

TOURISM MINISTERS VOICE CONCERNS OVER INDUSTRY WAGES

Story on Page 2



There were high-level discussions this week, between a delegation from the financiers of the project, the Saudi Fund for Development, and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda. *Story on page 4.*

Caribbean tourism ministers voice concerns over industry wages

The wages and salaries paid to workers in the hotel sectors across the Caribbean have drawn the attention of the region's tourism ministers.

Word of this comes from Antigua and Barbuda's Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez who is among Caribbean tourism ministers meeting for the Caribbean Tourism Organisation's annual Tourism Week being held in New York City, this week.

Fernandez explained that there is an issue of rising costs in the tourism sector affected by the aftermath of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the rising oil prices. He said these growing prices are affecting the bottom line in the hotel sector across the region. However, he noted many hoteliers are seeking to deal with this by keeping down the salaries and wages paid to their workers.

"You have some hotels that are concerned about the whole aspect of the employees and their remuneration. As a matter of fact, at the same time, they



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez with ABTA CEO Colin C James in NYC.

are trying to get more per room, they are trying to keep their costs down and one of the ways to achieve this, as far as they are concerned, is by keeping the salaries and wages of their employees down," he further explained.

Fernandez revealed that this matter has been discussed by the ministers and they believe that this is something that needs to be addressed. "Wages and salaries should not be the first thing that hoteliers look at to push down and the last to pull up. We believe that it should be the other way around." He stated.

The tourism minister noted that the governments give so much in concessions on behalf of the people of the country and as a result, the governments expect that their people must not be pushed to the 'back of the table.'

The Caribbean tourism ministers also discussed rising crime across the region and its impact on tourism. "We have seen a spike in crime in Antigua and Barbuda, even though we are still the lowest in criminal activities, one crime is still one crime too many. Safety is something that we are happy and proud of recognizing. Travelers today want rich, local, cultural experiences. If the crime is low, then we can encourage our visitors and locals to go out and sample food at the different restaurants. Therefore, for us, safety is an issue," Fernandez remarked.

He emphasized that while Antigua and Barbuda is fortunate to have a relatively low crime rate and safety is a serious issue, the country cannot afford to let this get 'out of hand,'

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New promotional campaign for A&B launched

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) is launching a new television and digital campaign to promote the stunning and unique twin-island destination of Antigua and Barbuda to visitors.

The hero TV spot features iconic and famous landmarks and attractions across both islands, including the award-winning Valley Church Beach, Shirley Heights, Devil's Bridge, Barbuda's famous Pink Sand Beach, Barbuda Belle and Barbudan institution 'Uncle Roddy's', Sheer Rocks restaurant, Stingray City and the Hells Gate Steel Orchestra. The real stars of the campaign, however, are the Antiguan and Barbudan nationals who appear in front of the camera, with leads being Antiguan Junior Weathered and Barbudan Shakira James.

The campaign playfully pitches these Antiguan and Barbudans up against one another to showcase the best things about their respective island - highlighting the breadth and depth of the authentic travel experiences available across Antigua and Barbuda.

Commenting on the campaign, Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez says, "Our people, are our tourism ambassadors, and this is easily recognised through the passion and enthusiasm displayed by the Antiguan and Barbudans within this campaign as they proudly speak about experiences that travel-

ers can have when they visit our country."

"The unifying message behind the campaign is "Why choose when you can have the best of both islands? Visitors to Antigua are reminded that our sister-island Barbuda is only minutes away and both offer visitors two unique experiences in one vacation," said the tourism minister.

The carefree television commercial shows Antiguan enthusiastically trying to top Barbudans, and vice versa. In one scene we hear the Antiguan lead enthusiastically declare "We got Nelson's Dockyard. We got English Harbour... And we got the party. 'There's more people here than on your whole is-

land!"

His Barbudan counterpart responds with "Exactly man! You come to Barbuda, and you've got whole beaches all to yourself. And not just beaches. Pink. Sand. Beaches!"

The campaign also features local Mixologist of the Year Altino Spencer, who says "Why choose, when you can have both." As he says the line, we see him serve up a Barbudan Pink Sand Cocktail and an Antiguan Old Fashioned Rum Punch.

ABTA CEO, Colin James states, "The new campaign is the extension of our AND campaign as we intentionally move to spotlight the discerning and value-conscious

consumers, our twin-island destination, and the luxurious and authentic experiences available in each."

The campaign launches following announcements of new flights and hotel developments in Antigua, and the expansion of room stock in Barbuda with the opening of smaller boutique properties.

The commercial will run in the key markets of the USA, Canada, The UK & Europe as well as The Caribbean and Latin America throughout the Summer and Fall, as the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority targets increased visitation. The campaign will also appear in print, media, and digital platforms.



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GGGI

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UWI FIC's expansion one step closer to commencement

There are positive signs that the planned expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus is inching closer to a start time.

This comes as there were high-level discussions this week, between a delegation from the financiers of the project, the Saudi Fund for Development, and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

“Pursuant to the loan agreement entered into by the Government of Antigua

and Barbuda with the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) for the expansion and development of the University of the West Indies Five-Islands Campus, The Minister of Education, Sports and the Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, conducted discussions on Monday 5th June 2023 to Wednesday 7th June 2023 with members of the Saudi Fund for Development Team, to strategize plans for the expansion and development,” a media re-



Saudi Fund for Development delegation in discussions.

lease from the government stated.

It said the discussions

on the agenda covered various aspects such as the engagement of a local consultant, the design phases of the project which addresses the immediate need for necessary buildings to be constructed, the procurement process for various packages associated with the project, and the construction of new facilities such as dormitories on the university campus.

“The benefit of the discussions held will also help to address the immediate need for the development of a new Five Islands Primary School, support the employment of local sub-contractors along with relatively similar classes of workers in this development, and generate new streams of income to assist in enhancing Antigua and Barbuda’s academic endeavours,” the release continued.

Additionally, accord-
cont'd on pg 5

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GG celebrates the nation's centenarians

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, and Lady Williams are this week joining with residents, in celebrating the remarkable milestones achieved by the nation's centenarians.

This comes as Centenarian Day 2023 was observed on Thursday, as part of the observance of Centenarian Week.

“On this occasion of Centenarian's Day 2023, Lady Williams and I extend our warmest greetings to the citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda. Centenarian Day is the day which has been specially set aside in this week of celebrations to come together to acknowledge the remarkable lives and invaluable contributions of our treasured centenarians.”

