a disaster.

"Even the politicians are using this young woman's situation for political mileage. This is not having the best interest of this child at heart. This is selfishness. This is exploitation at its worst. Shame and disgrace!," Red Thread said in a statement.

Earlier, an opposition legislator said while the decision by Dharamlall, to proceed on leave to facilitate an investigation is "an impotent step forward" she nonetheless is hoping "this will result in a full, fair, unbiased and impartial investigation".

In a statement, opposition legislator, Geeta Chandan-Edmond, said that her attention has been drawn to a media report "which suggests that Minister Dharmalll has proceeded on administrative leave pending an investigation into allegations of sexual misconduct made by a minor.

PAGE 17

"While this must be seen as an important step forward like all Guyanese we trust that this will result in a full, fair, unbiased and impartial investigation and that there will be compliance with the rule of law."

The opposition MP said that there is need to continue "to advocate strongly for the rights of women and children".

PAGE 18

#### International AROUND THE WORLD



# Titanic tourist submersible goes missing with search under way

BBC - A massive search and rescue operation is under way in the mid Atlantic after a tourist submarine went missing during a dive to Titanic's wreck on Sunday.

Contact with the small sub was lost about an hour and 45 minutes into its dive, the US Coast Guard said.

Tour firm OceanGate said all options were being explored to rescue the five people onboard.

Tickets cost \$250,000 (£195,000) for an eight-day trip including dives to the wreck at a depth of 3,800m (12,500ft).

Government agencies, the US and Canadian navies and commercial deep-sea firms are helping the rescue operation, officials said.

Titanic's wreck lies some 435 miles (700km) south of St John's, Newfoundland, though the rescue mission is being run from Boston, Massachusetts.

The missing craft is believed to be OceanGate's Titan submersible, a trucksized sub that holds five people and usually dives with a four-day emergency supply of oxygen.

On Monday afternoon, Rear Adm John Mauger of the US Coast Guard told a news conference: "We anticipate there is somewhere between 70 and the full 96 hours available at this point."

He also said that two aircrafts, a submarine and sonar buoys were involved in



the search for the vessel but noted the area in which the search is taking place was "remote", making operations difficult.

Rear Adm Mauger said the rescue teams were "taking this personally" and were doing everything they could to bring those on board "home safe".

Hamish Harding, a 58-year-old British billionaire businessman and explorer, is among those on the missing submarine, his family said.

On social media at the weekend, Mr Harding said he was "proud to finally announce" that he would be aboard the mission to the wreck of the Titanic - but added that because of the "worst winter in Newfound-land in 40 years, this mission is likely to be the first and only manned mission to the Titanic in 2023".

He later wrote: "A weather window has just opened up and we are going to attempt a dive tomorrow."

OceanGate said its "entire focus [was] on the crewmembers in the submersible and their families".

"We are deeply thankful for the extensive assistance we have received from several government agencies and deep sea companies in our efforts to re-establish contact with the submersible," it added.

The company bills the eight-day trip on its carbon-fibre submersible as a "chance to step outside of everyday life and discover something truly extraordinary".

According to its website, one expedition is ongoing and two more have been planned for June 2024.

The submersible usually carries a pilot, three paying guests, and what the company calls a "content expert".

The trip sets sail from St John's in Newfoundland. Each full dive to the wreck, including the descent and ascent, reportedly takes around eight hours. The OceanGate website lists three submersibles it owns, and only the Titan is capable of diving deep enough to reach the Titanic wreckage.

The vessel weighs 23,000 lbs (10,432 kg) and, according to the website, can reach depths of up to 13,100 ft and has 96 hours of life support available for a crew of five.

A vessel called the Polar Prince, which is used to transport submersibles to the wreckage site, was involved in the expedition, its owner told the BBC.

David Pogue, a CBS reporter who travelled in the Titan submersible last year, told the BBC about the issues that both the submersible crew and the land crew were likely to be experiencing, saying that there was currently "no way" to communicate with the vessel as neither GPS nor radio "work under water".

"When the support ship is directly over the sub, they can send short text messages back and forth. Clearly those are no longer getting a response," Mr Pogue said.

He added that because the passengers were sealed inside the vessel by bolts applied from the outside, "There's no way to escape, even if you rise to the surface by yourself. You cannot get out of the sub without a crew on the outside letting you out."



#### International AROUND THE WORLD

# US and China pledge to stabilise tense relationship after talks

BBC - The US and China have pledged to stabilise their tense relationship following US Secretary of State Antony Blinken's twoday visit to Beijing.

