

TUESDAY 27TH JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 122 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

QUARRY WORKER HOSPITALIZED AFTER EXPLOSION

Story on Page 2



BURN VICTIM

Local News



Government quarry worker hospitalized following an explosion at Burma Quarry

An employee of the Ministry of Works has been warded at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre with multiple burns to his body, following an accidental explosion at the Burma Quarry.

Director of Works, Alden Crump, has confirmed that the explosion took place following what appeared to be an attempt to remove remnants of used, explosive materials that

were being stored in a cooler.

He said he visited the victim at the hospital and noted that there were burns to the man's face, as well as to parts of his body.

He noted that the injuries do not appear to be life-threatening.

He, however, expressed concern about the frequency of accidents in the department that have resulted in injuries. "We

are going to have to get assistance from the folks at the Health and Safety Units to work with us to devise methodologies to prevent these accidents from happening.

"Within the last several weeks, there have been three different types of accidents that have happened including the one this morning," he reported.

The other two accidents referred to a worker

being trapped on a conveyor belt and in the third case a worker received an electrical shock.

Crump noted, that whilst so far, there has been no loss of life, the frequency of these mishaps is now cause for concern.

Up to news time last night, Crump was on his way to get an update on the injured worker. The man's identity has not been released.

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Antigua and Barbuda leads “historic” declaration by CARICOM and Central American countries

An historic “first” was recorded at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) when 20 countries, drawn from Central America and the Caribbean, issued a joint declaration, calling on international financial and development institutions “to prioritize the provision of funds and resources to support the efforts of Central America and the Caribbean in addressing climate change, recognizing the urgency and magnitude of the challenges faced by these regions.”

The original declaration was drafted by Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States and the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders, who also presented the declaration on behalf of the 20 Caribbean and Central American countries after securing unanimous support.

Ambassador Sanders explained



Sir Ronald Sanders

that, hitherto, the countries of Central America and the Caribbean at the OAS had never joined together, to express their shared concern about the evident heating-up of the planet. “Now, they have not only let the world know of their joint worry, but they have also collectively called for action.”

The joint declaration calls for international financial and development institutions to prioritize the provision of funds and resources to Central

America and the Caribbean, “recognizing the urgency and magnitude of the challenges faced by these regions, in building resilience to Climate Change.”

Sir Ronald said that while small island developing states have been making their voices heard at meetings of the UN Committee of the Parties (COP) at many Climate Change meetings, there is a need to widen the alliance of states which are jointly seeking remedies for loss and damage to their economies and the livelihoods of their people.

The 20 countries that made the joint declaration at the OAS General Assembly on June 21, were the 14 independent states of CARICOM and six Central American countries – Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Panama.

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Local News

A Carnival first: UWI FIC scholarships for top three Teenage Pageant winners

It will be a history-making moment for the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission and the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC), with the awarding this year, of scholarships for the top three winners of the Mr. and Miss Teen Pageant competition.

This comes out of the collaboration between the Festivals Commission and UWI FIC the titled sponsor of this show, which highlights the talents of young people from the nation's secondary schools.

"As you know, the UWI FIC is the fourth landed campus of the UWI in the Caribbean, it is home-grown and we are happy that they recognize the importance of this partnership, as the individuals who are entering this pageant are young people between the ages of 14 and 18 years, and as many are leaving secondary school the main question is, what is the next step?" Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Education and Creative Industries, Senator Shenella Govia stated.

"It was against this background," she continued, "that the Festivals Commission reached out



to the UWI FIC, and the institution immediately responded in the affirmative."

UWI FIC Marketing Manager, Shavar Maloney recalled that both himself and the Principal, Professor Densil A. Williams were invited to a meeting with Minister Daryll Matthew, Senator Govia, and the chairperson of the Festivals Commission, Ambassador Elizabeth Makhoul. It was out of that meeting, that it was agreed to name the UWI FIC as the titled sponsor for the pageant.

"Ultimately, when we looked at it, it was the kind of relationship that can

work for both parties. We have to invest in youth and I think that when you look at the Teenage Pageant and you look at what our young people are doing, you need to have that positive avenue for them to channel that energy. The Teenage Pageant is unique to Antigua's Carnival, and you need that avenue for support, as teenagers get involved, schools get involved, and parents get involved as well," he declared.

Additionally, Maloney said if one looks back at where former Teenage pageant participants are today, it speaks powerfully to the long-term benefits of

the show. Many, he noted are doctors, businessmen, and women, while others hold important positions throughout the public and private sectors.

Senator Govia said the scholarships for the top three pageant winners will be full degrees at the UWI FIC. "Many times, winners receive gifts that last for a short time, but the gift of education lasts for a lifetime," she remarked.

She noted that being the titled sponsor of a show catering to young people also helps the university to fully integrate within the Antigua and Barbuda society.

Fourteen Contestants to compete in the Mr. and Miss Teenage Pageant 2023

Fourteen young people from ten secondary schools are participating in the Mr. and Miss Teenage Pageant show as part of Antigua Carnival, 2023.

The show is returning to the Carnival programme after a break of a few years due to the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

Head of the Pageant Committee, Heidi-Gail Brancker said the show's theme is 'evolution ignited,' carded for July 22 at the Antigua Recreation Grounds, to be transformed into Carnival City.

"There will be five judged segments this year. These are the Introductory Speech, Talent, Cultural Personality, Uniform Evolution, and Interview. This year we have an unusual thing happening where we have more male contestants than females; this is not normally the case. We are, however, happy to see our young males engaged in something positive, especially in light of the recent upsurge in youth violence," Brancker remarked.

She added that the committee has added two new segments to help unearth the creativity of the contestants. One new segment is called, Cultural Personality. "This is to let our contestants do

some research into someone in the cultural sphere who may have made a significant contribution to the creatives but who remain largely unrecognised. The other new segment is Uniform Evolution where we are asking the contestants to come

up with creative ideas on how they see their schools' uniforms evolving over the next decade," she explained.

The schools that will be represented this year with two contestants each are Clare Hall Secondary, St. Mary's Secondary, Ot-

tos Comprehensive, and St. Anthony's Secondary. The schools with one contestant each are St. Joseph's Academy, Antigua Grammar School, Island Academy, Sir Novelle Richards Academy, Princess Margaret School, and Jennings Secondary.



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Local News



The Ministry of Education to hold creative writing competition

The Ministry of Education will host the second installment of the Creative Writing Challenge for students across all schools in Antigua and Barbuda.

A ministry release said all students between the ages of 4 to 17 years are invited to participate in what it terms 'this exciting journey into the beauty of authentic writing.'

According to the release, the challenge is divided into three age categories and students may submit their works in any genre of the writer's choice: prose, poetry, or drama. The participants are also allowed to select their preferred target audience for their submissions.

The ministry has provided a list of categories, as well as possible topics

for the students. However, it added that students have the right, if they wish, to write on topics or subject matters of their choosing.

