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QUEEN CONTESTANTS A 'MIX OF EMOTIONS'

Story on Page 2



*Jeans for Freedom Ferry arrived to a festive Heritage Quay pier earlier this month. A bump in the number of people who will visit Antigua and Barbuda for this year's Carnival, July 27 to August 8, is expected. **Story on page 5.***

Ahead of the show: 2023 Queen contestants are “a mix of emotions”

With less than a week to go before the staging of one of the most anticipated shows of Antigua Carnival 2023, the Queen of Carnival competition, the seven contestants have been described as “a mix of emotions.”

That is the assessment of Brucella Marsh-Sutton of Marsh and Marsh Productions, the company charged with the responsibility for producing the show. “The

girls are coming along really well in terms of their preparation for the show, slated for July 23 at Carnival City. They are excited, they are elated, they are anxious, and they are even nervous; in short, they are a mix of emotions with the show just six days away,” Marsha-Sutton told Point Express.

She said the contestants ‘cannot wait’ to show the

people of Antigua and Barbuda and the world what they have to offer. “These young ladies have been engaged in intense practice and preparations for the show for the past several months and now they are ready; they are in tip-top shape,” she noted.

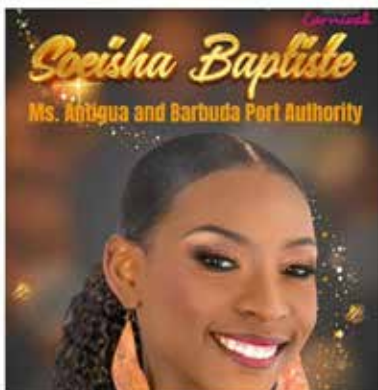
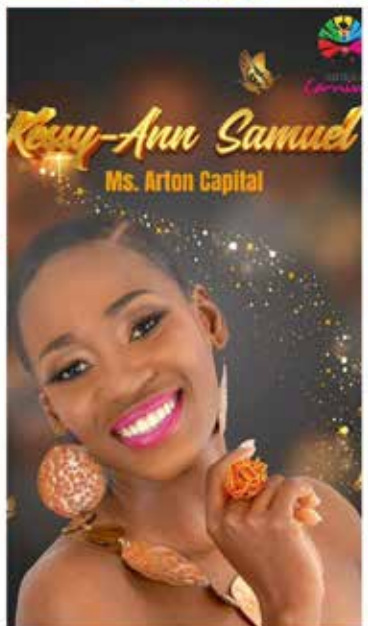
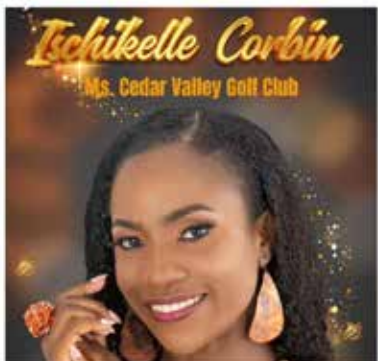
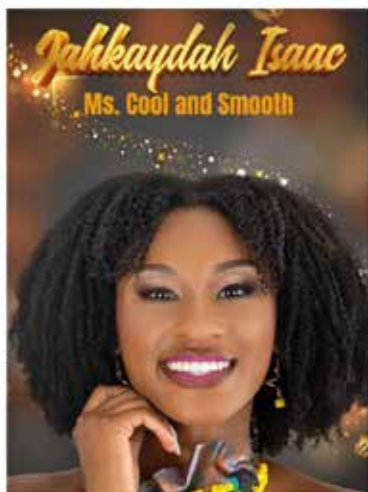
Focusing on the theme of ‘Enchanted Island,’ the contestants will use the show to highlight many of

Antigua and Barbuda’s cultural norms and attractions. “They will use the costume segment to highlight the country’s Black Pineapples, its cuisine, its mas, steel band, the frigate bird, calypso/soca, and the beaches.” She explained.

The competition will be judged in five categories: Interview, Swimwear, Performing Talent, Costume, and Evening Wear.

The Evening Wear segment will put on display the work of the country’s young, talented dress designers while the costume section will see a resurgence of the art of wire-bending in the designs and construction of the costumes.

The contestants and their sponsors are Delegate Number One, Ms. Furniture Gallery - Akiba Agard, Delegate Number Two, Ms. Cool and Smooth - Jahkaydah Isaac, Delegate Number Three, Ms. West Indies Oil Company - Thyana Sebastian, Delegate Number Four, Ms. Cedar Valley Golf Club - Ischikelle Corbin, Delegate Number Five, Ms. Arton Capital - Kessy-Ann Samuel, Delegate Number Six, Ms. Neverland - Ms. J’Dinique Prince and Delegate Number Seven, Ms. Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority - Soeisha Baptiste.



Queen contestant

Delegate Number One Akiba Agard - Ms. Furniture Gallery

26" 25" 38" and 118 pounds describe the silhouette of Akiba Chelsea Agard, affectionately called Chelsea. Akiba is family oriented and the eldest of four siblings with whom she has a very close bond, and considers her mother the bedrock and pillar of support.

Akiba considers herself to be well-rounded and tries her utmost to affiliate herself with forums that elevate and provide a medium to uplift others. She is a graduate of Pares Secondary School and the Antigua State College, Advanced Level Department. Akiba remains confident in her outlook on life. She is employed as a teacher and is also completing her studies in Educational and

Classroom Management at the Teacher Training Department of the University of the West Indies. However, it is her intent to further her education in Political Science at the completion of her current tertiary studies.

Akiba is no stranger to pageantry, and was judged first runner up in the Miss Sunshine Pageant 2020. In her leisure time, Akiba enjoys sporting activities, but also finds the time to read an interesting novel or relax to the sound of music that fits the mood she is in.

Akiba believes that she has the potential to lead her generation to a 'plateau of greatness' and intends to achieve this when she ultimately pursues her career in politics.



Outgoing Antigua Cruise Ports' boss recounts achievements

Dona Regis-Prosper is leaving her post next month as General Manager of Antigua Cruise Ports (ACP), the local subsidiary of Global Ports Ltd., to take up an appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO).

Last week, the CTO announced that Regis-Prosper had been appointed to the post of Secretary General as well as CEO. She takes up her appointment in September this year. She tells

Point Express that she leaves her post at ACP on August 18, exactly three years after she was appointed, having been appointed on August 19, 2020, at the heart of the COVID-19 pandemic and all the challenges that it brought to the cruise sector.

Regis-Prosper said she is pleased with what both she and her team were able to accomplish during her three-year stint at ACP. Among them was how the port was able to navigate the challenges brought on

by the pandemic and to see the cruise sector rebound in the way that it has done. This year, the port is on course to surpass the figures for 2019, considered the best year for cruise tourism in Antigua and Barbuda.

