

FRIDAY 14TH JULY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 135 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

FUNDING SET ASIDE FOR ST. MARY'S SOUTH BY-ELECTION

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Local News



Cabinet sets aside funding for St. Mary's South by-election

The Cabinet has set aside the funds necessary to plan and execute the upcoming by-elections in the St. Mary's South constituency.

Cabinet spokesman Lionel Max Hurst was unable to provide the exact figure at Thursday's Post-Cabi-

net Press briefing but he, however, indicated that it was based on a budget presented by the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission, and it represented what they needed to undertake the by-election.

There is no firm date yet on when the by-election is likely to be called.

Hurst noted that the final date by which it may be called is October 26, 2023.

He also announced that persons wishing to participate in the by-election who recently turned 18 years of age have until July 31, 2023, to register, in order

to have their names added to the List of Electors.

A spokesman for ABEC said the July 31 date gives the commission time to carry out the mandatory Claims and Objections process and to be able to have the List of Electors for that constituency published.

The spokesman said the commission will likely reactivate the team that presided over the conduct of the general elections in that constituency. The Returning Officer, Denise Parker will likely get the nod to return to the position. However, the spokesman said that there will be a need for some training, to ensure that the officers conduct the by-election in a highly efficient and professional manner.

Meanwhile, Hurst said the Cabinet has extended appreciation to two individuals who have since retired from the Commission. These are former Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon, and ABEC member, Nathaniel Paddy James.

Dame Lorna stepped down after serving in the post for more than two decades. James who served as chairman and deputy chairman retired when he reached the mandatory age of retirement - 75 years, in February this year.

Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh in the hot seat

A three-member panel of judges has been appointed to examine several disciplinary charges filed against the country's Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh.

Informed sources say the charges were filed by the Regional Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC) following an investigation into several complaints lodged against the Chief Magistrate.

According to the source, the panel of judges has already appointed a legal counsel to lead the inquiry into the 10 disciplinary charges that Chief Magistrate Walsh now faces.

Following an investigation authorized by the Judicial and Legal Services Commission (JLSC), Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh has been served with 10 disciplinary charges,

The informed source reported that the probe into Walsh's behavior was conducted by Justice Stanley John assigned by the Commission.

Walsh, who remains on the bench in the meantime, is expected to defend herself against those charges, but the source takes the view that she ought to recuse herself until the conclusion of the inquiry and its recommendations.

When contacted, Attorney-General Steadroy Benjamin declined to comment on the matter, noting that the matter is entirely out of his hands and is now in the

purview of the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court.

There has been a long list of complaints lodged against the Chief Magistrate regarding how she dispenses justice from the bench.

Her interactions with defendants before her, as well as her general attitude towards staff of the magistracy.

There is also one case in which a senior officer at the St. John's Police Station had accused the chief magistrate of conduct unbecoming of her office. The officer said

to be second in command at the station, recorded that she had physically assaulted him and used indecent language in the presence of junior Court staff.

That was the latest in a series of reports made against Walsh, including one by a Court employee, who alleged she had been the victim of intimidation and aggression by the chief magistrate.

It was following the report by the senior police officer, the JLSC assigned a judge to investigate the complaints. The informed

source said Justice John visited the country in March and April and conducted interviews with persons having knowledge of the chief magistrate's conduct.

Before being promoted to her current position, Walsh worked as a senior Crown Counsel in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, under the leadership of Anthony Armstrong.

If the panel finds her behavior to be unbecoming of a senior magistrate, it could recommend her removal from the bench.



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The deadline date for receipt of applications is 14th July 2023.

No immediate decision on the placing of new US embassies

There has been no final determination on where the United States will site two embassies in the Eastern Caribbean.

US Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda and the Eastern Caribbean, Linda Taglialatela said the decision is still some way in the distance, perhaps as much as two years.

She said the final decision will be made by the US Congress, based on recommendations by the Embassy and the US State Department.

Antigua and Barbuda

has made no secret of its desire to have one of the embassies located in St. John, as this would significantly make it easier for nationals to attain US visitor visas. Currently, nationals have to travel to Bridgetown, Barbados to secure visas.

The US embassy held an event at Jumby Bay on Wednesday to mark that country's Independence Day celebrations. Many were hoping that the announcement would have been made during the festivities, but alas, it was not to be.



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Celebrating 189, continuing the mission: Emancipation 2023

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission is proud to join the Caribbean community in celebrating Emancipation 2023 under the theme “Celebrating 189, continuing the mission” from July 26th to August 1st, 2023.

This year marks a significant milestone as we commemorate 189 years since Antigua and Barbuda was granted emancipation from the horrors of enslavement. The activities planned for this year’s celebration aim to highlight the creative arts, culture, and heritage as we continue our mission toward reparations.

Our celebrations will

commence on July 26th with the broadcast of “Uhurru Spiritually Awaken” - a production by ABRSC that celebrates emancipation 189. This production will showcase spoken word artists, African fashion, song, dance, and more. Continuing the festivities, we invite all nationals and residents to participate in the annual African Dress Day on Friday, July 28th. This day serves as a call for individuals to proudly don African dashikis and cultural attire, honoring our African heritage and paying tribute to the Ancestors who fought for our nation’s freedom.

The 15th annual Watch-



night gathering will take place on Monday, July 31st at the Botanical Gardens from 8 pm. Watchnight is a cherished tradition that symbolizes the enslaved Africans’ anticipation for news of their freedom. It is an evening of music, libation, drumming, messages, songs, iron band performances, and more—a celebration of freedom, faith, community, and resilience. This year our feature address will be delivered by Pan-Africanist, Dr. Radcliffe Robins.

According to Deputy Chair of the ABRSC, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, “As we commemorate the 189 years since our emancipation from chattel slavery in 1834, it is essential to acknowledge the sig-

nificant progress made by the people of the Caribbean. Our efforts have contributed to the development of a Caribbean society that has produced world champions and achievers in athletics, cricket, literature, economics, and health.”

The Emancipation celebrations will continue with the annual Emancipation Day Church Service at the Green Bay Moravian Church on Tuesday, August 1st, at 6 am. Following the church service, a day of celebration awaits in the heart of St. John’s, featuring delectable food, arts and crafts, music, entertainment, and more.

Stay tuned for further updates and details about the various activities in the days to come.



Local News



New choir to debut in Gospel Extravaganza

Musical talent is abundant among the youth of Antigua and Barbuda.

That is the assessment of music teacher and choir director Ian Hobson, who spends much time working with young people. Hobson is the man behind the 268 SDA Children's Choir which had begun showcasing its talent in thrilling concerts back in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Now, Hobson has formed a new choir of youth, 13 years and older – Azza Antigua. This inter-denominational ensemble is 50-strong with current members coming from the 268 SDA Children's Choir (now older), various schools, and churches.

Explaining his reason for forming the choir, Hobson said, "I want Antigua and Barbuda to be known around

the world for our talent... Also, it's to spread God's word and positive messages."