The challenge is broken down into the following categories, 4 to 9 years: 60-120 words, 10 to 13 years: 120-250 words, and 14 to 17 years: 250-400 words.

Colin 'Scrum Pum' Edwards granted bail on fraud charges

Popular local personality, Colin 'Scrum Pum' Edwards, has been granted bail after being charged with larceny and fraudulent conversion.

The police are alleging that Edwards misappropriated over EC\$80,000 meant for a land transaction.

Edwards, an employee of the Ministry of Works, appeared in court and was granted bail of \$80,000, with a \$10,000 cash component.

He will return to court on August 24 for commitment proceedings.

In another case, Eldridge 'Drury' Martin has been granted bail for allegedly selling a parcel of land, that does not belong to him, to an estimated 30 persons, over a thirty-year period.

He is charged with thirteen counts of fraudulent conversion, thirteen counts of obtaining credit by fraud, and one count of

larceny in the amount of over \$65 thousand.

The police were alerted after Martin attempted to 'sell' a parcel of land to

an elderly woman. He even took her to see the land and advised her to fence it.

The woman later found out that the land belonged

to a nearby church.

Court records show that Martin has been attempting to sell the land since the 1990s.

Family appeals to missing teenage girl to return home

The family of 15-year-old Melissa Williams of Bendals is appealing to her to return home.

The Fourth Form student reportedly left her parent's home on June 24 and has not been seen since.

Her parents are concerned for her safety and well-being and are asking the public for assistance in knowing her whereabouts.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.



GNFC players return from CAF-sponsored UK scholarship football trials at Brooke House College

The four young Generation Next FC footballers, who were afforded the opportunity to participate in scholarship trials at Brooke House College in the United Kingdom, returned home over the weekend to resounding cheers and applause from family, friends, and supporters. They were accompanied by GNFC Head of Coaching, Desmond “Zico” Bleau, and Vincent “Nabo” Samuel, who also had the chance to upgrade their coaching expertise by interfacing with the Brooke House coaching staff.

The twelve-day trip, which was sponsored by the Calvin Ayre Foundation, saw 15-year-old O’Niah Blair, 13-year-old Joshua Henriques, 12-year-old Ethan Camacho, and 11-year-old Ethan Barton, involved in strength training, conditioning, and other technical aspects of the sport, as well as playing in an official match, where Brooke House College



GNFC supporters

emerged the winner.

The players slept and had their meals on the college campus, which gave them the first-hand experience of life away from home at an international soccer academy.

According to Managing Director and owner of Brooke House, Giles Williams, the college will also be identifying one of the young footballers for a full scholarship to attend St. Anthony’s Secondary School, as well as a full scholarship to Brooke House upon com-

pletion of their high school education. Williams also elaborated that, during their secondary school tenure, the scholarship recipient will travel to Brooke House once a year, for training.

Head Coach of GNFC,

Desmond “Zico” Bleau said, “I want to give kudos to Jamilla and her team at the Calvin Ayre Foundation for making this coaching exchange and player tryout possible. It was an incred-

cont’d on pg 8

NOTICE

TO: HER WORSHIP

The Licensing Magistrate
Magistrate’s Court
Gray’s Farm
St. John’s
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE

Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John’s
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS
Jakayla’s Retail & Snack

I, Latoya Nanton, DO HEREBY GIVE NOITCE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Grays Farm, St. John’s Antigua on Thursday 6th July, 2023 next ensuing for a Bottle license in respect of premises known as “Jakayla’s Retail & Snack” situated at Cedar Grove, in the Parish of St. John’s, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 1st day of June, 2023

.....
Latoya Nanton
268-722-2082



Giles Williams - Managing Director, Owner Brooke House College

Local News



Rufilo Camacho - Father, Ethan Camacho

cont'd from pg 7

ible, eye-opening experience. Our boys fit right in and held their own, so that spoke volumes about their talents and the work that coaches in Antigua are doing in terms of preparing

our players. They now have an idea of what football is like outside of the country.”

Bleau also said that he hopes this UK trial will be an annual experience, where future players can be identified, and other coaches can



GNFC Return Group Shot with CAF Rep

glean more insight into the operation and structure of an elite soccer academy.

Despite the challenge of being in a new place and interfacing with new players, all four players expressed that the trip was a positive

and fun experience for them.

Media Relations Specialist for CAF, Jamilla Kirwan, who also witnessed the boys during some of the training sessions in the UK, said being on the ground to see the boys in a new environment, fitting in seamlessly and playing on par with their UK colleagues, was a wonderful experience. She said that the Calvin Ayre Foundation is pleased to be partnering with GNFC and Brooke House College, as the tangible benefits the young players and coaches received, will pave the way for future scholarship opportunities for young Antiguan and Barbudan footballers.”

Rufilo Camacho, the father of Ethan Camacho, expressed his gratitude to Generation Next - where Ethan has been a member for 7 years – as well as the Calvin Ayre Foundation and Brooke House College for making the trip a possibility.

“I see it as a potentially life-changing opportunity,” he said. “We are hoping that this will open doors for other players.”



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- Assists with the preparation of annual budgets;
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Barbados PM joins the fight for shake-up of global climate finance

By Justin Rowlett

World leaders meeting in Paris on Thursday could give poorer countries access to hundreds of billions of dollars to tackle climate change.

Mia Mottley, Barbados' first female PM, is leading the global fight for this money and tells BBC News that her tiny country urgently needs help.

Poorer nations want more money because they did little to cause climate change but face its worst effects.

They also struggle to afford expensive projects like renewable energy.

Climate finance, including funding for flood defences or solar plants, has long been one of the biggest sticking points in climate



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley says rich nations must help developing countries pay for impacts of climate change.

negotiations.

But Ms Mottley has built a global coalition to support her demand that the international financial system be fundamentally reformed.

"We are all in this together", Ms Mottley told

BBC News in Paris. "If we don't realise that, we will not act with the urgency that's necessary to save the planet and save lives."

The Barbadian prime minister is joint host of the Paris conference with President Emmanuel Macron of France.

Dozens of world leaders are attending the Summit for a New Global Financing Pact, including the German Chancellor, the president of Brazil and the new president of the World Bank as well as the prime minister of China and the US Treasury Secretary.

The UK is sending its minister for development, Andrew Mitchell.

Ms Mottley is determined the meeting deliver results.

She describes the threat of climate change as "a

death sentence" on the world. "If it is a death sentence, then we need to move with urgency," she explains.

Insiders at the summit are expecting an announcement that a target for \$100bn worth of a kind of international currency called Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) has been met.

These assets will be transferred to low-income countries to be used for climate programmes.

But Ms Mottley has an even bigger prize in her sights, a plan dubbed the "Bridgetown Agenda" after the Barbadian capital.

It wants to generate more finance for the countries that need it most through a wholesale modernisation of the international monetary system.