“Along with what we were able to achieve concerning the pandemic, we were able to accomplish several significant milestones. For example, we have established Antigua and Barbuda as a port for homeporting, with all the benefits that

this brings. We have agreements with several of the cruise lines to homeport in St. John’s and this is for us a significant development,” she explained.

Other noteworthy achievements include introducing port community training in areas such as port security, customer service, digital marketing, retail management, and cruise industry fundamentals.

One of her achievements has been to help with establishing Global Ports Ltd, in Antigua and Barbuda. When the company first signed the agreement for the management of the cruise ports with the government, the arrangements were mired in political controversy. As she prepares to leave, the landscape regarding GPL has changed significantly.

Of her new role, Regis-Prosper, a St. Lucian by birth stated, “I am deeply honored to have been selected to serve as Secretary General of the CTO and I am grateful for the trust and confidence the CTO Council of Ministers and Commissioners of Tourism and the Board of Directors have placed in me. I eagerly look forward to working with our dedicated team and diverse stakeholders to promote the Caribbean tourism sector, champion sustainability, and continue to foster impactful relationships and deliver ROI for our members.”



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Large numbers of Caribbean visitors set to visit Antigua for Carnival

A bump in the number of people who will visit Antigua and Barbuda for this year's Carnival, July 27 to August 8, is expected.

Antigua and Barbuda has long been a popular destination for Caribbean nationals visiting, to enjoy its unique Carnival, dubbed the Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival.

Just last week, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority announced the increase of regional airlift to Antigua and Barbuda, ahead of 'Antigua Carnival.' This follows successful promotional tours the ABTA launched in the southern Caribbean, notably Trinidad and Tobago.

According to the



ABTA, Antigua and Barbuda has secured more airlift with regional carrier, Caribbean Airlines, between Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago. Caribbean Airlines is pres-

ently operating four flights per week to Antigua's V.C. Bird International Airport, on Sundays, Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays from Trinidad's Piarco International Airport. This is

an increase from the previous two weekly flights.

Caribbean Airlines has also introduced new routes connecting Antigua and St. Kitts, and Antigua and

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Local News



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cont'd from pg 5
 Dominica.

The direct service between Antigua and St. Kitts will be available on Mondays and Fridays, with the inaugural flight set to take place on July 24, 2023. Service from Dominica is expected to begin in August.

The Tourism Authority further announced that tour operator Navitour will operate a charter flight into Antigua from Guadeloupe on August 5th, allowing travellers from the French territory to be a part of Antigua's Carnival celebrations.

"We have been experiencing a strong demand for Antigua and Barbuda, and with increased seat capacity it is now easier for our neighbours in the Caribbean to fly to Antigua and Barbuda," said CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C.

James.

Director of Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America Market, Charmaine Spencer added, "In addition to extra flights out of Trinidad, St. Kitts, Dominica, and Guadeloupe, we are benefitting from extra sealift with the return of the 'Jeans for Freedom' chartered ferry service from Guadeloupe this year."

The 'Jeans for Freedom' Ferry's latest trip to Antigua on July 7 brought over four hundred passengers to the destination.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has been on a promotional drive ahead of the carnival celebrations, enticing carnival lovers in the Caribbean to travel to Antigua during the two weeks of Carnival.

For more information on Antigua Carnival go to: www.visitantiguabarbuda.com

US Ambassador hails joint venture between local company and US firm

The US Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda is fully supportive of the joint venture agreement between local power provider, Antigua Power Company (APC) Ltd. and the US firm, Eagle LNG.

Speaking at a recent event in St. John's, Ambassador Linda Tagliatela said the commercial agreement is already paving the way for Antigua and Barbuda to utilize cleaner, more efficient energy solutions for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

"I am truly happy to see the recent collaboration between the Antigua Power Company, APUA, and Eagle LNG. Thanks to this partnership, APC and Eagle LNG will soon complete the state-of-the-art Liquid Natural Gas facility at Crabbes Peninsula.

"This partnership will enhance the energy security of Antigua and Barbuda and promote economic growth for years to come," she stated.

Just last week, the agreement to begin the dredging of the channel at Crabbes, to allow for the vessels taking LNG to the onshore facility, was signed between Blue Ocean and the Antigua and

Barbuda Port Authority.

The LNG is the power source to be used in a new 40-megawatt power

plant at Crabbes, that will supply the power to APUA under an agreement.

APC and its partners,

Eagle LNG also hope to supply other similar power plants operating in the sub-region.



The world's attention will focus on Antigua and Barbuda for next year's SIDS conference

Antigua and Barbuda will have a unique opportunity to stake its place in history next year when it hosts the 4th SIDS Conference, a once-every-decade meeting that brings together the foremost minds and political leaders from small island nations across the globe.

The event comes as these islands continue to face constant pressure on their economies from burdensome debt and the devastating consequences of climate change. Small Island Developing States have unrelentingly sought to devise solutions, advocated by the international community, and petitioned international financial institutions for remedies and solutions, but to no avail.

Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mr. Tumasie Blair said the time has come for a tectonic shift from traditional approaches and perhaps next year's meeting in Antigua and Barbuda, with the unprecedented global attention it will receive, will emerge



Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Mr. Tumasie Blair speaking at the SIDS Side Event to the High Level Political Forum in New York.

as their best possible chance yet.

"The 4TH SIDS Conference presents the opportune time for us to make our demands known and no longer retreat until our demands are met," Blair emphatically told a meeting of SIDS which was held this week on the mar-

gins of the UN's High-Level Political Forum in New York.

"The current global outlook demands a global shift for SIDS, perhaps we need to shift how we shape our 'asks' by moving them from mere requests to demands," the high-level diplomat told the meeting. A major imperative for the Antigua and Barbuda diplomat is ensuring that SIDS makes meaningful use of the remaining months until the conference, to impact and influence every possible opportunity to ensure SIDS4 is a resounding success.

Blair said SIDS need to take advantage of every opportunity before the Conference to make their demands known and forcefully insert their perspectives at major events.

"There are numerous global events that will help pave the way to SIDS4, processes inside the United Nations and external to the UN. All must be seen as important and of equal weight. We must engage with each and all of

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Representatives of SIDS and their partners huddled for an engaging period of discussions during the Side Event to the High Level Political Forum.



Beyond 75

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9 am (Jamaica) | 10 am (Eastern Caribbean)

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Prime Minister, St. Kitts & Nevis

Keynote Speaker



Professor Sir Hilary Beckles,
Vice-Chancellor, The UWI



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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Body found in front of church, no foul play suspected

Investigators attached to the Antigua and Barbuda Police Force have ruled out foul play in the death of a 62-year-old man whose body was

discovered on the steps of the Cashew Hill Pentecostal Church, on Sunday morning.