“As we embark on the 7th annual Centenarian's Week, we pay tribute to the 23 living centenarians, whose wisdom, resilience, and longevity inspire us all. Their exceptional journey through time is a testament to the strength of the human spirit and serves as a reminder of the rich heritage and history of our nation,” he urged.

cont'd from pg 4

ing to the media release, mutually agreed timelines for the phase of the project were discussed and agreed upon by the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) Team and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

He noted that the Office of the Governor General has worked together with the Minister and officials in the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation, and the Environment, to uphold the tradition of

visiting the centenarians on their birthdays.

“This cherished practice not only allows us to personally convey our well wishes but also provides an opportunity to express our gratitude for their signif-

icant contributions to our society,” the Governor General noted.

He also thanked the media for their efforts in making the public aware of our centenarians and their contributions.

NORTH INTERNATIONAL BANK LIMITED

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

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash and cash equivalents (Note 7)	1,674,147	5,677,097
Statutory deposit (Note 8)	1,500,000	1,500,000
Investments (Note 9)	18,736,866	25,973,329
Loans receivable (Note 10)	165,322	647,343
Other assets (Note 11)	13,882,365	6,329,150
Due from related party (Note 15)	8,482,382	2,237,332
Property and equipment, net (Note 12)	267,787	206,560
Total assets	<u>44,708,869</u>	<u>42,570,811</u>
<u>LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIENCY</u>		
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Customer deposits (Note 13)	32,436,526	42,414,819
Accounts payable and accruals (Note 14)	584,737	614,262
Income tax payable (Note 20)	117,263	100,825
Total Liabilities	<u>33,138,526</u>	<u>43,129,906</u>
<u>SHAREHOLDERS DEFICIENCY:</u>		
Share Capital (Note 16)	13,517,618	13,517,618
Subscribed Share Capital (Note 16)	8,482,382	2,232,382
Unrealised (loss)/gain on investments	(876,223)	(714,585)
Financial asset revaluation	5,400,000	-
Accumulated deficit	(14,953,434)	(15,594,510)
Total Shareholders Deficiency	<u>11,570,343</u>	<u>(559,095)</u>
Total Liabilities and Shareholders Deficiency	<u>44,708,869</u>	<u>42,570,811</u>



NIB
North International Bank

Local historian represents the Caribbean at Pan African Expo in Germany

Ian Joseph, one of the founding members of the Bethesda School Heritage Foundation Inc., a community group established to preserve the memory and legacy of Vigo Blake, who

established the first school to educate the enslaved people of Bethesda, represented the Caribbean at the annual Pan African Expo held recently in Germany.

He used the opportunity

to celebrate the many Caribbean nationals whose works and deeds helped to free Caribbean people from the enslavement of the plantations to the mental enslavement of colonialism and its deriv-

atives.

“We Africans are not defined by borders. We are the chosen people; hence we are found all over this planet. Part of our history in the Americas began when we were kidnapped and trafficked across the Atlantic to provide labour to enhance and build the countries of the colonizers. Many of us came from royalty to be enslaved. We were never slaves. We were enslaved, even when our ancestors were controlled by whips and guns, they never surrendered their customs and beliefs. This is the very reason we are here celebrating Africa and in the process creating the Africa we want to see,” he stated in his address to the conference.

Noting that many of the conditions associated with slavery and colonialism still exist today, such as poverty and poor health. Joseph said the struggle of the Africans in the diaspora, as well as in the Mother Land must continue until the conditions change and improve for all peoples.

He paid homage to freedom fighters and activists such as Toussaint L'Overture of Haiti, Bob Marley of Jamaica, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King Jr. of the United States, Maurice Bishop of Grenada, Tim Hector and V.C. Bird Snr. of Antigua and Barbuda, Wal-

cont'd on pg 9

NORTH INTERNATIONAL BANK LIMITED

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

	2022	2021
INCOME:		
Interest on loans	21.918	58.517
Investment income	493.040	3.052.896
Service fees and commissions	624.232	2.119.656
Gain by forex exchange revaluation	3.138.158	3.645.818
Other income (Note 17)	2.230.000	2.559.133
	<u>6.507.348</u>	<u>11.436.020</u>
INTEREST EXPENSES (Note 18)		
Net finance income before expenses	<u>(82.355)</u>	<u>(51.276)</u>
	6.424.993	11.384.744
EXPENSES:		
Administrative expenses (Note 19)	(3.693.342)	(6.956.500)
Loss by forex exchange revaluation	(1.409.620)	(1.375.968)
Realised loss on disposal of investments	(664.517)	(351.498)
	<u>(5.767.479)</u>	<u>(8.683.966)</u>
Operating profit	<u>657.514</u>	<u>2.700.778</u>
Tax expense (Note 20)	<u>(16.438)</u>	<u>(67.519)</u>
Net profit for the year	<u>641.076</u>	<u>2.633.259</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS):		
Items that may not be reclassified to profit or loss		
Net change in fair value of financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income	<u>(161.638)</u>	<u>(799.587)</u>
Total other comprehensive loss for the year	<u>(161.638)</u>	<u>(799.587)</u>
Total comprehensive income for the year	<u>479.438</u>	<u>1.833.672</u>



NIB
North International Bank

Sandals Foundation promotes World Ocean Day

As the world focuses its attention on all issues related to the environment, The Sandals Foundation engaged students from several schools in activities marking World Ocean Day, on Thursday.

The Foundation said the commemoration of World Ocean Day was designed to help students develop an appreciation for the biodiversity of the aquatic space.

With the use of marine-focused worksheets, storybooks, and other fun learning materials, grade three students from the Villa, Greenbay, and Cedar Grove Primary Schools journeyed to Sandals Grande Antigua Resort and were engaged in a cross-section of topics, including plastic pollution, overfishing, marine sanctuary management, as well as biodiversity and coral health and function.

“Environmental education is a big part of what we do at the Sandals Foundation because informed people can make better decisions,” said Georgia Scarlett, the Sandals Foundation’s Environmental Projects Coordinator.

“In keeping with this year’s theme for World Oceans Day, which speaks to the need for us to conserve our wonderful marine resources for future gener-

ations, it was important for us to engage children across the region, through environmental education sessions. By empowering children to take action for environmental protection, we are creating a strong platform for the sustained protection of our region’s natural resources,” she added.

Julia James, a teacher at Greenbay Primary School was elated to have the Sandals Foundation Ambassadors engage students in this manner.

“It was very interactive and refreshing for the students. The awareness and educational value that came from the session was more than what I initially expected. The facilitator really encapsulated the message and importance of our marine spaces and how we should protect them.”

For 9-year-old Shadrah Modeste, the day’s session was enlightening, as he said, “I am happy my school was invited to be a part of this session. I was able to learn about the coral reefs and how to protect them and what can happen if we don’t save our reefs.”

The activity provides a one-of-a-kind experience for students in Antigua and Barbuda to explore the wonders of wetlands and terrestrial wildlife.

