

SHOOTING VICTIM'S CONDITION SAID TO BE 'UNSTABLE'

Story on Page 2



One of the country's long-running community-based projects, the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre (GARD) is combining efforts with the Sandals Foundation to undertake a project designed to help boost the country's food security. *Story on page 5.*

Shooting victim's condition said to be 'unstable'

A 24-year-old Willikies resident is reported to be in unstable condition at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where he is being treated for

multiple gunshot wounds.

The man, whose identity has been withheld by the police, was at a bar in the village when an unknown assailant

alighted from a motor car and shot him. He was transported to the hospital by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Doctors reported that his con-

dition is unstable. That update was provided by the police mid-morning on Monday. There are no further updates concerning his condition.

This was one of two shooting incidents that happened on Sunday, and which the police say are both under active investigation. In the second incident, a school employee was injured by a firearm during a robbery.

According to a STRATCOM release, around 6:13 pm on Sunday, June 4, a male employee at the St. Joseph's Academy was assaulted by two male assailants, who were armed with flare guns.

The man was robbed of his mobile phone and an undisclosed sum of money.

One of the assailants also discharged his weapon, causing injuries to the man's left ear. He was treated on the scene and later transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center by EMS for further treatment.

Both suspects (of the school assault) are said to be slimly built and approximately 5 feet 8 inches in height. They were wearing dark clothing and had their faces concealed.

The police are appealing to anyone with information surrounding both incidents, to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call the Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-Tips (8477).



Eligibility criteria

- ✓ Applicants **MUST** be a National of CSIDS SOILCARE participating countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica or St Lucia).
- ✓ Applicants **MUST** be the holder of or in their final year for completion of an undergraduate degree in Agriculture, Natural Sciences or related field, with at least a lower second-class honor. Ph.D. applicants **MUST** possess a Master's degree in a related discipline.
- ✓ Be willing to conduct research relevant to issues being addressed by PISLM CSIDS SOILCARE Project.

CLOSING DATE: MAY 31, 2023 @ 11:59PM AST

Required documents

- ✓ Completed scholarship application form
- ✓ Academic certificates/Official transcripts
- ✓ Curriculum vitae
- ✓ Two references
- ✓ Proof of nationality
- ✓ One page project proposal

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The Terms of Reference can be accessed at:
[http:// sta.uwi.edu](http://sta.uwi.edu) or www.pislmsids.org



COP Rodney: Plans are in place to deal with increased crime during Carnival

The Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has spent the last several months planning for an anticipated increase in crime as the Carnival season gets on the way.

Commission of Police, Atlee Rodney, said the police force is aware that the months from January to March are what he termed 'our honeymoon period,' with little reported criminal activity in the country. However, this changes from the onset of Sailing Week, to Labour Day and into the Carnival season.

"Things start to change crime-wise from April; we know that and we have plans in place to deal with that. You must also understand that Carnival doesn't start with the Opening Parade at the end of July, Carnival starts from June with the pre-carnival activities, where every weekend there is a fete," Rodney explained.



Commission of Police, Atlee Rodney

The police commissioner is appealing to members of the public and the organisers of the Carnival fetes, to work along with the force to keep crime in check.

"Individuals should be able to celebrate in whatever form or manner

they choose, without fear of becoming victims of crime. You should be able to have fun in peace and tranquility and we have to work with the organisers, the patrons, and even the sponsors, as they too need to ensure that their names or their brands are not associated with an event where violence takes place. We are therefore appealing to these stakeholders to work with the police to provide a safe environment for the fetes," he urged.

According to the top cop, the force did a reasonably good job last year in keeping crime or disruptions in check and it is the intention of the police to ensure that this continues into carnival 2023.

The police will be executing several strategies including 'stop-and-search' as part of an aggressive campaign to deal with crime before it gets out of control.

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High Court building re-opening postponed

The planned re-opening of the building that houses the High Court as well as the Family Court has been postponed, perhaps for another twenty-four hours.

That is the word from the High Court Registrar,

Cecile Hill, who explained that whilst much work has been done in carrying out deep cleaning of the building, much depends on the recommendations from the Antigua and Barbuda Public Servants Association.

After being closed since last Tuesday, to have the building fully cleaned for allergens, the building was scheduled to be re-opened, according to a media release from the Registrar.

This follows complaints

from the staff, regarding ailments stemming from several issues suspected to have been due to working in the building for hours daily.

Hill reported that the carpets in the entire building were ripped up and discarded and have since been replaced by ceramic tiles. Work has also been done to service the air conditioning units and general cleaning of the entire building.

On Friday, the Central Board of Health conducted an air quality test, while earlier Dr. Linroy Christian inspected the building.

On Monday, Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin addressed the staff of the courthouse and thanked them for their patience and cooperation, and explained what has been done to ensure a safe work environment.

ABPSA President Joan Peters who was present received a copy of the report from Dr. Christian and she promised that she would consult with a team of experts and report her findings and or decision when the meeting re-convenes on Tuesday at 10:00 am.

Based on her recommendations, a date will be set for the re-opening of the building. There are close to sixty persons working in the building. These include staff from the two courts along with the security.



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GARD Centre and Sandals work towards food security

One of the country's long-running community-based projects, the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development Centre (GARD) is combining efforts with the Sandals Foundation to undertake a project designed to help boost the country's food security.

A press release stated that through this project food production and supply-chain opportunities have been strengthened in the community of Pares following the launch of

cont'd on pg 6



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Local News



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a dynamic food security project made possible through the continued partnership of the GARD Centre and the Sandals Foundation.

The release noted that

recently Sandals Foundation ambassadors, led by General Manager at Sandals Grande Antigua, Matthew Cornall, joined residents, students, and members of the Pares Community Group at the

entrance of Pares Village, for the launch of the holistic farming and capacity building project.

Aimed at ensuring the sustainable presence of wholesome foods, the project will build the self-reli-

ance of the community organisation, in a number of areas.

“Food security within our communities has become even more evident since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic,” said June Jackson, Executive Director at GARD Centre.

“A number of communities have become increasingly more interested in producing food in their backyard gardens, with special emphasis on climate-friendly agriculture.

“This project will see targeted training and technical assistance provided to increase farmer production, encourage long-term planning to address food and agricultural problems, and promote local food purchases through roadside stalls, community restaurants, and small supermarkets.”

Cornall commended the efforts of the community and GARD to bring the programme to life, noting the importance of reliable food production for families.