Hobson adds, "I want to provide young people with something positive amidst all of the negativity involving youth. I want to give back."

As such, there are several plans in the pipeline for Azza Antigua. These include yearly concerts, travel

within the region and internationally, and also studio recordings. The choir is set to make its debut this Saturday (July 15), at Spring Gardens Moravian Church in a grand gospel production. The line-up features a range of groups and soloists including special guests, New York-based Omega, and Evidence from St John's Seventh Day Adventist Church; both groups specialize in acappella singing. Also performing are Melodious Uplifters, SJPC Praise Dancers, and several other artistes. Tickets for the concert can be purchased at several locations including Anjo Insurance, Veggie World, and the Adventist Book Store on Nevis Street.

Hobson has a vested interest in Antigua and Barbuda, as he is a son of the soil himself. Although currently based in New York, he flies to Antigua frequently to train the country's youth in the art of singing. It is what he has been doing for over 30 years. Hobson has a natural inclination to music and harmony, having grown up in a musical family. He has trained countless vocalists throughout schools and churches. He, himself has practiced the art in many choirs and bands, among which is the American music group, Naturally Seven, known for its unique acappella style.

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Ministry of Health, in collaboration with PAHO, completes Mass Casualty Management Training Programme

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation, and the Environment in collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) recently completed a Mass Casualty Management Training Programme.

Fifty persons were trained, to include, Doctors, Nurses, Police, Fire Officers, Defence Force Soldiers and Coast Guards, Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians, and Emergency Medical Technicians, Officers attached to the National Office of Disaster Services, Antigua Barbuda Airport Authority, Antigua Port Authority, and other departments within the Ministry of Health and the government.

The training, which lasted a period of 6 days was facilitated by Peter Burgeuss of PAHO.

It focused on areas such as planning for mass casualty incidents, the alert process, scene assessment and reporting, field organization, communication techniques, different stages of triage, an overview of the incident command system, and psychological first aid.

In addition to the theoretical part of the course, a

practical component was also included.

The persons who suc-

cessfully passed the course will be provided with a

Mass Casualty Manage-

ment certificate from PAHO which will be valid for three years.



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Local News



Gray Hill resident fined on firearm, ammunition charges

Gray Hill resident Daquan Browne was fined by the Magistrates' Court after pleading guilty to firearm and ammunition charges.

It is unclear where and when the illegal items were discovered. Browne was charged with possession of a firearm and ammunition and was taken before Chief

Magistrate, Joanne Walsh, in the St. John's Magistrates' Court on Tuesday.

In court, he was fined EC\$2,000 for the unlicensed firearm. In default, Daquan Browne will spend six months in prison, and on the charge of possession of ammunition, a fine of EC\$500 was imposed or three months at His Majes-

ty's Prison, if he defaults.

The fines are to be paid in full by 31st August 2023.

Police also executed a search warrant at Daquan Browne's residence on Monday but came up 'empty-handed.'

In an unrelated matter, Hakeem Jeffrey of Golden Grove was sentenced

to two years in prison for having in his possession a Smith and Wesson 9mm pistol and seven 9mm luger rounds of ammunition.

He pleaded guilty to the two charges while appearing before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh on Monday.

His two-year sentence will run concurrently.

Liberta man pleads guilty on larceny charges

Shane Grant has pleaded guilty to two counts of larceny and was remanded to His Majesty's Prison on Thursday.

He will re-appear before Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh, on 5th September 2023, when the mat-

ter will continue.

Grant, a 23-year-old resident of Liberta is accused of stealing several valuable items and monies from two women in two separate incidents in St. John on Tuesday, 11th July 2023.

In the first incident, Sheryl Ma-

sine of Newgate Street reported to police that at around 5:20 a.m., she was robbed of her handbag that contained several items, including \$120 in cash, a mobile phone, and other personal items.

Masine was reportedly walking on Long Street, in the vicinity of the Salvation Army, when she was approached by a man armed with a knife, who ordered her to hand over her bag. The woman reportedly resisted Grant's demand and a struggle ensued, during which she was relieved of her property before he ran away.

Later, on Tuesday morning at approximately 6:40 a.m., Elaine Joseph of Seaview Farm was seated on a bench on Independence Drive opposite APUA, when she was approached by a man with a shirt wrapped around his head, who grabbed her bag and ran off.

The woman reported the matter to the police who visited the scene and carried out a search of the area. Her description of the assailant fit that of a man who was found hiding in the abandoned car park nearby.

Shane Grant was taken into police custody and later charged with committing both crimes.

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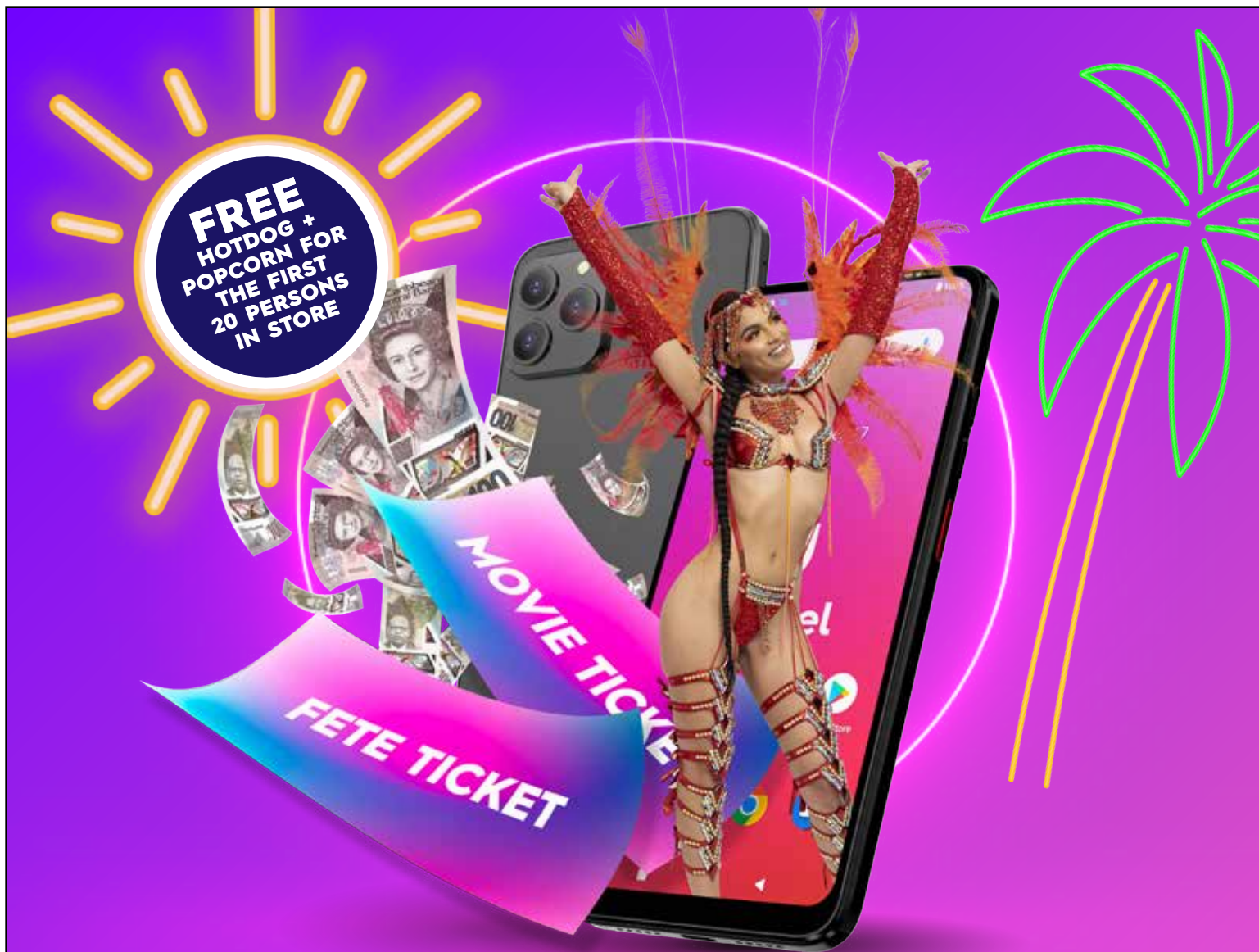
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Local News