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Caribana monarchs to appear on stage in Antigua this weekend

The organisers of Carnival Vibes - a weekly three-night showcase of entertainment and talent - will feature special appearances by the winners of the Barbuda Caribana Calypso Monarch and Soca Monarch this weekend.

Show-Off Entertainment says the event is a new social and party milieu and is held at The Weed House, located on Buckley's Main Road next to the Pond.

This weekend, Show-Off Entertainment will host recently crowned Caribana

Calypso Monarch, Queen Stabba, and Soca winner, King Yoko who will be the headline performers on Sunday 11 June, starting at 7:00 pm.

Both Barbudans, who thrilled the audiences and wowed the judges with their electrifying performances during the annual Whitsuntide festival, say they are eagerly looking forward to giving Antiguan a taste of their repertoire.

"I have a lot of fans in Antigua and I'm urging them to come out because

they'll be in for a treat," the multi-time calypso winner exclaimed.

"For me, it would be great to perform in Antigua and stir up the audience," King Yoko chimed.

The sister-isle's performers will be supported by seasoned calypsonians such as former road march winner Redding, veteran Faithful, Supa D -a calypso monarch finalist last year-, and Melypnostick (formerly Lypstick), whose hit song 'Tek Back Man' is heating the airwaves, plus

other artists such as King Ibo on pan.

Antigua's 1996 calypso monarch King Bankers, who starred in the duo Dread & The Baldhead with many Calypso and Soca hits, will also make a special guest appearance.

On Saturday, the Carnival Vibes' Soca session - kicking off at 8 pm at the Weed House - swings into full action with Axis Band featuring lead singer Omar Mathurin who, with the band, have been thrilling the patrons.



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Congratulations to Amiah Henry

A Canadian citizen, with roots in Antigua and Barbuda, has excelled in her academic endeavours by completing dual degrees from a university in the United States.

Family and friends are offering congratulations to Amiah Henry who on May 19, 2023, achieved dual degrees from Roger Williams University (RWU) in Rhode Island, USA (Master of Business Administration – Honors and Juris Doctor, a law degree.) She is now a

qualified lawyer.

Amiah is the daughter of Avery & Constance Henry and an alumnus of the Sunnyside Tutorial School, which she represented on various levels during her formative years.

This gave her the base which she continued to build during her tertiary years.

Adding to her many experiences, was her 2022 internship at the Antigua & Barbuda Department of Marine Services & Mer-

chant Shipping.

Amiah has received various awards at RWU, such as CALI (UN international treaty laws and practices), the 2023 Public Interest Award, and NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association).

She also held positions of Secretary and President (2022/23) of the RWU Black Law Student Association, for which her team won RWU Club of the Year 2022/2023 for the first time.

Amiah was born in



Amiah Henry

Canada but was raised and schooled up to the primary school level in Antigua and Barbuda.



Ian Joseph

cont'd from pg 6

ter Rodney of Guyana and Eric Williams of Trinidad and Tobago.

Joseph spoke reverently of Vigo Blake and his tremendous contributions to the education of his fellowmen at a time when this was prohibited. "I proudly represent Vigo Blake, an enslaved black man who built a schoolroom before slavery was abolished. This happened in 1813 in Antigua at Bethesda. It was the first school for black, enslaved people in the British West

Indies.

The historian expressed admiration for National Hero, Sir Vivian Richards, who turned down millions of dollars to play cricket in South Africa. Sir Vivian refused to go until the system of apartheid had ended. He also recognized the work of Fidel Castro who not only engineered the overthrow of a despotic regime in Cuba but who sent Cuban soldiers to help fight for liberation in Southern African countries such as Angola and Mozambique.

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Opinion



Caribbean's role as a voice of reason in a fractured OAS

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies at the University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

On May 31, the Organization of American States (OAS) faced a prolonged and contentious debate that lasted from 2:30 in the afternoon until well past midnight.

This episode, marked by acrimony and political undercurrents, which was web-cast publicly and instantly to the world, is likely to be revisited during the upcoming OAS General Assembly from June 21 to 23 in Washington, D.C., the headquarters of the OAS.

The discussion on May 31, was officially about the Budget of the Organization, but there were many under-

currents in the contentious debate.

Among them were antagonistic attitudes by a few countries toward the OAS Secretary-General which were unreasonably morphed into hostility to the OAS as an institution.

At the end of the debate, which was characterized by classic filibustering techniques by representatives of 4 countries, a ceiling for the Budget, proposed by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of all 14 CARICOM countries, was adopted by 25 of the 32 active member states of the Organization, with 5 countries against and 2 abstentions.

The 5 countries that opposed were: Bolivia, Chile, Costa Rica, Colombia and Mexico, and the abstaining countries were El Salvador and Honduras.

The current estimated cost for the Organization to fulfil its mandates is \$115 to \$120 million, but its real Budget for 2023 is a mere \$82.8 million.

This had led to a severe



Sir Ronald Sanders

reduction in staff and many of the beneficial programmes in development, security, functional cooperation, technical assistance and even in human rights monitoring.

The proposal by CARICOM countries for a Budget ceiling was \$92.1 million, woefully short by as much as \$28 million of actual costs but, nonetheless, an attempt to keep the Organization from ineffectiveness and inefficiency. Yet, resistance persisted.

The OAS has been in a financial crisis for many years. Over the last 7 years, there has been no increase in the

contributions of the member states to the Organization, except by 14 countries since 2021.

The quota increase for the 14 countries was occasioned by a decision of the U.S. Congress to limit the U.S. share of the Budget to no more than 49.9 percent. It fell to 14 countries to fill the gap; among them were 9 CARICOM countries whose quotas increased by 33.33 percent.

At no time did the 14 affected countries threaten or seek to disrupt the functioning of the Organization by refusing to pay the increased burden that fell upon them.

Yet, a few countries, faced with an increase in their quotas - at the highest end, of approximately 36 per cent - a mere 3 percent higher than the sum that 9 CARICOM countries have been paying for the past 3 years (2021-2023) - strenuously

cont'd on pg 11

<p>Fri 09 Day</p> <p>87° </p> <p>Partly cloudy skies. High 87F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.</p>		<p>Fri 09 Night</p> <p>79° </p> <p>A few clouds. Low 79F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.</p>	
<p>24% </p> <p>E 15 mph</p>	<p>23% </p> <p>E 11 mph</p>	<p>Humidity 75%</p> <p>UV Index Extreme</p>	<p>Humidity 83%</p> <p>UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p>Sunrise 5:33 am</p> <p>Sunset 6:40 pm</p>	<p>Moonrise --</p> <p>Moonset 11:03 am</p> <p> Waning Gibbous</p>		

cont'd from pg 10

objected to the Budget ceiling proposed by CARICOM countries in the contentious budget debate of May 31.