The current institutions
cont'd on pg 12

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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.**

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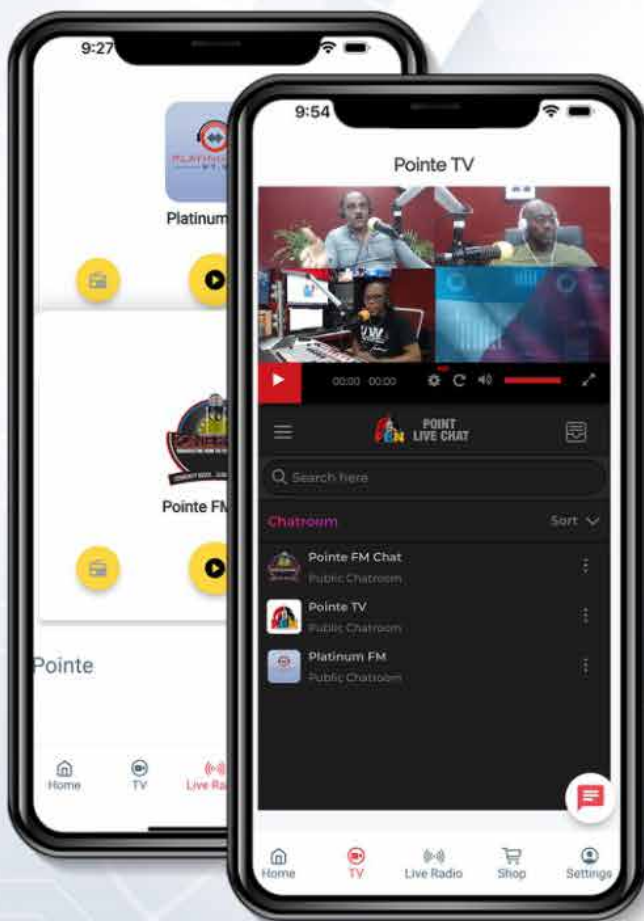
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Environment



cont'd from pg 10

- including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) - were set up by the victorious nations towards the end of the Second World War at a conference in a ski resort called Bretton Woods in New Hampshire, US

The so-called "Bretton Woods system" will celebrate its 80th anniversary next year.

Ms Mottley says she wants to make it fit for the challenges of the modern world by moving the focus away from richer nations

and towards delivering outcomes that benefit the entire world, like helping developing countries tackle climate change.

"The reason why these institutions exist is that they were created to help the world in the reconstruction effort after World War Two. We are in a moment that is equal to World War Two with respect to climate," she said.

This week the International Energy Agency warned annual investments in clean energy in developing nations will need to

triple from \$770bn in 2022 to as much as \$2.8tn by the early 2030s if the world is to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

One proposal is that institutions like the World Bank offer cheaper loans for climate action projects.

It is much more expensive to build flood defences in Barbados or Angola than it is in the Netherlands or the UK, Ms Mottley points out.

The same goes for erecting wind turbines or installing solar farms.

That is because low-in-

come countries are charged high interest rates - often two or even three times the rates developed nations face.

Yet the risks of individual projects don't vary anywhere near as much as that.

Another suggestion is that institutions like the World Bank should agree to guarantee loans for climate action in developing nations. That would encourage the private sector to lend at lower interest rates.

Experts say these initiatives could generate hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of loans for climate projects in low-income countries.

Another proposal involves the creation of an auction in which developing nations would bid for cheap finance for climate projects.

This "Climate Mitigation Trust Fund" would be funded by tens of billions of dollars' worth of SDRs and overseen by the IMF and the UN.

The winners would be the projects that reduce global warming fastest.

It is not expected that a final decision will be made on these proposals, but Ms Mottley is confident that progress will be made.

We tell our children we shouldn't put off to tomorrow what we need to do today, Ms Mottley says.

"I find myself actually repeating a lot of things that we would say to children, in order to inform global behaviour today," she continues. "That tells us a lot."

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Business

UK supermarkets under pressure to explain high prices

By Lucy Hooker

Supermarket executives will be questioned by MPs on Tuesday over why food prices are still rising as some wholesale costs are falling.

The UK's biggest grocers - Tesco, Sainsbury's, Asda and Morrisons - will face a parliamentary committee examining the cost of a weekly shop.

The price of goods continues to grow but not as steeply as in recent months, according to the latest figures.

Food inflation reached 14.6% in June the British Retail Consortium said.

That is down from 15.4% in the year to May.

British Retail Consortium chief executive Helen Dickinson said: "If the current situation continues, food inflation should drop to single digits later this year."

However, food prices remain a key reason why the overall rate of inflation in the UK remains stubbornly high.

And with many hard-pressed households also facing rising rents or mortgage costs, there is pressure on the supermarkets to defend the stubbornly high cost of shopping.

On Tuesday, MPs will grill senior supermarket bosses about food and fuel price inflation, asking if prices will come down this year.



Politicians, trades unionists and the Governor of the Bank of England have all questioned why prices on supermarket shelves have not fallen as rapidly as the cost of some ingredients such as wheat.

They have suggested that retailers may be failing to pass on savings and are banking the profit instead.

The Competition and Markets Authority is examining the issue.

Supermarkets deny they are profiteering from high prices and claim their profits are being squeezed.

The grocers say they are cutting prices where they can, arguing falls in commodity prices take time to filter through to the consumer.

Most of the big chains have recently introduced high profile price cuts to staples, with Sainsbury's

on Monday the latest to announce it was investing £15m to reduce the cost of basics such as rice, pasta and chicken.

Tesco, Morrisons, M&S, Aldi and Lidl have all reduced prices on basic foods such as bread, milk and butter in the past few months.

However, some items such as milk and eggs remain relatively expensive compared to pre-Covid prices.

"These latest price cuts will help reassure customers that we will continue to pass on savings as soon as we see the wholesale price of food fall," said Rhian Bartlett, food commercial director at Sainsbury's, and one of the executives due to appear before MPs on Tuesday.

As well as pointing to recent price cuts, the executives are likely to tell the committee that not all com-

modities have been falling in price, said Ged Futter, a retail analyst and former senior buying manager at Asda.

"Yes, prices have come down for some things, but other things have gone up like sugar, potatoes [and] chocolate," he said.

Severe weather has meant lower supplies of potatoes, carrots and onions grown in the UK, meaning more have had to be imported.

Wheat, which has fallen in price on global markets, is largely supplied from UK growers, and food manufacturers will still be buying last year's crop at last year's prices, Mr Futter said.

"They won't get a new price until they get into a new contract. Just because prices have gone down globally that doesn't mean

cont'd on pg 15

Police warn Android phone users over 999 call feature

By Chris Vallance

Police forces across the UK have warned that a new feature on some Android phones is plaguing switchboards with inadvertent “silent” 999 calls.

The Emergency SOS feature calls when a side button is pressed repeatedly.

Police chiefs have said they think it is part of the reason for record numbers of 999 calls.

Google, which develops the most widely used Android phone software, says it expects manufacturers to issue updates to address the problem.