According to reports, the man usually performs the task

of opening the church hall for Sunday morning worship and was about to begin the task when he apparently collapsed and died.

The police were called to the scene, but they found no reason to suspect that the man died from anything other than natural causes.



Current Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru of Samoa. His predecessor is Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne.

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them. We must have a say in policy directives and we must ensure that the means of implementation accompany those directives," he continued.

A significant portion of this week's SIDS meeting was dedicated to looking forward to the 4th SIDS Conference and how the international community could best partner with SIDS in achieving its development goals despite the pre-

vailing challenges.

Out of the 4th Conference will come the "Antigua and Barbuda Accord for SIDS" otherwise known as ABAS. Besides the significant and far-reaching outcomes that it will likely achieve for island nations, the conference is set to bring major benefits to all areas of Antigua and Barbuda's economy as it will be the largest such meeting to be hosted anywhere in the Caribbean.



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Register at the CIBC FirstCaribbean Old Parham Road branch or contact the persons below:

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Opinion

Squeaky wheels and the bees knees

By Tony Deyal

While many people with handicaps are the bees knees, or outstanding in their own rights, it is the squeaky wheels that get the grease. This is why the handicapped are also the butts of all kinds of terrible jokes like, “What do you call handicapped kids doing karate?” Partial-arts. Or, “What does the handicapped man say to the cops when he’s mistaken for a criminal?” “Don’t shoot, I’m unarmed.” Then there is the Irishman who sent out this message, “To the handicapped joker who stole my bag. You can hide, but you can’t run.” Finally, and not too soon, “Jokes about the handicapped aren’t funny. No one knows what it’s like to not walk a mile in their shoes.”

I used to think that there are no dirty jokes or limits to comedy. But like those above, some hurt like hell if they are aimed at you and one of your handicaps. For those of us born in the mid-20th century, especially after the Second World War, the great health achievements had not yet happened. The death toll from epidemics like smallpox, measles and diphtheria were high, as were the effects of infectious diseases like pneumonia, tuberculosis, diarrhoea, enteritis, pneumonia, influenza and HIV. Polio was the most feared disease in the world. Many who survived it faced

lifelong consequences from deformed limbs. By the mid-20th century, the polio virus was found all over the world and killed or paralysed over half a million people every year. It was not until 1988 that the World Health Assembly passed a resolution to eradicate polio. Sanitation and hygiene were poor and even handwashing needed to be forced on people. Infant mortality was also extremely high.

I was born with one of the muscles in my left eye pulling up that eye so it was out of sync with my right eye. In other words, I was “cross-eyed”. Even now, almost 79 years after, I have to take the jokes like, “My cousin’s cross-eyed girlfriend dumped him. We have a feeling that she was seeing another man on the side.” In my case, teaching in a secondary school, there was, “Why Mr. Deyal cross eye?” Because he couldn’t control his pupils. While today, even in the Caribbean, the eye problem can be treated with glasses, patching, eye exercises, medication or surgery, in those days there was no cure. What was worse is if it was not dealt with before you were about 10 years old, it could not be corrected. So, many of us, boys and girls, had “cokey” eyes and my nickname at school was ‘Cokes’. I made a joke of it with, “I would have preferred to be called ‘Pepsi’,



Tony Deyal

but that name was already taken by another family member. What I did instead was turn the many jokes from my family, friends, teachers and colleagues into a challenge. I am essentially one-eyed, but I’ve made sure this has not limited or stopped my reading, writing, playing cricket and football, or driving cars and boats. In fact, my wife can’t stop me from seeing other women. She knows that I am cross-eyed.

The people who had polio and survived (and there were many of them, including teachers and students in the schools I attended), as well as those damaged on the roads, sugar estates and oilfields had it “double rough”. They are the ones that have the most jokes thrown at them like, “I got into a debate with a

handicapped man today ... Apparently it didn’t help my case when I told him he didn’t have a leg to stand on.” Or, “I saw a golf buggy parked in a disabled bay earlier... I couldn’t help but wonder what his handicap was.” There is also, “I know many handicapped people with a great sense of humour. Shame they don’t do stand-up comedy.” The one I like most is, “Of course mentally disabled people should be allowed to have jobs ... But to make them president of the United States is a bit too much.” These are the ones that are easier to take. But there are extremely tough ones like “I made a joke about disabled people in a group of friends. My blind friend just sighed and told me it wasn’t funny. I guess she

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couldn't see the humour in it." And, "What do you call a group of disabled people in a hot tub? Vegetable soup." These are the hardest ones to swallow.

If there are rules about how to respond to jokes when among disabled people, the first and easiest one is that it is totally OK to laugh when disabled people make jokes about themselves. I like this one by a father talking to his disabled son: "People overcome adversity all the time son ... Look at Beethoven. They told him he was deaf, but did he listen?" However, it is not OK to laugh at a disabled person. The worst thing you can do if you're a non-disabled person is to joke about disabled people. This makes you an "ableist" or person without disabilities who believes you are superior to people with disabilities.

Unfortunately, the jokes about the disabled will never stop. The good news is that the SQUEAKY WHEEL exists and helps the disabled to go after the grease. It is the first-ever satire publication that focuses on the experience of having a disability. It challenges common misconceptions, highlights absurdities, criticises imbalances, and does it all with humour. It reaches out to its readers, especially those who have disabilities, with "LET'S LAUGH MORE." For example, I took in "Five Ways to Clarify You're

(Badass) Disabled and Not (Inspirational) Disabled." The organisation's creator, Steven Verdile, explained, "Everyone knows about the two types of disabled people. The traditional type is sad and inspirational, like the tiny boy with crutches who begs Ebenezer Scrooge for titbits of hard bread with cold porridge. The new type of disabled is totally different and very cool, like the hot people with mobility aids from the woke TV commercials." His first advice is, "Curse Excessively" – no "please sir" or "ouch". His second

is, "Disregard your safety by doing risky thing for fun" like bungee jumping, tongue-kissing strangers or crowd surfing in your wheelchair at a punk rock concert."

Next is, "Dress like 2047"- "wear neon colours and do other things that make it clear you belong to a cyberpunk video game and not in your grandma's nursing home." Then comes, "Avoid looking directly into the camera"; and finally, the most important, "Be proud of your disability." There are already comedians on the

wider circuit like Robin Tran, Joe Urell, Brad Williams and the winner of the NBC's "Last Comic Standing", Joseph Blue. My favourite "Blue" joke is, "People always think I'm drunk. I was walking down the street one day and the drunk tank picked me up. I said, 'Wait a minute, fellas, I'm not drunk—I have cerebral palsy.' The cop said, 'That's a pretty big word for a drunk.'"