The OAS is the only regional or international organization in which there is no penalty if member states never pay their assessed contributions.

Hence, there are member states that have not paid for years, affecting both the actual money available to the Organization and its cash flow. The truth is the organization is limping along, a shattered shadow of its former self.

The External Audit Committee of the OAS has officially warned the member states that “For over a decade, the in-year budget is

dramatically insufficient to meet the programmatic and administrative requirements of the OAS.”

It repeated 5 recommendations to improve the dire situation. But no action has been taken as the OAS drifts relentlessly into paralysis.

Ministers and Ambassadors of the 32 active member states of the OAS will gather from June 21 to 23 for the OAS General Assembly with little prospect of revitalizing and rejuvenating the OAS whose ancient Charter and outdated rules desperately require change to save the Organization from being strangled by them.

The Charter has not been amended since 1993 and it is not fit for purpose in a world

where events connect every nation. The Organization’s rules also urgently need change.

So why should CARICOM countries care? The answer is that, properly functioning, the Organization has the capacity to maintain peace and security in the Hemisphere, which is crucial to trade and investment, political stability and economic growth.

The OAS also provides valuable mechanisms for functional cooperation between states on a range of issues such as combating crime; drug abuse control; advancing the interests of women; and education.

Further, the OAS is the only hemispheric organiza-

tion in which small states have a voice and a vote equal to the larger states, like Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Mexico and the US.

It is in the OAS that CARICOM countries can influence decisions and advance ideas in the Americas that redound to the benefit of its own peoples.

That is why CARICOM’s role in the work of the OAS, including at the General Assembly in a few days’ time, should be that of an honest broker, providing a bridge to narrow differences between others, and a voice of reason when reasonableness can be of the greatest benefit to all.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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Commentary



Kings Counsels Simon and Henry must admit they are wrong

By **Sir Gerald Watt KCN KC, Speaker**

The Leadership of the United Progressive Party (UPP), its supporters and some other concerned citizens have publicly called for a public inquiry into the setting up of the Nigerian Airline Antigua Airways, its transporting of hundreds of Cameroonians fleeing their country and for a variety of reasons, are stuck in Antigua and Barbuda, and the unfortunate death of three of these persons who drowned while unlawfully attempting to enter St. Thomas, USVI, by boat. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda (GOAB) has declined to hold any such Inquiry and has stated its reasons for not doing so.

Whatever one's views of the matter, the UPP continues to treat the matter as a "cause celebre" and has called and continues to call on the Governor General (GG), Sir Rodney Williams to issue a Commission under the provisions of the Commissions of Inquiry Act (COIAct). The GG has declined to do so on the grounds that, he cannot independently call a Commission of Inquiry, and can only do so "on the advice of the Cabinet". The UPP does not accept this as being a legal position, continues to agitate for an Inquiry, and has even resorted to picketing the office of the GG, at Government House.

The matter has now become a political football, and the body politic is divided on the issue. It is under these circumstances that Justin Simon KC published a letter in the media in which he declared that the GG did indeed have the authority to issue a Commission of Inquiry (COI) under the provisions of the Commission of Inquiry Act (COIAct) Cap 91 of the revised laws of Antigua and Barbu-



Sir Gerald Watt KCN KC.

da. He supported his legal position by quoting from the aforesaid Act and underlining for emphasis those words which he considered supported his legal view, a view shared by E. Ann Henry KC. My reason for this article is that I, Dr. David Dorsett and Jarid Hewlett Esq. of the firm WATT, DORSETT, HEWLETT LAW, consider the legal opinion to be seriously flawed and the opinion of both Kings Counsels to be wrong in law.

It is respectfully submitted that both Kings Counsels have fallen into error, in that they have based their opinion solely on the words of the statute, without analysing and interpreting the Act in a constitutional environment, and failed to apply constitutional principles and conventions, and in particular, relevant sections of the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda (the Constitution). The COIAct cannot be read and interpreted in isolation. Due regard must be had to the genesis of the Legislation which was passed in the year 1880, when decisions such as this were made by the Governor who was appointed by the British Monarchy, not so post 1981, when Antigua and Barbuda attained its independence and governed under the provisions of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution which provided for government by an Executive or Cabinet, the other two

arms of Government being the Legislature and the Judiciary.

In interpreting the COIAct, one must also look at and take into consideration sections 80(1), (2), (3), (16), (17) and (19) of the Constitution of which the marginal note reads: "the exercise of the Governor General's functions". Section 80(1) reads as follows:

"In the exercise of his functions, the Governor General SHALL act in accordance with the ADVICE OF THE CABINET or a Minister acting under the general authority of the Cabinet" (emphasis supplied).

The meaning of this section and its subsections are crystal clear and mandatory; no discretion lies in the GG.

Further, section 80 (2) of the Constitution sets out precisely certain sections which confer upon the GG those functions in respect of which he acts in his own discretion. These are sections 63(6), 67(6), 73(1), 87(8) and 99(5), all of which give to the GG authority "to remove the holders of certain offices in certain circumstances". These include:

A member of the Constituencies Boundaries Commission

The Supervisor of Elections

Revoking the appointment of the Prime Minister in certain circumstances,

The Director of Public Prosecutions

A member of the Public Service Commission

In this regard, it must be noted that appointing Commissions of Inquiry is not a function permitted under section 80(2) of the Constitution and even those functions require the GG to refer the matter to a Tribunal, appointed by him, before he can exercise his

cont'd on pg 14

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Guyana: Court stays suspension of ExxonMobil's Liza 1 operations

CMC - The Guyana Court of Appeal on Thursday ordered a stay of a High Court suspension order of the Liza 1 operations if ExxonMobil does not provide an unlimited financial guarantee for any clean-up that may be caused by an oil spill.

In court on Thursday, Justice of Appeal Rishi Persaud also ordered that ExxonMobil's local subsidiary, Esso Exploration and Production Guyana Limited (EEGPL) lodge US\$2 billion within 10 days with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) should there be an oil spill.

"I do concede of prospects of success in the interest of justice," said Persaud who added that if the money was not lodged, "the stay order stands dismissed."

High Court Judge Sandil Kissoon had effectively given the EPA until June 10, to have unlimited parent company guarantee and/or unlimited liability affiliate company guarantee to finance the cost of any chemical pollution or the licence would be sus-



pending.

Seenath Jairam, lawyer for the applicant Fred Collins, asked that the court order that the appeal be heard urgently but Justice Persaud said he would only urge that it be done soonest.