Smartphones that run on Android operating systems include Samsung’s Galaxy, Google’s Pixel and OnePlus handsets.

The National Police Chiefs Council said the new update to Android software “added a new SOS emergency function for devices to call 999 through the power button being pressed five times or more”.

“Nationally, all emergency services are currently ex-



periencing record high 999 call volumes. There’s a few reasons for this, but one we think is having a significant impact is an update to Android smartphones.”

Devon and Cornwall Police said silent calls took 20 minutes to deal with. They urged people who accidentally dialled 999 to stay on the line and tell the operator it was a mistake.

The force told the BBC it had received 169 silent 999 calls between 00:00 and 19:00 BST on Sunday alone.

Police Scotland said BT had reported “a significant increase in accidental calls to

999”.

While the feature was included in Android 12 in 2021, many have reported particular issues since the update to Android 13 last year.

Guidance on how to disable the feature can be found on manufacturers’ websites, with most handsets allowing users to turn off the emergency SOS call option in their settings.

This can typically be accessed by visiting safety and emergency options in settings and tapping the Emergency SOS toggle to “off”, or by searching for “emergency call” in settings.

The problem is not confined to the UK. At the start of June, the European Emergency Number Association warned that it had been alerted by some of its members to a “surge in automatic false calls originating from Android devices”.

A Google spokesperson told the BBC it was up to manufacturers who choose to offer Emergency SOS on their devices to manage how the feature worked on their phones.

“To help these manufacturers prevent unintentional emergency calls on their devices, Android is providing them with additional guidance and resources,” they said.

“We anticipate device manufacturers will roll out updates to their users that address this issue shortly. Users that continue to experience this issue should switch Emergency SOS off for the next couple of days.”

cont’d from pg 14

the price here goes down immediately,” he said.

Similarly, cheese sold today has been made with milk bought up to 12 months ago, so won’t reflect recent falls in milk prices, he said.

The British Retail Consortium has previously said there is typically a three- to nine-month lag for price falls to be reflect-

ed in shops.

Mr Futter thinks supermarket executives will point to other costs affecting food retail, from rising wages to the added charges related to Brexit, such as veterinary certificates.

A study by academics at the London School of Economics last month found nearly a third of food price inflation since 2019 was due to Brexit.

Barbados mourns passing of former prime minister

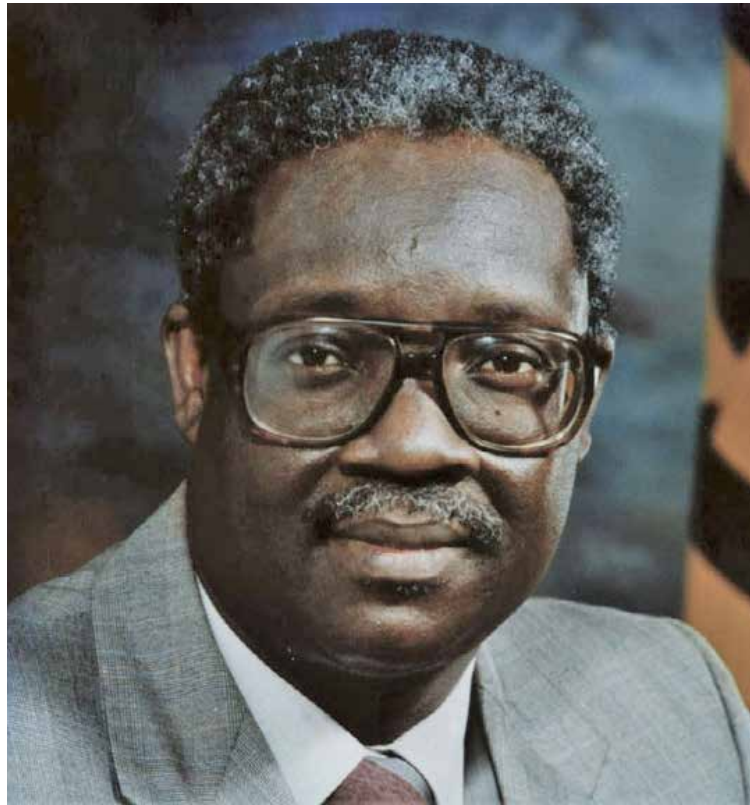
CMC - Prime Minister Mia Mottley has praised the contribution of former prime minister Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford, who died on Monday at the age of 86, describing him as a true statesman who served Barbados with honour and the wider Caribbean with distinction.

In a brief statement on its official Facebook page, the main opposition Democratic Labour Party (DLP), which Sandiford headed, noted his passing adding that the DLP “family mourns the passing of Sir Lloyd, 1937–2023, former Prime Minister of Barbados and Leader of the Democratic Labour Party.

“His Lord said unto him, “Well done, good and faithful servant...Condolences to Sir Lloyd’s family. May he rest in peace,” it said.

Before ascending to the highest political office on the death of Prime Minister Errol Barrow on June 1, 1987, Sir Lloyd had long been credited as the most significant post-independence education minister, particularly in developing the Barbados Community College and opening new primary and secondary schools.

His brainchild, the development of Sherbourne as a national examination



Former Prime Minister of Barbados, Sir Lloyd Erskine Sandiford. Photo: BGIS Library.

centre, eventually became the island’s premier convention centre, which bears his name.

In her tribute, Mottley, who is on an official visit to China, said “again, it is with a sense of deep sadness, that I say goodbye to yet another Barbadian nation builder, a true statesman, and without doubt a through and through gentleman of post- Independence Barbadian politics”.

Mottley said in her statement, said the former prime minister, who served as Barbados fourth head of government from 1987 to 1994, had the distinction of maintaining a political

career of more than three decades without a single instance in which bad behaviour or the use of the robust language and colourful metaphors so common to Caribbean politics has been attached to his name.

“In fact, those who knew him well might argue that the only feature of his personality that could have possibly rivalled his ever-gentle spirit, was his capacity to take a position on any matter and remain resolute and unmoved, even in the face of the most unrelenting pressure. Sir Lloyd was what Bajans would respectfully

describe as, ‘his own man’ at all times.”

She said no review of Sir Lloyd’s sterling contribution to Barbados would be complete without a tribute to his leadership of the Ministry of Education, adding that his tenure included the establishment of the Barbados Community College, an institution at which he not only subsequently taught, but which has changed the future of thousands of Barbadian young people.

Mottley said that it is “ironic that as I issue this statement, I am in China” where Sandiford served as the country’s first resident ambassador in Beijing from 2010 to 2013.

“Sir Lloyd demonstrated his magnanimity of character and dedication to public service by agreeing, having completed service as Prime Minister, to once again serve this country as Barbados’ first resident Ambassador to China. “Sir Lloyd was also a genuine and dedicated regionalist and as Prime Minister, he took the decision to take Barbados deeper into the regional integration process by signing on to the Grand Anse Declaration, which eventually led to the establishment of the Single Market and Single Economy,” she added.