Tony Deyal was last seen asking his friends and readers to stand up for those who can't stand up for themselves.



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US heatwave: 'Dangerous' temperatures could set new records

BBC - Parts of the US are expected to see record temperatures on Sunday, with warnings of "dangerous" heat levels into next week across the south-west.

Nearly a third of Americans - about 113 million people - are currently under heat advisories, from Florida to California and up to Washington state.

The country's National Weather Service (NWS) has urged people not to underestimate the risk to life.

On Saturday, a sweltering 118F (48C) was recorded in Phoenix, Arizona.

It means temperatures have hit 110F (43C) for 16 days running, which is almost a record.

Mobile clinics there have reported treating homeless people suffering from third-degree burns.

Meanwhile, Death Valley in California - one of the hottest places in the world - is forecast to reach 129F (54C), nearing the hottest temperatures ever reliably recorded on Earth.

The NWS has said that local records could also be set on Sunday in the San Joaquin Valley, Mojave Desert, and Great Basin regions.

Its Saturday-evening update said the temperatures would "pose a health risk and are potentially deadly to anyone without



Energy consumption in Texas has surpassed records, as many in the state scramble to stay cool.

effective cooling and/or adequate hydration".

About 700 people are estimated to die each year from heat-related causes in the US, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

In neighbouring Canada, officials say wildfires stoked by above-average temperatures - which have covered parts of the US in smoke - have now burned nearly 10 million hectares (25 million acres) of land.

The temperatures in America's south-west are the result of an upper level ridge of high pressure, which typically brings with it warmer temperatures, the NWS said earlier, adding that the heatwave was "one of the strongest" sys-

tems of its kind to hit the region.

Las Vegas, Nevada, may also match its all-time high of 117F (47C) in the next few days.

Weather officials there warned locals who thought they could handle the temperatures that this was "not your typical desert heat".

"It's the desert, of course it's hot'- This is a DANGEROUS mind set!", the NWS in Las Vegas tweeted.

"This heatwave is NOT typical desert heat due to its long duration, extreme daytime temperatures, & warm nights. Everyone needs to take this heat seriously, including those who live in the desert."

The NWS also warned

that "strong to severe thunderstorms, heavy rain and flooding will be possible in several locations," including America's north-eastern New England region.

Parts of the south-western US have already grappled with intensely hot temperatures over the past week. In El Paso, Texas, temperatures have been in the triple-digits Fahrenheit for 27 consecutive days.

Air conditioner use in the state has topped its previous record for power consumption as people try to stay cool, while parks, museums and zoos have either closed or shortened their hours.

Hospitals were also seeing heat-related admis-

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sions.

“We’re getting a lot of heat-related illness now, a lot of dehydration, heat exhaustion,” said Dr Ashkan Morim, who works in the emergency room at Dignity Health Siena Hospital, outside of Las Vegas.

Overnight temperatures were expected to remain “abnormally warm” in some areas, offering little night-time relief from the heat.

The US heatwave mirrors similar searing conditions in Europe, which forced Greece to close one of its major tourist attractions, the Acropolis, on Friday and Saturday.

The first week of July saw a global average temperature of 63F (17.23C), according to the UN - the highest ever recorded.

Scientists say the temperatures are being driven by climate change and the naturally occurring weather pattern known as El Niño, which happens every three to seven years and causes temperatures to rise.

The world has already warmed by about 1.1C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.

Speaking to the BBC, Paolo Ceppi, a lecturer in climate science at Imperial College London, said higher global temperatures were undoubtedly contrib-

uting to the increased incidence of extreme weather.

“Of course it’s not unusual to have a heatwave in the summer, per se, but what’s becoming really unusual is the collection of heatwaves,” he said.

“We have this event in southern Europe, but at the same time, we’re having another major heatwave in the southern US. Recently we had heatwaves in south Asia, India, China and so on. And unfortunately, this

is not surprising.

“We have the baseline temperatures shifting upwards, and so you are shifting the odds towards more severe extreme events, and fewer cold extreme events.”



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Lucy Spraggan: Former X Factor star reveals sexual assault during filming

By Thomas Mackintosh

Former X Factor contestant Lucy Spraggan has revealed she was raped by a hotel porter during the production of the ITV show in 2012.

She withdrew from the show, citing an illness at the time, but told the Guardian the real reason was because she was attacked.

Spraggan said she felt let down by the programme makers.

Simon Cowell, creator of X Factor, said what happened to Spraggan was “horrific and heart-breaking”.

“When I was given the opportunity to speak to Lucy, I was able to personally tell her how sorry I was about everything she has been through.

“Lucy is one of the most authentic, talented and brave people I have ever met.”

Spraggan, who was 20 at the time, said the assault happened after a night out in central London celebrating the 25th birthday of fellow contestant Rylan Clark.

In her new memoir, *Process: Finding My Way Through*, the 31-year-old waives the right to anonymity granted to victims of sexual offences to tell her story for the first time.

She said she was escorted back to the hotel by a member of the production team when a hotel porter



Lucy Spraggan, now 31, has told how she was sexually assaulted by a hotel porter during the X Factor 2012.

offered to take her to her room.

She told the Guardian: “I woke up the next day with this sense of sheer dread.

“I don’t think I’ve ever felt that level of confusion since. I knew that I’d been raped, but I could not process that. So I put my clothes on and went into autopilot.”

Although the production team called police and an arrest was quickly made, Spraggan said she believed they were “unprepared” to deal with what had happened.

Spraggan received financial and medical support in the immediate aftermath

of the crime, but the singer said she wasn’t given any support after the trial in which her attacker was convicted.

An ITV spokesperson praised Spraggan for her “resilience and bravery”, adding the series was produced by Thames (part of Fremantle) and Syco, owned by Simon Cowell.

They said it was those two companies which were “primarily responsible for duty of care towards all of its programme contributors”.

A spokesperson for Fremantle said “to our knowledge, the assault was an event without precedent in

the UK television industry” and they “believed throughout that we were doing our best to support Lucy”.

But they added: “As Lucy thinks we could have done more, we must therefore recognise this. For everything Lucy has suffered, we are extremely sorry.

“Since then, we have done our very best to learn lessons from these events and improve our aftercare processes.

“Whilst we have worked hard to try and protect Lucy’s lifetime right to anonymity, we applaud her strength and bravery now that she has chosen to waive that right.”

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Dominica soap manufacturer takes Jamaican government before CCJ

CMC - The Dominica-based company, DCP Successors Limited (DCPS) has taken the Jamaica government before the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) alleging that Kingston is violating the provisions of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas as it pertains to the manufacture of soap.

