

THURSDAY 8TH JUNE 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 110 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

KELVIN SIMON ANNOUNCES RESIGNATION

Story on Page 2



Jahkaydah Isaac (left) was adjudged the winner of the Queen of Carnival Public Speaking competition at the Maria Holder Resource Centre in Buckleys. *Story on page 4.*

Kelvin Simon announces his resignation but fails to submit letter

The parliamentary representative for St. Mary's South Kelvin Simon announced on Wednesday that he has resigned from the House of Representatives, but at the time of going to press on Wednesday night, the Office of the Clerk of Parliament reported that no letter of resignation had been received.

Inquiries made to the Speaker of the House, Sir Gerald Watt late Wednesday afternoon revealed that he too had not received the said letter of resignation.

Simon's decision could very well be interpreted as a preemptive strike aimed at nullifying a decision from the High Court, where a petition has been brought by the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party challenging his right to sit in the House of Representatives, since in their view, Simon was not properly nominated as a candidate as his nomination was done whilst he was still a civil servant employed by the Antigua and Barbuda government. The ABLP argued that this act contra-



Parliamentary representative for St. Mary's South Kelvin Simon

venes the Constitutional requirements for someone seeking election to the Lower House.

"The matter is due to be heard by the Court during the first week of July, and while my lawyers believe in the strength of my case, the outcome is entirely in the hands of the trial judge. Whoever loses the case will appeal to the Eastern Caribbean Court of Ap-

peal. This will delay the final outcome even further, as the appeal will have to be heard and a decision given," Simon's statement noted.

He added that it was unfair for the people of St. Mary's South to have this matter remaining unresolved for an extended period and therefore he decided to resign clearing the way for a by-election; in his words 'the people's court'.

"After careful consideration and prayers, I have submitted my letter of resignation to the Speaker of the House, Sir Gerald Watt, KC, informing him of my decision to vacate the seat in Parliament, so that a by-election can be held within the next 120 days, as the law mandates," he announced.

There is speculation that Simon is already repeating himself by not properly resigning from government at the time of nomination, and here again announcing his resignation but failing to submit an actual letter to the Speaker and the Parliament.

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 TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS Itony Bar and Restaurant

I, Itony Vincent Hope, **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE**, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Thursday 6th July, 2023 next ensuing for a Tavern license in respect of premises know as **"Itony Bar and Restaurant"** situated at Bird Road, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 6th day of June, 2023

.....
Itony Vincent Hope

NOTICE

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

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. Johns
Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice – Application for Liquor License

I, Veneta Burton (a duly appointed officer of PLH (Barbuda) Ltd.), situated at Coco Point Barbuda in the Parish of Holy Trinity, with registered business at Airport Blvd and Sir George Walters Highway, Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 6th July, 2023 next ensuing for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as **" PLH (Barbuda) Ltd."** Situated at Palmetto Point, Barbuda in the parish of Holy Trinity, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 6th day of April, 2023 Tel+1 (268) 736-2421

.....

Antigua and Barbuda to maximize benefits as Commonwealth member

Antigua and Barbuda wants to maximize the significant benefits that accrue as a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, the grouping of mainly former British territories.

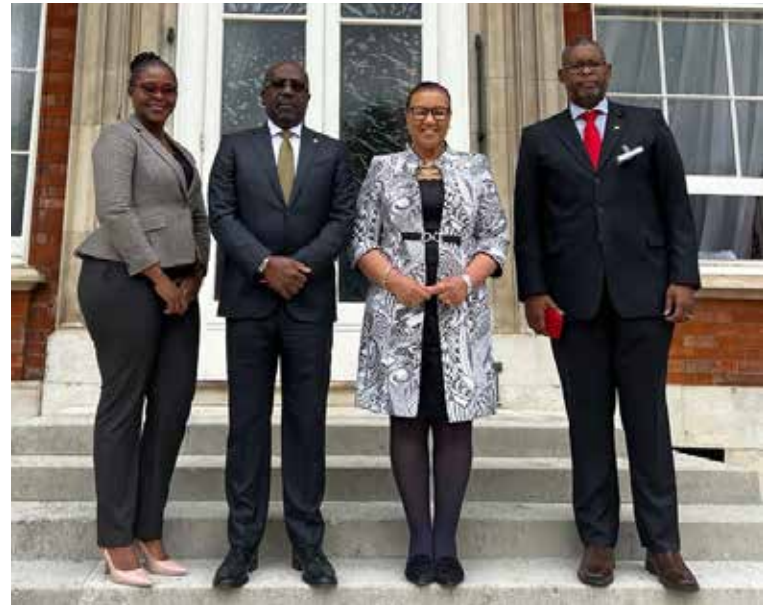
The country's Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene was among ministers attending Commonwealth Trade Ministers Meeting (CTMM) held at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London this week. The CTMM was convened under the topic "Delivering A Common Future: Co-Operation For Resilient, Inclusive, Green and Digital Economies" from 6th to 7th June 2023.

In remarks to the meeting, Greene reaffirmed Antigua and Barbuda's support for the Commonwealth's continued commitment to deepening intra-Commonwealth trade and investment as an important vehicle for realising the Sustainable Development Goals.

"The Commonwealth is one of the largest markets for exports from Small Island Developing States with significant, under-tapped potential for increasing this trade. In this regard, Antigua and Barbuda re-affirms its strong support of the Commonwealth Connectivity Agenda.

Antigua and Barbuda further commends the Commonwealth's work to assist SIDS, LDCs, and vulnerable economies to build the necessary capacity to engage in the multilateral trading system effectively and competently, as well as to develop and expand their export capacity. We continue to call on our Commonwealth family to assist us in our call for a reform of the WTO dispute resolution system, to ensure that decisions taken can be equitably enforced," he urged.

Greene also gave full marks to the Commonwealth Data Fellowship



programme, noting that the capacity constraints in SIDS and other vulnerable states also affect their ability to collect and analyse key data to inform and drive innovation and trade.

The Trade Minister also implored what he termed 'those within our Commonwealth family' with expertise and resources in this critical area of data collection to support the Commonwealth in delivering relevant capacity develop-

ment programmes as well as to continue to produce data dashboards and data analytic tools to guide and assist member states.

He pointed to the innovations taking place at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus which is developing the University's first-ever School of Computing and Artificial Intelligence. "This department will play an important part in developing important areas such as e-Governance and the digital economy. As such, we have already signaled our interest in serving as a champion country for Artificial Intelligence in The Commonwealth," Greene declared.

Minister Greene was joined, in preparing for these meetings, by High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill, Senior Trade Analyst in the Ministry of Trade Jomica Carbon-Constant, and Winston Williams Jr.



Jahkaydah Isaac wins Queen of Carnival public speaking contest

The 2023 Queen of Carnival delegates – The Enchanted Seven – took part in a highly competitive Public Speaking competition held last evening at the Maria Holder Resource Centre in Buckleys.

All seven delegates were asked to speak on the same topic: The Greatest Lesson History Has Taught Me, in a time of two and a half minutes. Before a blue ribbon panel of judges, the delegates had to display poise, articulation, familiarity with the subject, and their personality, in their presentations.