ABLP Youths make donation to young burnt victim

A group of young people associated with the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has successfully completed a fundraising event.

Organized by the Youth Development Officers (YDO's) of Zone 3 youths of ABLP, the proceeds from this event were dedicated to supporting the medical treatment expenses incurred for little T'rique Jeffery.

T'rique, unfortunately, suffered severe burns a few months ago, which com-

pelled him to travel abroad in search of medical care. Recognizing the financial burden this placed on him and his family, the compassionate members of the Zone 3 Youths of Labor, decided to take action and arrange an inspiring fundraiser to contribute towards his medical treatment costs.

A total of \$5,000.00 was raised through the unity, generosity, and unwavering support of the community as they rallied together to assist T'rique.



Nurse Janet Gunthrope received the donation from Randy Baltimore

Baltimore continues with philanthropic work

Randy Baltimore donated two fans to the Newfield Clinic. After visiting the clinic and speaking with the nurse and some villagers, he realized the need for the fans and decided to make

the donation.

Mr. Baltimore has pledged to continue supporting the clinic with other supplies as needed. The donation was made on Thursday at the clinic.



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Opinion

Haiti urgently needs a genuine and representative transitional government

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Haiti's non-elected President, Dr. Ariel Henry has been identified as a significant part of the current crisis in Haiti. Henry and a small clique, who surround him, are hardly running the affairs of the state. Indeed, as armed gangs control more than 60 per cent of Port-au-Prince and the main corridors throughout Haiti, the disappearance of the state is obvious.

However, Henry and his appointed government have been dismantling what remained of Haiti's democratic institutions. As a coalition of U.S. based law school clinics describe it, "As of January 2023, there is no longer a single elected official at any level of government in Haiti."

In the meantime, Henry has been accused by the U.S. law school clinics, including Harvard Law School, and others of taking illegal actions, which are designed to prolong his non-elected role as President. In March, Henry illegally named eight justices to Haiti's highest court, the Cour de Cassation, undermining the court's legitimacy to check executive power. Additionally, in December 2022, he organized a "National Consensus Document for an Inclusive Transition and Fair Elections".

The document hardly reflected a "national con-

sensus" in which key human rights organizations and political actors were excluded – a serious flaw which has been ignored by hemispheric and regional organizations.

This unpopular document would help to consolidate Henry's power by allowing him to pack the Cour de Cassation, Haiti's Supreme Court, with his hand-picked persons, and putting in place an unconstitutional Provisional Electoral Council to organize and superintend Presidential and other elections. Haitian civil society, in many public statements, and presentations to members of the U.S. executive and legislative branches and to diplomats in the U.S., Canada and France have made it clear that they object to the December 2022 document.

According to a statement made by the Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) at their 50th anniversary meeting in Trinidad from July 3 to 5, Henry told them "that he will not seek election but will head a Transition Government to secure the arrangements to transition the country from the security and humanitarian crises until the holding of credible, free and fair elections". Insiders reveal that this statement had to be extracted from Henry who resisted being asked to make



Sir Ronald Sanders

such a statement on the basis that "Haiti is a sovereign country".

In any event, while CARICOM leaders say, officially, that Henry has made this statement, he is yet to make such a public statement to the Haitian people. Furthermore, the fact that he and his close group are alone establishing elections machinery assures civil society and political parties in Haiti that "credible, free and fair elections" are impossible.

Significantly, in an article, published in the New York Times on 13 July, an experienced and knowledgeable expert on Haitian affairs, Jake Johnston, as senior research associate at the Centre for Economic and Policy Research, pointed out that "Henry has close links to a prime suspect in the assassination (of former President Jovenel Moïse)". Johnston reveals the fol-

lowing troubling information: "The former chief prosecutor overseeing the assassination case in Haiti called Mr. Henry to testify. He refused and then called the justice minister and told him to fire the prosecutor. When the minister refused, Mr. Henry fired both. Since then, an audio recording of the judge overseeing the case was leaked to CNN. "Ariel is a prime suspect of Jovenel Moïse's assassination, and he knows it," the judge can be heard saying. "Do you think I can touch Ariel now?"

Meanwhile Haiti continues to descend into chaos, lawlessness and wide scale human suffering. The World Food Programme says half of Haiti's population is experiencing hunger; there is no functioning criminal justice system, there are no trials and 85 per cent of prisoners have never been tried;

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cont'd from pg 12

the only electricity generation in the country comes from a private company owned by an elite Haitian family; between January and March this year, there have been 398 kidnappings and 1,634 violent assaults – including murders and rapes – took place in Port-au-Prince; many people in Haiti have no birth certificate and no identity papers; officially they do not exist; one hospital in the Canape Vert neighbourhood, south of the Capital, reports that it treats more than 10 patients wounded by gunshots every day.

The Haitian people cannot rely on their government for the basic services that every government is obliged to provide to its people. The state has long since collapsed.

Despite all this, the focus of the international community throughout this worsening crisis has been on whether or not to provide military support to the Haitian Police which is the principal request of the Ariel Henry regime. It is a request deeply feared within Haiti as a ruse to maintain the regime in office, and, consequently, to continue the incapacity to address the dire

conditions in which the Haitian people are forced to eke out a miserable life.

Haitian human rights groups and others, who yearn for a better life, do want the restoration of security, but they also want justice and accountability by a government they elect and on which there must be checks and balances, including free and fair elections.