Guyana: Anti-narcotics agents to be dismissed for larceny

CMC - Head of the Guyana Customs Anti-Narcotics Unit (CANU) James Singh said the two agents arrested for allegedly stealing a quantity of diamonds from a Surinamese man in custody, would be dismissed once they are charged.

"We are preparing their exit from the unit since the police are going to institute charges," Mr Singh told Demerara Waves Online News, adding that they would be dismissed in keeping with the provisions of their employment.

Police on Sunday said agent Jamine Goddard excreted two diamonds and his colleague, Annick Hossanah, allegedly sold other pieces of diamonds to another man, whom police say they are yet to arrest.

The men are accused of committing simple larceny.

In a statement on Sunday, Singh



acknowledged that the alleged theft was "embarrassing" and hoped that the "courts will ensure justice is done".

The CANU chief thanked the Criminal Investigations Department of the Guyana Police Force for bringing the matter to a close and has dissociated his law enforcement agency from Goddard

and Hossanah.

"These officers made their choices. Their actions do not reflect those of our organisation," he said adding that, "CANU remains committed to carrying out its mandate and combatting drug trafficking and any other crimes within Guyana, even within our unit."

SVG conducts social assessment in aftermath of Tropical Storm Bret

Loop - St. Vincent and the Grenadines has begun its social assessment on the ground in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Bret which caused minor damage to the island.

This is to ensure social safety measures are in place for affected families, including children and women.

The Ministry of National Mobilisation and Security conducted social assessments of households over the weekend with eight teams being deployed on both the Windward and Leeward ends of the country.



Officials visit affected communities in SVG to conduct social assessments following Tropical Storm Bret. (Photo credit: API)

Communities which Rose Bank, Rose Hall, Chateaubelair and Fitz Hughes were heavily impacted during Bret included Spring Village, on the Leeward end of the

country and on the Windward side of the island, Chester Cottage, Colonaire, Parkhill, Georgetown and Owia.

St Vincent and the Grenadines was one of the Caribbean countries affected by Tropical Storm Bret. According to the National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) one house was destroyed, two house roofs were blown off, three significantly damaged and one house washed away. A small craft was also washed away at Owia.

The island also suffered power outages.

Cyclone-hit areas reel after Myanmar army blocks aid

BBC - Millions who survived Myanmar's strongest cyclone are now struggling to rebuild their lives after the government cut off access to affected areas, including for aid groups.

The move has "turned an extreme weather event into a man-made catastrophe," Human Rights Watch has said.

Cyclone Mocha hit on 14 May, wreaking havoc and killing hundreds.

The BBC spoke to families who are reeling from dwindling aid a month after their homes were destroyed.

There isn't enough water or food, and finding either has been much harder with the monsoon under way, says Aye Kyawt Phyu, who lives in Sittwe, the capital of Rakhine state, which was ravaged by the storm. "It's raining all week. We are struggling every day. The children are studying in a school with no roof."

"When the storm hit, all the houses collapsed. There is nowhere to stay," said San San Htay, who also lives in Sittwe. "When it rains now, I am sitting in the rain. I can't even sleep."

Only a fraction of damaged homes have been repaired, the UN's humanitarian office said. The junta says the cyclone killed 145 people, but the clandestine National Unity Government estimates that the toll was closer to 500. The Arakan Army, an ethnic insurgent group in Rakhine, said that the storm destroyed more than 2,000 villages and 280,000 homes in the state.

Of the 5.4 million people in Myanmar who were in Cyclone Mocha's path, nearly 3.2 million are considered "most vulnerable" according to the UN. Rakhine, where Aye Kyawt Phyu and San San Htay live, is one of the country's poorest states. Some 78% of its population lived below the poverty line as of 2019, according to the World Bank's last estimate.



Cyclone Mocha was the strongest storm recorded in the north of the Indian Ocean.

"We want Myanmar's government to allow aid from outside," says Aye Kyawt Phyu. In the immediate weeks after the storm, she says they received some rice, clean water and oil from outside.

Aid kept trickling in until 8 June, when Myanmar's army rulers, or junta as they are known, banned transportation for aid groups operating in the area, making it impossible for them to deliver aid.

Officials never explained why they did this. But a Rakhine government spokesman told local media that they wanted to manage the distribution of aid, which he claimed had not been administered fairly.

"NGOs are only interested in helping the Muslim community," he was quoted as saying. This is a reference to the Muslim Rohingya community, the majority of whom live in Rakhine.

Successive governments in Myanmar, a predominantly Buddhist country, have denied the Rohingya citizenship and see them as unauthorised immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh. The UN estimates that more than half a million of them still live in northern Rakhine, although many have fled the

country because of persecution.

The spokesman alleged that, "Even though these international groups say they are donating to Mocha [victims], frankly speaking, the Rakhine community does not receive it."

Aid groups have not responded to the allegation, but told the BBC that the Rohingya's ethnicity could have played a role in the decision.

"It is certainly our experience that the Myanmar military puts significant barriers... [on our efforts] to help Rohingya and have actively diminished the human rights of the communities," said Claire Gibbons from Partners Relief & Development, a non-profit group that works in Myanmar.

Rohingyas in Rakhine say life in the aftermath of the cyclone has been extremely difficult. There has also been a decades-long conflict between the Buddhist-majority Rakhine ethnic group and the Rohingya.

"All our houses were destroyed, and some people are living in tents near the sea while others are in their damaged houses," said Khadija, who wished to use a pseudonym. She lives in a coastal village called Dapaing.

cont'd on pg 19

Woman jailed in Germany for keeping Yazidi woman as slave

By Kathryn Armstrong

A German woman who joined the Islamic State (IS) group has been jailed for nine years for crimes including keeping a Yazidi woman as a slave.

The defendant was also found guilty of crimes against humanity and membership of a foreign terrorist organisation.

A court in the western city of Koblenz said the 37-year-old had abused the young Yazidi woman for three years while they lived in Syria and Iraq.

It also found she had encouraged her husband to rape and beat the woman.

"All of this served the declared purpose of IS, to wipe out the Yazidi faith," said prosecutors at the start of the trial in January.

In 2014, IS fighters stormed into the ancestral homeland of the Yazidi religious minority in northern Iraq's Sinjar region and launched what the UN has



There have been a number of trials in Germany involving women who travelled to Iraq and Syria to join the Islamic State group (file image).

said was a genocidal campaign.

Thousands of men and boys over the age of 12 were summarily killed after being given the ultimatum to convert or die. Some 7,000 women and girls were enslaved and subjected to brutal abuses.

Among them was the young woman whom prosecutors said the accused, named as Nadine K, and her husband used as a slave

from 2016, when they moved to the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

They had travelled to Syria to join IS a year earlier and later moved back there with the woman, who was in her early 20s at the time.

In March 2019, Nadine K and her family were captured by Kurdish forces in Syria. She was arrested last year after being repatriated to Germany.