At the end of the competition, Jahkaydah Isaac was adjudged the winner. There were no other placements, as the points do not carry over to the Queen of

Carnival competition. It was a stand-alone contest designed to boost the delegates' confidence and prepare them for the night of the 2023 Queen of Carnival competition.

Head of the Organizing Committee, Marsh and Marsh Productions, Brucella Marsh-Sutton said the public speaking contest is fundamental to the goal of her organization, to ensure that all seven delegates, wherever they place in the competition, would undergo some measure of personal development at the end of it all.

“The Queen of Carnival Pageant empowers young women to be the best they can be through training and life-changing opportunities. We believe that if we pos-



Jahkaydah Isaac

itively change the lives of women, we will also change

the communities we live in. Empowering women benefits the entire nation,” she stated.

Moments after she was adjudged the winner, Isaac said she was happy to have won, even though she acknowledged that she was nervous about the event. “I tend to second-guess myself; as I sat waiting for the decision, I was saying to myself...I messed up, I spoke too fast, but here I am happy to be the winner,” she told Point Express newspaper.

She also thanked her mother Donna Francis, one of the Wadadli Girls, and

cont'd on pg 5





The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and partners bring the Antigua Carnival experience to Trinidad and Tobago (Photos courtesy the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

Major Carnival promotional event staged in Trinidad and Tobago

Over the weekend, a major promotional event focusing on Antigua Carnival – the Caribbean’s Greatest Summer Festival’ was successfully staged in Trinidad and Tobago.

Jointly organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) and the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, the event launched a new ‘Antigua Carnival Passport’ promotion throughout the Caribbean.



The ‘Antigua Carnival Passport’ promotion showcases Antigua and Barbuda’s rich culture and provides carnival enthusiasts

with the amazing opportunity to win an all-access pass to Antigua’s Carnival.

The Carnival Passport provides lucky winners

with a trip to participate during the thirteen exciting days of ‘Antigua Carnival’, from July 27 – August 8, 2023, with entry to official ‘Antigua Carnival’ events and destination attractions.

The ‘Antigua Carnival’ events featured include access to over five street-party experiences such as the Opening Parade, T-shirt Mas, Junior Carnival, J’ouvert, Carnival Mon-

cont’d on pg 6

cont’d from pg 4

her sponsors – Cool and Smooth – for all their support.

The panel of judges – Dr. Jacqui Quinn, Shavar Maloney, Amar Spencer-Seyers, Sharon Herbert, and Alicia Knowles – commended the delegates for excellent presentations all around. They encouraged the delegates to use the experiences of the public-speaking contest to boost their participation in the actual Queen of Carnival show.



Local News



cont'd from pg 5

day, Carnival Tuesday, and Last Lap, as well as popular Carnival events such as Panorama, Calypso Monarch, Party Monarch, and Caribbean Melting Pot shows.

The ABTA's Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America, Charmaine Spencer noted, "There is a new buzz around Antigua's carnival

regionally, as more carnival-followers are drawn to our extensive carnival schedule, unique style of mas, invigorating music, colourful costumes, and for the real party-lovers the non-stop partying options available during the season."

"We are also speaking to those travelers who appreciate that Antigua and Barbuda is easily acces-

sible and provides an intimate, relaxing, and fun getaway."

For the Trinidad and Tobago leg of the 'Antigua Carnival Passport' promotion, the ABTA partnered with the Festivals Commission, the all-inclusive Royalton Antigua Resort & Spa, and Caribbean Airlines.

Visitors to the C3 Mall in San Fernando and East

Gates Mall on the weekend were inspired to visit Antigua and Barbuda, as they learned about the destination's offerings, tasted local treats, engaged with cultural performers, and listened to the sounds of Antigua and Barbuda's Soca music.

They were also entered into a raffle to win the Antigua Carnival passport.

Over 600 entries were received during the two days of the promotion, with winners announced live on five Trinidad radio stations at the end of each day.

Alongside mall promotions, Spencer also led presentations on the destination with partners, Blue Diamond Resorts (Royalton Antigua) Senior Sales & Contracting Manager, Juan Pilier, and Festivals Commission Deputy Director, Cleofoster Harris, to an audience of major Trinidad and Tobago tour operators and travel agents, followed by discussions on summer bookings.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority will continue promotions in Trinidad and Tobago, working with the Guardian Media Group across their radio stations for the month of June.

Listeners to the stations will have a chance to win a trip for two to Antigua and Barbuda, with a three-night stay at the Royalton Antigua Resort, airport transfers, and a complimentary tour.

IBYC 2023

REROUTING

YOUTH CONFERENCE

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

ISAIAH 45:22

ANTIGUA

Antigua Barbuda Defense Force
Crabbs Training Facility

JULY 16-21

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

No improvement in shooting victim's condition

The man who was shot multiple times at a bar in Wilkies on Sunday night has not shown any improvements in his condition.

According to Inspector Frankie Thomas, the man remains in the Intensive Care Unit at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where he is receiving medical care for three gunshot wounds.

"The victim's condition remains 'unstable' based on the reports that the police have received from the hospital. His condition has not changed, however, our investigations into the circumstances that led to him being shot are still under active investigation," Thomas

reported. He said the police are conducting an aggressive campaign in trying to identify the person involved in the shooting. "We continue to search for the alleged perpetrator of the crime. At the same time we are continuing our investigation into the matter," Thomas stated.

Thomas is inviting members of the public who may have information related to this case to come forward and provide that information to the police. He said the police will be providing regular updates to keep the public informed as additional information comes to hand. So far, the police have not revealed the identity of the victim.

TO: Her Worship The Licensing Magistrate
 District "A" Magistrate Court
 High Street
 St. John's, Antigua

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

I, Simone Gayle of Swetes Village, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held on Thursday, 6th July 2023 at the Magistrate's Court Grace Farm, St. John's, Antigua next ensuring a type of Licensing in respect premises known as Countryside Jerk Centre, Mathews Road, All Saints Village St. Paul Parish, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Law of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 15th day of May 2023

.....
 Simone Gayle
 268 789-3343

Built to tackle the harshest weather and terrain, the Jimny goes where other vehicles fear to tread. Take on nature's challenges. Unleash your spirit of adventure and conquer the wild!



481-2500

Local News



Irene B Williams students' project receives regional accolades

A company established by a group of students at the Irene B. Williams Secondary School has been ranked among the top three in similar projects, undertaken by students from across the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS).

Antigua and Barbuda Green Magnates Ent., of Irene B. Williams Secondary School (IBWSS), are the country's winners in the inaugural Regional Schools Investment Competition. The team members were recognized at a prize-giving ceremony held recently at the school. The team was presented with a plaque and the students, and their teacher-guide, received recognition certificates and prizes, commemorating their achievement.

Eastern Caribbean Securities Exchange (ECSE) board member, Sandra Derick, of the Board of Direc-



tors presented the welcome remarks on behalf of the ECSE and the competition's planning committee, while Denise Mills, Education Officer in the Ministry of Education gave congratulatory remarks, on behalf of the Ministry. Student member of Green Magnates Ent, Alanna Merchant shared the experience of the team describing how they overcame challeng-

es and gained new knowledge and skills throughout the competition. She also thanked all who supported the team and in particular the team's teacher-guide, Principles of Business Teacher, Antonia Sampson.