Therefore, the start of any international response to the Haitian crisis must be the establishment of a legitimate transitional government, comprising representatives of civil society and political parties.

After three days of a failed meeting from 11 to 13 June in Jamaica – which Henry had to be cajoled to attend – it was obvious that he has no interest in genuine power sharing.

On the gangs in Haiti, it should be recalled that they were created by members of rival political parties and elite oligarch families for their own purposes. Fed by the greed and ambitions of others, they have become forces with lives of their own. Dealing with them requires careful strategies and even negotiations which are best

left to a transitional government that enjoys the confidence of a broad cross section of the Haitian people.

To give the country the chance it desperately needs, and which Dr. Henry clearly cannot provide, he should consider stepping aside to facilitate the convocation of willing parties to appoint a transitional government in which neither he nor any member of his present regime should participate, unless agreed and accepted by the broad-based grouping. And that should be the transitional government which should provide the international community with the country's priority needs, giving every safeguard against corruption and political misuse of resources.

(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.sirronald-sanders.com)



Technology



ChatGPT owner in probe over risks around false answers

US regulators are probing artificial intelligence company OpenAI over the risks to consumers from ChatGPT generating false information.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) sent a letter to the Microsoft-backed business requesting information on how it addresses risks to people's reputations.

The inquiry is a sign of the rising regulatory scrutiny of the technology.

OpenAI chief executive Sam Altman says the company will work with the FTC.

ChatGPT generates convincing human-like responses to user queries within seconds, instead of the series of links generated by a traditional internet search. It, and similar AI products, are expected to dramatically change the way people get information they are searching for online.

Tech rivals are racing to offer their own versions of the technology, even as it generates fierce debate, including over the data it uses, the accuracy of the responses and whether the company violated authors' rights as it was training the technology.

The FTC's letter asks what steps OpenAI has taken to address its products' potential to "generate statements about real individuals



that are false, misleading, disparaging or harmful".

The FTC is also looking at OpenAI's approach to data privacy and how it obtains data to train and inform the AI.

Mr Altman said OpenAI had spent years on safety research and months making ChatGPT "safer and more aligned before releasing it".

"We protect user privacy and design our systems to learn about the world, not private individuals," he said on Twitter.

In another tweet he said that it was important to the firm that its "technology is safe and pro-consumer, and we are confident we follow the law. Of course we will work with the FTC."

Mr Altman appeared before a hearing at Congress earlier this year, in which he admitted that the technology could be a source of errors.

He called for regulations to be created for the emerging industry and recommended that a new agency be formed to oversee AI

safety. He added that he expected the technology to have a significant impact, including on jobs, as its uses become clear.

"I think if this technology goes wrong, it can go quite wrong... we want to be vocal about that," Mr Altman said at the time. "We want to work with the government to prevent that from happening."

The investigation by the FTC was first reported by the Washington Post, which published a copy of the letter. OpenAI did not respond to a BBCrequest for comment.

The FTC also declined to comment. The consumer watchdog has taken a high profile role policing the tech giants under its current chair, Lina Khan.

Ms Khan rose to prominence as a Yale law student, when she criticised America's record on anti-monopoly enforcement related to Amazon.

Appointed by President Joe Biden, she is a controversial figure, with critics

arguing that she is pushing the FTC beyond the boundaries of its authority.

Some of her most high-profile challenges of tech firms activities - including a push to block the merger of Microsoft with gaming giant Activision Blizzard - have faced setbacks in the courts.

During a five-hour hearing in Congress on Thursday, she faced tough criticism from Republicans over her leadership of the agency.

She did not mention the FTC's investigation into OpenAI, which is at a preliminary stage. But she said she had concerns about the product's output.

"We've heard about reports where people's sensitive information is showing up in response to an inquiry from somebody else," Ms Khan said.

"We've heard about libel, defamatory statements, flatly untrue things that are emerging. That's the type of fraud and deception that we are concerned about," she added.

The FTC probe is not the company's first challenge over such issues. Italy banned ChatGPT in April, citing privacy concerns. The service was restored after it added a tool to verify users' ages and provided more information about its privacy policy.



Beyond 75

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Keynote Speaker



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles,
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Dr. Maurice Smith,
University Registrar, The UWI

PRESENTERS

Panel 1 - The Higher Education Future We Want

- Professor Justin Robinson, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Undergraduate Studies, The UWI
- Ms. Omalora Wilson, President, Guild of Students, The UWI Mona Campus
- Dr. Denise Stoney-James, Deputy Programme Manager, Education, CARICOM Secretariat
- Mr. Nigel Scott, Director, St. Vincent & The Grenadines Community College
- Mr. Curtis Floyd, President, CANQATE

Panel 2 - The Road to Achieving the Vision: Strategy & Leadership

- Professor Aldrie Henry-Lee, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Graduate Studies & Research, The UWI
- The Honourable Lisa Morris-Julian, Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, Trinidad & Tobago
- Mr. Anthony Ali, Executive Committee Member, CARICOM Private Sector Organization
- Dr. Hazel Carter, Associate Professor, Educational Leadership, City College of New York
- Mr. Daniel Best, Director - Projects, Caribbean Development Bank

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SAG strike: Hollywood actors announce historic walkout

BBC - Hollywood actors are going on strike, joining a stoppage by screenwriters to usher in the industry's biggest shutdown in more than 60 years.

The Screen Actors Guild wants streaming giants to agree a fairer split of profits and better working conditions.

Some 160,000 performers will stop work at midnight.

Stars Cillian Murphy, Matt Damon and Emily Blunt left the premiere of Christopher Nolan's *Oppenheimer* in London as the strike began.

The stoppage means the vast majority of US film and TV productions will grind to a halt.

The Screen Actors Guild (SAG) strike starts at midnight Los Angeles time (08:00 BST). Picketing will begin on Friday morning outside the California headquarters of Netflix, before moving on to Paramount, Warner Bros and Disney.

The union is also asking for a guarantee that artificial intelligence (AI) and computer-generated faces and voices will not be used to replace actors.

The SAG is also seeking tighter regulations on self-taped auditions. It believes that home auditions unfairly pass on the cost to performers.

According to a strike order published online by SAG, the walkout applies to those employed acting, singing or dancing, as well as stunt performers and puppeteering or motion capture workers. The stoppage also applies to a variety of background and promotional tasks.

On Wednesday, the union - officially known as the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, or SAG-AFTRA - announced it was unable to



Actors Emily Blunt (L), Cillian Murphy (centre) and Florence Pugh (R) left the premier of *Oppenheimer* as the strike was announced.

come to an agreement with major studios.

Its negotiating committee voted unanimously to recommend strike action.

The group representing the studios, the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, or AMPTP, slammed the decision.

It said "a strike is certainly not the outcome we hoped for as studios cannot operate without the performers that bring our TV shows and films to life".

"The union has regrettably chosen a path that will lead to financial hardship for countless thousands of people who depend on the industry," its statement added.