“Many of our islands’ import-dependent economies are susceptible to international food supply-chain challenges, and climate change has had an even further negative impact on traditional farming practices - affecting the livelihoods of many families.”

“This project,” Cornall continued, “Takes a *cont'd on pg 7*

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021 (Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2022	2021
ASSETS		
Due from banks (Note 2 and 3)	6,077.165	17,745.197
Securities available for sale (Note 4 and 17)	8,152.602	8,172.915
Loans and advances to customers (Note 5, 16 and 17)	2,637.472	4,875.483
Financial asset at fair value through profit or loss (Note 9)	116.862	115.883
Investment in subsidiary (Note 2, 6 and 16)	9,685.188	9,685.188
Accrued interest receivable (Note 16)	229.967	237.454
Furniture and equipment, net (Note 7)	65.468	52.858
Other assets (Note 8 and 16)	2,117.432	2,292.366
Total assets	29,082.156	43,177.344
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		
LIABILITIES		
Due to depositors (Note 10 and 16)	25,489.436	39,352.861
Deposits from customer	10.019	82.695
Other liabilities (Note 11 and 16)	937.046	172.042
Total Liabilities	26,436.501	39,607.598
EQUITY (Note 12):		
Share Capital	8,566.297	8,566.297
Fair value reserve	(931.145)	(914.702)
Accumulated deficit	(4,989.497)	(4,081.849)
Total Equity	2,645.655	3,569.746
Total Equity and Liabilities	29,082.156	43,177.344



Alejandro Rodriguez Cosau



Ricardo Calcaño
Director / Chairman



Jasmine Benjamin
Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

cont'd from pg 6

360-degree look at food production, building capacity in the use of climate smart technology, re-establishing school gardens, promoting entrepreneurship; and building the capacity for value-added products – all to create a resilient food supply system.”

In addition to the technical climate-smart farming skills that will enable some 15 farmers within the community, 10 backyard gardeners will be able to upgrade their home gardens with better layout plans, add compost units, and diversify their vegetable and herb selections.

The project, which holds the endorsement of the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Social Transformation, will also develop the leadership and advocacy skills of the community group to assess challenges that affect their food security and effect change.

Finally, to expand the variation of output produced, some 15 persons will be trained in agro-processing techniques with special emphasis on blanching and freezing, and bottling.

Seventy (70)-year-old Pares community resident and local farmer Edmeade Samuel who has been farming for over fifty years shared that he is very proud of the benefits this project will have for the future of agriculture.

“Our students at both the primary and secondary school levels will be benefiting from the renewed focus on entrepreneurship in farming.

“Our community is poised to see creativity and innovation at its best,

as our young people get engaged, learn, and grow.”

President of Pares Community Group Lorenzo Looby said, “I am excited about the project and the impact it is going to have on the community. Our farmers and students

alike will be exposed to new and innovative farming techniques and food production and preservation practices among other skills. We are thankful to the Sandals Foundation for believing and investing in this project.”

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STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021
 (Expressed in United States Dollars)

	2022	2021
INTEREST INCOME:		
Securities	27.921	28.450
Loans	307.497	225.851
Due from banks	71	3.692
Total interest income	<u>335.489</u>	<u>257.993</u>
Dividend received on investment in subsidiary	100.000	100.000
Total dividend received of investment in subsidiary	<u>100.000</u>	<u>100.000</u>
INTEREST EXPENSES:		
Deposits	(129.307)	(145.282)
Total interest expenses	<u>(129.307)</u>	<u>(145.282)</u>
Provision for loan losses	(18.921)	(15.000)
Impairment of securities available for sale	-	-
Total of provisions	<u>(18.921)</u>	<u>(15.000)</u>
Net financial (expense) income after provisions	<u>287.261</u>	<u>197.711</u>
OTHER INCOME:		
Net realized gain on sale of securities and options	497.277	1.184.714
Foreign currency exchange gain	18.251	40.195
Fees and commissions (Note 14)	163.704	304.208
Other	126.512	348.680
Total other income	<u>805.744</u>	<u>1.877.797</u>
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES (Note 15):		
Professional services	(1.276.726)	(1.113.406)
Salaries and other personnel expenses	(68.972)	(70.772)
Depreciation	(22.776)	(11.145)
License	(68.300)	(69.300)
Rent	(14.769)	(35.352)
Insurance	(14.587)	(11.694)
Other Expenses	(534.523)	(532.675)
Total general and administrative expenses:	<u>(2.000.653)</u>	<u>(1.844.344)</u>
Net (loss) income	<u>(907.648)</u>	<u>231.164</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
Items that may be reclassified to the profit of loss		
Fair value reserve	(16.443)	336.074
Transfer to profit or loss for sale of securities	-	-
Total other comprehensive income	<u>(16.443)</u>	<u>336.074</u>
Total comprehensive (loss) income	<u>(924.091)</u>	<u>567.238</u>



Alejandro Rodriguez Cossu



Ricardo Calcaño
 Director / Chairman



Jasmine Benjamin
 Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

Further statement on governor general's powers to set up a commission of inquiry

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda previously sought three opinions on the authority of the Governor General to initiate a commission of inquiry. The opinions from Messrs Gregory Jones KC and Allan Wood KC were shared with the public last week. The third opinion from Mr. Luis Franceschi, the Senior Director of the Governance and Peace Directorate of the Commonwealth Secretariat, has now been received and is hereby attached.

It is noted that the opinion which is in keeping with the two previous submissions released last week, concludes as follows:

“Therefore, the power to initiate a commission of inquiry would ultimately rest with the government or Parliament, not the monarch and therefore not the Governor General, and it is our opinion that the Governor General would be overreaching its delegated powers by initiating a Commission of Inquiry on his/her own volition.

Thus, the phrase ‘*when-*



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams

ever he shall deem it advisable’ finds its application not as the trigger of a COI on the Governor General’s

own volition, but only in the manner and modalities a COI may be established on the advice received from Parliament or Cabinet, and it is our opinion that this matter should be referred to Cabinet or Parliament for resolution before it is brought to the Governor General.”

Luis G. Franceschi is the Senior Director of the Governance and Peace Directorate, Commonwealth Secretariat. He was the Founding Dean of Strathmore University Law School, regarded as one of the most reputable and innovative law schools in Africa. His area of expertise is the convergence between Constitutional Law and Public International Law. He has also been a legal advisor to several national and international government agencies, commissions, and programmes, including international courts, the UN, and World Bank.



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Senator Clement Antonio attends important conference in PRC



Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Works, Senator Clement Antonio

Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Housing and Works, Senator Clement Antonio is in the People's Republic of China attending the 14th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum.