The CCJ said that the matter, which will begin on Monday, is the first in-person hearing it will be conducting since the start of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

It said the matter involves utilising the Court's Original Jurisdiction, which is used as an international tribunal interpreting the revised Treaty of Chaguaramas that governs the regional integration movement, CARICOM.

The CCJ has exclusive authority to adjudicate upon disputes arising from the interpretation and application of the treaty which governs the operation



of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) that allows for the free movement of goods, skills, labour and services across the region.

In this case, DCPS, which is a company duly incorporated under the laws of Dominica, is a manufacturer of various soap products and it uses a process called saponification to make generic soap noodles which can then

be scented and moulded.

DCPS contends that the Jamaica government is breaching the provisions of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas by exempting soap manufacturers in that country from paying the Common External Tariff (CET) on imported soap noodles, which do not qualify for community treatment as imported products.

Vincentian PM to use CELAC-EU summit to push for equal partnership

By Dillon De Shong

Vincentian Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves wants to use tomorrow's meeting between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU) to solidify the need for both regions to work together on an equal level.

Gonsalves, who is the President pro tempore of CELAC, outlined his objectives in an interview with the state-run National



Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

Broadcasting Corporation his departure for Brussel, (NBC) yesterday prior to Belgium.

"We must not continue to be unequally yoked," Gonsalves said. "Europe remade Latin America and the Caribbean and in the process remade itself. What they did in remaking our hemisphere, they have not quite yet understood how they remade themselves and that has to be part of their own consciousness. Historically we have been unequally yoked but we must not continue unequally yoked."

Gonsalves said climate
cont'd on pg 19

Guyanese businessmen denying being the subject of US investigations

Guyanese businessman Nazar Mohamed and his son Azruddin have denied that they are the subjects of money laundering, drug trafficking and gold smuggling investigations being conducted by US law enforcement.

The denial follows a report by the Reuters news agency, which claimed US government officials have repeatedly warned Exxon Mobil against working with the Mohameds.

The report said the Texas-based oil giant ignored the advice and inked a deal with a consortium that included the two Guyanese businessmen to build a \$300 million onshore logistics base.

Reuters alleged the men might soon be subjected to US sanctions, which could result in Exxon having to cut ties with them.

In a statement, the father and son duo challenged the media house to produce evidence to support allegations made in the report.

“The report printed by Reuters is defamatory of

the character and reputation of Mr. Nazar Mohamed and his son Azruddin Mohamed. A cursory reading of the report reveals that it is a repetition and regurgitation of the now widely accepted discredited Bram Ebus report published on September 14, 2020,” the statement said.

“The Mohameds reject the purported sources referred to in the defamatory report and the reckless use of sources as the basis of the entire report. The Mohameds categorically deny that they are the subject of any investigations by any US authorities.”

Nazar and Azruddin said they are “surprised and astonished” that a respected international news agency would published what they determined to be fake news. They believe the report was done to tarnish their names.

“The Mohameds consider this report a most vile diabolical sloppy hatchet job, published with the primary intention to create the appearance that the Mohameds are in a position of



Businessman Nazar Mohamed (left) and his son Azruddin. Photo: Team Mohamed's

conflict with the US law enforcement agencies,” the statement said.

The men said they are

committed to upholding the law and conducting their business to the highest international standards.

cont'd from pg 18

change, resources for adaptation and mitigation, loss and damage, financing for development including the Bridgetown Initiative, poverty and food security, matters of war and peace, and promoting the ideals of non-interference and non-intervention.

The prime minister noted the CELAC-EU Conference is an opportuni-

ty for the developed and developing world to create a model relationship for peaceful collaboration.

Gonsalves said CELAC has already made it clear that they would not allow the EU to use the meeting to push their agenda regarding the Ukraine-Russia war.

“Ukraine is being dealt with in other important fora. What we would

want is to encourage peace. The Ukraine war, as indeed other conflicts across the world, disrupts the supply chains, cause shortages and increase prices which brings hardship to our people,” he said.

CELAC-EU Conference runs from July 17-18. It will be co-chaired by the President of the European Council, Charles Michel and Gonsalves.

Ukraine war: Last grain ship leaves Odesa as deal deadline looms

By Jaroslav Lukiv

The last ship to sail under a deal allowing Ukraine to export its grain has left the country's Black Sea port of Odesa, a day before an extension deadline, MarineTraffic data site says.

It says the TQ Samsun left on Sunday - a claim backed by Reuters news agency.

Russia has not agreed to extend the UN-brokered deal unless its demands on its own grain and fertilisers are met.

The 2022 deal was struck amid fears of global food shortages after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Both Ukraine and Russia are among the world's top grain exporters.

MarineTraffic says the Turkish-flagged ship left Odesa just after 08:00 local time (05:00 GMT) and was heading south to the Turkish city of Istanbul.

Ukraine has so far not publicly commented on the issue.

On Saturday, Russian President Vladimir Putin said commitments to remove obstacles to Moscow's own food exports and other key provisions had not been met, signalling that Moscow could suspend its participation in the agreement.

"The main goal of the deal, namely the supply of



More than 30m tonnes of grain and other foods have left Ukraine under the deal struck in July 2022.

grain to countries in need, including on the African continent, has not been implemented," the Kremlin leader said in a phone call to South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

Moscow also wants its Rosselkhozbank - a bank that handles agricultural payments - to be reconnected to the global Swift payment network.

Earlier this year, the European Union said it was not considering reinstating Russian banks sanctioned because of Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

On Friday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he was confident the deal would be extended again, after speaking to Mr Putin.

The deal is meant to be extended for 120 days at a time, but in March and May 2023 Russia agreed to extensions of only 60 days.

Several days before the last extension, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky held urgent talks with UN Secretary General António Guterres.

"We are interested in ensuring that there is no hunger in the world," Mr Zelensky said.

Ukrainian exports by sea from the country's Black Sea ports were initially blocked by Russian warships following the invasion in February 2022.

More than 30m tonnes of grain and other foods have left Ukraine under the deal providing a safe cor-

ridor across the Black Sea.

The UN says that:

47% of Ukraine's grain has gone to "high-income countries" including Spain and Italy

26% to "upper-middle income countries" such as Turkey and China

27% to "low and lower-middle income countries" such as Egypt and Sudan

Mr Putin has criticised Ukraine for not exporting more to developing countries.

But the UN says the grain deal has benefited people throughout the world because it has brought more food products onto the global market and therefore reduced global prices.



Some 3,000 people are estimated to have lost their homes in the blaze.

Kennedy Road fire: Hundreds of Durban homes destroyed in South Africa

By Joseph Winter

Hundreds of homes have been destroyed by a fire in a poor neighbourhood of the South African port city of Durban.