Persaud noted that President of ExxonMobil Guyana, Alistair Routledge said in his affidavit that the company and Guyana would suffer significant financial losses.

Routledge said the revenue loss

to the permit holder and more importantly to the State of Guyana will have serious implications and devastating consequences in the event of a permit suspension," he said, adding that there would be seeming uncertainty about what an unlimited assurance might entail and the time frame ordered to do so makes the concern problematic.

He stated it appeared as though government's EPA could be considered an expert body "which ought to have prompted judicial restraint."

cont'd from pg 12

power of removal. In passing, readers will recall that Dame Louise Lake Tack utilised such powers to have me removed from my position as Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC), the Tribunal consisting of three regional Justices of Appeal. The Tribunal refused to recommend refusal and the GG was unable to do so. Simon KC was the Attorney General who would have advised the then GG.

In addition to all of the above, I invite the readers

to consider the reality of the situation and to ask themselves the following questions:

If section 2 of the COI Act clothes the GG with the authority to issue a Commission of Inquiry on his own volition, how will the Commission be funded?

More particularly, how will the GG on his own, ensure compliance with sections 14, 15, 16 and 17, 18 and 19 of the COI Act?

If Simon's interpretation of the Act is correct, why has every GG in respect of every COI, done so on the

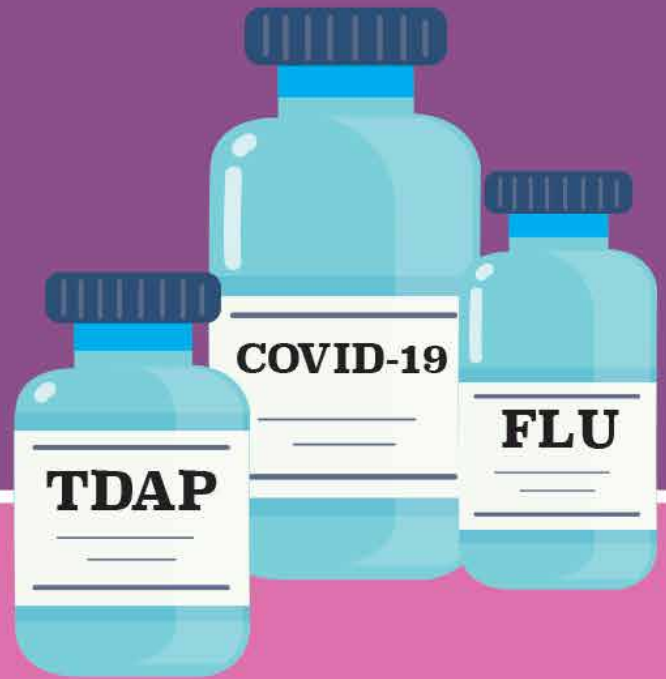
advice of the Cabinet?

Surely if the intention was to empower Governor Generals to independently set up Commissions of Inquiry, an amendment to the Act would have long since been passed.

In the face of the continuing agitation by the Opposition UPP, the GG sought and obtained three written legal opinions from Kings Counsels of known eminence. All three have concluded and advised that the GG "must act on the advice of the Cabinet". In contrast, the Simon opinion has pub-

licly gained support from Leon Chaku Symister Esq. and Dwyer Astaphan Esq. of the Antigua and St. Kitts bar respectively. While not wishing to be unkind, none of these attorneys can be said to be versed in Constitutional law, known to practice in the highest courts, or are considered to have attained any sort of eminence in the legal profession. In these circumstances, both Kings Counsels must admit their error and retract their opinion. They owe the Governor General and the country no less.

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Guyana: Fire kills sisters who were left unattended at home

By Dillon De Shong

A fire in Guyana has claimed the lives of two young girls.

The Guyana Fire and Rescue Service (GFS) identified the deceased as nine-year-old Anamika Hardat, who was disabled, and her sister three-year-old Shameena

GFS reported the deadly blaze occurred just after 1 pm on Wednesday at the two-storey wooden and concrete house that the girls shared with 10 other family members.

The sisters were left at home, which is located at Lot 60-61 Belmont, Mahalica, East Coast Demerara, without adult supervision,



Three-year-old Shameena Hardat (left) and her sister Anamika.

GFS said in a statement.

GFS said it sent fire tenders to extinguish the blaze

but the home was gutted.

The fire service said it is saddened by the loss of

two young lives.

GFS said it “continues to advise citizens to exercise caution and follow safety measures to avoid home fires. Additionally, children should be educated on the dangers of fire starters (matches and lighters) and warned about their use”.

“DO NOT leave children unattended or at home without adult supervision. Keep children away from the cooking area, and ensure matches and lighters are out of their reach at all times.”

GFS is continuing its investigation into the fire to determine how it was started.

CARICOM expresses concern at deaths in Haiti

CMC - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Wednesday noted “with deep concern reports of death, injuries and displacement in our sister member state, Haiti,” as a result of heavy rains and flooding over the past weekend, and the earthquake on Tuesday.

“Our sincere condolences go out to those who now grieve the loss of loved ones, homes and livelihoods,” the 15-member grouping said in a brief statement.

“We extend our arm of friendship to the Government and people of Haiti at this very challenging time and assure them of the continued support and solidarity of member states of the region as they seek to recover from these disasters,” the statement added.

The latest provisional assessment



by the Haitian authorities, Wednesday noted that 51 people had died as a result of rains, 140 were injured and 18 others missing.

The Departmental Emergency Operation Centers (COUD) said nearly 40,000 families have been affected.

The report warned of landslides and rockfalls across the country making and that several bridges have overflowed their banks. Several hospitals have also been flooded including the Sainte Croix Hospital where patients were forced to be evacuated.

US vice president announces more than \$100M to help the Caribbean

US Vice President Kamala Harris announced Thursday that the US is investing more than \$100 million in the Caribbean region to crack down on weapons trafficking, help alleviate Haiti's humanitarian crisis and support climate change initiatives.

The announcement was made ahead of an official trip to the Bahamas for a meeting of Caribbean and US leaders hosted by Harris and Bahamian Prime Minister Philip Davis. Harris, who is the highest-ranking US official to visit the Bahamas since it became independent 50 years ago, landed shortly after noon.

Dozens of greeters including school children and members of her sorority greeted Harris as the Royal Bahamas Police Force band dressed in black, red and white uniform played.

As part of the initiatives, the US Justice Department expects to appoint a coordinator to oversee cases involving illegal weapons smuggling in the Caribbean as island nations report a rise in violent crimes. In addition, the State Department vowed to help improve forensic work in the region, help strengthen local police departments and support a unit based in Trinidad and Tobago aimed at helping islands solve gun-related cases and provide training for the collection and analysis of related intelligence.

