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PM BROWNE ADDRESSES DIGITIZATION AND CHANGING WORLD ORDER

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, second left, shares a light moment with other Caricom Heads of State. PM Browne concluded a busy round of engagements at the EU-CELAC meeting. *Story on page 3.*

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister on digitalization and a changing world order

(CMC) Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne, on Tuesday, warned that Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) has potential implications for responsible leadership and could result in serious geo-political implications.

"In fact, it is projected that AI will be far more impactful than previous technological advancements," Browne said, noting that AI is fast becoming a mainstream concept with the generative chat bot, Chat GPT, that has taken the world by storm.

Delivering the feature address at the Convocation Ceremony of the Said Business School of the University of Oxford, Prime Minister Browne said that transformative leadership has revolutionized societies and the planet, resulting in the contemporary Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0.

"The Fourth Industrial Revolution has seen the advancement of information communication technologies (ICTs), resulting in increased interconnectivity, smart automation, and overall digitalization of our societies," Browne said, adding "I am duty bound to remind you that these advances were not driven by leaders who maintain the status quo, but by transformational leaders."

He said digitalization,



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

which is the use of digital technologies, has resulted in the transformation of business models to digital businesses, providing increased opportunity and new revenue and value-producing opportunities.

"Virtually all contemporary businesses comprise of some form of digitalization for increased productivity, and value-added digital services that could be monetized and delivered virtually without the need for physical premises," he told the graduates of the school that was founded in 1996, through the donations of businessman and philanthropist, Wafic Said.

Browne said it is estimated that digitalization will be embedded in the fabric of virtually every job thereby, accounting for most of the new jobs created in the fu-

ture; with careers in exciting areas including cyber security, analytics, gaming, digital marketing, designing, social media management, and political strategy.

The Antigua and Barbuda prime minister said the most exciting area of digitalization is still in its infancy and that AI's unique characteristics utilizing the power of computer algorithms will impact literally all aspects of development, to include biotechnologies, nanotechnologies, politics, and creative arts.

"There are however serious downside risks associated with the potential misuse of AI to generate misinformation and disinformation, which could challenge our traditional foundations of global peace and security," Browne said, adding that "this will necessitate the

need for a strong regulatory framework to proactively curb, or eliminate the use of this exciting technology for nefarious purposes."

He said that the early adopters of AI in their planning and decision-making processes will certainly benefit from increased competitive advantage and AI is likely to shift the balance of power between nations who develop and control the technology.

"Currently, AI is seen as a strategic priority, and tens of billions of dollars are being invested by private sector technology firms and nation-states, especially the USA and China. It was reported in September 2017, that Vladimir Putin told a group of students that "whoever becomes the ruler of AI will become the ruler of the world."

"Today, I say to you... that countries, leaders, artisans, professionals who are early adopters of artificial intelligence will obtain a competitive advantage over their competitors. Future sustained competitive advantage is unlikely to be achieved without the adoption and application of AI."

Browne told the ceremony that while AI is not properly regulated at this time and comes with certain threats, the technology could be easily misused and could challenge the integrity of leaders.

PM Gaston Browne concludes busy round of engagements at EU-CELAC meeting

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has concluded a busy round of engagements at the EU-CELAC summit held in Brussels, the headquarters of the European Union (EU), over the past two days.

According to sources close to the meetings, both official engagements and private meetings with investors occupied PM Browne's time as the Summit, which brought together the leaders of all the countries of the European Union and of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Caribbean region was well represented, as very few leaders chose to skip the event. The same was true for the EU and Latin American regions.

Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves of St Vincent and the Grenadines currently holds the rotating presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and co-chaired the sessions, in addition to addressing the opening.

PM Browne addressed the session during the EU-Caribbean Leaders' meeting and spoke on the issue of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) which is being developed by a UN High-Level Panel, being co-chaired by the former Prime Minister of Norway Elna Solberg, and PM Browne.

The Prime Minister of



Antigua and Barbuda in his statement to the meeting emphasized the importance of the MVI to the international financial institutions and stated that it had the potential to unlock billions in development financing for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and other disadvantaged groups of countries. He urged all states present at the Summit to support the MVI when it is presented to the UN General Assembly in September.