One person is known to have died in the blaze that tore through the Kennedy Road informal settlement early on Sunday morning, but there are fears that more bodies could be found.

Video footage shows the twisted remains of corrugated iron sheets used to build the shacks amid the smouldering debris.

People can be seen trying to salvage their belongings.

The cause of the fire is not yet known. However, some eyewitnesses say it started when two people, who had been drinking, got into an argument.

A South African Red Cross spokesman described it as a disaster and estimated that about 1,000 shacks may have been destroyed, leaving some 3,000 people homeless.

Siyabonga Hlatshwayo told the eNCA news site that the Red Cross had been distributing hot meals, mat-

tresses and blankets to those affected and he appealed to the public for more donations.

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South Korea flood: Nine bodies recovered from flooded tunnel

BBC - Rescuers working to reach vehicles trapped in a flooded tunnel near the South Korean city of Cheongju have recovered nine bodies.

Flood water caused by days of torrential rain poured into the underpass so quickly that passengers and drivers were trapped in their cars, unable to escape.

At least 37 people have died in total after flooding, landslides and power cuts across much of the country.

Nine people are still missing.

It is unclear how many people are still trapped in the 685-metre (2,247ft) long tunnel in the town of Osong, but 15 vehicles are thought to be submerged.

Several of the bodies were recovered from inside a bus. Nine survivors were rescued on Saturday.

The victims' families say the deaths might have been prevented had the local authorities responded effectively.

Several local media outlets reported that a few hours before the tragedy the river flood control office had issued a warning about the alarming water levels, and therefore the traffic around the tunnel area should have been diverted.

Most of the other fatalities were in the mountainous North Gyeongsang



region, where landslides swept away whole houses.

Almost 300mm (11.8in) of rain is reported to have fallen across South Korea on Saturday.

The country typically sees 1,000mm (39.4in) to 1,800mm (70.9in) a year, according to the Korean Meteorological Association - although much of that does fall during the summer months.

Aerial pictures from flood-affected areas show brown mud and flood waters so deep, only the tops of roofs can be seen sticking out.

Thousands of people have been affected by evacuation orders issued by various local governments and Prime Minister Han Duck-soo has asked the military to help with

the rescue efforts.

Early on Saturday morning local time, some 6,400 residents were evacuated after the Goe-san Dam, also in North Chungcheong, began to overflow, the agency said.

A number of low-lying villages near the dam as well as many of the roads connecting them were submerged, leaving some residents trapped in their homes.

Late on Friday, a landslide caused a train to derail in North Chungcheong. One engineer was injured, but the train was not carrying passengers at the time.

Korail, the country's national rail operator, has announced the suspension of all slow trains and some bullet trains, and said other bullet services would be

disrupted.

The Korea Meteorological Administration forecast more rainfall through to Wednesday next week. It warned that the weather conditions pose a "grave" danger.

Extreme rain has caused floods and landslides across several countries - including India, China and Japan - over the past fortnight.

While many factors contribute to flooding, scientists say a warming atmosphere caused by climate change makes extreme rainfall more likely.

The warmer it becomes, the more moisture the atmosphere can hold, resulting in more droplets and heavier rainfall, sometimes in a shorter space of time and over a smaller area.



The Flyers basketball team. (File photo)

Flyers and Stingerz take leads in ABBA division one playoffs

The Flyers and the Northside Stingerz recorded contrasting wins to take one-nil leads in their respective best-of-three opening round games in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division Playoff championship on Saturday night.

The third-seeded Flyers soared past the sixth-seeded Braves 87-57 in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Adonis Humphreys had a game-high 15 points and snatched nine rebounds; David Hernandez produced 14 points, six rebounds, five assists, and five steals; and Kwame Brathwaite converted 14 points as the top performers for the Flyers.

Xavier Meade had 12 points and six assists; Javonte Daley contributed 11 points, six rebounds, and five assists; T-Shawn Lewis scored 11 points and grabbed five rebounds; and Jabari Williams chipped in with 10 points and six rebounds for the Flyers.

Tamraj Stuart converted 11 points; Shaheim Omarde had nine points and

five rebounds; Damien Floyd produced nine points and 11 rebounds; and Sergio Symister chipped in with eight points and seven rebounds for the Braves.

The fourth-seeded Stingerz had a much tougher battle before prevailing 87-77 against the fifth-seeded Ottos Full Throttle in the second game of Saturday night's double-header.

Point guard Jaden Andrew produced 27 points, eight assists, and five rebounds, and Donte Trimmingham contributed 24 points and nine rebounds as the leading performers for the Stingerz.

Tequan Brodie sank 17 points and snatched eight rebounds, and Jamine Charles chipped in with 14 rebounds, nine points, and five blocks for the Stingerz.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 30 points and claimed six rebounds, and Warren Bogle had 14 points, six assists, six steals, and five rebounds as the top performers for the Ottos Full Throttle.

Sheldon Abrams and Akeem Davis each converted 12 points, while Marlon

Davis chipped in with 11 rebounds, 11 assists, and five points for Full Throttle.

Game Two of both first-round series will take place at the same venue during a double-header this evening (Monday). If necessary, the third and deciding games of the respective first-round series will be played on Wednesday, July 19th.

The winners of the first-round series will advance to face the two top-seeded teams in the second round, or semi-finals, which will also be the best of three series.

League winners Cuties Ovals OJays are the number one seed, while the Potters Stealers, who finished in second place, are the second seed. Both teams were given byes into the second round, or semi-finals.

By virtue of finishing in the last two positions at the bottom of the competition, the other two sides that competed in the eight-team round-robin league, the All Saints Slam and the Spanish Heat, were eliminated from the first division playoffs.

Ashwin routs Windies as India win first Test

ROSEAU, Dominica (AP) - Ravichandran Ashwin feasted on West Indies wickets on a generous turning pitch to propel India to victory by an innings and 141 runs inside three days of the first Test on Friday.

Ashwin took seven for 71 in the second innings, his best figures overseas, and 12 for 131 for the match. West Indies was all out for 130 in less than 51 overs after scoring 150 in the first innings.

New India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal outscored the West Indies on his own with 171. He and captain Rohit Sharma drained the home side with their opening stand of 229. Then Jaiswal rubbed it in by leading a partnership of 110 with Virat Kohli, who made 76.

India declared their first innings at 421 for five about an hour after lunch for a lead of 271. Offering spin-friendly Windsor Park to two of the world's best spinners came to bite the West Indies hard.

Ashwin, the No. 1-ranked Test bowler with a point to prove after being omitted from the World Test Championship final, and Ravindra Jadeja, the No. 1-ranked test all-rounder, padded already impressive statistics with 17 of the 20 West Indies wickets.