To address concerns about the use of AI, the AMPTP said it had agreed to a "groundbreaking proposal" that would protect the digital likeness of actors, and require their consent when digital replicas are used in performances, or alterations are made.

The SAG's national executive director and chief negotiator, Duncan Crabtree-Ireland, said the offer was unacceptable.

"They propose that our background performers should be able to be scanned, get paid for one day's pay, and their company should own that scan of their image, their likeness, and should be able to use it for the rest of eternity," he said. "If you think that's a groundbreaking proposal, I suggest you think again."

Another SAG demand of the streaming services is that actors receive greater base pay and residuals - meaning payments made to actors from repeats of films and programmes they've starred in. The strike includes tens of thousands of actors who receive significantly less pay for bit parts than their A-list colleagues.

"In the old model, they get residuals based on success," Kim Masters, the editor-in-chief of the Hollywood Reporter, told the BBC. "In the new model, they don't get to find out what's going on behind the scenes, because the streamers don't share."

Fran Drescher, SAG's president, said the strike comes at a "very seminal moment" for actors in the industry.

cont'd on pg 17

cont'd from pg 16

"What's happening to us is happening across all fields of labour," she said, "when employers make Wall Street and greed their priority, and they forget about the essential contributors that make the machine run."

A separate strike by the 11,500 members of the Writers Guild of America demanding better pay and working conditions has been going since 2 May.

Some writers have turned to projects that are not covered by the contract between the guild and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers.

The "double strike" by both unions is the first since 1960, when the SAG was led by actor Ronald Reagan, long before he entered politics and became US president. The last strike by actors took place in 1980.

Speaking at a gathering of industry leaders at an Idaho resort ahead of the SAG's announcement on Thursday, Disney CEO Bob Iger said the demands of both the actors and writers were impractical and damaging to an industry still recovering from the disruption of Covid-19.

"It's very disturbing to me," Mr Iger said. "This is the worst time in the world to add to that disruption."

A third union, the Directors Guild of America, successfully negotiated a contract in June and will not participate.

The walkout will add to a list of projects that have

already shut down or stalled because of the writers' strike.

For films in production, it means a large portion of work will become impossible. Even in cases in which filming has already been completed, actors will be unavailable for re-shoots and other essential elements of the filmmaking process.

TV shows that are still being filmed will also largely have to stop as actors be-

come unavailable, although in some cases side deals could be struck between performers and producers to allow work to continue.

Top Hollywood stars will not be able to attend events to promote new and upcoming releases. Events including the Emmys and Comic-Con may be rescheduled or scaled back.

International events, such as the Toronto and Ven-

ice film festivals, will still go on, although SAG actors will be unable to attend as they do each year.

In the hours following the announcement, several SAG-affiliated actors took to Instagram to voice their support for the strike, including *Better Call Saul* star Bob Odenkirk, *Sex and the City*'s Cynthia Nixon and Hollywood veteran Jamie Lee Curtis.



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Regional News

Mutilated body found at sea in Turks and Caicos Islands

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force are investigating the circumstances which led to the discovery of a mutilated body at sea.

Preliminary reports indicate that shortly after 9:50 am, the Police Control Room received a call indicating there was a body in the water, in the Grace Bay district. Officers from the Marine Branch and Scenes of Crime Unit arrived at the scene and retrieved the body from the water.

Conservation Officers were also present at the scene.

Following the discovery, Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adam strongly cautioned members within the public domain to desist from putting into circulation or causing to be circulated the graphic im-



ages from this morning's find on all social media platforms.

Commissioner Adams said: "To engage in the distribution or circulation of the photographs is very insensitive and traumatising. People

need to be more sensitive and humane when using these social media platforms. This is not something just for shares and likes, it is a life that was lost. Please show some humanity".

Lawyer files motion to remove flogging from law books in Grenada

CMC - Attorney Jerry Edwin has filed a motion in the High Court calling on the Grenada government to remove flogging as a penalty for people who are convicted for offenses in the magistrate court.

"Grenada is the only jurisdiction in the entire Western Hemisphere with this law on its books. Grenada is in very unadmirable company. I want to completely eviscerate this law from our books," said Edwin, a criminal lawyer.

"So, my motion is to amend the Criminal Code to remove flogging as a pun-



Cat o' nine tails.

ishment for predial larceny otherwise known as stealing farm products and robbery with violence," he added.

Edwin explained that for several decades, judicial officers, and magistrates in

particular, have abused this form of punishment by ordering flogging for robbery, traffic offenses, offensive language and all sorts of offenses not permitted under law.

"Worse, there are several instances where magistrates ordered flogging "forthwith" in clear violation of the law which states that a period of 14 days must elapse before the punishment is enforced," he said, adding that the motion is supported by other criminal attorneys.

"We are saying such a slavery era form of punishment in the era of reparative justice throughout the Atlantic world from persons whose ancestors were enslaved requires a rejection of the slave master's tool kit

cont'd on pg 19

First female officer commissioned in Royal Montserrat Defence Force

Loop - History has been made for the Royal Montserrat Defence Force (RMDF) as Officer Cadet Carmencita Duberry was Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant (2Lt).

This is the first time in the 125-year history of the Force that this has taken place.

Second Lieutenant Duberry enlisted into the RMDF on May 22, 2007, and through her dedicated service, she gained promotion in 2014 to the rank of Lance Corporal and then again in 2016 to the rank of Corporal. In 2022, she was appointed to the rank of Officer Cadet which is an officer in training.

Duberry has served in various capacities within the Force during her tenure. She has served as one of the medical personnel within the Force and was trained as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Similarly, Duberry has worked within the training sector of the organisation specifically with incoming recruits to assist with both the training and administrative process.

During the passage of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017, Duberry provided stellar service running an entire shelter by herself. She was an integral member of the Force's COVID-19 response between 2020 and 2021. This included security duties at Supermarkets and other critical sites as well as logistics at the Food Bank that was created to support families in need. Similarly, Second Lieutenant Duberry was a member of the team which worked directly with the Cuban Medical Brigade to ensure that the necessary logistics for the team to be able to function were in place.

Additionally, Duberry has been the Aide-de-Camp (ADC) to the Governor and the Deputy Governor when she acts as Governor at all major ceremonial events on island since her appointment as Officer Cadet. This is a role which she has performed with etiquette and professionalism.

Second Lieutenant Duberry is the holder of a Certificate and Diploma in Food



Second Lieutenant Carmencita Duberry.

Technology, as well as, a Bachelor of Science (BSc.) in Food Science and Technology. She was awarded the Efficiency Medal in 2019 having completed 12 years' service in the RMDF.

Duberry's accomplishment has built on the legacy of the women that served previously within the Force.

She is the first woman to receive a formal commission as an Officer within the Ranks of the RMDF. It was noted Veronica Dor-

sette-Hector and Miss Eunice Pond were both appointed as Officer Cadets but were not commissioned.