"I am very pleased to see the EU-CELAC Summit get back on track and resume after an absence of eight years," said PM Browne, "and I am especially delighted to see one of our Caricom and OECS leaders in the person of the veteran Caribbean politician Ralph Gonsalves preside over the proceedings and guide the direction of this important engage-

ment."

While in Brussels PM Browne also held meetings with two private sector in-

vestment teams that have expressed an interest in investing in Antigua and Barbuda.

FORM P7

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

(Rule 15)

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
ANUHPB 2023/0197

In the Estate of "FERNELLA SAMUEL" a.k.a. "FERNELLA ELIZABETH SAMUEL" a.k.a "FERNELLA PETERS nee SAMUEL", late of Potters Village, St. John's, Antigua, Deceased.

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an Application has been filed by **SISLYN NANCY NAOMI PETERS**, of 215 E. 164th Street, Apt. 5 H, Bronx, NY 10456 USA, and formerly of Potters Village, St. John's, Antigua, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 11th day of June, 2022.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated the 18th day of July, 2023

TALIA N. DACOSTA
STAPLETON CHAMBERS
ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
FOR THE APPLICANT

Filed by STAPLETON CHAMBERS Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is STAPLETON CHAMBERS, STAPLETON HOUSE, SUITE #2, STAPLETON LANE, P.O. BOX 2891, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA; craig.jacobs@stapletonchambers.com; Tel: (268) 562-7185 Fax: (268) 562-7967 Applicant in Person whose address for service is the same as above.

Local News



Man hospitalized after being injured at the port

A 58-year-old man is nursing serious injuries at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre following a workplace accident at the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority (ABPA) on Tuesday.

ABPA General Manager Darwin Telemaque confirmed that the accident happened at approximately 11:45 am when the victim, identified as Denroy Harrigan, was pinned to a container by a truck driver reversing his truck. It is al-

leged that Harrigan was not in the driver's sight as he was backing up the vehicle which led to the accident.

According to Telemaque, the man is said to be in serious condition at the hospital, with injuries to his hips, and his thigh and there are concerns about possible injuries to his ribs and spleen.

The port manager noted that there are going to be a series of meetings today with the agents, as well

as the insurance company during which operational safety is likely to feature prominently.

He voiced concerns that a similar accident happened last year on June 6 and just over a year later on July 18, there is another accident. Telemaque described this development as 'unacceptable and very unfortunate.'

"At the meeting slated for Wednesday with the agents, we will review the

port's operational plan and especially its safety provisions. We are likely to come up with some suggestions on ways to make the port a safer place to work for all employed there, whether privately or through the port," the port manager revealed.

Harrigan is employed as a stevedore by Carib Seas, however, Telemaque said the accident happened at the port, thus the port authority is willing to assist.

Public Service Announcement from DCA

There have been recent enquiries by members of the public regarding access to the coastline at Laurys Bay for recreational purposes, by way of

a road that runs through lands owned by a private developer. The Antigua and Barbuda Survey Department confirms that the road and these lands are owned by the developer. The developer recently fenced his property and placed a gate across his road.

The Development Control Authority (DCA), in investigating the matter, found that the developer is within his right to fence his land; and that the road in question does not lead to a beach, but to a rocky coastline and a jetty.

Further investigations revealed that there is actually a white sandy beach along the eastern side of Laurys Bay, but it does not have clear public access.

Consequently, the developer has kindly offered to construct a road along the eastern boundary of his land from the main road, to provide unrestricted public access to the beach. Construction of this road commenced over a month ago and is expected to be completed within a short period.

Greene to attend IICA Executive Committee meeting as an observer

Following a meeting of Caribbean agriculture ministers in San Jose, Costa Rica, many of the ministers are staying on for a two-day meeting of the IICA Executive Committee meeting.

One of IICA's governing bodies, the Executive Committee meets once a year. It is comprised of 12 Member States, elected for two-year terms according to the principles of partial rotation and equitable geographical distribution.

Indar Weir, Minister of Agriculture and Food Security of Barbados will assume a two-year chairmanship of the Executive Committee at its meeting, which will be attended by ministers and senior agricultural officials from the hemisphere.

The Hemispheric Initiative on Water and Agriculture, which will seek to develop tools to mitigate the consequences of the water deficit in the hemisphere, will be launched during the event.