During her trial, the accused denied coercing the Yazidi woman but said she should have done more for her.

The victim, who was freed in 2019, testified in Nadine K's trial in February and was present for Wednesday's verdict.

Her lawyer said her client hoped that all of those who had committed similar crimes would be brought to justice, according to the Associated Press news agency.

There have been a number of trials in Germany recently involving former IS members accused of killing or abusing Yazidis.

In October 2021, a woman was jailed for 10 years over the killing of a Yazidi girl she and her husband had bought as a slave.

A month later, a German court issued the first worldwide ruling that recognised crimes by IS against the Yazidi people as genocide.

cont'd from pg 18

Since the cyclone, many locals, including women in labour, have died on the way to hospital because it often took time to find transport, she added.

This is not the first time the junta has suspended aid. They did the same in the aftermath of Cyclone Nargis in 2008, when more than 100,000 people were killed.

Ms Gibbons said another possible reason for the army to do so again was that it preferred to control the flow of humanitarian aid to the heavily sanc-

tioned country.

"They also aim to benefit from aid support, as they did when Cyclone Nargis struck. Some of the aid received from different countries ended up in the market, allowing them to make money from it," she said.

In the wake of the latest ban, there have been calls for international NGOs to reduce what some have called their "overreliance" on the junta, which they say has hampered the international response to the cyclone.

Local aid workers say international

groups should instead work more closely with locals who have more boots on the ground - some even suggest the armed resistance groups as possible partners. The Arakan Army, for instance, has established its own humanitarian wing in response to the cyclone.

Meanwhile, Khadija and other cyclone survivors continue to live with uncertainty over when help will arrive.

"We don't know what will happen to us in this very difficult time," she says. "We don't know if we will keep living with hunger, or die."

Masked political protesters jailed for factory attack

BBC - Pro-Palestinian protesters who caused hundreds of thousands of pounds of damage to an electronics plant they believed was making circuit boards for Israeli drones have been jailed.

Teledyne Labtech, in Presteigne, Powys was targeted in December 2022.

Activists in red suits and balaclavas smashed windows, daubed red paint on walls and drilled holes in the roof.

They also used crowbars to destroy office equipment and they also covered a memorial to a staff member in paint.

Susan Bagshaw, 55, of Commings Coch, in Powys; Morwenna Grey, 42, of Machynlleth, Powys; Tristan Dixon, 34, of Huddersfield, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit criminal damage.

Ruth Hogg, 40, of Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, was found guilty of the same charge after a trial in Caernarfon in May.

Hogg was jailed for 27 months, while the other three were sentenced to 23 months each at Mold Crown Court on Monday.

Judge Rhys Rowlands told the court the group caused “wanton damage” at the factory.

It heard workers were in the canteen on the morning of 9 December when they heard breaking glass, as Bagshaw and Grey broke windows to get in.

Once inside, the two women, wearing boiler suits and balaclavas, smashed computer screens, sprayed paint on the walls and floors, and set off smoke bombs.

Hogg and Dixon were then found drilling and sawing on the roof and smashing skylights.



Red paint was daubed across the factory.

A banner in support of Palestine was unfurled across the side of the factory.

Elen Owen, prosecuting, told the court there was evidence of planning and premeditation by the group.

She said they caused fear and distress to staff adding that one said he feared for his life.

The combined cost of the damage and consequential costs such as security measures, totalled about £1.2m she said.

The factory, which employed 64 people at the time, was closed for about three weeks for the clean-up and repairs.

In a victim impact statement, the firm's general manager, Adele MacLachlan, said there was anger about “misinformation” surrounding what Teledyne Labtech manufactured.

It made, she said, circuit boards for applications, like inflight entertainment antennae, MRI scanners and radar.

Judge Rowlands said though they believed the company was involved in the manufacture of arms used by Israel against Palestinians, there were no se-

curity fences or guards at the factory, which made it “a very unlikely candidate for ties with arms industry”.

He said the group carried out “a sea of vandalism” and a “significant” degree of costly damage.

He also said: “There was a high degree of planning and premeditation and intention to cause a high degree of damage.”

There were a number of aggravating features to the case, he said, including that it was a group action which posed a risk to others, and workers and the emergency services were inconvenienced.

He accepted all four had shown a degree of remorse for their actions and had said in letters to the court that they would not carry out such action again.

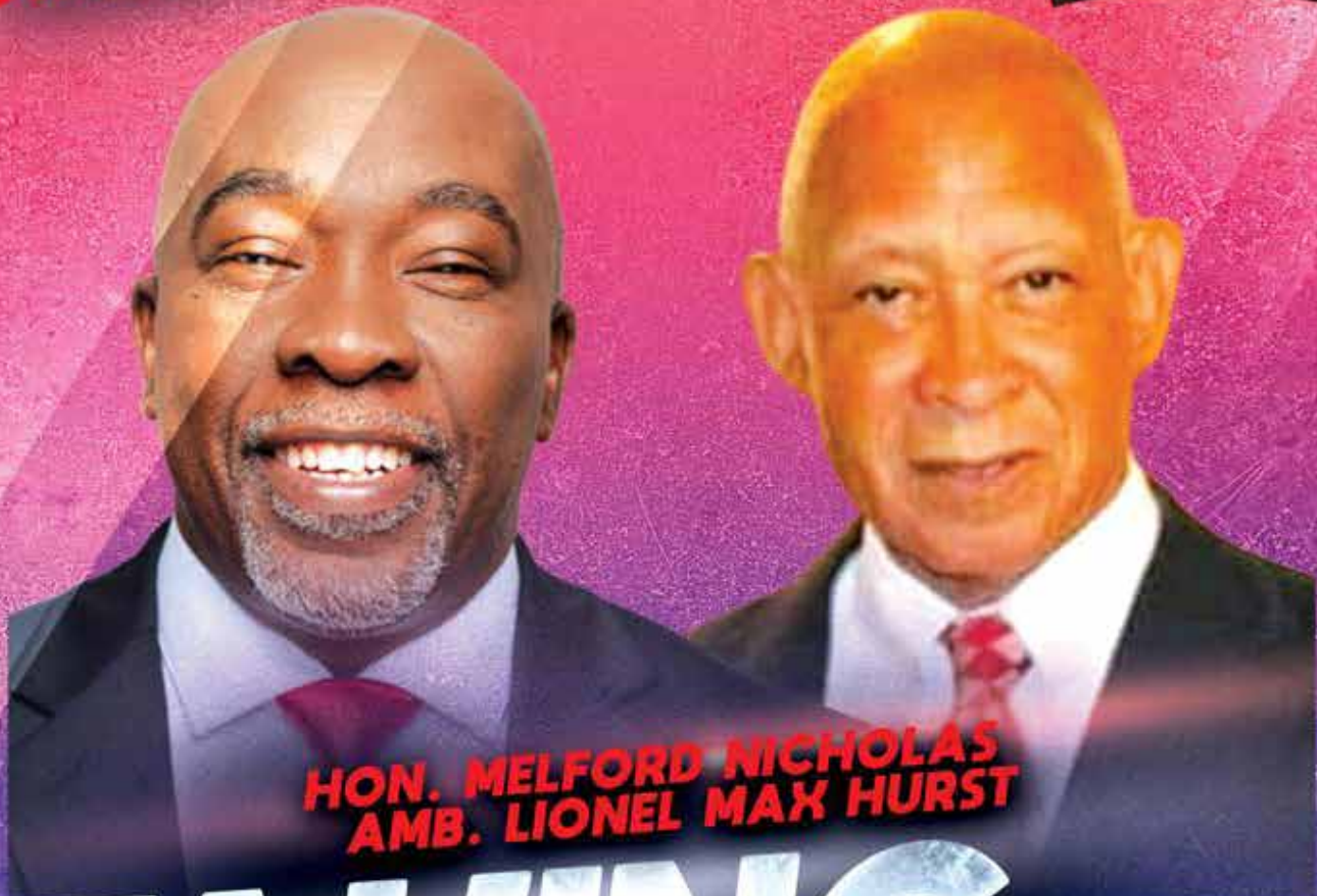
But he said contrition in Hogg's case was “hollow” given that she pleaded not guilty.