Mr Blinken met China's President Xi Jinping for talks on Monday, restarting high-level communications between the rival superpowers.

Mr Xi said they had made progress, while Mr Blinken indicated that both sides were open to further talks.

But the top US diplomat made clear that there remained major differences.

"I stressed that... sustained communication at senior levels is the best way to responsibly manage differences and ensure that competition does not veer into conflict," Mr Blinken told reporters after the 35-minute meeting at the Great Hall of the People on Tiananmen Square.

"I heard the same from my Chinese counterparts," he said. "We both agree on the need to stabilise our relationship."

But Mr Blinken, 61, said he was "clear-eyed" about China and there were "many issues on which we profoundly - even vehemently - disagree".

Relations between Beijing and Washington have plummeted in the wake of a Trump-era trade war, Beijing's assertive claims over Taiwan and the shooting down of an alleged Chinese spy balloon over the US earlier this year.

Mr Blinken's visit is the first by a top US diplomat in almost five years.

Discussions between him and Mr Xi included everything from Russia's war in Ukraine and America's fentanyl crisis to Taiwan, North Korea and alleged human rights abuses by China, the US state department said.

And although there were no clear breakthroughs, Mr Xi suggested relations could be moving in a positive direction.

"The two sides have also made progress and reached agreement on some specific issues," he said, in a transcript of his remarks released by the US state department. "This is very good."

The meeting with Mr Xi was not originally on Mr Blinken's schedule and was announced just an hour before it took place.

It would have been widely viewed as a snub had it not happened, however, especially since Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates met Mr Xi in Beijing earlier this week.

Instead, the Americans will be able to point to the secretary's visit - which also included meetings with China's top diplomat Wang Yi



Relations between Beijing and Washington have plummeted in recent years.

and Foreign Minister Qin Gang - as a successful re-engagement with the Chinese government after months of frosty relations.

US President Joe Biden and officials in Washington have said they view the Chinese as rivals and competitors and not adversaries. It is a fine line to walk, however, as the competition - both militarily and economically - heats up.

With the meeting, Mr Xi was also sending a message to his own people that his government was reaching out to Washington.

Taiwan is the biggest area of contention between the two countries and the one that has the highest potential of escalating.

China sees self-ruled Taiwan as a breakaway province and Mr Xi has indicated that he wishes to bring Taiwan under Beijing's control during his term in office.

However, Taiwan sees itself as distinct from the

Chinese mainland with its own constitution and leaders. US President Joe Biden said last year that the US would defend Taiwan in the event of an attack from China, a move condemned by Beijing.

But on Monday, Mr Blinken again stressed that Washington does not support Taiwan independence, adding that he sought to "disabuse" China of the notion the US is "seeking to economically contain them".

He said China gave some assurances too. It again stressed that it would not supply lethal aid to Russia to use in Ukraine, but Mr Blinken shared concerns about private Chinese companies aiding Russia's military.

However, China knocked back a US proposal to restart communication channels between the countries' militaries - a key objective of the talks.

PAGE 19

#### International AROUND THE WORLD



### Five Palestinians killed in Israeli military raid in Jenin

#### By Tom Bateman

Five Palestinians, including a 15-year-old boy, have been killed by Israeli forces during a raid into Jenin refugee camp, Palestinian health officials say.

An Israeli helicopter fired missiles after Palestinian militants targeted troop carriers with explosives.

It marks a sharp escalation of fighting as frequent raids in the city in the occupied West Bank continue.

The Israeli army said it had to mount a "logistical operation under fire" to remove several stranded vehicles.

Seven Israeli soldiers and border police officers were wounded, three of them "moderately", according to the army.

It is the first time in years - possibly since the height of the second Palestinian Intifada, or uprising, two decades ago - that the Israeli military has used attack helicopters in the West Bank. The helicopter reportedly fired at militants on the ground while Israeli forces tried to extract soldiers.

One resident told local media: "We are unable to leave the house, it's a real war here. Apache helicopters are flying over our heads."

"This morning, the helicopter bombed a field in our neighbourhood. Some people were injured and a water pipe was damaged, causing water outages in large parts of Jenin



Palestinian militants targeted Israeli troop carriers with improvised explosive devices.

camp."

The Palestinian Authority described the raid as "Israeli aggression on Jenin [which] is a serious, dangerous escalation and must stop immediately".

Over the past 18 months, Israel has intensified its military search, arrest and home demolition raids into Palestinian cities in the occupied West Bank, amid a sharp rise in Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis - with casualty rates on both sides reaching levels not seen in many years.

Since the start of this year, at least 161 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while 21 Israelis have been killed.