Antigua and Barbuda's Agriculture Minister, E.P Chet Greene, who is in Costa Rica for the agri-

culture ministers' meeting, will attend the meeting as an observer. At their meeting, the Caribbean agriculture ministers discussed ways to reduce food insecurity as well as modalities to build bridges with Latin America.



Minister E.P Chet Greene at the Caribbean Ministers of Agriculture Conference in Costa Rica



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REGULAR: \$350
NO GATE SALES

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MODERN CHIC WOMEN'S COLLECTION

Antigua Carnival

Booking

Local News



HRPAB has a new executive committee

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) has elected a new executive committee to run the affairs of the association for the next two years.

Wendy K. Jackson is the new president after being elected unopposed. The first and second vice presidents are Dr. Miguelle Christopher and Mrs. Nicole Edwards-Francis respectively. Elected as Secretary was Carol Beazer and Treasurer is O. Shari Cannegieter. The other members of the executive committee are Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Karen Whitehead and Immediate Past President Laurie Louard.

The professional body of the country's HR practitioners is a registered non-profit association ded-



From right: Dr Miguelle Christopher, Ms. Carol Beazer, Ms. Wendy K. Jackson, Mr. Laurie Louard, Mrs. Karen Whitehead, Mrs. Nicole Edwards-Francis, Ms. O. Shari Cannegieter.

icated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. Informal meetings began in 2009 and HRPAB was legally registered in 2011. Its growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consultants, specializing in one or more areas of people management and human resource

development.

HRPAB's new President Jackson, has over twenty years of experience as an HR practitioner and is currently the HR Director at the Medical Benefits Scheme. In welcoming this new challenge, she commented, "The journey continues. We progress towards continuous advancement of HR within Antigua

and Barbuda. There's so much to learn and improve on as we give strategic direction in people management and effectively align HR requirements to the business objectives of our organizations."

HRPAB's goals are to promote best practices, develop professional standards, and advocate for human resources as our country's most valuable developmental asset. We aim to achieve these goals through the professional development of members, adoption of best practices in our daily functions, networking with colleagues regionally and internationally, conducting research in our field, and taking opportunities to bring our perspective to discussions on national development.

THE NEW SUZUKI
FRONX.....
COMING SOON



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PNEUMONIA



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Local News



YER 2023 recruits aspiring leaders into the Nolan Hue Foundation's Alumni

Twenty-eight young aspiring leaders have successfully joined the ranks of the Nolan Hue Foundation Alumni following the organization's Youth Empowerment Retreat (YER) over the weekend.

The annual professional development program was hosted for three days at the Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre on Factory Road.

NHF facilitated several highly engaging seminars where participants had the opportunity to interact, network, and learn from experts across several industries including banking and finance, fitness and first-aid, mental health, nutrition, business and entrepreneurship, insurance, and Human Resources.

Featured speakers included other young professionals such as fitness trainer Daniel Antonio, who attended YER in 2019, and certified life coach Brian-na Periera who encouraged participants to adopt a positive mindset.



Member of the NHF Management Team Mr. Shevaun Francis says the speakers volunteered their professional expertise to young participants newly entering their fields and those looking to strengthen their existing knowledge and skills.

Participants say attending YER this year has “changed their lives forever” as they have developed new bonds with peers and have joined a larger network of young professionals. Shaquan O’Neil, 19, a member of the National Youth Parliament Association says the wide variety of

sessions provided him with new skill sets to implement in his daily life going forward.

“I learned a bit of everything this weekend. I wasn’t able to budget in the past and now I can push my confidence in public speaking.”

Krystal-Ann Gonsalves, 26, is currently pursuing studies in Marketing and Business Management as an aspiring entrepreneur.

She says YER renewed her motivation after spending three days in a “different” environment that is not only “educational and inspirational,” but also fam-

ily-friendly.

The first YER was organized and held in 2016 out of Regis Burton’s vision for young residents, particularly young men, to uphold personal branding and professionalism across several areas of their lives.

Since then, NHF has been able to curate a professional network of over 130 alumni members through hosting YER for five years, except for the period during the Covid-19 pandemic. NHF thanks all its sponsors, including major partner Sagicor for assisting the NHF Management.