The Green Magnates Ent. team was ranked third overall out of the seven competitors in the regional round of the competition. AHS Angel

Investors of Anglican High School in Grenada ranked second in the regional competition. The VFCSS Invest of Vieux Fort Comprehensive Secondary School, Saint Lucia was adjudged the Regional Champion and was recognized at a prize-giving ceremony held on 25th April, in Saint Lucia.

The competition was created to be a dynamic learning experience for high school and first-year college students and introduces them to investing while providing the opportunity to experience securities market activities. The initiative, a collaborative effort of the ECSE, the Eastern Caribbean Securities Regulatory Commission, and the licensed member broker-dealers, aims to stimulate an interest in investing among young persons and create a pathway for them to become active market participants in the future.

WE ARE MOVING

NEW LOCATION

Administrative Building
Deep Water Harbour

+268-468-6100
customs.gov.ag

INQUIRY: To be or not to be? That is the question!

By Cecil E. W. Wade

In November 2022, through the auspices of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, there arrived a few direct air passenger flights from West Africa, for the first time, ostensibly to establish an air-bridge between Africa and the Caribbean.

It is alleged that air bridge African Airline which was not a part of the official arrangement to facilitate visitors traveling to various Caribbean Islands, via Antigua, saw an opportunity to engage in nefarious means through prestidigitation, to capitalize on the situation. The result was that hundreds of Africans were stranded in Antigua, while they tried to smuggle into the United States of America, which was apparently promised to them by the organizers.

The government moved swiftly to stem the flow of Africans into the country, and to assuage the situation, by providing for their acceptance and integration into the local community, since many of them were fleeing from their war-torn countries to seek political asylum abroad. But, the opposition forces, as they are wont to do, saw another opportunity to deface the country's image with the intention of bringing down the government, a task they have set themselves to accomplish before the end of the current term. (One of their most prominent personalities on radio has pledged to put his life on hold until he sees the back of Prime Minister Gaston Browne. From all appearances, he is likely to have a lifeless existence for a period of about twenty years. Senseless!) So they demonstrated and picketed, demanding a public inquiry. Fortunately for the

opposition, the government is very productive, giving them many issues to whine about, so that they may appear to be politically relevant. If the government ministers had fallen asleep, they would have no material to work with, since they appear to be limited in initiative. (The man who sleeps cannot sin!)

For the past seven months, Government has been bombarded with questions surrounding the African Saga. Questions from all fora, newspapers, radio programs, press conferences, and parliament – many questions, and questioners, being severely redundant.

It appears that Government deems it prudent not to waste scarce

resources on an inquiry that the opposition has been demanding, which will most likely produce the same answers the government has been proffering, together with the stand-up comedy to be enjoyed by a people who "love ugly." Funds are needed to maintain the courthouses and clinics, together with the rapidly expanding infrastructure; and it is the government's responsibility to determine the best application of scarce resources.

Perhaps the solution to this Mexican Stand-off should be that the government permit the inquiry to proceed, with the caveat that the alleged thousands of signatories petitioning the inquiry, pay for it --End of Story.



DEWS

NO CASH? NO WORRIES!

WE ACCEPT CARDS AND CHEQUES!

VISA

YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT ID FOR CARD PURCHASES

729-3397/ 729-1210

Goodbye, to the great Steve 'Nato' Hurst

By Colin James

Even in death, one of Antigua & Barbuda's best-ever footballers commanded attention and respect.

Steve "Nato" Hurst bowed out as he was laid to rest on Wednesday.

Long before his death at age 60, his name was already written among the pantheons of the country's football and folklore.

Christened Tony Troy Jerry Hurst, who was born on February 16, 1963, was legendarily re-named Steve "Nato" Hurst. Like the Brazilian greats, he was most known by his nickname

Nato who has been proclaimed as among the greats to play the beautiful game, died on May 12 after a prolonged battle with cancer.

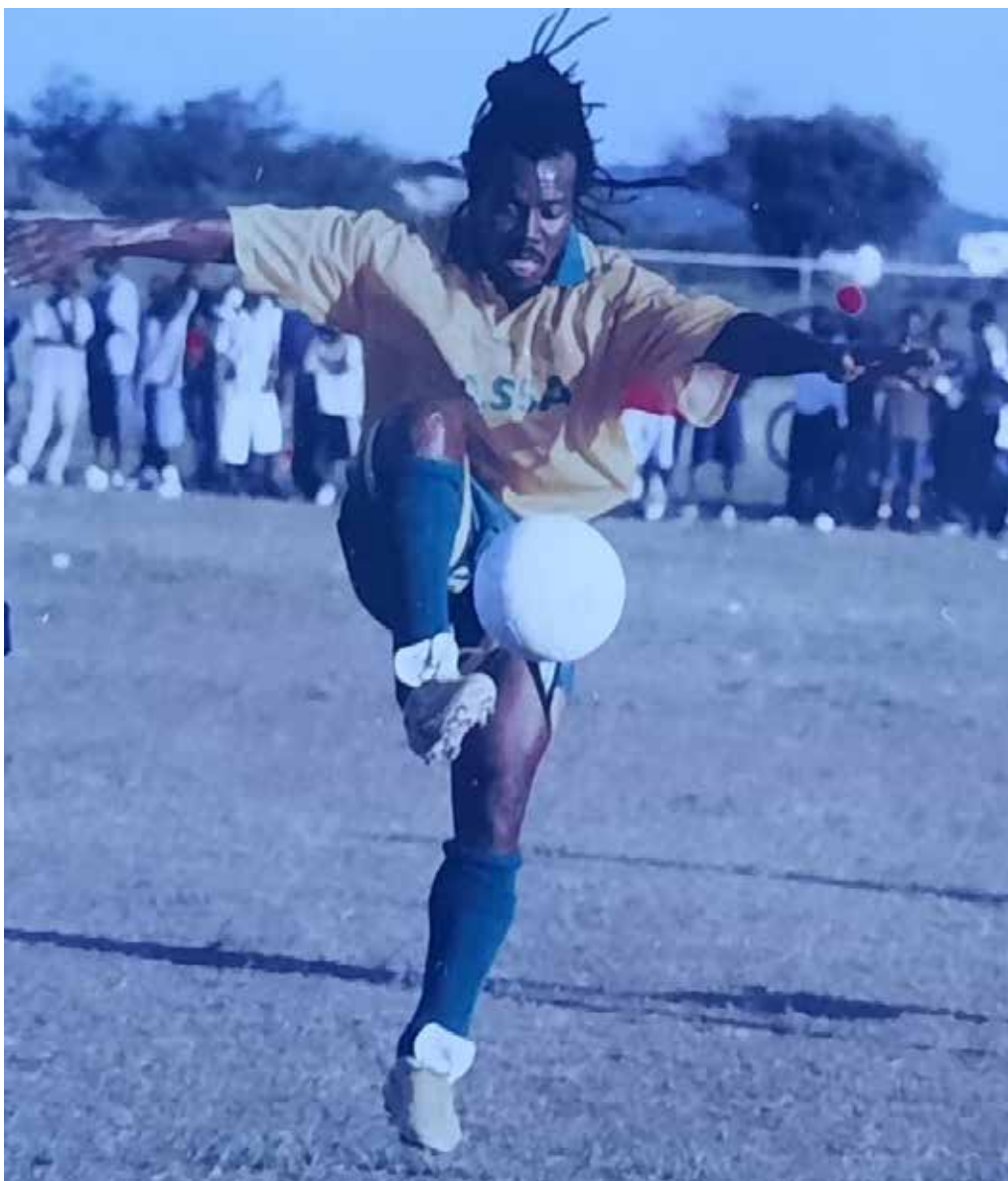
Following a funeral service at the All Saints Anglican Church, Hurst was laid to rest in the churchyard's cemetery.