Senator Antonio has been making the case for smart transportation, noting that this can be achieved by countries such as Antigua and Barbuda with assistance from friendly countries such as the PRC.

“Our goals of digital transformation in transport can be achieved with help from friendly countries. This means that we would not have to place further taxes on our al-

ready burdened economy through grant assistance,” he remarked.

He spoke of the benefits of these technologies in a country, by making everyday transportation more accessible, thus improving the lives of residents and serving the communities well.

“By adopting and exploiting these innovations, more countries would boost productivity, streamline project management and procedures, and enhance quality and safety,” he stated.

Antigua and Barbuda and the PRC have enjoyed warm and friendly relations lasting more than forty years, and which have grown from strength to strength each year.



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Binance accused of ‘web of deception’ in US

BBC - Crypto giant Binance has been accused of engaging in a “web of deception” as it was hit with another lawsuit by US financial regulators.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said the trading platform and its founder Changpeng Zhao ignored the rules meant to protect investors to keep operating in the US.

Both the company and Mr Zhao are accused of mishandling customer funds.

Binance said it would defend the platform “vigorously”.

The complaint from the SEC is the second lawsuit filed against the firm this year and follows promises by the US to police the crypto industry more aggressively.

The company, which was founded in 2017 and is active in more than 100 countries, denied that customer money had been at risk.

“While we take the SEC’s allegations seriously, they should not be the subject of an SEC enforcement action,” Binance said, adding it had been in discussions with the regulator.

It said the legal action was an example of regulators’ “misguided and conscious refusal to provide much-needed clarity and



guidance to the digital asset industry”.

Binance, which is registered in the Cayman Islands, is known as the world’s largest platform for buying and selling cryptocurrencies and other digital assets.

The SEC’s complaint outlined 13 charges, accusing the company and Mr Zhao of unlawfully soliciting investors and customers, misrepresenting the degree of trading on the platform and misleading the public about its oversight.

Both the crypto firm and its founder are also alleged to have diverted customer funds to companies controlled by Mr Zhao, a Chinese-Canadian billionaire known in the industry as CZ.

Mr Zhao and Binance “engaged in an extensive web of deception, conflicts of interest, lack of disclosure, and calculated evasion of the law,” SEC

Chair Gary Gensler said in announcing the 136-page lawsuit.

“The public should beware of investing any of their hard-earned assets with or on these unlawful platforms,” he added.

The filing comes as US authorities pledge to use existing laws to root out fraud and other issues in the crypto industry, especially after the dramatic collapse of Binance rival FTX last year.

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission, another US financial regulator, filed its own lawsuit against Binance in March, accusing it of operating in the country illegally. It is also under investigation by the Department of Justice.

The development from the SEC, which is seeking to ban Binance in the US, sent the price of Bitcoin down more than 5%.

In its complaint, the SEC alleged that Binance and Mr Zhao had “free

reign” over billions of dollars of crypto assets from the US.

The agency said this power was used improperly to transfer tens of millions of dollars to accounts at other companies controlled by Mr Zhao, Merit Peak and Sigma Chain. On one occasion, it said one of those accounts subsequently purchased an \$11m yacht.

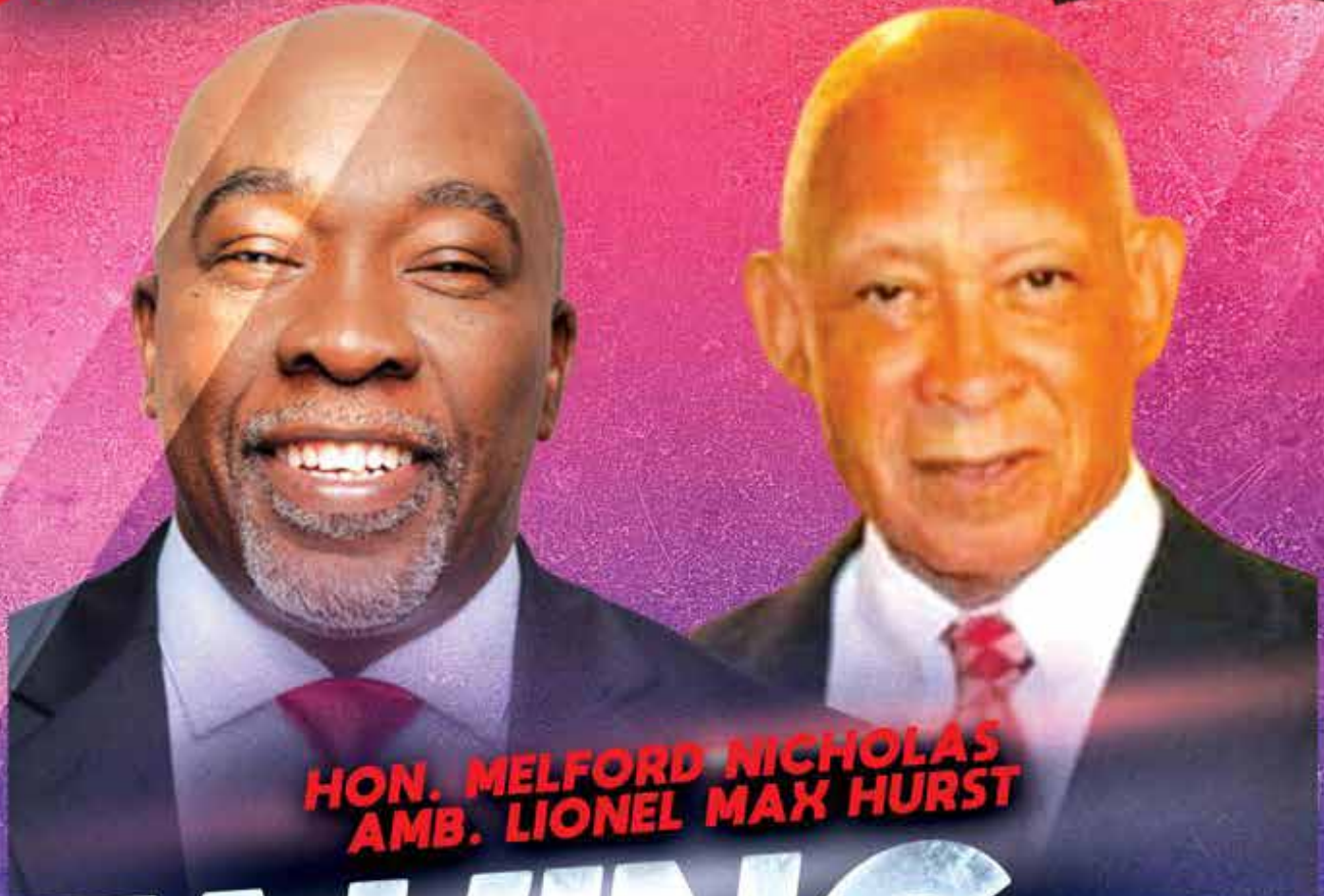
Binance and Mr Zhao showed “blatant disregard of the federal securities laws and the investor and market protections these laws provide”, the SEC said in the lawsuit.