Party Monarch semi-finalists named

Following a highly competitive semi-final round for the placements in the Party Monarch competition, held at the Antigua Recreation Grounds (Carnival City) on Monday night, the Festivals Commission has released the names of the artists who have earned a spot in the Inet Party Monarch finals slated for August 6, at the same venue.

The artists who will appear in the Groovy segment are Tammy, Zamoni. Empress, Queen Thalia, Menace XL, Blade, Young Lyrics, and Victorious.

In the Jumpy segment, the artists are Soca Villian, Menace XL, DJ Who, Kimmy, Royalty, Raiine, Zamoni, and Empress.

As has become the norm with

calypso and party monarch competitions staged by the Festivals Commission, the announcement of the finalists has generated a fair amount of controversy with fans bemoaning the omission of one artist or the other.

These disagreements are as old as the festival itself and they usually dissipate well ahead of the finals slated for another two and a half weeks.



Beyond 75

Vision, Strategy and Leadership for Higher Education

A Higher Education Forum

Thursday, July 20, 2023

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

Eon Nigel Harris Council Room, The UWI Regional Headquarters



The Honourable Dr. Terrance M. Drew,
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

JUBILEE WEEK

JULY 17-22, 2023

LIVE BROADCAST

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Queen contestant

Delegate Number Four

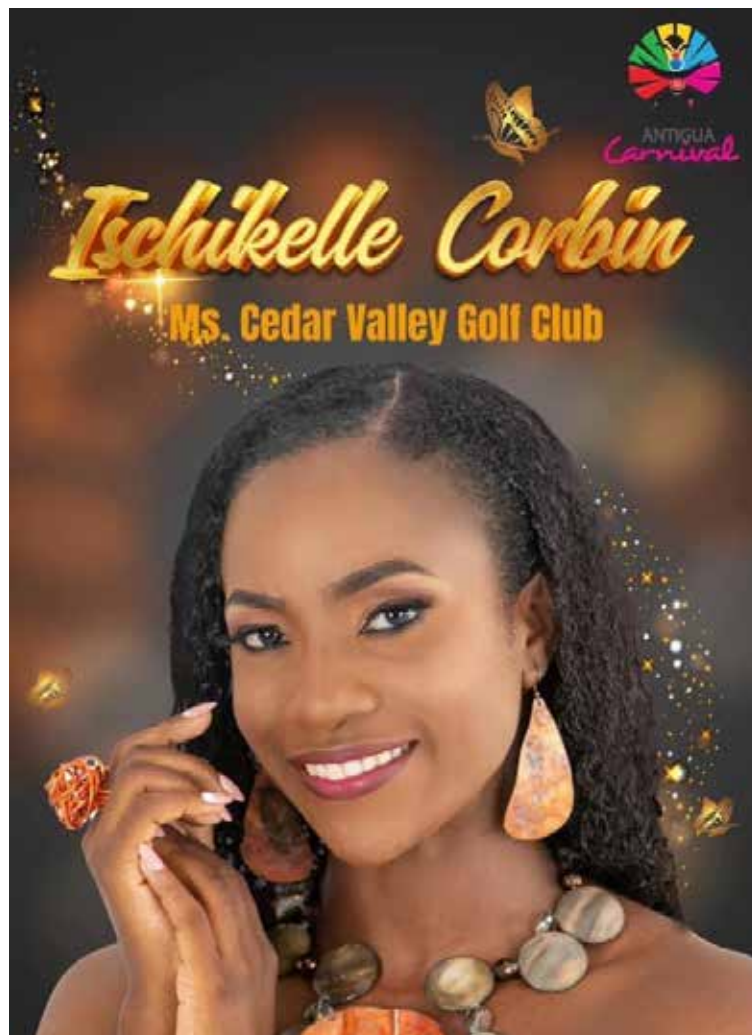
Ischikelle Corbin *Ms. Cedar Valley Golf Club*

Ischikelle Corbin is a 25-year-old personal development enthusiast with a passion for real estate, content creation, travel, and volunteerism. As the daughter of a community activist, she dedicated herself to service from a young age and has held leadership positions in several community organizations. Her commitment to service was recognized with the 2016 Junior Chamber International Youth Empowerment Programme's Leadership Award.

In addition to her other achievements, she further demonstrated her commitment to community activism by using her platform as the 2015 Miss Labour Queen to make a positive impact.