Hundreds of mourners - football stars - past and present, Rastafarians, 'baldheads', politicians, family, and friends - respectfully bid him farewell.

The flying dreadlocked former national senior and youth striker and playmaker also starred with Attackers, Bassa, Liberta, and English Harbour football clubs, winning Premier Division titles with the latter two, during a career that spanned between the late 1970s and early 2000s, almost three decades.

Nato was a pied-piper to a legion of followers from all ages; he was grudgingly respected and admired by teammates; opponents quaked at his mere presence; defenders and goalkeepers dreaded that he would leave them in a pickle.

Most coaches and team managers bowed to him while some misjudged his undeniable talent and class; he divided



Steve "Nato" Hurst

opinions among spectators; however, the majority acclaimed his genius.

From Mack Pond in All Saints to the Antigua Recreation Ground in St John's, Nato graced playfields like a colossus - literally incomparable.

Nato displayed remarkable skills on the ball with any part of his anatomy. Creativity and ingenuity illuminated his game and endeared him to the hearts of thousands of fans in the twin-island nation and across the Caribbean when he represented the flag in regional compe-

titions.

His trademark tricks and flicks (the drunken master from Shaolin movies), dummies, feints, and dribbles - which became part of his legend - would have been replicated by some of the world greats in today's game.

Nato's step-overs; ball control while airborne with his instep, thigh, chest, head, or backside; the shooting and scoring with power and precision with either foot; and his ability to run with

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

the ball nestled on his forehead or at the back of his neck made him an icon.

His physical attributes were remarkable, as his muscular frame resembled a middle-weight boxer or a physique bodybuilder; powerful upper body and thighs pumping like pistons.

He first came to recognition with Bassa in the All Saints Community Football League with whom he won a championship, as well as inspiring Dreads to succeed in the ASCF, while simultaneously leading All Saints Secondary to titles in the Schools' Football League in the late 1970s & early '80s.

Nato gained further prominence with Attackers – then the pride and joy of All Saints – in the Antigua & Barbuda Football Association's First & Premier Division in the 1980s.

He led Attackers to title success in the pre-season King Swallow Knock-Out Cup in 1984 and the LMR Signs

Soccerama, two years later.

Hurst won his first Premier title with Liberta in 1987 before spurring English Harbour to three-straight championships in 1994/95, 1995/96, and 1996/97.

Ironically, he ended his competitive career with Bassa in the Premier Division.

Among the greats he shared the spotlight with were his fellow All Saints villager, Dale "World B" Edwards; Fernando "Nando" Abraham, Ivor "Ninja" Luke, Mervyn "MR" Richards, and Everton "Batow" Gonsalves – all luminaries of the Antiguan game.

Abraham who captained Hurst was fulsome in praise of his ability.

"Great attacking player; played the game with a lot of flair. Tremendous header of the ball and a very good technique" said the former technically gifted defender.

"Nato was a great team player on and off the field. Always up for a laugh

or with that unique smile of his. Gone too soon."

He's survived by his mother, 81-year-old Lilian "Lilly" Mathew, a former hotel worker; children Beco and Feona Hurst, and Steve "Little Nato" Hurst; brothers Hayden Hurst, Jamie Edwards, and Gillian Hurst; and numerous relatives including cousins -- former national player Kevin "Saxman" Watts, Cleofoster "Billa" Watts and brothers – Leslie "Puddah" and Randy "Baldhead" Simon – all accomplished players as well as Hayden, Gillian and Beco.

His father, Edwardson "Markie" Hurst, who was a calypsonian and senior health inspector, died several years ago.

"I'll forever miss my son," said the woman who birthed him. "He was a good boy although he was botheration at times."

May the Soul of "Nato" Hurst rest in peace!



Grab a...

BEACH BUCKET

...every Sunday

**10 HOT WINGZ
4 BISCUITS**

\$33.50

KFC

Order Pickup + Delivery on AllMart

FOR DELIVERY 736-7845 / 562-9444 or DOWNLOAD THE APP... Apple Store / Google PlayStore

@kfcanu

Lewis Capaldi: Why more musicians are prioritising mental health

BBC - Lewis Capaldi has cancelled a series of upcoming gigs after admitting he's struggling "mentally and physically".

The Scottish singer says he needs a break from touring in order to be «Lewis from Glasgow for a bit».

Despite lots of fans now being out of pocket, there's a lot of love and support online for how Lewis is prioritising his mental health.

And he's not the only popstar to decide they need to take a break in the last few months.

There's a pretty long list of high profile acts - including Sam Fender, Wet Leg and Arlo Parks - who have all recently cancelled tour dates.

So does this willingness to take time out to look after themselves show the music industry is changing?

The charity Help Musicians has seen an increase in people using Music Minds Matter, its dedicated mental health service for the industry.

Its head Joe Hastings says despite artists appearing to have a "really glamorous and exciting" life, the reality can actually be very different.

"I think there's not enough acknowledgement of how much work and pressure there is on people in the music industry," he tells BBC Newsbeat.

"The pressure is im-



Lewis Capaldi headlined BBC Radio 1's Big Weekend in Dundee last month.

mense, with gruelling schedules, anti-social working patterns and lots of travel.

"But actually it's also really important to put health first to avoid burnout."

For Joe, it's important for established artists like Lewis to speak out about their own problems as it makes a real difference to other musicians.

He wants artists to see "taking time out as an investment in their future".

And that's something drum and bass DJ and producer Ruth Royall completely agrees with.

"For a long time artists have been treated like commodities, but now with the rise in conversations around mental health it's becoming a lot better," she says.

Bristol-based Ruth thinks it was an "incredibly brave" decision by Lewis, particularly considering the impact on fans and other people.

She says she recently took some "downtime" to make sure she was ready to head out on a month-long international tour before a summer packed full of UK festivals.

"The whole lifestyle of the music industry is very fast paced so I took some time away from social media and made sure to spend time with friends and family."

Most of us won't be able to relate to a life of going from gig to gig, but music therapist Tamsin Embleton says we can all relate to the pressure artists face.

Before training as a therapist, she worked as a booking agent in the music industry and saw exactly how tiring touring can be.

"You need to perform at your A-game day in day out, all while being in unfamiliar environments with new people," she says.

Lewis has cancelled all his gigs until Glastonbury later this month, which Tamsin says is about managing what he can handle.