When Duberry achieved the rank of Corporal she equalled the highest rank an enlisted female soldier achieved in the Force. This was held previously by Miss Albertine Browne.

Commanding Officer of the RMDF Lieutenant Colonel Alvin E Ryan said, "I am pleased to formally welcome Second Lieutenant Carmencita Duberry to the Officer's Corps of the RMDF. She has created history with this accomplishment and I look forward to her continuing to strive for excellence. I am glad to see that Her Excellency agreed with my recommendation for her promotion."

cont'd from pg 18

of punishment intended simply to degrade and dehumanise the enslaved," Edwin said.

"To continue this punishment another single day is a travesty, a complete abrogation of human rights and decency," he said.

In 2017, Edwin was the lone protester at an event on a former plantation where

the lives of slaves were re-enacted as part of activities in observing April as National Heritage Month. He had called for the April 27, 2017, event to be cancelled.

"How can we enlist our children in recollecting events that dehumanised them and were intended to render them not as human beings but as things — chattel — to be bartered?" he said then.

Delhi floods: Key roads under water as Yamuna river swells

Key roads in the Indian capital, Delhi, have been flooded as water from the Yamuna river has overflowed onto them.

The water level of the river has been rising since Wednesday after it breached an all-time high mark in more than 45 years.

Authorities have evacuated thousands from nearby low-lying areas and have diverted traffic from arterial roads.

Northern India has witnessed record rainfall so far this monsoon season, which began in June, officials say.

At least 88 people have died in Himachal Pradesh since rains began late last month, while nearby states like Punjab and Haryana have also been witnessing severe flooding.

On Thursday morning, the water level of Yamuna had risen to 208.46 metres from 207.49 metres the previous day - the highest in 45 years, authorities said.

Water from the swelling river has inundated several low-lying areas and roads. Videos shared on social media show cars and buses submerged under water on the streets.

Footage from local TV channels showed the street outside Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's home flooded, while PTI news



The river Yamuna has risen to a 45-year high, according to Delhi's chief minister.

agency reported that a key road going towards Connaught Place - a popular business centre in central Delhi - was also flooded.

Mr Kejriwal told reporters on Thursday that schools, colleges and universities in the capital would remain shut until Sunday. He added that government employees, except those providing essential services, could work from home.

"Advisory is being issued for private offices too to work from home," he added.

Three water treatment plants in Delhi have been shut due to the flood-like situation. Mr Kejriwal has said that water will have to be rationed and so people were likely to face shortages for a couple of days.

Heavy vehicles, except those providing essential services, have been banned from entering Delhi.

More than 16,000 people have been shifted to relief tents pitched under flyovers by the Delhi government.

Disaster relief teams have been deployed in several regions and rescue efforts are ongoing in flooded areas.

On Wednesday, Mr Kejriwal said he had asked the federal government to control the amount of water being released from Hathnikund Barrage in Haryana, which he said was causing the Yamuna to swell.

Authorities have said that the flow of water from the barrage will begin subsiding by 14:00 IST (08.30

GMT) on Thursday, and this should bring some respite to flooded areas.

The state's governor and Mr Kejriwal met the Delhi Disaster Management Authority on Thursday to discuss the flood situation.

Seasonal monsoon rains are a lifeline for India but also typically cause deaths and destruction to property every year.

India has experienced increasingly extreme weather in recent years - the unrelenting rains come just weeks after an extreme heat wave gripped most of north India.

Many factors contribute to flooding, but experts say climate change caused by global warming makes extreme rainfall more likely.

White House cocaine: US Secret Service ends investigation

By **Michael Sheils**
McNamee

The US Secret Service has closed its investigation into the discovery of cocaine in the White House.

It said it had attempted to determine a suspect through fingerprints, DNA traces, and video evidence, but had not been able to do so.

The cocaine was discovered earlier this month in a storage area of the West Wing where visitors taking tours must leave their mobile phones.

President Joe Biden and his family were at Camp David in Maryland at the time.

The small plastic bag used to contain the drugs was found in an area which can be accessed by members of the public, and where mobile phones and other personal devices are stored before entering the White House.

After it was first discovered, safety closures were put in place so it could be determined that the substance “was not a chemical or radiological material that threatened the security of the White House”, the Secret Service said in a statement.

Tests of the material determined it was cocaine, and further analysis was carried out on the composition of the substance. Advanced fingertip and DNA analysis



The Secret Service said the investigation had ended due to a lack of physical evidence.

on its packaging were also carried out by the FBI's crime laboratory.

Meanwhile, the Secret Service continued to investigate how the substance arrived in the White House, reviewing security systems in the day leading up to the discovery of the cocaine.

It produced “an index of several hundred individuals” who “may have accessed” the area where the drug was found.

On Wednesday, the Secret Service received the forensic evidence back from the FBI. This showed it did not have enough DNA evidence for comparison, and had not developed “latent fingerprints”.

“Therefore, the Secret Service is not able to compare evidence against the known pool of individuals,”

it said in a statement.

It added that the surveillance footage had also not been of use, and it would mean trying to single out someone from “hundreds of individuals” who passed through the area - without having any physical evidence to do so.

The Secret Service added that it “takes its mission to protect US leaders, facilities, and events seriously” and it is “constantly adapting to meet the needs of the current and future security environment”.

Cocaine is a Schedule II drug under the Controlled Substances Act, meaning it has a high potential for abuse, according to the US Drug Enforcement Administration.

The White House has said the drug was found in

a “heavily travelled area of the campus” but the closure of the investigation without finding a culprit has sparked outrage among Republican lawmakers.

Several lawmakers expressed dissatisfaction with the Secret Service after receiving a confidential briefing on Thursday.

South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham told Fox News “somebody needs to be fired for letting it happen”, while Tennessee congressman Tim Burchett said nobody is buying the “clown show”.

But Maryland Democrat Jamie Raskin said, while he found the incident “troubling”, drug testing some 500 people who might have brought in the drugs would be an “overblown response”.



Robert Bowers shot and killed 11 people at Pittsburgh synagogue and injured several more.

Pittsburgh gunman found eligible for death penalty

A jury has found a gunman who murdered 11 people in a Pittsburgh synagogue eligible for the death penalty.

Robert Bowers, 50, was found guilty last month for the October 2018 attack.

This was the second stage of the trial. It now moves on to its final phase, sentencing selection.

The same jury will have to decide if Bowers should receive life in prison or be sentenced to death for carrying out the deadliest antisemitic attack in US history.

The panel will return on Monday for the final trial phase. A vote to execute him must be unanimous by all 12 jurors.

Bowers, a truck driver, was convicted last month of 63 charges, including murder and hate crimes.

Prosecutors said he was “filled with hatred for Jews” and “hunted” his victims.

An attorney for Bowers argued he

carried out the attack because of hatred of immigrants and a Jewish non-profit group, not because of hatred specifically for Jews.