“In so doing, defendants have enriched themselves by billions of US dollars while placing investors’ assets at significant risk.”

Efforts to evade regulators were widely recognised inside the firm, which earned at least \$11.6bn in revenue from US customers between June 2018 and July 2021, according to the lawsuit, filed on Monday in federal court in Washington, DC.

“We are operating as a ... unlicensed securities exchange in the USA bro,” the company’s chief operating officer told another compliance officer, using an expletive, in 2018, according to the lawsuit.

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Vision Pro: Apple's new augmented reality headset unveiled

BBC - Apple has unveiled a much-anticipated augmented reality headset, Apple Vision Pro, in its first major hardware launch for almost a decade.

Apple CEO Tim Cook said the new headset “seamlessly blends the real world and the virtual world”.

The tech firm also announced its latest iPhone operating system, as well as updates to MacBook Air.

The headset has a two-hour battery life, costs \$3,499 (£2,849) and will be released early next year in the US.

The cost is considerably more than virtual reality headsets currently on the market. Last week Meta announced its Quest - which costs \$449.

Apple said little about generative artificial intelligence - the buzzy technology that is the talk of Silicon Valley.

The company's share price fell slightly during the announcement, made at a developer's conference at Apple Park, the company's headquarters, in Cupertino, California.

The BBC is among the media outlets at the event, but has yet to try out the new device.

Apple Vision Pro looks different to similar headsets on the market - and is more reminiscent of a pair of ski goggles than a virtual reality headset.

Apple used the phrase “augmented reality” to describe what the new device does.

Augmented reality, also known as mixed reality, superimposes virtual objects in the world around us - enabling us to mix reality with virtual reality by looking through a screen.

Users can access apps, watch movies, and write documents in a virtual world. But so far, there is little evidence of a big market for this kind of wearable tech.



Hartley Charlton, senior editor of MacRumors, was unsure how much the headset would appeal to the general public.

“It won't appeal to mainstream consumers at first on account of its extremely high price point and immediate shortcomings as a first-generation device,” he said, “such as its separate wired battery pack.”

But he said Apple has a track record of “overcoming scepticism” about new devices, and has historically encouraged people to “part with their cash to add a new gadget to their repertoire”.

In his sales pitch, Mr Cook said the headset allows users to “see, hear and interact with digital content just like it's in your physical space”.

It is controlled by using a combination of your hands, eyes and voice - such as tapping your fingers together to select, and flicking them to scroll.

The announcement comes a week after Meta and Lenovo announced new iterations of their pre-existing virtual-reality headsets, that do not superimpose objects onto a view of the real world.

Meta has also invested heavily in mixed reality - but right now the sector

is struggling.

The headset market saw a 54% drop in global sales last year, according to the International Data Corporation.

Apple's last major hardware release was for the Apple Watch device in 2015.

Thomas Husson, of Forrester Research, told BBC News it may take time for Apple's new headset to take off.

“The overall AR/VR space has been a bit overhyped over the past few years with the metaverse and that kind of experience,” he said. “That's the reason why I think it will take a bit more time.”

“Having said that, if I told you 10-15 years ago that people would be ready to pay almost \$2,000 for a mobile phone, I don't think many people would have said they would be willing to pay that.”

Aside from the Vision Pro announcement, Apple also unveiled iOS17, the latest version of its iPhone operating system.

Updates include “contact posters” - a picture or image of yourself that will appear on a person's phone when you call them - and “live voicemail” -

cont'd on pg 15

BVI discusses sargassum management

The Government of the Virgin Islands is seeking ways to manage the threat of sargassum seaweed.

It recently concluded a two-day training of trainer's workshop for stakeholders in sargassum management.

The aim of the workshop was to build the capacity of coastal and marine managers and users of sargassum to sustainably manage this threat.

The focus of the training was to increase understanding on the science of sargassum – its origins and ecological value, the principles of adaptive management, selection of tools and approaches for monitoring, clean-up and the rehabilitation of affected areas.

Representatives from multiple organisations including the BVI Tourist Board, National Parks Trust of the Virgin Islands, Unite BVI, and the BVI Ports Authority participated in the training.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry with the responsibility for Natural Resources, Ronald Smith-Berkeley said he was happy to see the joint efforts made for the workshop to take place.

Smith-Berkeley said, "We at the ministry appreciate



the efforts made, by everyone involved in this workshop.

"We also appreciate the interest shown by the stakeholders, and the fact that they came out to learn and share knowledge about the issue so that collectively we find a solution to the management of the seaweed."

The training was a collaborative effort between the Ministry, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) and the University of the West Indies Centre for Resources Management and Environmental Studies (UWI-CERMES).

Meanwhile, Deputy Secretary, Mervin Hastings said the issue of sargassum is one that is shared among the entire Caribbean, as

well as the United States of America and Mexico. He said solutions are being explored to mitigate what he called the "new norm".

Hastings said, "The removal of sargassum is not an inexpensive venture and we must find alternative solutions to how we can deal with the sargassum menace that we are having throughout the Caribbean."

"This is the reason we are having workshops such as these, because I believe it is our job to find a solution through effectively engaging stakeholders and securing their participation," the Deputy Secretary said.

Sargassum influxes have been affecting the Caribbean region since 2011, becoming a recurring threat over

recent years in the Eastern Caribbean, including in Anguilla, Monserrat, the Virgin Islands and the UK. These influxes have resulted in increasingly negative ecological and socio-economic impacts including biodiversity loss in coastal and marine ecosystems.

Senior Technical Officer of (CANARI) Yasa Belmar along with Richeda Speede of (UWI-CERMES) were the facilitators of the workshop.

The workshop was convened under the Darwin Plus-funded project, Sustainable Sargassum Management in Anguilla; the Virgin Islands and Montserrat funded by the UK Government through the Darwin Plus: Overseas Territories Environment and Climate Fund under the Darwin Initiative.