The US, with help from the UK, also will establish a program in the eastern Caribbean to mentor local judges and prosecutors in a bid to improve prosecutions of gun-related crimes as island nations struggle with a backlog of cases.

The State Department also expects to work with Haiti's National Police, a severely underfunded



US Vice President-elect, Kamala Harris.

and understaffed agency struggling to quell a surge in gang violence, to help investigate and prosecute crimes with US ties that involve gangs, weapons smuggling and human trafficking.

That initiative is considered key given that gangs are estimated to control up to 80% of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince as killings and kidnappings soar across the metropolitan area and beyond.

US senior administration officials said the worsening security situation requires an international response, and that the US strongly supports the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti.

In October, Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry requested the immediate deployment of a foreign armed force, but the UN Security Council, along with the US and Canada, have yet to respond. Henry, along with other leaders of Caribbean nations, is expected to attend Thursday's meeting with Harris.

US senior administration officials said discussion are ongoing,

and that any decision about military force would be done in consultation with the UN and Haiti's government.

Harris announced that the US Agency for International Development will invest nearly \$54 million in Haiti to help fight a sharp rise in starvation and provide access to potable water and healthcare. Almost half of Haiti's more than 11 million people are facing acute food insecurity, and 19,000 are in catastrophic famine conditions.

Another \$10.5 million will go toward supporting Haiti's agricultural sector as poverty deepens, with some 60 per cent of the population earning less than \$2 a day.

USAID also expects to invest \$20 million to help Caribbean businesses that use technologies related to renewable energy and energy efficiency. Another nearly \$15 million will be used to boost emergency response and preparedness across the region.

Additional funds will help low-lying island nations whose economies largely depend on tourism prepare and adapt to climate change.

Girl, 10, found after spending night lost in US Cascade mountains

By Max Matza

A 10-year-old girl was rescued after spending a night lost and alone in the frigid cold Cascade mountains outside of Seattle, Washington.

Shunghla Mashwani became separated from her family during a visit to the rugged Cle Elum valley on Sunday.

She was found the next day after a massive search and rescue effort by teams from across Washington state.

Officials say she slept between two trees to stay warm in temperatures that dropped down to 38F (3C).

Shunghla, who arrived in the US from her native Afghanistan two years ago, was wearing only a T-shirt and pair of jeans when she went missing.

The “remarkably tough little kid” suffered only some minor scrapes, Kittitas County Deputy Sheriff Chris Whitsett told BBC News, but was otherwise unharmed.

The search began on Sunday when a local cabin owner noticed a group of frantic adults searching for the girl in a remote area with no mobile phone service, and offered the use of his satellite phone to contact emergency services.

Over 100 search and rescue team members, most of whom are volunteers, then began a hunt that went



through the night and involved two helicopters and advanced ground mapping technology.

“I was thinking, I will find my dad and keep walking in the forest to find my dad,” Shunghla told Seattle’s KING-News, explaining how she hiked downstream after becoming lost.

In a Facebook post, the Kittitas County Sheriff’s Office praised her impressive survival instincts.

“She said she knew it was the right thing to fol-

low the river. She proved an extraordinarily resourceful and resilient 10-year-old,” the department wrote.

By 15:00 local time (22:00 GMT) on Monday, two searchers combing the area found her and called for a boat to transport her across the swift-moving Cle Elum river to her waiting family.

“There she was. This tough little girl had scrambled through a mile-and-a-half of very dense brush on steep slopes,” said Mr

Whitsett, describing how thankful rescue teams were to find her unharmed.

At one point, the sheriff had the girl’s father record a message in their native language in order to broadcast his voice over the search area, KING-TV reported.

The family told officials that they frequently spend time in the high-altitude backcountry of the Cascade mountains because it reminds them of Afghanistan.

Mr Whitsett, whose of-

cont’d on pg 19

Donald Trump indicted over classified documents case

By George Bowden

Former US President Donald Trump has been indicted over his handling of classified documents after he left the White House.

Mr Trump, 76, faces seven charges including unauthorised retention of classified files, US media reported, but further details are unclear.

It is the second indictment of Mr Trump and the first-ever federal indictment of a former president.

He is campaigning to make a stunning return to the White House in 2024.

In a post on Truth Social, Mr Trump said he was innocent and had been summoned to appear at a federal court in Miami on Tuesday.

"I never thought it possible that such a thing could happen to a former President of the United States," he wrote.

He added: "This is indeed a dark day for the United States of America. We are a country in serious and rapid decline, but together we will Make America Great Again!"

The BBC's US part-



ner CBS News reported a source as saying the indictment was linked to the documents case and involved multiple charges.

Other US media, including CNN and ABC News, said the indictment involved at least seven charges.

An indictment enables the prosecution of a suspect for offences they are charged with.

The Department of Justice declined to comment and the indictment has not been released.

Special prosecutor Jack

Smith has been considering evidence in the documents case since he was appointed to oversee it by Attorney General Merrick Garland in November.

Last year, Mr Trump's Florida resort Mar-a-Lago was searched and 11,000 documents were seized, including around 100 marked as classified. Some of these were labelled top secret.

It was reported last week that prosecutors had obtained an audio recording of Mr Trump in which he acknowledged keeping

a classified document after leaving the White House.

It is against US law for federal officials, up to and including a president, to remove or retain classified documents at an unauthorised location.

Mr Smith, a former war crimes attorney who is known as a dogged investigator, is also overseeing a separate probe into efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election, which Mr Trump lost.

Mr Trump became the first former president to be charged with a crime in April, after he pleaded not guilty to 34 counts of falsifying business records over a hush-money payment to a porn star.

He faces a trial in that case in New York next year.

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fice co-ordinated the massive rescue effort, says that rescuers were concerned that the girl could have been swept away by ice-cold waters that are currently rushing at high levels due to melting spring snow.

"We're so grateful because for searchers, we know that many times our first fear

is 'oh no, that kid is probably in the river and drowned before we even got that call'," said Mr Whitsett.

"And many times that's right. But I hope this story will kind of fuel people to just keep hope. You gotta keep hope and you gotta keep looking for that rescue for as long as possible."

Five men killed in crime-related shooting in Israeli Arab town

By Yolande Knell

Five men have been shot dead in Israel in what appears to have been an attack related to criminal gangs.

The mass shooting at a car wash in the Arab town of Yafa an-Naseriyye, near Nazareth, is believed to have been the deadliest such incident in years.

Israeli media suggest it could be linked to a feud between two families.

It follows a sharp rise in the number of murders among Israeli Arabs, with complaints that the country's hard-line government is ignoring the problem.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he was shocked and that his government was determined to stop the chain of murders.