That distinction is important because under US federal law, in order for the jury to impose the death penalty, the prosecution must prove that Bowers was motivated by race hate, or killed to stop people from exercising their religious beliefs.

Federal prosecutors rarely pursue the death penalty. Between 1988 and 2021, only 79 defendants in such cases were sentenced to death, according to the Death Penalty Information Center.

If jurors side with the prosecution on Bowers’ fate, it will be the first federal death sentence under Joe Biden’s presidency.

Bowers killed 11 worshippers in the Pittsburgh attack, ranging in age from 54 to 97. Seven others were injured, including five police officers who rushed to the scene.

Three congregations - Dor Hadash, New Light and the Tree of Life - shared the synagogue.

Most families of those killed in the attack have said they support the death penalty for Bowers, although some, including the Dor Hadash congregation, have stated their opposition.

During the most recent phase of the trial, to prove Bowers was eligible for the death penalty, prosecutors had to convince the jury of Bowers’ intent, as well as several other factors, including that the crime involved substantial planning and that those he targeted were considered vulnerable victims.

The defence, meanwhile, outlined the defendant’s history of mental health issues.

Medical experts called by prosecutors dismissed the idea that mental illness played a role in the attack and talked about Bowers’ belief in a racist conspiracy theory known as the “great replacement”.

Mexico beats Jamaica to advance to Gold Cup final

LAS VEGAS (AP)- Henry Martín scored 80 seconds in, Luis Chávez converted a free kick in the 30th minute and Mexico beat Jamaica 3-0 on Wednesday night to reach their 11th CONCACAF Gold Cup final.

Roberto Alvarado added a goal in the third minute of second-half stoppage time as Mexico advanced to play Panama in the final on Sunday at Inglewood, California. El Tri, under interim coach Jaime Lozano, is seeking a ninth Gold Cup title.

Martín scored his ninth international goal and third of the tournament, settling the ball with a touch after Jesús Gallardo's cross and beating Andre Blake from eight yards.

Chávez curled a 25-yard free kick to Blake's upper right corner for his fourth international goal and third of the tournament. Alvarado got his fifth goal when he tapped in a pass from Gallardo.

Mexico won the 2019 title and lost the 2021 final in extra time to the United States at Las Vegas.

In San Diego, after winning the CONCACAF Gold Cup with its junior varsity two years ago, the United States failed to repeat.

Adalberto Carrasquilla converted the decisive penalty kick after Cristian Roldan was stopped in his attempt, and Panama beat the Americans 5-4 in a shootout follow-



Mexico's players celebrate after Luis Chavez scored against Jamaica during the first half of their Concacaf Gold Cup semi-final soccer match in Las Vegas, USA, on Wednesday, July 12th, 2023. (AP)

ing a 1-1 tie on Wednesday night to reach the CONCACAF Gold Cup final against Mexico.

Iván Anderson put Panama ahead in the ninth minute of extra time with his first international goal, and Jesús Ferreira tied the score six minutes later for the United States.

Panama reached the final for the third time after losing to the US in 2005 and 2013.

The US, a seven-time winner of the championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean, failed to reach the final for the first time since losing a 2015 semi-final to Jamaica. The Americans have not won consecutive Gold Cups since 2005 and '07.

American Cade Cowell hit a post about 20 seconds in and that was the closest to a goal until Panama went ahead nine minutes into extra time.

Carrasquilla played a through pass to Anderson, who was kept onside by DeAndre Yedlin. Anderson took a touch and played the ball past onrushing goalkeeper Matt Turner, then kicked the ball into the open net for his first international goal.

Ferreira scored six minutes later after Matt Miazga played a long pass to Jordan Morris, who headed the ball into the penalty area. Ferreira volleyed the ball with his right shin from 16 yards past the outstretched left hand of a diving Orlando Mosquera for

his 15th international goal, his seventh of the tournament.

With the US going first in the shootout, Ferreira was stopped by Mosquera. Fidel Escobar and Ismael Díaz beat Turner, while Djordje Mihailovic and Morris were successful for the US.

Turner dove to his left to stop Christian Martínez and Julian Gressel and Miazga converted around Édgar Bárcenas successful kick for Panama, leaving the US ahead 4-3.

Cecilio Waterman tied the score with Panama's fifth shot, Mosquera dove right to parry Roldan's attempt and Carrasquilla put his shot inside Turner's right post to secure the penalty shootout victory for Panama.

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The Flyers basketball team. (File photo)

Flyers and Spanish Heat end ABBA league campaigns with wins

The Flyers and Spanish Heat have won the last two games in the 2023 Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League.

The Flyers finished third in the standings with a record of 10 wins and four losses after soaring to an 85-68 victory over the Braves in their final outing in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

Jevonte Daley sank 21 points; Jabari Williams scored 17 points and grabbed 15 rebounds; Adonis Humphreys produced 14 points, nine rebounds, and eight assists; and Xavier "X-Man" Meade chipped in with 11 points, 10 assists, and seven rebounds for the Flyers.

Jevon Andrew converted 14 points, and Tamraj Stuart scored 11 points and claimed eight rebounds as the top performers for the Braves.

Damien Floyd had 10 points, five rebounds, and five assists, and Bernard Andrew chipped in with nine points and 12 rebounds for the Braves, who

finished second from bottom of the league with two wins and 11 losses.

The Spanish Heat finished in the cellar with a record of three wins and 11 losses after recording a 78-59 victory against the Ottos Full Throttle in the final game of the league in the second game of Wednesday night's double-header.

Israel Pulinario shot a game-high 22 points and snapped up 19 rebounds, and Kelvin Pimentel produced 19 points, 15 rebounds, and seven steals as the leading performers for the Spanish Heat.

Team-mate Steven Matthew had 16 points and five rebounds, and Jesus Reyes chipped in with nine points and eight rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

Warren Bogle produced 17 points, six rebounds, and six assists, and Sheldon Abrams converted 12 points as the top performers for the Ottos Full Throttle, which finished their league campaign in fifth place in the eight-team round-robin league with a record of four wins and 10 losses.

Team-mate Marlon Davis chipped in with nine points, 11 rebounds, and five assists; Shaquille Kelly had eight points, 15 rebounds, and five blocks; and Lincoln Weekes contributed eight points and five rebounds for the Ottos Full Throttle.

The 2023 ABBA league title was won by the Cuties Ovals OJays with a record of 12 wins and two losses. The Potters Steelers claimed second place with a record of 11 wins and three losses, while the Northside Stingerz took fourth place with a record of 10 wins and four losses.

The Braves finished third from bottom of the standings with a record of three wins and 11 losses, the same record as the All Saints Slam, who finished second from bottom by virtue of losing two-nil to the Braves in their head-to-head meetings in the league.

The top six finishers in the league will now move on to contest the ABBA first division playoff series, which will commence this weekend at the JSC Sports Complex.