Ischikelle is currently employed as a villa rental coordinator at Jumby Bay Island Resort. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with loved ones, reading, writing, and creating content. With a genuine desire to serve and make meaningful connections, she also enjoys having conversations with people she encounters.

Ischikelle's desire to serve and make a positive impact is fueled by the words of Dr. Maya Angelou: "My mission in life is not merely to survive, but to thrive; and to do so with some passion, some compassion, some humor, and some style."

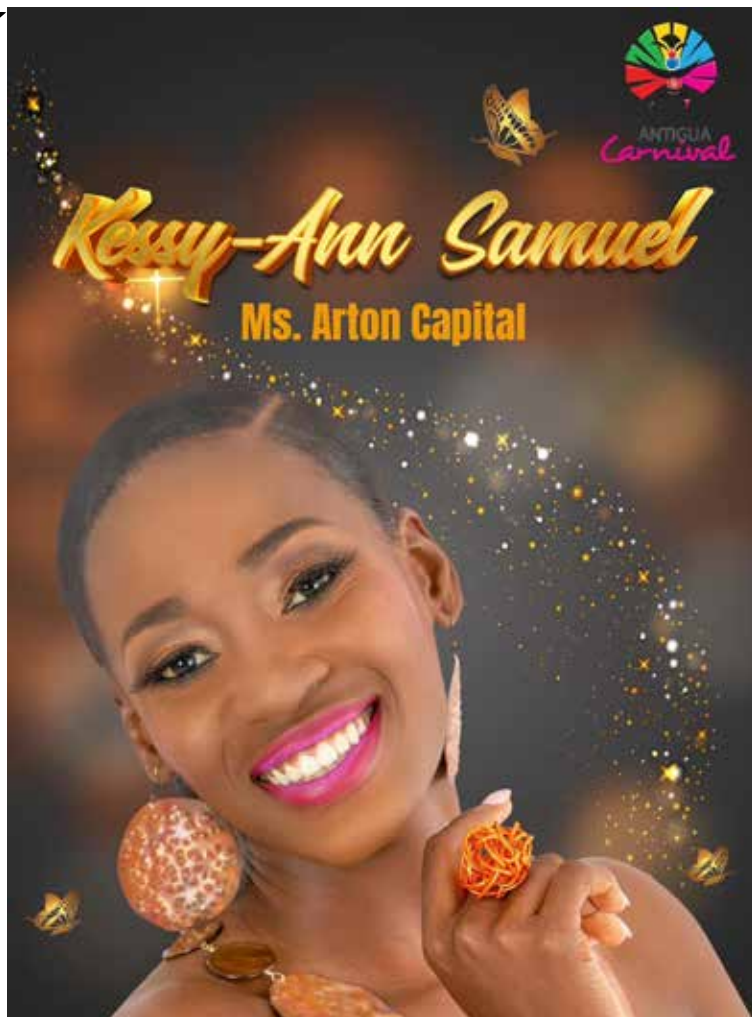


Delegate Number Five

Kessy-Ann Samuel Ms. Arton Capital

Kessy-Ann Samuel was born on the twin island paradise of Antigua & Barbuda on the 15th of January 2000. During her formative years, she was diagnosed with dyslexia, which affected her ability to read and write. She struggled to overcome this learning disorder and through hard work and perseverance, gained a scholarship to the Princess Margaret Secondary School. While there, she participated in sports and was proud to represent her school both academically and in sports. She is also a graduate of the Antigua Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) where she majored in garment production. During her time at the institution, she accomplished what she never thought she could. She developed a skill she had a strong passion for while working hard to graduate top of her class.

With the desire to further a career in fashion, Kessy-Ann joined the Dream Catcher Modeling Agency where she was inspired to enter her first pageant, the "Miss Show Off Pageant" in 2018 and then in 2019, where she was victorious in capturing the crown. This beauty is also a past Labour Queen contestant. Kessy-Ann is passionate about modeling and fashion, hence pageantry such as this one allows her to progress in her career. She hopes to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Fashion Design and Development from the London College of Fashion. Kessy-Ann loves designing and creating comfortable and trendy ensembles, and one day hopes to see her collection on the runway in New York Fashion Week.