Beside his five for 60 from the first innings, Ashwin's dozen wickets in the match gave him an eighth 10-wicket haul in a Test, tying Anil Kumble's India record. They are tied for fifth on the all-time list. Jadeja took two for 38 on Friday for a match haul of five wickets.

In West Indies' second turn at bat, the top order's priority was merely surviving, but both openers were gone by tea, both dismissed for seven.

Tagenarine Chanderpaul was leg before to Jadeja, and cost West Indies a



India's bowler Ravichandran Ashwin, second left, greets team-mates after defeating the West Indies on the third day of the first Test at Windsor Park in Roseau, Dominica, on Friday, July 14th, 2023. (AP)

review, and captain Kraigg Brathwaite was caught at first slip trying to defend Ashwin.

The batters through lunch, Jermaine Blackwood and Raymon Reifer, were out within five balls of each other also trying to defend the spin; Blackwood was trapped by Ashwin and Reifer was lbw to Jadeja.

When Joshua Da Silva was trapped plum in front to pacer Mohammed Siraj, West Indies was 58 for five in the 30th over.

Alick Athanaze, on debut, top-scored in both innings, 47 and 28, the only scores over 20. Athanaze was dropped on one by Jaiswal at short leg, but Jaiswal snaffled up the next chance.

Ashwin took the last five wickets, the 23rd time he's taken the match-winning wicket, eclipsing Shane Warne's 22 occasions. West Indies has gone the distance only twice in its last 10 tests going back 16 months.

Meanwhile, India extended their un-

beaten run in the Caribbean to 14 Tests with a seventh win since 2006. The second test in Port of Spain, the 100th between the teams, starts on Thursday.

The highest score by an India man on debut was 187 by Shikhar Dhawan in 2013, and Jaiswal looked set to beat it on Friday morning when he resumed on 143.

The opener hit slow left-armer Jomel Warrican back over his head for his first Test six and wriggled to 171 when he nicked pacer Alzarri Joseph behind and was out caught at 350 for three.

Jaiswal didn't look happy, though he had the highest score by an India debutant outside India, and faced more balls than any of India's previous debut centuries.

His mammoth innings spanning three days and nearly 8 1/2 hours came from 387 balls and included 16 boundaries. Ajinkya Rahane came in and didn't last, patting back a bouncer from Kemar

cont'd on pg 25

Former Leeward Islands batsman Ralston Otto dead at age 65

Former Antigua and Leeward Islands batsman Ralston Otto died on Friday at his home in Antigua after a decade-long battle with Parkinson's disease.

He was 65.

Otto played 48 first-class matches for the Leeward Islands between 1979 and 1990.

During that period, he scored

2,550 runs that included six centuries and 12 50s at an average of 34.00.

The right-handed batsman was the vice-captain of the West Indies 'B' that toured Zimbabwe in 1986.

Former West Indies batsman Carlyle Best was the captain of that team that included Jimmy Adams and Carl Hooper who would both go on to become captains of the West Indies

team, Phil Simmons, David Williams, Julian Charles, Javon Etienne and Vibert Greene among others.

A cousin to West Indies fast-bowling great Sir Curtly Ambrose, Otto would go on to manage the Leeward Islands team.

He also managed the Antigua and Barbuda team that participated in the Stanford 20/20 tournament in 2008.

cont'd from pg 24

Roach on three.

Kohli racked up his 57th fifty and third slowest, and he and Jadeja took India to lunch on 400 for four with a lead of 250. Kohli looked good for his 29th test hundred and only his second in the Caribbean while riding his luck.

He gave a half-chance at leg slip before he scored, and was dropped twice on Friday on 40 and 72. Kohli's luck ran out when off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall returned to bowl for the first time in more than 24 hours. He left the field on Thursday morning due to an apparent chest infection, but started Friday in the field.

In Cornwall's second over of the day, Kohli turned him down the leg side and steered the ball straight to slip fielder Athanaze. Kohli's hard-fought 76 from 182 balls included five boundaries.

India waited six more overs to declare at 421 for five, after Ishan Kishan scored his first run on his Test debut about an hour after lunch. Jadeja was 37 not out.



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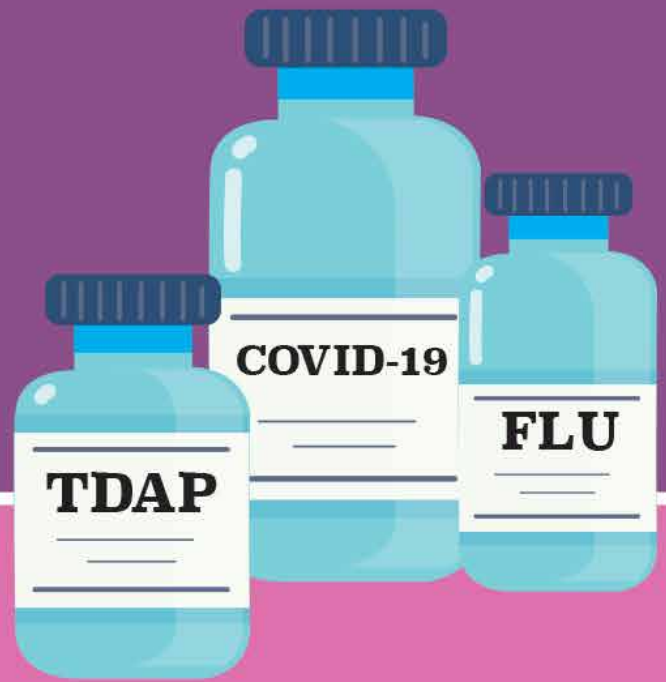
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Black Hawks and Empire Nation extend unbeaten runs in the ABCA Super40 Cup

Front-runners the PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and the Empire Nation extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 limited overs competition on Saturday.

Both teams recorded their fourth wins in as many matches to remain joint leaders of the 40-over-a-side competition.

Coach Wilden "Pollo" Cornwall continued his impressive batting display by hitting his third century in as many matches to propel the Black Hawks, who are the defending champions, to an emphatic 127-run victory over the New Winthorpes Lions at Ball Beef in Liberta.

Cornwall, who once again opened the innings, slammed 107 off 81 balls, with seven fours and six sixes, to guide Liberta to 236 for nine off 36 overs after the Black Hawks won the toss and opted to bat.

New Winthorpes' captain and fast bowler Nino Henry picked up three for 25, Kyian Joseph claimed two for 44, and Ishmael Peters took two for 64.

In reply, New Winthorpes tumbled to 109 all out in 27.1 overs, with Bartlette Henry getting 40.