"Pacing yourself is important. If you're planning a tour for an artist, you need to think 'what do they struggle with?'"

"It's about doing something that's manageable and sustainable rather than letting ambition take you past the natural limits of your mind and body."

True Love
PROMOTIONS
PRESENTS

inet

THE *Soul* OF MUSIC

Fri
16
JUN

8
PM

FEATURING LIVE PERFORMANCES BY:

ALISON HINDS • DUANE STEVENSON • CLAUDETTE PETERS
PROPHECY • BECKET • ASHER OTTO • JASHAN

DJ ILLIST • DJ IRISH • DJ EZP • DJ SHELDON • HOSTED BY: SUPA DYMOND

📍 **THE LOT (FRIARS HILL ROAD)** NEXT TO BILLY'S
FOOD MART

TICKETS: \$75 ADVANCE • \$100 AT THE GATE **TICKET OUTLETS:** ALL INET OUTLETS, ROTI KING,  TICKETS AVAILABLE

BOTTLE SERVICE: \$150 • FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT 781-5016 / 464-9201

Technology



BBC, BA and Boots issued with ultimatum by cyber gang Clop

By Joe Tidy

A prolific cyber crime gang thought to be based in Russia has issued an ultimatum to victims of a hack that has hit organisations around the world.

The Clop group posted a notice on the dark web warning firms affected by the MOVEit hack to email them before 14 June or stolen data will be published.

More than 100,000 staff at the BBC, British Airways and Boots have been told payroll data may have been taken.

Employers are being urged not to pay up if the hackers demand a ransom.

Cyber security research previously suggested Clop could be responsible for the hack which was first announced last week.

The criminals found a way to break into a piece of popular business software called MOVEit and were then able to use that access to get into the databases of potentially hundreds of other companies.

Analysts at Microsoft said on Monday they believed Clop was to blame, based on the techniques used in the hack.

It has now been confirmed in a long blog post written in broken English.

The post, seen by the BBC, reads: "This is announcement to educate companies who use Prog-



ress MOVEit product that chance is that we download a lot of your data as part of exceptional exploit."

The post goes on to urge victim organisations to send an email to the gang to begin a negotiation on the crew's darknet portal.

This is an unusual tactic as normally ransom demands are emailed to victim organisations by the hackers, but here they are demanding that victims get in touch. This could be because Clop itself can't keep up with the scale of the hack which is still being processed around the world.

"My take is that they just have so much data that it is difficult for them to get on top of it all. They're betting that if you know then you will contact them," says SOS Intelligence CEO Amir Hadžipasić.

MOVEit is supplied by



Progress Software in the US for many businesses to securely move files around company systems. Payroll services provider Zellis, which is based in the UK, was one of its users.

Zellis has confirmed that eight UK organisations have had data stolen as a result, including home addresses, national insurance numbers and, in some cases, bank details. Not all firms have had the same data exposed.

Nova Scotia Government and the University of Rochester is also warning staff that data may have been stolen through the MOVEit vulnerability.

Advice from experts is for individuals not to panic, and for organisations to carry out security checks issued by authorities like the Cyber Security and Infrastructure Authority in the US.

Clop claims on its leak



site that it has deleted any data from government, city or police services.

"Do not worry, we erased your data you do not need to contact us. We have no interest to expose such information," it reads.

However, researchers say the criminals are not to be trusted.

"Clop's claim to have deleted information relating to public sector organisations should be taken with a pinch of salt. If the information has monetary value or could be used for phishing, it's unlikely that they will simply have disposed it," said Brett Callow, threat researcher from Emsisoft.

Cyber security experts have long tracked the exploits of Clop, which is thought to be based in Russia as it mainly operates on Russian speaking forums.

Russia has long been ac-

cont'd on pg 15

CNN chief Chris Licht out after just 13 months

The chief executive of CNN has stepped down after just 13 months in the job.

Chris Licht had been under pressure after a recent article about him in the Atlantic magazine, for which he provided an unusual level of access, raised questions about his leadership.

The news network has also seen falling ratings and was widely criticised for its handling of a town hall interview with former president Donald Trump.

Parent company Discovery said "things did not work out the way we had hoped".

Mr Licht was appointed head of the channel last year, when Discovery merged with WarnerMedia, home to CNN, HBO and others.

Warner Bros Discovery boss David Zaslav said the company appreciated "Chris's efforts and dedication and [we] wish him all the best".

"This job was never going to be easy, especially at a time of great disruption and transformation, and Chris



Chris Licht is stepping down as chief executive of CNN.

poured his heart and soul into it," he said announcing the change, which is effective immediately.

"Unfortunately, things did not work out the way we had hoped - and ultimately that's on me. I take responsibility."

Mr Licht took over CNN as the Discovery takeover prompted big shake-ups, including the ousting of former chief Jeff Zucker, the abrupt cancellation of CNN+, a planned streaming service, and hundreds of layoffs.

Mr Zaslav has also been pushing CNN to shift its

tone, which he saw as having shifted to the left and become too combative during the Trump administration, when the former president frequently dismissed it as "fake news".

Mr Zaslav had said that CNN should carve out a role distinct from rival news brands seen as being more partisan, such as Fox News on the right, and MSNBC on the left.

"Our view is, there's advocacy networks on either side. We have the best journalists in the world. We need to show both sides of every issue," he said at an

investor conference earlier this year.

But Mr Licht's efforts to shake-up programming - including the launch of a new morning show - had stumbled.

His standing had been in question after a new chief operating officer, seen as close to the Discovery boss, was named earlier this month.

Before CNN, Mr Licht was an executive vice president of special programming at CBS and a show-runner for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert". He had also worked for CBS News and was a co-creator of MSNBC's popular morning news show "Morning Joe".

Mr Zaslav said the channel would be led by an interim group of leaders, while the company searched for a replacement.

cont'd from pg 14

cused of being a safe haven to ransomware gangs - which it denies.

However, Clop runs as a "ransomware as a service" group, which means hackers can rent their tools to carry out attacks from anywhere.

In 2021, alleged Clop hackers were

arrested in Ukraine in a joint operation between Ukraine, US and South Korea.

At the time, authorities claimed to have taken down the group which they said was responsible for extorting \$500m from victims around the world.

But Clop has continued to be a persistent threat.

Regional News



St. Vincent PM welcomes Canada's visa-free program for known travellers



Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines Dr Ralph Gonsalves

By Melissa Wong

Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines Dr Ralph Gonsalves is satisfied so far with Canada's visa-free travel program for known Vincentian travellers.

He welcomed the announcement during the Face to Face program on NBC radio on Wednesday.

The change affects two categories of Vincentian passport holders.

Gonsalves explained that Vincentians who have had a Canadian visa over

the past 10 years and have not had it renewed, can just go online in the manner prescribed in the information announced on June 6 and they will do an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) and will be given a five-year permission to enter, not to work, but to visit for up to six months.

The prime minister said he has been advised the process is simple, noting it will save Vincentians the trip of going to Trinidad for their visa.

cont'd on pg 17

Guyana elected to UN Security Council

By Dillon De Shong

Guyana was elected to serve a non-permanent member of the United Nation's Security Council today.