The Ministry continues to manage the natural resources of the Territory in a manner that ensures long-term sustainability.

cont'd from pg 14

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And Apple has introduced a system called Check-In - which will automati-

cally tell a friend or family member when you've arrived home.

If your journey is substantially delayed, it has the power to tell others that you have not made it home safely yet.

The new operating system will be available in Autumn 2023.

Human smuggling ring uncovered in The Bahamas

CMC - Bahamian officials said they had detained 22 foreigners, including two children, on Sunday after intercepting a 32 foot vessel in Bahamian waters carrying a United States flag.

“We are going to remain firm. We are going to be relentless in our pursuit and once we find out you are engaging in human smuggling, human trafficking we’re going to place you before the courts and you will



rightly go where you rightly deserve,” Police Press Liaison Officer, Chief Superintendent Chrislyn Skippings, told reporters.

She said that the group included 13 men, six women, two children and one

infant from Ecuador, Italy, Haiti, the Dominican Republic and Brazil. They were reportedly on their way to North America

The migrants were apprehended by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Marine Unit acting on intelligence and intercepted the vessel west of New Providence.

The police said they have since handed over the migrants to the Immigration Department for processing.

Haitian authorities reporting deaths linked to weekend rains

CMC - The General Directorate of Civil Protection (DGPC) is reporting that 15 people have died and eight others are missing following two days of heavy rains caused by “a low-pressure situation at all levels of the atmosphere” over Haiti.

Director General of the Hydro-meteorological Unit, Marcelin Esterlin, said the rains which have been pounding the country since June 1, are expected to continue during this week, with the authorities saying the probability of rain is 65 per cent for Monday and 85 per cent, the following day.

In a statement providing a provisional assessment of the situation in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country, the rains have caused several rivers to overflow their banks resulting in floods, and landslides in many areas.

It said the authorities have had to put in place several emergency measures to ensure the safety of the affected populations.



A man wades through a street flooded after a heavy rain in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Saturday, June 3, 2023. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

According to the provisional assessment report, there have been 15 deaths, eight persons missing and 7,475 families affected, totalling 37,375 people. It said that there 1,219 houses have been flooded and about

13,390 people displaced in the departments of West, Nippes, South-East, North-West and the Center.

The authorities said that in the West department alone, 5,510 households are affected and more than 2,539

cont'd on pg 17

Belize to expand access to drinking water with IDB support

Loop - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved two complementary programs to enhance the quality of water services in rural and peri-urban areas of Belize.

The two operations, totalling \$10.64 million, will bring safe drinking water to over 20,000 households in 44 rural communities in the country's six districts and nearly 400 households in peri-urban areas.

Program beneficiaries include vulnerable populations such as migrants and Indigenous people.

In addition to expanding and improving water services, the programs include energy efficiency, smart micro-metering, and renovation initiatives, as well as the installation of disinfection equipment, especially in rural areas.

The two operations help strengthen Belize's water and sanitation sector. Among other objectives, they aim to improve the operational and financial performance of service providers in both urban and rural areas.

To ensure high-quality



services and drinkable water for 44 rural communities throughout Belize, the project will fund innovative disinfection technologies, as well as capacity building for village water boards on how to operate and maintain water services and manage their finances.

It will also finance minor system renovations to replace pipes, electromechanical equipment, and storage tanks, in addition to a pilot project to test how micro-metering effects water consumption and water bill payments.

The program will work to increase the share of

women on water boards. It will also launch a campaign to change household behaviors around conserving water, using and consuming tap water, and paying water bills, so water resources can be used more efficiently. The program will also finance policy proposals to change how the rural water sector is managed and incorporate gender and diversity considerations into service delivery.

The program will help increase access in peri-urban areas through the beneficiary Belize Water Services Limited (BWSL), the national water utility.

The operation is also designed to enhance BWSL's operational and financial performance by installing new disinfection equipment, implementing an energy efficiency program, and installing smart micro-meters in San Pedro, Caye Caulker, and Placencia.

Additionally, the program will finance an informational campaign to support implementation of the new disinfection technologies and installation of meters.

The loans will have a 4-year disbursement period, a 25-year repayment term, a 5.5-year grace period, and an interest rate based on the Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR).

The IDB will also provide a \$1.64 million grant component to finance these programs from the IDB's migration facility.

cont'd from pg 16

households are displaced. In the Center department, the agricultural sector is very impacted.

On Sunday, the Ministry of Public Works said it had carried out interventions to unblock roads in Jomou, Péligre area and that similar interventions have taken

place in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and in other regions.

The Meteorological Unit of Haiti said it is closely monitoring the weather and the DGPC said it is urging the population to remain vigilant and urged persons in areas affected by the rains not to cross flooded waterways under any circumstances.

Ukraine war: 'Offensive actions' under way in east, Kyiv says

BBC - Ukrainian forces are "shifting to offensive actions" in some areas, the country's Deputy Defence Minister Hanna Malyar has said.

Ukrainian military sources told the BBC that a series of small scale armoured offensive operations are under way.

They did not say whether this was the start of Ukraine's long awaited full scale counter-offensive.

Ms Malyar described the eastern city of Bakhmut as the "epicentre of hostilities".

On Monday evening she said Ukraine's troops had made gains of up to one mile (1.6km) in several directions around the city, noting that Russian forces were on the defensive in the south as well.

The commander of Ukraine's ground forces, Gen Oleksandr Syrskiy, said troops were "moving forward" towards Bakhmut and had destroyed a Russian position near the city.

President Volodymyr Zelensky later hailed his forces in the region for delivering "the news we were expecting".

For months, the city has been at the heart of intense fighting between Ukrainian and Russian forces.

The Russian paramilitary group Wagner had claimed to have captured



Ukraine has been planning a counter-offensive for months.

the city. But in recent weeks, some analysts have suggested that Kyiv's forces are attempting to encircle Bakhmut and trap Russian units.

A major Ukrainian counter-offensive has been long awaited but Kyiv has already said it would not give advance warning of its start.

However with Ukraine claiming to have made marginal gains elsewhere on the front line, there has been a notable increase in military activity.

The latest reports are therefore being seen as a fresh sign that the expected Ukrainian push may have begun.

The Russian defence ministry said Ukraine had also launched the "large-scale offensive" in the Donetsk region on Sunday us-

ing six mechanised and two tank battalions.

It claimed the Ukrainians tried to break through Russian defences in what Kyiv saw as the most vulnerable part of the front line - but that it "did not achieve its tasks, it had no success".