"I am determined to bring in the Shin Bet [security service] as an aid to the Israel Police against these criminals, against the criminal organisations, against these murders," he added.

The police force said officers had begun an investigation into the circumstances of the shooting and were searching for suspects.

Earlier in the day, a three-year-old girl and her male relative were seriously wounded in another shooting in Kafr Kanna, another town near Nazareth, in what police believe was a criminal dispute.

Israel's Arab minority



The shooting appears to have been the deadliest incident of criminal violence in Israel in recent years.

accounts for about one-fifth of the population, but in recent years it has experienced the vast majority of the country's murders.

According to the Abraham Initiatives, a group which promotes Israeli Arab and Jewish equality, 97 people have been killed so far this year - nearly three times as many as in the same period last year.

Most victims are young men but increasingly others are caught up in a violent crime wave linked to illegal guns, family feuds and organised gangs.

The leader of the opposition, former prime minister Yair Lapid, said the surge in the number of murders was unacceptable and called on

Mr Netanyahu to personally take charge of government efforts to halt it.

Another prominent opposition politician, Benny Gantz - a former army chief and defence minister - called for far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, who is responsible for policing, to be sacked.

Mr Gantz said Mr Ben-Gvir, who has a past conviction for racism and is known for his anti-Arab rhetoric, "cannot handle such a complex event, and it is doubtful that he is interested in handling it".

But Mr Ben-Gvir blamed decades of neglect and lack of governance for the crime wave, saying there had been a "Wild West

in the Arab sector to all intents and purposes".

He expressed support for the prime minister's decision to involve the Shin Bet but also urged him to press ahead with establishing a "national guard".

In theory, Israeli Arabs - or Palestinian citizens of Israel, as many prefer to be called - have equal rights with Jewish citizens, but they routinely complain of state discrimination.

Bereaved families and Arab officials claim that police inaction is one of the main reasons for the endemic violence plaguing their neighbourhoods.

In recent years there have been mass protests by Arab communities.

Antigua & Barbuda represented at regional gymnastics event

By *Carlena Knight*

Eight young ladies from the Antigua Elite Gymnastics Academy will be representing the twin-island nation over the weekend as they are set to compete at the Barbados Gymnastics Invitational and National Championships.

The event will be held on Saturday June 10th at the Sir Garfield Sobers Sports Complex and is being put on by the Barbados Amateur Gymnastics Association.

Olivia Hadeed, Dannika Tarter, Elodie Hall, Chloe Gobat, Amelie Hall, Holly Warne and Denae Bontiff will compete in the Level 2 section while Mitzi Gonsalves will take part in the Level 4 category.

The team is expected to leave the country today for the event and will be coached by Alex Schlosser.

Schlosser is the head coach and program director of the Elite Gymnastics Academy, a program he runs alongside his wife, Jess.

“We are looking forward to competing in the tournament and I do expect the girls to do well.

“Depending on their level they will only show certain skills but for some of the girls like Mitzi, she will be doing a complex routine.

“It should be a great experience for them all,” Alex said during a recent appearance on Platinum Sports



(Top row left to right) Coach Jess Schlosser, Olivia Hadeed, Mitzi Gonsalves, Dannika Tarter, Alex Schlosser. (Bottom row) Elodie Hall, Chloe Gobat, Amelie Hall, Holly Warne, Denae Bontiff.

Center with Carlena Knight.

“We hope through events like these we can get some more support as well. We are funding this trip but we are in talks with the government and NOC for future endeavours.

“Hopefully with that support, we can push the sport even more locally,” he added.

The group has been in existence since 2016 offering recreational and competitive training to persons of all ages in the sport of

gymnastics.

The husband and wife duo signed on in 2018 arriving from Canada and since then have been spearheading the programs at the North South Marina location.

They presently have over 50 students including a 14-month old in various levels at the gym. Many of whom will be on display as they are gearing up to host a showcase on June 24th.

The showcase will feature a number of different

showings from 2pm with the Kindergym section until 7:30pm where the Competitive crew will end the day.

Tickets are on sale with children three years and under free. Four-years-old to 12 years old will play \$15 while those persons 12 and up will play \$20.

“We would definitely love for everyone to come on down and support our students,” Schlosser said.

Interested individuals can contact Alex at 770-2597 for tickets.



The Empire Nation cricket team, champions of the 2023 ABCA 10 splash cricket tournament, have already booked their spot in the semi-finals of the two-day competition. (Photo courtesy ABCA)

Semi-finals to be decided in ABCA Two-Day contest this weekend

The semi-final line-up for the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Two-Day Championship will be decided after this weekend's last round of matches in the preliminary rounds.

Only Empire Nation, who are currently leading the competition with 61 points, have secured their spot in the semi-finals. The other three teams currently in the top four are favourites to claim the other spots in the semi-finals.

Pigotts Crushers are currently in second place with 55 points, one point ahead of the defending champions, the PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, while All Saints Pythons are occupying fourth place with 49 points heading into this weekend's matches.

The top four teams are followed by the New Winthorpes Lions with 47 points, the Wes Rising Sun with 41 points, and the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles with 39 points.

Those three teams are still in with a chance of snatching a place in the semi-finals, but they will have to win their last match in the preliminary round while the other teams above them failed to increase their points tally.

But the other three teams - the Bolans Blasters, Jennings Tigers, and Combined Schools - are all out of contention to reach the semi-finals.

The Bolans Blasters are third from bottom in the standings on 34 points,

four points ahead of the Jennings Tigers, who are second from bottom, while Combined Schools are in the cellar position on six points.

The ninth and last set of matches in the preliminary round will commence tomorrow (Saturday).

The Liberta Black Hawks will host Wes Rising Sun at Ball Beef in Liberta. Bolans Blasters will entertain Bethesda Golden Eagles at Bolans. Pigotts Crushers and All Saints Pythons will clash at Pigotts.

Jennings Tigers will tackle Combined Schools at Jennings, and Empire Nation will face New Winthorpes Lions at New Winthorpes.

The Antigua Commercial Bank

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Cyclists to battle in King of the Hill road race

Local cyclists will return to action in another road race across the island this weekend as part of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) 2023 calendar of events.

The cyclists will be contesting the East Side Raiders Cycling Club's King of the Hill Road Race on Sunday, 11th June.

The event, which is being supported by Roberts Construction and Engineering Ltd., Square One Ltd., APUA's Inet, Gatorade, and Paradise Water, will commence at the block house at Shirley Heights at 8 am.

The cyclists will travel from Shirley Heights into English Harbour, then pass through the villages of Falmouth, Liberta, and All Saints, then onto Jonnas Road.

They will then make their way over to the service station at Mount Joy and take a right turn onto the Pares Village Road.