Before dawn on Monday, undercover Israeli troops entered a neighbourhood on the edge of Jenin's packed urban refugee camp, targeting the family home of a militant jailed by Israel, eyewitnesses said.

"I looked out the window and saw masked soldiers storming the house of our neighbour, Assem Abu al-Haija. After about a quarter of an hour, I heard several explosions and heavy gunfire," Somaya Abu Samaan told Palestine TV.

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) described a "massive exchange of fire" between its forces and Palestinian gunmen.

Videos showed an explosion hitting armoured troop transport as shots rang out.

An Israeli military spokesman said a Panther troop carrier was hit by an "unusual and dramatic" improvised explosive device (IED), after which an Israeli Apache helicopter fired on an open area to repel the gunmen as forces extracted soldiers from the troop transport.

"We don't know the nature of the IED, it was pretty intense," Lt Col Richard Hecht said.

He said the IDF were now bringing in heavy machinery to try to extract the vehicles, while exchanges of fire with militants continued. He added that soldiers who were previously inside the carrier had been moved to other protected vehicles.

The Palestinian health ministry said four men and a 15-year-old boy were killed during the raid. The teenager was named as Ahmed Yousef Saqr.

The ministry added that more than 90 Palestinians were wounded, including a 15-year-old girl who local reports said was hit by a bullet which came through the wall of her home.

#### POINCEXPRESS

#### cont'd from pg 20

A Palestinian photojournalist covering the raid, Hazem Imad Nasser, was also among those wounded. Palestinian medics said he was undergoing surgery after being shot in his side.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society, meanwhile, accused the Israeli army of stopping medical teams reaching casualties.

The society's director in Jenin, Dr Mahmoud al-Saadi, told the BBC: "We are working in very difficult conditions. The occupation [Israeli] forces impeded the movement of ambulances and prevented medical staff from performing their duties."

The raid is a further sign that US-led attempts to de-escalate tensions in the West Bank are failing.

Officials had hoped to reduce the intensity of Israeli military raids and impel the Palestinian Authority to regain its grip in the cities of Jenin and Nablus, where they have lost control to a new generation of militants.

Internationa

Hussein al-Sheikh, the Palestinian Authority's civil affairs minister, said a "fierce and open war is being waged against the Palestinian people... by the occupation forces".

He called for the Palestinian leadership to take "unprecedented decisions" without elaborating.

Israel's use of aircraft would "push our fighters to use tools that will surprise the enemy", an official with the Palestinian militant group Islamic Jihad said. It claimed two of the dead men as members.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said: "We will use all the tools at our disposal and strike terrorists wherever they may be.

"Terrorists will not find a safe haven - not in Jenin, not in Nablus, and not in Gaza."

In a separate development, the Unit-

ed States said it was "deeply troubled" by new Israeli plans to expand Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank and make changes that will see a hardline pro-settler minister, Bezalel Smotrich, take authority over future planning there.

AROUND THE WORLD

Mr Smotrich heads a far-right, religious ultranationalist bloc that has espoused racist, anti-Palestinian policies.

A senior Israeli official played down the move, saying it was part of measures to cut "unnecessary administrative red tape in the construction authorisation process".

The US state department said Israel's actions violated previous commitments it had made to the Biden administration, while Palestinian leaders condemned the new steps and called on the international community to intervene.

Settlements are seen as illegal under international law, but Israel disputes that.



PAGE 21

### **Sports News**



### Bridges retains title as Nationals Road Race champion

Overseas-based cyclist Jyme Bridges, riding for the Vipers club, has retained his title as the National Road Race cycling champion of Antigua and Barbuda.

Twenty-four hours after claiming the runner-up position in the Inet Individual Time Trial, which comprised the first part of the dual national cycling championships, Bridges left the pack trailing to win the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race on Sunday.

The United States-based Bridges, who narrowly won last year's race by holding off Shawn Weathered in a sprint finish, produced a more efficient display in Sunday's road race, winning the Elite Men's Class to retain the overall title much more comfortably.

Bridges secured victory by completing the 66-mile road race in a time of three hours, five minutes, and 57.48 seconds.

Emmanuel Gayral of Team Terminix beat Jeffery Kelsick of Team Pillars Cycling in a sprint finish to clinch the runner-up spot in the Elite Men's division.

Gayral crossed the finish line in a time of three hours, 13 minutes, and 54.86 seconds, while Kelsick clocked three hours, 13 minutes, and 55.22 seconds to secure third place.