Guyana secured 191 votes from the 192 members present at the UN's General Assembly today.

Guyana's two year term as a representative for Latin America and the Caribbean begins on January 1, 2024.

Guyana previously served on the UN Security Council from 1975-1976 and 1982 to 1983.

The UN Security Council is made up of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States and 10 non-permanent members from Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Western European.

Also joining Guyana on the UN Security Council in 2024 are Algeria, the Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone and Slovenia, who defeated Belarus for the seat.

Guyanese President Dr Moham-



med Irfaan Ali said Guyana is humbled by the opportunity to serve the region on the important body.

"It is a responsibility that we will assume with utmost seriousness and dedication, mindful of the complex and challenging times in which we live," Ali said in a statement following the election.

"The theme of our candidacy 'Partnering for Peace and Prosperity' serves as a guide to Guyana's approach to

service on the Security Council. We intend to be a constructive and engaged partner with the members of the Council and the wider international community in the search for solutions to the myriad of momentous challenges that beset our human family".

Ali also thanked Guyana's diplomats at the UN's headquarters in New York for their hard work to ensure Guyana attained the support needed to serve on the Security Council.

Suriname President heads to The Bahamas for talks with US VP

Loop - President Chandrikapersad Santokhi departed Suriname yesterday to attend today's meeting between the Vice President of the United States of America, Kamala Harris, and Caribbean leaders in The Bahamas.

The meeting, which is jointly chaired by Caribbean Community (CARICOM) chairman Philip Davis and Harris, will see leaders continue discussions on shared efforts to address the climate crisis and increase energy security through clean energy.

Suriname's Minister of State, International Business and International Cooperation, Albert Ramdin, told the Government Communication Service that Santokhi will speak on how the country can play a pivotal role in helping CARICOM reduce its import bill.

"Suriname can be seen as the most important sup-



President Chandrikapersad Santokhi.

plier of products to achieve the 25 per cent reduction," noted Ramdin, "It is therefore important that we have a vision and implement our plans in the field of food safety and agricultural development."

Suriname will also focus on economic cooperation and financing for the region after the COVID-19

pandemic.

Ramdin said it was important for the government to understand international instruments such as carbon trading and carbon credits financing, for which Suriname still needs to build expertise.

He indicated that several proposals related to climate change and financ-

ing will be evaluated in the coming weeks and that Suriname and the United States will both bring in expertise to discuss these issues in depth.

Santokhi stressed that these talks and cooperation with the US are urgently needed as CARICOM member states seek to meet their international pledges.

"We want to remain carbon negative in Suriname, but we need to be compensated in some way to continue to meet this target," said the head of state at a press conference.

Santokhi will return to Suriname on June 10.

cont'd from pg 16

He added the second category applies to those persons who have a valid non-immigrant visitor visa to the US, which Canada will use that as the base to get the ETA. You must enter Canada by air.

"I welcome it because it's an advance

but it's not yet the whole hub, metaphorically speaking," said the Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines.

He noted that some progress has been made with a lot of lobbying efforts.

Gonsalves said St Vincent and the Grenadines is in a better position now than it otherwise would have been.

KNOW THE FACTS!



The Ministry of Health would not administer vaccines to harm its people.

All vaccines administered in Antigua and Barbuda are **safe and effective.**



CHOOSE TO GET VACCINATED!

- Measles
- Mumps
- Rubella
- Inactivated Polio Virus
- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- Hpv (Human Papilloma Virus),
- Varicella (Chicken Pox)
- Haemophilus
- Influenza
- Hepatitis B
- Yellow Fever
- Covid-19 Vaccine.



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

unicef 
for every child

Mike Pence tears into Donald Trump at 2024 campaign launch

BBC - Former US vice-president Mike Pence has offered his most forceful repudiation of Donald Trump to date during a speech launching his 2024 campaign.

The Republican accused Mr Trump of being unfaithful to the US constitution and of abandoning conservative values.

The former Indiana governor and congressman formally commenced his White House campaign on Wednesday.

The move pits him against his two-time running mate, who he served under in the White House from 2017-21.

At a speech in Ankeny, Iowa, Mr Pence argued that Mr Trump had encouraged the mob that attacked the US Capitol on 6 January 2021, and had incorrectly asserted that Mr Pence had the power to overturn the election result.

"But the American people deserve to know that on that day, President Trump also demanded that I choose between him and the constitution," he said.

"Now, voters will be faced with the same choice: I chose the constitution and I always will."

He added that Mr Trump's actions on 6 January should disqualify him from returning to power.

"I believe that anyone



Mike Pence digs at Trump in 2024 campaign launch.

who puts themselves over the constitution should never be president of the United States," he said.

"And anyone who asked someone else to put them over the constitution should never be president of the United States again."

Mr Pence, 64, also took shots at Democratic President Joe Biden as well, arguing that neither he nor Mr Trump are similar to average Americans who know how to "treat each other with kindness and respect even when we disagree".

Much of his speech focused on his disagreements with Mr Trump, but he also hit out at another Republican 2024 rival, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

"Donald Trump and others who would seek the presidency would walk away from our traditional role on the world stage," he said, hitting out at Mr DeSantis for his recent remarks

about the war in Ukraine.

Mr Pence was one of eight Republican presidential candidates who appeared at a fundraising event at the Iowa state fairground, known as the Roast and Ride, last weekend.

He arrived on a Harley Davidson along with another couple of hundred bikers who rode in convoy, raising money for military veterans. But that was not enough to provoke much excitement around his candidacy.

An energetic Ron DeSantis got the most enthusiastic response as he promised to "fight the woke" wherever he finds it.

Mr Pence's speech, by comparison, was flat and lacklustre, perhaps demonstrating why a former vice-president with nationwide name recognition is trailing badly in opinion polls.

According to a Reuters-Ipsos survey released

last month, Mr Pence is polling at 5%, compared to 44% for Mr Trump.

One former Trump voter, Todd Wilson, said he felt Mr Pence "needs to be a little bit stronger".

The candidate's humility was a plus, he said, "but I think if you're going to be the president, you got to have to have a little bit of a bulldog in you. So I'm looking for that out of Pence."

The Republican field for the 2024 nomination is increasingly crowded.

On Tuesday, former New Jersey Governor Chris Christie launched a bid. On Wednesday, North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum also announced that he was entering the race.

Mr Pence was seen as an unswervingly loyal deputy to Mr Trump through much of their four years in office.

But he has distanced himself since the riot at the US Capitol.

Mr Trump pressured Mr Pence to overturn Joe Biden's election victory when he presided over the certification of results in Congress and admonished him for lacking "courage" when he refused.

Some rioters were heard chanting "hang Mike Pence" as they stormed the halls of Congress, and many Trump loyalists view him as a traitor.

Parkland officer on trial for failing to stop shooting

By **Brandon Drenon**

A former sheriff's deputy has gone on trial charged with failing to protect students when a gunman opened fire in 2018 at a school in Parkland, Florida.

Scot Peterson was the on-duty police officer during the attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

He is the first US officer charged with failing to respond to a school shooting, says the National Association of School Resource Officers.

The 60-year-old could receive up to 97 years in prison.