The cyclist will then make a right turn onto Lyon Hill Road, then into Newfield and into St. Phillips Villages.

They will continue into Freetown Village and onto the Irene Carlos Highway, then make a left turn onto Addari Road and travel up to the entrance at Nonsuch Bay Resort.

The riders will then turn around at the entrance of Nonsuch Bay Resort and travel back along the Addari Road to the Irene Carlos Highway, then make a left turn back into Freetown Village.



Veteran national cyclist Robert 'Ochie' Marsh captured the overall title of the East Side Raiders King of the Hill Road Race last year. (File photo)

The cyclists will travel along the Freetown main road, then onto the St. Phillips main road, continue into St. Phillips Village, and then into Newfield Village.

They will then make a left turn back onto Lyon Hill Road, make a left onto Potworks Dam Drive, and continue into Bethesda Village and Christian Hill.

The riders will then make a right back onto Potworks Dam Drive and a left into English Harbour before finishing back at the block house at Shir-

ley Heights.

Cyclists from all the clubs affiliated with the ABCF are expected to participate in Sunday's race in several categories in the male, female, and junior divisions.

Veteran national cyclist Robert "Ochie" Marsh captured the overall title of the East Side Raiders King of the Hill Road Race last year.

Marsh won the Men Elite Class on his way to securing the overall title in the race by clocking a time of one hour, 47 minutes, and 27.14 seconds.

cont'd from pg 22

(ACB) Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Competition will also get underway with the opening round of matches this weekend.

In tomorrow's (Satur-

day) first round matches, Urlings will take on defending champions Police at Urlings, Freetown will face Masters at Freetown, and Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm will meet Mahico at Clare Hall.

Three matches are also scheduled for Sunday. Time of Victory Old Road will clash with Urlings at Old Road. Oliver Benjamin and Dirk Schouten will be the umpires. Sea View Farm will take on Freetown at Sea

View Farm, where Bertel Baltimore and Llewellyn Simon will be the umpires, while Masters will meet Mahico at Clare Hall. Dallis Adams and Donald Scheckles will be the officiators at Clare Hall.



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Samuel anticipates coaching experience at Brooke House College

Coach Vincent “Nabbu” Samuel is anticipating many benefits from the experience at Brooke House College in the United Kingdom as part of a coaches’ exchange programme between the British learning institution and the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) in Antigua and Barbuda.

Samuel and fellow GNFC coach Desmond “Zeco” Bleau will be exposed to the international experience at Brooke House College as part of the club’s “coaches exchange programme” where they will be assisting in coaching the college’s football teams.

Both coaches will accompany four GNFC players, three of whom will get the opportunity to undergo trials at Brooke House College later this month.

GNFC’s players Joshua Henriques, Ethan Camacho, and Ethan Barton will undergo trials at Brooke House College, while O’Niah Blair will attend as an observer during the 12th to 24th June trip to the UK.

Samuel, who is also the coach of the Cutting Edge female football team in Antigua, said he is hoping to use his stint at Brooke House College to get first-hand knowledge of how to go about getting players in Antigua and Barbuda ready to access overseas scholarship opportunities in the future.



Football coach Vincent ‘Nabbu’ Samuel. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

“Definitely, I am looking forward to this because, at this point in time, we are looking at a situation where you are learning things and looking at different things. Our objective is to try as much as possible to get these players into these sorts of institutions,” Samuel stated.

“So if we go and get firsthand information and firsthand training as to what they would need, we could get back here and prepare

our team to coincide with that sort of a situation.”

Samuel also expressed his happiness that players in Antigua and Barbuda are being afforded these opportunities to develop their football skills overseas as a result of the work being done by coaches such as himself.

“As a coach, when you have trained someone and you see them making it to the next level, whether it is academically or trying to

pursue their dreams, I am elated for those sorts of situations,” Samuel said.

“It’s hard work; we worked hard with these individuals; we know our capabilities; many of the coaches work overtime with these individuals, and they look forward to that. It is definitely a positive situation.

“With all what’s going on, at this point in time, we use football as an avenue to try to keep some of these children out of these mishaps and stuff like that.

“For them to be getting the opportunities now, they have something to work towards. So they can buckle down, look at the situation, and then work hard towards getting these sorts of opportunities.”

The players’ trials are being facilitated through GNFC’s partnership with Brooke House College and the Calvin Ayre Foundation, sponsors of the club’s Advanced Academy programme.

The Calvin Ayre Foundation is also covering the cost of air travel, while Brooke House College is accommodating the coaches and players at their expense.

Samuel expressed his gratitude to GNFC, its president, Ricky Santos, and Brooke House College for providing the coaches and players with this opportunity.

Walsh captures title at St. Kitts Open Golf Championship

Antigua and Barbuda and West Indies cricketer Hayden Walsh Jr. was among the winners at the 40th Johnnie Walker St. Kitts Open Golf Championship.

Walsh, who is more famous for his exploits on the cricket field as a right-arm leg spin bowler and left-handed lower-order batsman, won the Net title in the men's division at the golf championship, which was held at the Royal St. Kitts Golf Club in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts.

Walsh won the title ahead of Kittitian Michael Davis, who captured second place. Walsh's Antiguan colleague Tedson Weatherill finished second in the men's division gross category, which was won by Chris Hensley of St. Kitts and Nevis.

The overall Low Gross Championship was won by Raymond Percival of St. Kitts and Nevis. Fellow Kittitian Adrian Norford claimed second place, while

Christon Baptiste of Trinidad and Tobago finished third.

The overall Low Net championship was captured by Zeke Percival of St. Kitts and Nevis. St. Kitts and Nevis made a clean sweep of the top three positions, with Kittitians Clayton Harrydial and Derionne Fleming finishing second and third, respectively.

Kittitians golfers captured the top two positions in the net and gross categories of the seniors' men's division.

Shaun Weston won the net, with Cari Francis claiming the runner-up spot, while Charles Blake captured the gross and Elvis Browne came in second.

Cedric Jeffers of St. Kitts won the gross in the men's super seniors category, and Canice Louis of St. Lucia finished second, while Hollis George of Trinidad & Tobago captured the net and Harry Harrydial of St. Kitts came second.

Mara Thompson of Bar-



Hayden Walsh Jr. displays his prizes which he won during his debut at the 40th Johnnie Walker St. Kitts Open Golf Championship.

bados won the gross in the ladies' division, while the net was captured by Joan Harris-Warner of St. Kitts, and Wilma Proctor of Anguilla came in second.

The stableford compe-

tion was won by Patrice Duffiol of Guadeloupe. Choon Singh of Trinidad and Tobago took second place, and Gary Cosgrove of St. Kitts and Nevis finished third.