Winners of the Elite Men's division in the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's Top Ranking Nationals Individual Road Race on Sunday, 18th June, 2023. From left to right: Runner-up Emmanuel Gayral of Team Terminix, Overall and Elite Men's Class champion Jyme Bridges of Vipers and third place finisher Jeffery Kelsick of Team Pillars Cycling. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

Lone competitor Telesha Choy of the Vipers club won the female national title by completing the 33-mile course in a time of two hours, one minute, and 26.91 seconds.

Ken Jackson of Road Runners Cycling Club also held off a strong challenge from independent cyclist Patrick Peters in a sprint finish to capture the Masters Division title.

Jackson completed the 55-mile race in a time of

two hours, 56 minutes, and 20.36 seconds, while Peters crossed the finish line in two hours, 56 minutes, and 20.67 seconds.

Vaughan Gomes of the Andre Simon Cycling Academy finished third in three hours, seven minutes, and 52.61 seconds.

Marcos Ozuna of Little Rascals won the Sports Class by completing the 33mile course in one hour, 40 minutes, and 31.61 seconds.

Cosmos Richardson of

the Vipers Club followed closely behind to clinch second place, ahead of Tiziano Rosignoli of Road Runners Cycling Club in third place.

Richardson clocked one hour, 40 minutes, and 33.92 seconds, while Rosignoli crossed the finish line in one hour, 55 minutes, and 36.32 seconds.

Tahje Browne comfortably won the Junior Male category ahead of fellow Wadadli Cycling Academy team-mate Devonte Fran*cont'd on pg 23* 



### **Sports News** PAGE 23 **Liberta and Empire advance** to ABCA's Two-Day final

Cup-holder PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and Empire Nation are through to the final of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Competition.

Both sides advanced to the championship decider after their respective matches in the semi-finals ended in draws over the weekend.

The Black Hawks claimed first innings honours over the Pigotts Crushers in their semi-finals at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The Black Hawks made 239 in 66.5 overs in their first innings after they were sent in to bat.

Kofi James cracked 51 off 42 balls with seven fours and two sixes. Hayden Walsh Jr. chipped in with 29 and Amahl Nathaniel contributed 28.

Demari Benta captured five for 59 and Kadeem Henry picked up two for 36.

Benta then slammed 60 off 67 balls as Pigotts Crushers crashed to 104 all out in 25.2 overs in their first innings. Off-spinner Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall

snapped up four wickets for nine runs and Karima Gore captured three for 25.

The Black Hawks the declared their second innings closed at 91 for five off 15.3 overs when the match ended. Gore struck 43 off 21 balls with eight fours and a six, and Joshua Thomas chipped in with 26. Crushers' captain and off-spinner Elroy Francis Jr. picked up three for 40.

There were no winners on first innings in the drawn affair between Empire Nation and All Saints Pythons at King George in the second semi-finals, which started late on the opening day due to a wet pitch and was interrupted by rain on the second day.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed a century as Empire Nation declared their first innings closed at 271 for nine off 69.4 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Williams struck 122 off 190 balls with 13 fours and three sixes. Zianni Dasilva chipped in with 30 and captain Kenrick Scott contrib-



Empire Nation's opener Tyrone Williams Jr. hits a century against All Saints Pythons in their rain-affected ABCA's Two-Day semi-final match at King George over the weekend. (File photo)

uted 28.

Justin Robinson captured four for 62, Michael Marcellin claimed three for 63 and Emroy Lee picked up two for 38.

In reply, the Pythons

cont'd from pg 22

cis. Browne completed the 44-mile race in two hours, 13 minutes, and 24.18 seconds, while Francis clocked three hours, 10 minutes, and 32.41 seconds.

Dejaun Francis of Wadadli Cycling Academy won the Cadets 14 to 17 Class. Francis completed the 33-mile course in a time of one hour, 43 minutes, and 27.70

seconds.

Elite Thomas of Road Runners Cycling Club won the Cadets 11 to 13 category. Thomas completed the 11-mile course in a time of 46 minutes, and 16.57 seconds.

The Nationals Individual Road Race was also sponsored by Anjo Wholesale, agents for Gatorade, APUA Inet, Subway and Paradiso Water.

were struggling on 43 for four off 7.1 overs when the match ended. Jaeo Benjamin snapped up three wickets for 20 runs.

Empire Nation entered the match as the top seed after finishing at the top of the standings at the end of the preliminary rounds.

All Saints Pythons ended the preliminary rounds as the fourth seed, hence Empire Nation advanced to the final by virtue of being the higher ranked team in the drawn semi-finals affair.





Continue to practice proper hand hygiene by washing your hands and/or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

Wear a mask, especially indoors where physical distancing is not possible.