He faces 11 charges: seven of felony child neglect, three of culpable negligence and one of perjury.

Prosecutors say Mr Peterson, who was armed with a handgun but was not wearing a bullet-resistant vest, failed to follow his active-shooter training to minimise casualties during the six-minute attack.

He did not enter the building as shots were fired, according to video footage.

Seventeen people died and 17 others were injured in what was one of the deadliest school shootings in US history.

In opening statements on Wednesday, jurors heard from prosecutor Steven Klinger that Mr Peterson had been a school resource



Scot Peterson (centre) faces almost a century in prison if convicted.

officer since 1991 and “received numerous trainings on school safety and active shooters, which direct officers to run toward the sound of gunfire”.

Mr Klinger says Mr Peterson stayed in an alcove adjacent to the school for 30 or 40 minutes until the shooting stopped.

Defence attorney Mark Eiglarsh argued Mr Peterson “could not discern precisely where the shots were coming from”.

His defence said it has 22 witnesses who will testify that they were also confused about the location of the gunfire.

“What we have here is a man with a decorated history of serving the community for 32 years, and in literally four minutes and 15 seconds, they’re claiming he became a criminal,” Mr Eiglarsh said.

Showing a photo of the gunman, Mr Eiglarsh asserts he was the “monster”

to blame for that day.

To convict Mr Peterson, prosecutors must persuade the jury he knew the gunman was inside the building and that his alleged inaction endangered students. They must also show he was legally a caregiver to the students.

Mr Peterson has maintained he thought the shots were coming from a sniper outside, otherwise he has insisted he would have gone inside the building to confront the attacker.

Defence attorneys have said they will argue their client does not fall under the statutory definition of “caregiver”. The neglect law is typically used to prosecute parents or day-care providers.

The misdemeanour perjury count Mr Peterson faces is for allegedly lying to investigators under oath about his actions that day.

David Weinstein, a Miami criminal defence law-

yer and former prosecutor, told BBC the prosecution will have an “uphill battle” proving that Mr Peterson had the legal responsibility to be the caregiver of the children in this case.

“Just because somebody’s job description contains the words ‘school resource officer’ doesn’t mean he’s defined under the statute as a caretaker of these children,” Mr Weinstein said.

“Traditional law enforcement do not have that legal responsibility over a child.”

Mr Peterson, who retired after 32 years as a deputy in the aftermath of the attack, was charged in June 2019.

If convicted, he also faces losing his \$104,000 (£83,500) annual pension.

A Florida Department of Law Enforcement investigation found Mr Peterson “did absolutely nothing to mitigate” the shooting.

Their inquiry found the gunman discharged his weapon about 140 times, 75 times after Mr Peterson arrived on the scene.

Critics, including then-President Donald Trump, branded him a coward.

The attacker pleaded guilty to the killings and was sentenced last year to life in prison without parole.

Egypt bans Dutch archaeologists over exhibit about black musicians

BBC - A Dutch museum says its archaeologists have been banned from carrying out excavations at a key Egyptian site over an exhibition exploring the influence of ancient Egypt on black musicians.

The National Museum of Antiquities in Leiden said Egyptian authorities had accused it of “falsifying” history through its showcase of work by artists including Beyoncé, Nas and Miles Davis.

It called the argument “unfounded” and expressed disappointment at the ban.

Egyptian officials have not commented.

But last month Egyptian media reported that the exhibition had angered a local antiquities expert, who said it supported “Afrocentric theory”.

The event prompted an Egyptian MP to ask the government what it was doing to “confront the distortion of Egyptian civilization”.

The museum also said that it had received comments via social media that were “racist or offensive in nature” since the exhibition opened.

The dispute comes only weeks after Egyptian authorities condemned a new Netflix docudrama series depicting Queen Cleopatra as a black African as a “falsification of history”.

The antiquities minis-



Beyoncé wore an Nefertiti-inspired costume while performing at the 2018 Coachella festival.

try insisted that Cleopatra had “Hellenistic (Greek) features”, including “light skin”.

The exhibition at the National Museum of Antiquities (RMO) - entitled *Kemet. Egypt in Hip Hop, jazz, soul & funk* - aims to demonstrate how Ancient Egypt and Nubia have been “an undeniable source of inspiration for musicians of African descent for over 70 years”.

The artists have embraced the ancient cultures and employed the associated motifs “as symbols of resistance, empowerment and spiritual healing”, it says.

It features photographs and music videos showing how Beyoncé and Rihanna had both appeared as Queen

Nefertiti; a modern sculpture of Nas based on the famous gold mask of King Tutankhamun; several of Sun Ra’s Egyptian-inspired costumes; and songs by artists ranging from Nina Simone and Fela Kuti to Erykah Badu and Lauryn Hill.

The exhibition also looks at what scientific research has revealed about ancient Egypt and Nubia and discusses how they have been studied from Eurocentric and Afrocentric perspectives.

The RMO said in a statement on Wednesday that it was disappointed to be informed in a recent email from a senior Egyptian antiquities official that it was no longer allowed to excavate at the Saqqara necrop-

olis near Cairo after almost 50 years of work there.

“The Egyptian authorities have every right to terminate a permit for an excavation; after all, it is their land and their heritage. However, the museum considers the underlying argument for this decision incorrect.”

It added: “The Egyptian authorities conclude that our current exhibition... is about ‘falsifying’ the ancient Egyptian history. This political argument is used to express the dissatisfaction with the exhibition and to ban our excavation.”

The RMO also expressed surprise that the argument was being made by “people who have not actually seen the exhibition”.

Willikies Super Stars win back-to-back domino titles

The Willikies Super Stars have won back-to-back Team Four Hand titles in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) League.

They played unbeaten to secure the title in the second Team Four-Hand competition which is being played at the association's headquarters in Ottos.

The Willikies Super Stars won by default over Dominatrixx in the fifth and final round of matches to finish at the top of the standings with the maximum 10 points.

The Bolans Revellers captured the runners-up spot as they beat Ramplers 51-23 in their final outing to finish with eight points. Ramplers took third place with a record of three wins and two losses to finish with six points.

Double Six finished second from bottom of the five-team round-robin competition with four points after pulling off a 52-29 victory over Unstoppables, who ended in the cellar position with two points.

Meanwhile, Double Six Diamonds have maintained their lead in the second series of the ABNDA League's Team Three-Hand Competition.

Double Six Diamonds advanced to 393 points after scoring 70 points to finish second in their encounter



The Willikies Super Stars have won back-to-back Team Four Hand titles in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's League. (File photo)

ter during the 5th round of matches, which are being contested using the accumulated points format.

The Diamonds were beaten by the B Team of Bolans Revellers, who scored 88 points, while Future notched up 60 points to finish third in the encounter.

Parham Strikers also maintained their second place position despite finishing second in their fifth round encounter, which was won by the A Team of Willikies Super Stars with 82 points.

Strikers scored 70 points to advance to an overall total of 383 points, while the A Team of Bolans Revellers ended the match in third place with 68 points.

The C Team of Bolans Revellers have advance to third place with an overall total of 378 points after scoring 88 points to win their latest match against Dominatrixx who notched up 64 points and the A Team of Bravo who scored 62 points.