He said the action they took was “very far from the generality of direct action cases... it involved extreme behaviour and violence.”

“Your intention was to put the factory out of action for as long as you could.”



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Sports News



CWI announce new Caribbean broadcast partnership with RUSH Sports

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced a new two-year Caribbean broadcast rights agreement with RUSH Sports for the

LIVE coverage of all West Indies Men's and Women's international matches played at home.

The new exciting two-

year partnership will allow for fans to watch the live broadcast via RUSH Sports cable channels which are also available exclusive-

ly live through the Flow Sports and Sportsmax apps.

The partnership commences with the West Indies Women vs Ireland Women CG United One Day International (ODI) Series and West Indies T20 International (T20I) Series, which started yesterday in St Lucia, and running until Friday, 7th July. This will be the first ever live broadcast of a West Indies Women's Home Series in the Caribbean.

The first West Indies Men's Series broadcast starts on 12th July with the 1st Test between West Indies and India. The full Series comprising two Tests, three CG United ODIs and five T20Is will all be shown live with RUSH Sports.

RUSH Sports will also have rights to feature Men's and Women's West Indies 'A' team matches, West Indies Rising Stars Under 19s matches and also the Men's domestic West Indies Championship matches throughout the agreement.

CWI's CEO Johnny Grave welcomed the new agreement. He said, "We are delighted to again partner with RUSH Sports to bring live coverage of all West Indies Men's and Women's International Home matches to our fans around the

cont'd on pg 23

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Williams blitz lifts Zimbabwe, West Indies on the brink

HARARE, Zimbabwe (Reuters) - Zimbabwe batter Sean Williams smashed 174 from 101 balls in a 304-run win in their One-Day international World Cup Qualifier against the United States, but West Indies lost a super over to the Netherlands and face an uphill battle to stay in the race yesterday.

Zimbabwe take four points into the Super Sixes stage of the competition and Netherlands two, but West Indies will have zero and must win all three of their remaining games to stand a chance of reaching the World Cup in India that starts in October.

Two-time winners West Indies have appeared at every tournament since it was first staged in 1975, but with only the top two teams from the Super Sixes qualifying for the main event, their chances now appear slim.

The West Indies posted 374 for six in their 50 overs, but a superb 111 from 76 balls by Netherlands bats-



The Netherlands' allrounder Logan van Beek claims the man of the match award following his heroics against the West Indies in their ICC World Cup Qualifier in Harare, Zimbabwe on Monday, June 26th, 2023. (ICC Media)

man Teja Nidamanuru allowed the Dutch to tie the game and set up a super over.

The Netherlands' Logan van Beek smashed 30 from six Jason Holder deliveries and West Indies wilted under the pressure as they lost both their wickets for eight runs in five balls.

The Dutch also advanced to the Super Sixes

from Group A, while the three confirmed teams from Group B are Sri Lanka, Scotland and Oman.

Zimbabwe's colossal winning margin fell just shy of the men's ODI record, which India posted six months ago in their 317-run demolition of Sri Lanka in Thiruvananthapuram.

Sent in to bat, the African side smashed their high-

est ODI total of 408-6 with Williams ably supported by opener Joylord Gumbie (78), Sikandar Raza (48) and Ryan Burl - whose 47 runs came at a strike rate of 294.

The USA were never in the chase and lost regular wickets as they were bowled all out for 104 in 25.1 overs, including three comical runouts.

Zimbabwe finish the group stage of the qualifiers unbeaten, having also beaten the West Indies, the Netherlands and Nepal.

"We've found our momentum and we're looking to carry it forward ... having the crowd behind us is like having a 12th man," Williams said, after being named player of the match.

cont'd from pg 22
region.

"This new partnership with RUSH Sports gives fans the opportunity to watch high quality broadcasts of West Indies home matches plus for the first time West Indies Championship red ball regional matches live on TV and on mobile devices."

Michael Look Tong, General Manager, CPSL said, "Our new multi-year agree-

ment with Cricket West Indies provides fans the opportunity to enjoy the West Indies Home Series and the West Indies Championship on RUSH Sports across the widest multi-platform distribution ever in the Caribbean.

"Fans can enjoy their favourite team at home or on the go on RUSH Sports and we are so pleased to have Windies Cricket join our family of the most loved sports and general entertainment brands."

Sports News



Freetown and Masters book spots into semis of Dave Joseph contest

Freetown and National Parks/Cool & Smooth Masters consolidated their position at the top of the standings in the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League's Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition on Sunday.

Freetown claimed a four-wicket win against defending champions Police at the Freetown playing field to finish at the top of the preliminary standings.

Hughan Tonge snapped up four for 30, Shacoy Floyd claimed three for 18 and Jarel Phillip picked up two for 11 as Police were dismissed for just 104 in 23.5

overs. Vincent Shadrach Jr topscored for the Police with 21.

Kief Baltimore struck 37 not out and Antwone Willock hit 31 to lead Freetown to victory at 108 for six in 27.5 overs. Shadrach Jr. captured three for 23 and Police skipper Derek Mourillon had two for 26.

Freetown finished their quota of six preliminary round matches at the top with 40 points to seal their place as the number one seeded team in advancing to the semi-finals.

Kadeem Henry slammed an unbeaten century as Mas-

cont'd on pg 25



Kadeem Henry hit an unbeaten century for Masters against Old Road.

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Antigua and Barbuda lose to USVI in last game at FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Pre-Qualifiers

The national senior men's basketball team, the Antigua and Barbuda Wadadli Bulldogs, ended their campaign without a win at the second round of the FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Pre-Qualifiers in Managua, Nicaragua, on Sunday.