Choose open, well ventilated spaces over closed ones. Open a window if indoors.

Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.



### Choose to get Vaccinated or boosted.



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





### **Sports News**

Freetown won both matches in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition over the weekend.

Freetown crushed Old Road by 146 runs at Freetown. Delon Wills slammed 46, Kief Baltimore struck 32 and Kenny Drew made 24 to guide Freetown to 200 for eight off 30 overs.

Nayon Knight claimed two for 25 and off-spinner Shamar Pereira took two for 44.

Old Road then crashed to 54 all out with Pereira scoring 14 and Zandan Hobson getting 12. Antowone Willock snapped up four for 11 and Hughan Tonge grabbed four for 22.

Freetown beat Urlings by seven wickets in a rain affected match



at Urlings. Urlings batted first and scored 93 for five off 20 overs. Jedidiah Martin struck 41 and Fitzroy Roberts chipped in with 25. Leftarm pacer Yanique Watley picked up three for 24.

Hughan Tonge cracked an unbeaten 30 and Kief Baltimore hit 23





not out as Freetown achieved victory at 96 for three in 14.3 overs. Darien Benjamin captured three for 16.

But defending champions Police had mixed fortunes. Police beat Mahico by 35 runs at Clare Hall.

Police made 136 for eight in 30 overs. Nevil Nicholls scored 27 and Shawn Walsh made 20 not out. J'quan Athanaze picked up two for 24 and Xaveek Toppin claimed two for 27.

In reply, Mahico crashed to 101 all out in 26 overs. Daren Dunnah made 25. Off-spinner James Cornelius snapped up five wickets for nine runs and leg-spinner Lynton Africa claimed two for 27.

Police then lost by 13 runs against Masters at Clare Hall on Sunday. Masters made 148 for eight off 30 overs. Franklyn Francis struck 36, Marlon Barnes scored 33 and Ian Gore chipped in with 21.

Lashorn Barnarde took three for 36, James Cornelius picked up two for 17 and Malique Gerald claimed two for 36.

Police were then restricted to 135 for five off their 30 overs. Cornelius slammed 43 not out, Nevil Nicholls scored 30 and Shaquille Richards contributed 22.

PAGE 25



### **ABNOC** names national contingent for CAC Games

The Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) has officially announced its contingent for the upcoming 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games, which will be held in San Salvador, El Salvador, from June 23rd to July 8th.

The delegation will be led by Joel Rayne, who will be supported by Cliff Williams, Secretary General of the ABNOC; Tianna Harris, Deputy Chef de Mission and Chaperone; Honourable Paul Chet Greene, President of the ABNOC; and Keston Daley, the team's physiotherapist.

The sporting teams will enter the competition in two waves, with boxing, beach volleyball, and swimming starting from the opening to the end of their competition, on June 29 and athletics and cycling starting from July 1st to the closing on July 8th.

Sprinters Cejhae Greene and Darion Skerritt will comprise the track and field team.

Green currently holds the CAC Games record in the men's 100 meters and is the fastest man to qualify for this year's competition. Skerritt will be competing in the men's 200 meters.

Joella Lloyd, who has qualified in both women's 100m and 200m, is unable to participate in the Games due to an injury that has been affecting her throughout her 2023 season. Heather Samuel-Daley will manage the track and field team.

The male swimming team consists of Jadon Wuilliez, Stefano Mitchell,



Swimmer Ellie Shaw

and Noah Mascoll-Gomes, and the female swimmers are Olivia Fuller and the Junior Sportswoman, Ellie Shaw. The swimming team will be managed by Nelson Molina Fojo.

The Boxing team will be represented by Pan American bronze medalist Alston Ryan and will be managed by Mr. Rolston Ryan.

Beach volleyball will be represented in both male and female disciplines by Dwight Bonnie and Cairon Davis and Josanne Lewis and Zellene Edwards, respectively. Olsen Joseph will be managing the team.

The sailing team will be represented by Jules Mitchell, who is the Na-



Boxer Alston Ryan

tional Laser Champion. Olympian Jelese Gordon will be the nation's female representative on the sailing team. The sailing team will be managed by Vincent Anfi.

The cycling team will be represented by Emanuel Gayral, who will be competing in the individual time trial and road races. The manager is the President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation, St. Clair Williams.

Antigua and Barbuda's male and female flag bearers will be Alston Ryan and Ellie Shaw.

Editor: Everton Barnes. Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua (268) 562-4989 Editorials and Reporting: evertonbarnes55@gmail.com; advertising: Sales@pointville.ag.