Amahl Nathaniel snatched two wickets for two runs, Elvis Weaver Jr. claimed two wickets for six

runs, captain Karima Gore took two wickets for seven runs, left-arm spinner Kadeem Phillip picked up two for 21, and left-arm pacer Javier Spencer captured two for 32.

Empire Nation beat the Jennings Tigers by four wickets at the Jennings playing field. The home side batted first, scoring 148 all-out in 36 overs. Teenager Tanez Francis snapped up five for 42, and Tyrone Williams Jr. claimed three for 22.

Jauri Edwards struck 62 to lead the Empire Nation to victory at 154 for six in 31.4 overs. Left-arm spinner Glenton Williams captured four for 29, and Matthew Miller picked up two for 35.

Pigotts Crushers secured their fourth win in five matches by prevailing by four wickets against the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at the Bethesda playing field.

The Golden Eagles won the toss and batted, but could only muster 140 all-out in 36.2 overs. Gavin Tonge made 31 not out. Spinner Kadeem Henry grabbed four for 18, and pacer Trevorson Atley snapped up three for 16.

The Crushers cruised to victory by scoring 141 for six off 36.2 overs. Uri Smith cracked 43, Henry, who opened the innings, hit a run-a-ball 31, and Demari Benta was not out on



Coach Wilden 'Pollo' Cornwall continued his impressive batting display by hitting his third century in as many matches to propel the Black Hawks to an emphatic 127-run victory over the New Winthorpes Lions at Ball Beef in Liberta on Saturday, July 15th.

30. The veteran Anthony "I Roots" Martin captured two for 18 in eight overs.

The WES Rising Sun Spartans claimed their second win in five outings by trouncing the Bolans Blasters by 115 runs at the Bolans playing field.

The Spartans won the toss and batted, scoring 239 all-out in 32.1 overs. Martin Singh smashed 69 off 46 balls, with eight fours and five sixes; Tassilo Allen struck 51 off 48 balls, with five fours and two sixes; and captain Kerry Mentore cracked a run-a-ball 43,

with three fours and three sixes.

Teriq Highland took three for 48, Ondre Peters picked up two for 13, and Morton Browne captured two for 50.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters were bundled out for 124 in 32.1 overs to crash to their fifth defeat in as many matches. Opener Peter Bellanfanti and captain Orlando Peters each made 34, while Ozan Williams snapped up four wickets for two runs in 7.1 overs and Shane Burton captured two for 26.



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Trinidad and Tobago team celebrate after clinching the Cricket West Indies Women's Rising Stars Under-19 Championship title at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine, Trinidad, on Saturday, July 15th, 2023. (CWI Media)

T&T girls beat Windwards to win Rising Stars title

Djenaba Joseph did the job with the bat and Shalini Samaroo led with the ball as the Trinidad and Tobago Under-19 Women clinched the Cricket West Indies Women's Rising Stars Under-19 Championship title with a hard-fought 37-run victory over the Windward Islands at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine on Saturday.

Joseph opened the batting and top-scored for the hosts with 43 off 55 balls as T&T posted 106 all out off 28.5 overs. T&T assistant coach Anisa Mohammed never doubted that the runs on the board would be enough, even after the visitors reached 49 for one after 17 overs.

At that stage, the Windwards' two best players Zaida James and Jannillea Glasgow were keeping the Windwards in the game with a sec-

ond-wicket partnership that threatened to silence the small crowd. But the home support never faded and T&T stuck to their plan.

It was a matter of match-ups for head coach Gibran Mohammed, who ensured his best bowlers were asking questions of the top Windward Islands players throughout their stint in the middle, before Samaroo, who took three for 11, intervened to finally put the hosts on top in the 18th over.

T&T tempted Glasgow and James outside the off-stump with a few balls taking the edge and flying past the slips. But runs were still hard to come by for the Windwards in the first half of their innings.

The T&T skipper also made things difficult for the visitors with a frugal spell that put T&T on the path

to victory.

The off-spinner, coming around the wicket, trapped the left-handed James lbw for 25 off 53 balls after the batter failed to make contact with a reverse sweep. That was the turning point for the hosts. In the same over, Earnisha Fontaine was lbw for a second ball "duck."

The dangerous Glasgow departed in the next over, caught by Denella Matthew off the bowling of Kirah Manpaul for just 12 off 40 balls. The next six wickets added just ten runs as the Windwards were dismissed for 69 in 27 overs.

Earlier, Samara Ramnath had done her job, conceding just 12 runs in six overs and grabbing two wickets, while KD Jazz Mitchell conceded just 16 runs from her six overs and also grabbed one wicket.

Police retain Dave Joseph Parish League title

Defending champions Police beat Freetown by seven wickets to retain the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship at the Urlings playing field on Saturday.

Malique Gerald produced a fine all-round performance, which included an unbeaten century, to lead the Police to victory, which brought the 2023 Parish League domestic season to a conclusion.

Gerald slammed 100 not out to propel the Police to victory at 181 for three in 31.5 overs. Jarell Phillip picked up two for 51.

Gerald had earlier captured three for 46, Damon Valentine claimed two for 11, and off-spinner James Cornelius took two for 24 to dismiss Freetown for 177 in 29 overs. Dillon Wills cracked 58, and Kief Baltimore struck 50.

It was the second time this season that both teams met in a Parish League final. The Police also defeated Freetown in the final to retain the Sir Richie Richardson limited overs championship in June.

While it was the second title secured by the Police, Freetown retained the Curtly Ambrose one-day title by beating Dreams 2 Reality Sea View Farm in the final in the first of the four Parish League limited overs competitions, which were held during the 2023 domestic season.

But the Police relinquished the Sir Vivian Richards Thursday



Police retain the ACB Caribbean Parish League Dave Joseph Limited Overs Championship at the Urlings playing field on Saturday, July 15th, 2023. (ACB Parish League)

League crown, which was captured by the WES Rising Sun Spartans.

The Spartans won the Thursday League's inaugural T20 competition last Thursday.

The Spartans secured the T20 title by pulling off a six-wicket victory against favourites, the PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks, in the final at the Ball Beef playing field in Liberta.

All-rounder Kofi James slammed 50 and Amahl Nathaniel struck 33 to lift the Black Hawks to 133 for nine off their allotted 20 overs. Deran

Benta snapped up three for 20, Owen Graham picked up three for 30, and Tassilo Allen captured two for 11.

Rising Sun then achieved victory by scoring 136 for four with 14 balls to spare. Graham cracked 37, and Melvin Charles struck 35. James captured three for 34.

It was the second loss suffered by the Black Hawks against the Rising Sun Spartans in the competition. Their only other loss in the limited-overs competition also came against the Spartans in the preliminary rounds.