Video of what Russia said was the battle in Donetsk showed military vehicles under heavy fire in fields. Russia claims it killed 300 troops and destroyed 16 tanks.

However Moscow's claims have not been independently verified.

And on Monday, Ukraine's military said it had no information about a major attack in the region.

"We do not have such information and we do not comment on any kind of fake," a Ukrainian army spokesperson told Reuters.

If the footage of armoured vehicles coming under heavy fire is authentic, then it reflects the stiff resistance Ukrainian forces will face as they try to liberate more territory.

And if it is not what it seems, it is still an attempt by Moscow to take control of the narrative.

There has been a significant increase in Ukrainian messaging on when and how their counter-offensive could take shape.

Ukraine has been planning such a move for months. But it has wanted as much time as possible to train troops and to receive military equipment from Western allies.

Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said his country now had enough weapons for a counter-offensive but

cont'd on pg 19

Robert Hanssen: Convicted US spy found dead in Colorado prison

By Chloe Kim

An FBI agent-turned-Russian mole who is notorious as one of the most damaging spies in US history has been found dead in prison.

Robert Hanssen was discovered at a maximum-security facility in Florence, Colorado, on Monday morning.

Hanssen, 79, received more than \$1.4m in cash, diamonds, and money paid into Russian accounts. Three hundred agents worked on his case.

He was sentenced in 2002 to life in prison for espionage.

Hanssen lived in a modest four-bedroom house in suburban Virginia with his wife and six children prior to his arrest.

Because of his counter-intelligence role, he had access to classified informa-



Hanssen lived in a modest four-bedroom house in suburban Virginia.

tion and in 1985 he started his criminal activity, sending material to Russia and the former Soviet Union.

Hanssen, who became an FBI officer on 12 Jan-

uary 1976, used the alias “Ramon Garcia” when corresponding with his handlers.

According to the FBI’s website, he “compromised

numerous human sources, counterintelligence techniques, investigations, dozens of classified US government documents, and *cont’d on pg 20*

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would not comment on whether it had begun, Reuters reported.

Officials in Kyiv have warned against public speculation over the offensive, saying it could help the enemy.

“Plans love silence. There will be no announcement of the start,” the defence ministry said in a video posted to Telegram on Sunday.

Its footage featured masked and well-armed troops holding their fingers against their lips.

It will take Ukraine time to achieve its goal of liberating territory taken by Russia as far back as nine years ago.

And Moscow has had time to prepare. It means if Ukraine is able to mount a counter-offensive, it is going to take a while.

Much is at stake because the government in Kyiv needs to show the people of Ukraine - and Western allies - that it can break through Russian lines, end the effective military deadlock and recapture some of its sovereign territory.

Elsewhere, fighters opposed to the government in Moscow say they have captured some Russian soldiers in Belgorod, near the border with Ukraine.

The claim was made by the Liberty of Russia Legion (FRL), which

described the announcement as a joint statement with the Russian Volunteer Corps (RDK).

Both groups want to topple President Vladimir Putin and oppose the full-scale invasion of Ukraine that he launched in February last year.

Russia has blamed Ukraine for recent attacks in its border territories, but Kyiv denies being directly involved.

Meanwhile, President Zelensky met UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly in Kyiv on Monday.

Mr Zelensky said the pair discussed expectations from the upcoming Nato summit in Vilnius in July and Ukraine’s peace proposals.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



cont'd from pg 19

technical operations of extraordinary importance and value”.

While there was some suspicion around his unusual activities occasionally, he was not caught for years.

After the spy Aldrich Hazen Ames was arrested by the FBI in 1994, the bureau realised classified information was still being leaked, which is what instigated the investigation into Hanssen.

He had been due to retire so the FBI acted quickly in an effort to catch him “red handed”.

“What we wanted to do was get enough evidence

to convict him, and the ultimate aim was to catch him in the act,” said Debra Evans Smith, former deputy assistant director of the Counterintelligence Division.

To lure him back to FBI headquarters for closer monitoring, he was given a fake assignment.

Hanssen began working in his new office - complete with hidden cameras and microphones - at FBI headquarters in January 2001.

A month later, investigators learned he was scheduled to make a dead drop at a park.

A dead drop is when one person leaves material

for another person to later pick up at a pre-determined location, according to the Central Intelligence Agency. On 18 February 2001, Hanssen went to Foxstone Park, located in Virginia, with a plastic bag filled with classified materials.

The FBI had seen him frequent the park before and as he returned to his vehicle, he was arrested and taken into custody.

During his arrest, he asked FBI agents, “What took you so long?”

He told interrogators that the FBI security was pathetic, but he cooperated to avoid the death penalty.

Friends and neighbours

said they were shocked by his arrest and described him as quiet and unassuming.

His family drove to mass every Sunday in a 10-year-old van, and was said to be a strict father, who limited television for his children.

But behind this façade lay a sexual obsession. Hanssen secretly filmed pornographic videos of his wife and showed them to a friend.

During the time of his arrest, CBS News, BBC’s US partner, reported that he would frequent strip clubs where he tried to convert strippers to Catholicism.

Additionally, he would post sexually explicit stories about him and his wife online and share nude photos of her.

After growing up in Chicago, he said in a letter contained in an FBI affidavit that he was inspired by the British spy, Kim Philby.

“I decided on this course when I was 14 years old,” he wrote to his Russian handlers, according to the affidavit.

He pleaded guilty to 15 counts of espionage and in May 2002 was sentenced to life without parole.

The prison, ADX Florence, is one of the most secure federal prisons in the nation, which hosts other high profile inmates like al-Qaeda terrorist Zacarias Moussaoui and Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev.

A cause of death has yet to be confirmed.

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Eight-year-old who died in border custody repeatedly denied ambulance

An eight-year-old girl with underlying medical conditions who died in US Border Patrol custody was repeatedly denied requests to go to hospital.

Anadith Tanay Reyes Alvarez was seen by medical staff nine times in three days- with “fever, flu-like symptoms, and pain”, investigators said.

She was seen by a nurse four times on the day she died.

However, the nurse denied “three or four requests from the girl’s mother for an ambulance to be called”.

Details of the tragedy come from Customs and Border Patrol, which has written a report about Alvarez’s death.

The girl, who was born in Panama to Honduran parents, was treated for her symptoms on 16 May with flu and fever medications, ice packs, and a cold shower, it said.