The Wadadli Bulldogs lost for the third time in as many games when they were beaten 63-54 by the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) in their last encounter in Group B of the FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Pre-Qualifiers.

Romani Hansen shot a game-high 19 points and grabbed 10 rebounds, and Jahsean Corbett had 13 points to lead the USVI. They were supported by team-mates Shaquan Jules with 11 points and Ivan Aska with 10 points and seven rebounds.

Jamine Charles, who converted 16 points, was the only Wadadli Bulldogs' player to score in double figures during the low-scoring encounter.



The USVI's Romani Hansen, center, drives to the basket during the FIBA AmeriCup 2025 Pre-Qualifiers against Antigua and Barbuda in Managua, Nicaragua, on Sunday, June 25th, 2023. (FIBA)

Antigua and Barbuda finished at the bottom of the four-team round robin Group B completion following losses to Cuba and Nicaragua. The Bulldogs were trounced 97-53 by Cuba and lost 71-79 against host Nicaragua, who won the Group B competition to advance to the next round.

The best two teams in Group A and B will automatically qualify for the FIBA

AmeriCup 2025 Qualifiers, beginning in February 2024.

Nicaragua played unbeaten to finish at the top of Group B by snatching a 78-75 victory over Cuba on Sunday following their 75-67 triumph against the USVI on Saturday.

The Cubans finished second in Group B and will advance with Nicaragua to the next round.

Host Chile also advanced

to the next round after finishing at the top of Group A by winning their three round robin games. Chile crushed Paraguay 112-47 in their last outing on Sunday, following a 78-48 victory over Barbados and an 85-63 win against Ecuador.

Paraguay finished second in Group A and will advance with Chile to the next round.

Barbados, the other English-speaking Caribbean country alongside Antigua and Barbuda to contest the second round competition, ended their campaign in Group A with a 105-98 victory over Ecuador on Sunday after losing to Chile and going under 70-80 against Paraguay.

cont'd from pg 24

tters crushed Old Road by 144 runs at the Old Road playing field to seal their place in the semi-finals.

Henry hammered 112 not out and Richie Thomas cracked 74 to propel Masters to 290 for six off 23 overs. Bejorn Liburd captured three for 83.

In reply, Old Road were restricted to

146 for four off their 23 overs. Melique Jacobs topscored with 62 and Xanson Hobson chipped in with 33. Thomas picked up two wickets for 22 runs.

It was the fourth win in five matches for Masters, who are currently second in the preliminary standings with 32 points. The Masters have one match remaining in the preliminary rounds.



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Sports News

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he was attempting to field on the wide long-off boundary. Gore was left not out on 35.

Coach Wilden "Pollo" Cornwall said Empire failed to score enough runs in their first innings and the experience of Hayden Walsh Jr. and Kadeem Phillip came to the fore in their century stand, which took the match away from their opponents and gave the Black Hawks the all-important first innings lead.

"We can't beat the experience. I think Empire won the toss and batted first and made 184. I think that was a very low score on this field. It's a very short boundary, either side of the square, and personally, I just think that they just did not make enough runs," Cornwall said.

"For our batting, and the way that Hayden Walsh and Kadeem Phillip batted, we were never really fazed because we know that experience is the key.

"In any sport you play, you got to have a little bit of experience to carry you through whenever you have a slump. We lost a few wickets late on the first day, which I think we should never have lost because we were ahead in the game.

"But that is sports. You knocked me down, but it's how quickly that I am able to get back up and respond. I think Hayden Walsh and Kadeem Phillip responded well."

The Empire's skipper

Kenrick Scott said his team didn't get some decisions in their favour and didn't score enough runs, but they showed character by fighting hard against an experienced Black Hawks team.

"Ah! The game was in a balance, to be honest, and we were very positive that we could have come out and won on first innings.

"Again, a few of the decisions never went our way, and certain things I cannot say here.

"But a lot of things didn't go our way, in terms of how we wanted it to go and how we planned, and it sort of disheartened the team in a way," Scott said.



Liberta Black Hawks captain Rahkeem Cornwall, left, accepts the Two-Day championship trophy from ABCA's President Leon 'Kuma' Rodney after the final at King George V Ground on Sunday, June 25th, 2023.



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Black Hawks retain ABCA's Two-Day Championship

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks have retained the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship.

The Black Hawks claimed back-to-back titles by prevailing on first innings against Empire Nation in the two-day final, which ended in a draw at the King George V Grounds on Sunday.

Empire won the toss and batted, scoring 184 in 49.2 overs. After the early departure of teenage opener Tanez Francis for nine, follow opening batsman Tyrone Williams Jr. and Rasheed Henry repaired the damage with a 55-run second wicket stand.

But when leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. broke the partnership by removing Williams Jr. for 55 off 60 balls, it triggered a batting collapse in which Empire Nation lost their last nine wickets for 89 runs.

Henry hit a top score of 77 off 96 balls, with 10 fours and two sixes. Walsh, who was later named player of the final, finished with six for 59, and Karima Gore picked up two for 34.

Liberta responded with 270 off 51.2 overs in their first innings with Walsh Jr. hitting a top score of 92 off 61 balls, with 10 fours and six sixes. Opener Kofi James struck 60 off 69 balls and Kadeem Phillip chipped in with 49 off 66 balls.

The Liberta Black Hawks' reply also suffered an early loss with the removal of Uri Smith for two, but James and Gore responded with a 58-run sec-



The Liberta Black Hawks players and fans celebrate with their trophy after winning the ABCA's Two-Day Championship following the final against Empire Nation at the King George V Grounds in St. John's, Antigua, on Sunday, June 25th, 2023. (Photos by Elwin Francis)

ond-wicket-stand.

Veteran off-spinner Justin Athanaze broke the partnership by dismissing Gore for 28 off 24 balls to trigger a mini batting collapse in which the Black Hawks were reduced to 127 for seven by losing six wickets for just 61 runs.

But Walsh Jr. and Phillip produced a championship winning eight-wicket partnership of 132 runs to take the match away from Empire's control and gave the Black Hawks the vital first innings lead.

Tariq Benjamin snapped up three wickets for seven runs, Athanaze finished with three for 52 and Captain Kenrick Scott claimed two for 42.

Trailing by 86 runs, Empire declared their second innings closed at

222 for eight off 41 overs. Scott top-scored with 55 off 65 balls, Garry Duberry struck 44 off 51 balls, with five fours and two sixes, and Athanaze contributed 35 off 28 balls, with three sixes and a four.

The Black Hawks captain and off-spinner Rahkeem "Jimbo" Cornwall took two for 32, James had two for 36 and left-arm pacer Javier Spencer captured two for 54.

Set 136 to win, the Black Hawks were 60 for two off 14.4 overs in the second innings when both teams decided to end the match following an incident, which had halted play for over 10 minutes, to allow treatment to an injured Empire Nation player, who was struck in the face by the ball that

cont'd on pg 27