There were also wins for Triple Dynamite, the

B Team of Willikies Super Stars and Moise Eagles in the fifth round of Team Three-Hand matches.

Triple Dynamite scored 85 points to beat the B Team of Bravo with 74 points and Legacy with 67 points.

The B Team of Willikies Super Stars secured 78 points to prevail against Rising Stars with 73 points and Ramplers with 67 points.

Moise Eagles scored 74 points to defeat Double Six Ice with 69 points and Unstoppables with 66 points.

First West Indies Academy players two-day match ends in a draw

The opening two-day intra-squad encounter of the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Emerging Players Academy teams as part of their High-Performance Camp ended in a draw at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds (CCC) in Antigua on Tuesday.

Team A, which is led by Ackeem Auguste, made 219 all out off 50.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat. Opener Kimani Melius topscored with 64 off 77 balls, middle-order batsman Rivaldo Clarke struck 47 and Matthew Forde chipped in with 26.

Chamiqetio Landerfort snapped up three for 13, Team B captain Ny-eem Young captured three for 41, Amari Goodridge claimed two for 29 and Jaden Carmichael picked up two for 40.

In reply, Team B made 203 all out in 61.1 overs. Kevlon Anderson struck 61, Leeward Islands wicketkeeper batsman Carlon Bowen-Tuckett of Nevis scored an unbeaten 33 and opener Matthew Nandu chipped in with 29.

Ashmead Nedd took two for 27, Forde had two for 30, Leeward Islands off-spinner Onaje Amory of Nevis claimed two for 33 and fellow Leeward Islands left-arm pacer Nathan Ed-

wards captured two for 53.

Team B made 256 all out off 50 overs in their second innings when they match ended.

Forde slammed 63 off 62 balls with nine fours and a six, Joshua James

hammered 59 off 53 balls with six fours and three sixes, Johann Layne struck a quick-fire 55 off just 24 balls with eight fours and three sixes while Edwards was not out on 27.

Young claimed three

for 43, Landerfort took two for 21 and McKenny Clarke picked up two for 38.

The teams are slated to play two more matches during the training camp which is being held from 3rd to 14th June at the CCC.

You are invited to:

GRAYS GREEN

Youth

AGE: 9-16

BASKETBALL CAMP

Sponsored by:

MICHAEL JOSEPH

Founder of: Fire Phoenix Foundation



Fire Phoenix Foundation

10TH -11TH

JUNE

10AM-4PM

In collaboration with: The Mitch League & Provizion Athletics Prime

THE MITCH

LEAGUE



provizion Athletics Prime

Scan to register:



or call: 781-FPFI (3734)



**MON - FRI
10AM - 12PM**

HOSTED BY CARLENA KNIGHT

PLATINUM SPORTS CENTER

**CALL: 562 - 9790
FACEBOOK LIVE @ PLATINUM FM 97.9**

Coach Joseph working to produce national volleyball team players

Head Coach of the Royal Cruisers female volleyball team Rixon Joseph said his organization is seeking to develop players for the senior national volleyball side.

Joseph, who is a former outside hitter for current men's domestic club champions Stoneville and coach of the national female Under-20 side, has been using the ongoing Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) local league to monitor and evaluate the progress of development being exhibited by the players of Royal Cruisers.

Joseph said he is currently working with 30 players in his quest to produce players for the junior and senior national female volleyball teams, but Royal Cruisers club is in need of more coaches to assist with the development of the players.

"Well the other coaches and I along with the management staff, we are basically looking to develop the young players to make the senior national team and also the junior national team," Joseph stated.



Head coach Rixon Joseph, center in orange shirt and cap, engage the players of Royal Cruisers during a timeout in their female division encounter against Stoneville in the ABAVA Local Club League at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on 22nd March, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

"Currently I have 30 females with whom I am actually working and we have more females coming to join the club, so I have to look for more coaches to assist me when it comes to that."

The current group of young players at the Royal Cruisers Club is a unique blend. Joseph said that some players are enrolled in schools and college while

others are employed in their various professions.

"Well some players are finished from school. I have some that are going to ABIIT (Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology) and some players that are working, so it's an all-round team," Joseph said.

"I have old and in between and the youngest player is actually 11 years

old on the team. Yes, that's what we are working toward, just getting better every game until next year."

Joseph said his club is also seeking an alternative venue to the YMCA Sports Complex to conduct their training sessions.

"Well we train right here at the YMCA, but we are trying to find another court outside of the YMCA because every team practice here, and for young players, you can't practice twice a week or once a week.

"If we can practice five days a week, it will be way better for the players so that their game can be improved."

cont'd from pg 26

said, "Winning man-of-the-match means that you have done something good for the team, especially in a winning effort. Somebody must take the pressure off the other batsmen, so that is my role, and I am just trying to do it to the best of my ability."

The West Indies beat the UAE by seven wickets in the opening match last Sunday. Both sides will clash in the third and final match of the series at the same venue tomorrow (Friday). First ball is 4:30 pm local time (8:30 am Eastern Caribbean/7:30 am Jamaica).

West Indies win ODI series against UAE

The West Indies crushed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) by 78 runs in the second One-Day International (ODI) at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium to win their three match series on Tuesday, 6th June.

The West Indies posted 306 all out in 49.5 overs and then restricted the UAE to 228 for seven off their 50 overs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead.

West Indies opener Brandon King continued his good form in the series by following up his maiden ODI century in the first match with a well-played 64 (70 balls), which included four fours and four sixes.

His opening partner, Johnson Charles was not to be left out, hitting eight fours and three sixes on his way to 63 off 47 balls.

Batting first after winning the toss, the West Indies got to 129 before losing their first wicket, when Johnson Charles was dismissed. While they slowed up slightly after that dismissal, Shamarh Brooks (20 from 22 balls) and Keacy Carty (32 from 39 balls) made sure to steady the ship



West Indies opener Johnson Charles, right, celebrates reaching his half century in the second One-Day International (ODI) against the UAE at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium in the UAE on Tuesday, 6th June. (CWI Media)

and continue building the platform for a big total.

Other valuable contributions with the bat in the middle came from captain Shai Hope (23 from 25 balls) and Kavem Hodge (26 from 28 balls), with Odean Smith scoring 37 from 24 balls, hitting three fours and a six batting at number six and helped the West Indies to get over the 300 runs mark.

Veteran pace bowler Zaheer Khan captured three

for 44 while Ali Naseer, Sanchit Sharma and Aayan Afzal Khan each picked up two wickets.

In reply, the visitors never really seemed likely to get close to the total, losing their captain Muhammad Waseem (6 from 13 balls) in the fourth over.

Vriitya Aravind came to the crease and made a well-played 36 (52 balls), which was followed up with quite a few notable batting perfor-

mances from his teammates.

Basil Hameed fell agonizingly short of his half century, scoring 49 (84 balls) and Ali Naseer (57 from 53 balls). However, the UAE rate of scoring was never quick enough to worry the West Indies. Hodge claimed two for 46 and Roston Chase captured two for 49.

Charles, who was named man of the match, *cont'd on pg 25*