But none of the staff seemed aware that Alvarez suffered from sickle cell anaemia, a condition which usually requires life-long treatment, or that she had a history of congenital heart disease.

The family said they reported her medical history when they had first been taken into custody at a different facility a week earlier.

Agency rules say detention should not be longer than three days, but that is often not the case, as average processing times have lengthened drastically in recent years.

The family were transferred to the Harlingen facility, where Alvarez died, for medical isolation after the girl tested positive for the flu. CCTV at the facility had been broken for weeks, and investigators have pieced together events from interviews.

It said a different member of medical staff reported bringing “a pile of documents” and some folic acid tablets from the family home to the nurse the



Texas, where the family crossed into the US, is a hotspot of border control activity.

morning the girl died. Folic acid - also called vitamin B9 - can be used to help treat anaemia.

The nurse allowed Alvarez to take one tablet, but “declined to review the papers”, CBP said.

At that stage, her symptoms had worsened to include stomach ache, nausea and difficulty breathing.

Hours later, after the fourth visit that day to the nurse, Alvarez’s mother returned carrying her daughter in her arms, who seemed to be having a seizure. It was at that point that emergency services were called, but the eight-year-old was declared dead within an hour.

The agency’s version of events appears to support details in an interview her mother, Mabel Alvarez Benedicks, gave to the Associated Press news agency days after her daughter’s death.

“They killed my daughter, because she was nearly a day and a half without being able to breathe,” she told AP. “She cried and begged for her life and they ignored her. They didn’t do anything for her.”

The CBP’s review so far suggests that the medical staff never consulted with doctors - including an on-call pae-

diatrician - about Alvarez’s illness.

The young girl’s autopsy found a build-up of fluid in her chest cavity, and noted “the attempted surgical repair of the girl’s aortic stenosis [a heart condition], and also referenced the provided history of sickle cell anaemia”. A cause of death has yet to be officially declared.

In a separate statement Thursday, the acting head of CBP Troy Miller said her death was «a deeply upsetting and unacceptable tragedy».

“Several medical providers involved in this incident have now been prohibited from working in CBP facilities,” he said.

The agency’s top medical officer was carrying out a review of procedures across all its facilities, and steps had been taken to review the cases of “all medically fragile individuals,” he added.

Alvarez’s death was the second death in custody of a child in two weeks, after a 17-year-old Honduran boy, Ángel Eduardo Maradiaga Espinoza, died in a shelter in Florida run by the Department of Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement.

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Potters Steelers continue impressive run in basketball league

Potters Steelers continued their impressive form in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) First Division League at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday.

Potters Steelers beat Spanish Heat by 11 points to record their 7th win in eight games.

Jacob Lloyd produced 22 points, nine rebounds and five assists to lead Steelers to their 101-90 victory against the Spanish Heat.



The Potters Steelers basketball team. (Photo courtesy ABBA)

Humroy Wright had 17 points and five rebounds; Iornie Joseph scored 16

points and grabbed 13 rebounds; Ishaan Peets sank 12 points; Ariel Quallis converted 11 points and Ammiel Williams chipped in with 10 points for Steelers.

Jesus Reyes shot a game high 29 points and snapped up 10 rebounds; Steven Matthew had 22 points and seven assists; Israel Pulinario sank 17 points and grabbed 12 rebounds and Gabriel Perez chipped in with 12 points, six rebounds and five assists for Spanish Heat who lost for the seventh time in as many games.

The competition will resume with a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday, 8th June.

Spanish Heat will take on All Saints Slam at 6:45 pm while Stingerz will clash with Ottos Full Throttle at 8:30 pm.

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Sports News



Crushers trounce Combined Schools in ABCA Two-Day contest

Pigotts Crushers overpowered Combined Schools by an innings and 173 runs to record the only win in the penultimate round of preliminary phase matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship over the weekend.

Captain Elroy Francis Jr and Demari Benta both hit centuries as Crushers made a declaration of their first innings at 342 for five off 64 overs after being sent in to bat.

The pair shared a third wicket partnership of 221 runs as Francis Jr slammed 114 off 133 balls with 15

fours and a six while Benta hammered 104 off 127 balls with 13 fours. Jewel Andrew chipped in with 46 off 47 balls.

In reply, Combined Schools were dismissed for 108 in 42.5 overs with Melique Jacobs getting 47 and Benta capturing three for 26.

Asked to follow-on 234 runs behind, Combined Schools were bundled out for 61 in 25.5 overs. Francis Jr snapped up three wickets for one run and pacer Trevorson Atley snatched three for 13.

The other four matches all ended in draws.



Wes Rising Sun's Kerry Mentore hit a century against New Winthorpes Lions in the ABCA Two-Day competition over the weekend.

Cup-holders PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks claimed first innings points in their drawn encounter with All Saints Pythons at Mack Pond in All Saints.

The Black Hawks, who were asked to bat first, made 172 off 38.2 overs in their first innings. Uri Smith struck 51 and captain Kadeem Phillip scored a run-a-ball 40. Michael Marcellin snapped up five for 31.

All Saints Pythons then fell for 142 in 54.4 overs in their first innings. Malone Joseph topscored with 60. Phillip snatched four for 26 and Karima Gore bagged three for 26.

Liberta made a declara-

tion of their second innings at 263 for eight off 63 overs. Opener Tarek Charles struck 69, Smith made 52 and Gore was not out on 46.

But All Saints did not get the chance to bat in their second innings due to insufficient time before the close of play.

Empire Nation and Bolans Blasters fought to a draw at King George. Empire made 144 off 36 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Zianni Dasilva scored 38 while Mali Richards took three for 27 and captain Orlando Peters claimed three for 30.

Peters then cracked a *cont'd on pg 25*



Empire Nation's Tyrone Williams Jr hits a century against Bolans Blasters in the ABCA Two-Day competition over the weekend. (File photos)

Sports News

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century in Bolans reply of 265 off 74.5 overs. Peters made 137 off 210 balls with 13 fours and three sixes. Opener Rowan Watkins chipped in with 43 off 41 balls while Empire's skipper Kenrick Scott captured four for 77.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr slammed a century as Empire reached 184 for five off 39 overs in their second innings when the match ended.

Williams Jr struck an unbeaten 101 off 108 balls with 10 fours and a six while Morton Browne picked up three for 37.

Wes Rising Sun Spartans claimed first inning honours in their drawn encounter with New Winthorpes Lions at New Winthorpes. The Lions made 205 off 51.1 overs with Bartlette Henry getting 86 while Owen Graham bagged four for 31.