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ABNDA selects team for world domino championship

A 45-member national team, the Wadadli Warriors, has been selected by the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) to represent the twin-island state at the 19th World Council of Domino Federation's (WCDF) Championship in Guyana in August.

The team, which comprises male and female players, is currently training on Thursday nights, Friday nights, and Sunday afternoons in preparation for the world championship that will be hosted at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence from August 12th to 21st.

Several of the players are chosen from the AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers, who won the first domestic Team Three-Hand competition.

They are Marilyn Gayle, Desiree Parker, Victoria Parker, Kaid Jarvis, and Thomas Gabriel.

A number of national players are also selected from the Everyday Service Station Double Six Diamonds, which won the second domestic Team Three-Hand competition.

They are Joanne Davis, Francine Hector, Renfield Davis, Michael Roach, Aldis Benjamin, Lionel Gomes, Dale Henry, and Trevor Scott.



The male players of the Antigua and Barbuda national Wadadli Warriors domino team.

Ten players are chosen from the Willikies Super Stars, who won the first and second Team Four-Hand contests.

They are Lorraine Richardson, Sharon Matthew, Natasha Edwards, Ruth Ralph, Carol-Faye Bynoe, Conrad Constant, Devon Graham, Kenny Charles, Jason King, and Mervin LeFleur.

Eight players are selected from the Dominatrixx team. They are Sheldon Gomes, Isabelle Benjamin, Shanica St. Louis, Gary Joseph, Rohan Cordice, Zenus Williams, Frank Govia, and Mc-Clean Harve.

Also selected are Natalie Heron,

Amsha-Ann Eusebe, and Shashana Carter of Moise Eagle Warrior, along with Bernia Richards, Albert Collins, and Joshua Michael of Legacy.

The rest of the players are Seymone Parkes, Jason Edwards, and Lenroy Richards of the Parham Strikers; Adelia John and Wayne Hallpike of the Ramplers; and Carolyn Joseph of the Unstoppables.

Bristol Marine, a boat and yacht building company, based in Seattle, Maine, in the United States of America, has sponsored the Wadadli Warriors with a set of uniforms to wear at the world championships in Guyana.

The Wadadli Warriors will also host their last fund-raising lunch sale at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos on July 29th.

Teams from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Grenada, the USA and host Guyana have confirmed their participation in next month's world domino championships.

Participants will compete in the following eight disciplines: Team Four Hand, Female Three Hand, Male Three Hand, Mixed Pairs, Female Pairs, Male Pairs, Queen of Domino, and King of Domino.



The female players of the Antigua and Barbuda national Wadadli Warriors domino team. (Photos courtesy the ABNDA)



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Black Hawks and Empire Nation aim to extend unbeaten run in ABCA Super40 Cup

Current joint-leaders, the PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and the Empire Nation, will be seeking to extend their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 limited overs competition this weekend.

Both teams will enter this weekend's matches jointly tied at the top of the standings in the nine-team round robin competition with identical records of three wins from as many encounters.

The Liberta Black Hawks, who are the defending champions, will be seeking to continue their winning form when they host the New Winthorpes Lions at Ball Beef in one of four matches tomorrow (Saturday).

The Empire Nation will be aiming to maintain their perfect record when they take on the Jennings Tigers at the Jennings playing field.

The New Winthorpes Lions will enter Saturday's



The Empire Nation cricket team. (File photo)

match with a record of just one win in three outings, while the Jennings Tigers are yet to claim a win after losing their previous three encounters.

Closely following the two front-runners are the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles and the Pigotts Crushers. The Golden Eagles and the Crushers are currently tied for second

place with identical records of three wins and one loss from their previous four matches.

Both sides will be seeking to stay in contention with the front-runners when they clash at the Bethesda playing field on Saturday.

Two struggling teams, the Wes Rising Sun Spartans and the Bolans Blasters, will be aiming to start an extended winning run

when they clash at the Bolans playing field.

The Spartans will enter Saturday's encounter with a record of just one win in four outings, while the Blasters have lost all four of their previous matches.

The 40-over aside competition will continue with four more matches on Sunday.

The Rising Sun Spartans will face the All Saints Pythons at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints, and the Empire Nation will meet the Pigotts Crushers at the Pigotts playing field.

The Jennings Tigers will host the Liberta Black Hawks at the Jennings playing field, and the Bolans Blasters will clash with the New Winthorpes Lions at the New Winthorpes playing field.

cont'd from pg 30

record for the most deliveries faced by an Indian Test debutant.

"I think this is one of the emotional knock for me. It's difficult to get opportunities in the Indian team. I would like to thank everyone, the supporters, team management and Rohit Bhai," Jaiswal said.

"The pitch is on the slower side and the outfield is very slow. It was difficult and challenging, it was pretty hot and I

wanted to keep doing it for my country, just play ball-by-ball and enjoy my cricket.

"I love Test cricket, I like this challenge, I enjoy the situation when the ball swings and seams. We have worked hard on everything. I've just gone out to express myself. Was an emotional moment (on his century), was just proud of myself, thankful for everyone, this is just a start and I want to do well going further," he added.

India tighten control against West Indies

Yashasvi Jaiswal remained unbeaten on 143, forging a mammoth 229-run opening partnership with skipper Rohit Sharma (103) along the way, as India tightened their control of the first Test against the West Indies in Dominica yesterday (Thursday).

The visitors ended the second day on 312 for two, stretching their lead to 162 after dismissing the West Indies for 150 on the opening day at Windsor Park in Roseau.

Jaiswal made the most of the opportunity handed to him by bringing up a patient century on debut. His measured knock, the highlight of India's steady batting display on the second day.

He shared a mammoth opening partnership worth 229 with skipper Rohit Sharma, who brought up his 10th Test hundred shortly after Jaiswal, and later stitching an unbroken 72-run stand with Virat Kohli, who remained unbeaten on 36.

After reaching his century, Rohit Sharma was dismissed by Alick



India's captain Rohit Sharma, left, congratulates fellow opener Yashasvi Jaiswal after he reached his maiden century on debut against the West Indies on the second day of the first Test at Windsor Park in Dominica on Thursday, July 13th, 2023. (AFP)

Athanaze on the very next delivery. The young West Indian claimed his maiden Test wicket, and left-arm spinner Jomel Warican dismissed Shubman Gill cheaply close to Tea.

It has been all India since then and they have a firm grip on this tie with West Indies needing a miracle to save this game.

Mumbai and Rajasthan Royals batter Jaiswal, drafted into the side as an opener with Shubman Gill shifting to the No. 3 slot, continued from where he left off on the opening day and converted the promising start into a big score.

Jaiswal brought up the three-figure mark with a boundary off fellow debu-

tant Alick Athanaze, taking 215 deliveries along the way and becoming the 17th Indian batter to score a hundred on Test debut.

Jaiswal, incidentally, is the first from his country to score a century on Test debut in the Caribbean, and also broke Mohammad Azharuddin's 38-year-old

cont'd on pg 29