All-rounder Shane Burton and captain Kerry Mentore both struck centuries in Rising Sun's first innings of 332 off 67 overs. Burton slammed 116 off 93 balls with 11 fours and six sixes while Mentore hammered 106 off 115 balls with six fours and seven sixes.

Graham chipped in with 42 off 25 balls while leg-spinner Asher Murray Cornelius captured three for 58. New Winthorpes were 217 for five off 50 overs in their second innings when the match ended. Captain Ian Eusebe hit 45 and opener Ishmael Peters made 35.

Caribbean Union Bank

(CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles and Jennings Tigers fought to a draw in the other match at Bethesda Village. Bethesda made 173 off 48.3 overs in their first innings.

Opener Kevin Pitman struck 57 and Cleton Payne chipped in with 34. Pacer Jeddiah Martin captured four

for 50 and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams claimed three for 41.

In reply, Jennings crashed to 95 all out in 28.1 overs with Mekali Tonge grabbing seven wickets for 22 runs.

Bethesda were all out for 135 in 44.4 overs in their

second innings with Melvin Charles scoring 76 not out. Williams snapped up six for 42.

Chasing 214 to win, Jennings Tigers were struggling on 79 for eight off 30 overs when the match ended. Oshale Simon snapped up six for 24.



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Strictly Business among winners in T20 softball competitions

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business achieved one of the biggest margins of victories in the opening round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Men's T20 competition on Sunday.

Kim George and Charles James struck centuries as Strictly Business crushed Sisserou by 180 runs. Strictly Business made 258 for two off their 20 overs with George hitting 109 with nine fours and eight sixes, while James cracked 102 not out with seven fours and six sixes.

Sisserou then fell for 78 in their 20 overs. Karl Simon made 22 and Anthony Mathurin scored 19. Alwyn Colbourne grabbed three for 17 and Winston Roberts claimed two for 32.

Old Road overcame Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets by 78 runs. Old Road made 157 for eight. Ju-

lian Joseph cracked 44, Peter Richards scored 39 and Clarence Francis got 31. Dorian Grant had three for 20, Kimani George took two for 40 and Kenroy Simon captured two for 43.

In reply, Bullets fell for 79 in 12.5 overs. Wilston Charles scored 38 and Kenroy Simon made 15. Peter Richards snapped up five for 16.

Marco Inc/Grill Box Buckleys 3J's were awarded victory over PMS in their match, which ended prematurely, after the PMS players walked off the field in protest to an umpire's decision during the encounter.

PMS had made 129 with Walter Carr getting 43, Bertram Miller 20

And Denzil Roach 19. D'Andre Harris grabbed four for 14 and Gregson Merrick snatched three for 24.

Buckleys 3J's had



Nolia Elvin hit a half century for Potters Uprising in a losing cause against Enforcers in the women's T20 Competition.

reached 120 for four in 15.2 overs when the match ended prematurely. Ashfield Weatherhead was not out on 45, Dequan Martin scored 26 and Steve Martin was unbeaten on 22.

Lil Lincs Supermarket Antigua & Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) Warriors prevailed by six wickets against Dredgers, who batted first and scored 101 for six.

Robin Bascus Jr made 28 not out and Milliton got 27. Vaughn Charles bagged three for 15 and Almojie Webster captured two for 15.

ABDF Warriors coasted to victory at 102 for four in 11.3 overs. Charles struck 38 and Webster hit 23. Mervin Higgins picked up two for 17.

There were wins for Sagicor Life Enforcers and Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets in the opening round of matches in the ABSCA's Female T20 Competition.

Enforcers defeated Foster Jonas, Harley Maintenance Potters Uprising by

four wickets. Potters Uprising were restricted to 105 for three with Nolia Elvin hammering 58 not out and Tawanna John scoring 20. Kimberly Anthony claimed two for 23.

Enforcers secured victory by scoring 108 for six with two overs to spare. Gaynell O'Garro struck 48 with four fours and three sixes while Joan Samuel chipped in with 23. Deborah George took two for 20.

Bryson's Shipping & Insurance Bullets beat Jennings Rockets by 41 runs. Bullets scored 153 for eight with Lana Thomas hitting 52 with four fours and three sixes while Cheryl Williams contributed 39. Shemique Benjamin picked up two for 22.

Jennings Rockets were then restricted to 111 for six. Chuntene George made 25, Ann-marie Parker hit an unbeaten 21 and Chemique Benjamin scored 19 not out. Mauricia Willette took two for 20 and Mary Browne had two for 23.



Clarence Francis scored 31 to help Old Road overcame Bullets in the men's T20 Competition. (File photos)

Police are Sir Richie Rich one-day Parish League champions

Police captured their first Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League one-day title for the 2023 domestic season on Sunday.

Police beat Freetown by five wickets in the final at Freetown to retain the Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Championship.

Freetown batted first and made 115 in 32.3 overs. Vance Nathaniel scored 25 not out, Kief Baltimore made 22 while Austin Richards Jr and Kelvin Myers each contributed 21.

Leg-spinner Lyn-ton Africa grabbed four wickets for 10 runs while off-spinner James Cornelius achieved his fourth hat-trick of the competition to claim three wickets for eight runs.

Police then achieved victory by scoring 116 for five in 28.5 overs. Jeron Jones scored 22 and Vincent Shadrach Jr made 20 not out. Jarel Phillip captured four for 23.

Both teams had booked their spots into the final with commanding victories in the semi-finals.

Freetown trounced



Police celebrate with their trophy after beating host Freetown in the final to retain the Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Championship on Sunday, 4th June, 2023. (Photo courtesy ACB Parish League)

Masters by 54 runs at Freetown. Jarel Phillip hit 34 and Antwone Willock scored 24 as Freetown made 148 all out. Left-arm spinner Vince Smith picked up two for 17 and pacer Ian Gore claimed two for 20.

Chasing 149 to win, Masters tumbled to 94 all out with Wendell Bachelor

getting 36 and Pat Spencer scoring 15. Phillip grabbed five for 18 and Austin Richards Jr bagged three for 15.

Police overcame Mahico by five wickets at Clare Hall. Mahico could only muster 89 all out in 23.3 overs with Amos Bruney hitting 27. Off-spinner James Cornelius snapped

up four wickets for eight runs, pacer Shawnisha Hector claimed two for 23 and Malique Gerald took two for 26.

Gerald then slammed 59 as Police then coasted to victory at 91 for five in 23.5 overs. Ian Tittle picked up two wickets for seven runs and Bruney captured two for 39.