Technology



More than 1,300 experts call AI a force for good

By Chris Vallance

An open letter signed by more than 1,300 experts says AI is a “force for good, not a threat to humanity”.

It was organised by BCS, the Chartered Institute for IT, to counter “AI doom”.

Rashik Parmar, BCS chief executive, said it showed the UK tech community didn’t believe the “nightmare scenario of evil robot overlords”.

In March, tech leaders including Elon Musk, who recently launched an AI business, signed a letter calling for a pause in developing powerful systems.

That letter suggested super-intelligent AI posed an “existential risk” to humanity. This was a view echoed by film director Christopher Nolan, who told the BBC that AI leaders he spoke to saw the present time “as their Oppenheimer moment”. J. Robert Oppenheimer played a key role in the development of the first atomic bomb, and is the subject of Mr Nolan’s latest film.

But the BCS sees the situation in a more positive light, while still supporting the need for rules around AI.

Richard Carter is a signatory to the BCS letter. Mr Carter, who founded an AI-powered startup cybersecurity business, feels the



dire warnings are unrealistic: “Frankly, this notion that AI is an existential threat to humanity is too far-fetched. We’re just not in any kind of a position where that’s even feasible”.

Signatories to the BCS letter come from a range of backgrounds - business, academia, public bodies and think tanks, though none are as well known as Elon Musk, or run major AI companies like OpenAI.

Those the BBC has spoken to stress the positive uses of AI. Hema Purohit, who leads on digital health and social care for the BCS, said the technology was

enabling new ways to spot serious illness, for example medical systems that detect signs of issues such as cardiac disease or diabetes when a patient goes for an eye test.

She said AI could also help accelerate the testing of new drugs.

Signatory Sarah Burnett, author of a book on AI and business, pointed to agricultural uses of the tech, from robots that use artificial intelligence to pollinate plants to those that “identify weeds and spray or zap them with lasers, rather than having whole crops sprayed with weed killer”.

The letter argues: “The UK can help lead the way in setting professional and technical standards in AI roles, supported by a robust code of conduct, international collaboration and fully resourced regulation”.

By doing so, it says Britain “can become a global byword for high-quality, ethical, inclusive AI”.

In the autumn UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak will host a global summit on AI regulation.

While the BCS may argue existential threats are sci-fi, some issues are just over the horizon or are al-

cont’d on pg 13

Tupac Shakur: Police search house over 1996 killing

By Max Matza

Police in Nevada have confirmed they served a search warrant this week in connection with the unsolved killing of rapper Tupac Shakur.

Detectives carried out the search at a home in Henderson, a suburb of Las Vegas where Shakur was gunned down in September 1996.

Las Vegas Metropolitan police did not provide further details of the search, citing the ongoing investigation into his murder.

Shakur was 25 when he was killed.

No arrests have been made and no suspects are currently in custody.

The home that was searched is less than 20 miles (32km) from the Las Vegas strip where Shakur was shot in a drive-by shooting.



“LVMPD can confirm a search warrant was served in Henderson, Nevada on July 17, 2023, as part of the ongoing Tupac Shakur homicide investigation,” a Las Vegas police statement said.

“We will have no further comment at this time,” the statement said.

Las Vegas Police Lt Jason Johansson told the Las Vegas Review Journal that detectives were working on the cold case once

more.

“It’s a case that’s gone unsolved and hopefully one day we can change that,” he told the newspaper.

Shakur, whose stage name was stylised as 2Pac, released his debut album in 1991 and went on to enjoy chart success with hits including California Love, All Eyez on Me, Changes and I Ain’t Mad at Cha.

He died on 13 September 1996, a week after he was shot four times in his car while waiting at a red light.

Shakur, who sold more than 75 million records worldwide, was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2017.

cont’d from pg 12

ready presenting problems.

It has been predicted that the equivalent of up to 300 million jobs could be automated, and some companies have already said they will pause hiring in some roles as a result of AI.

But Mr Carter thinks AI - rather than replacing humans - will boost their productivity. In his own work he says ChatGPT is useful, but he says he is wary of putting too much trust in it, comparing it to a “very knowledgeable and a very excitable, 12-year-old”.

He argues companies will always need

to have humans involved in the workplace, to take responsibility if things go wrong: “If you take the human completely out of the loop, how do you manage accountability for some sort of catastrophic event happening?”

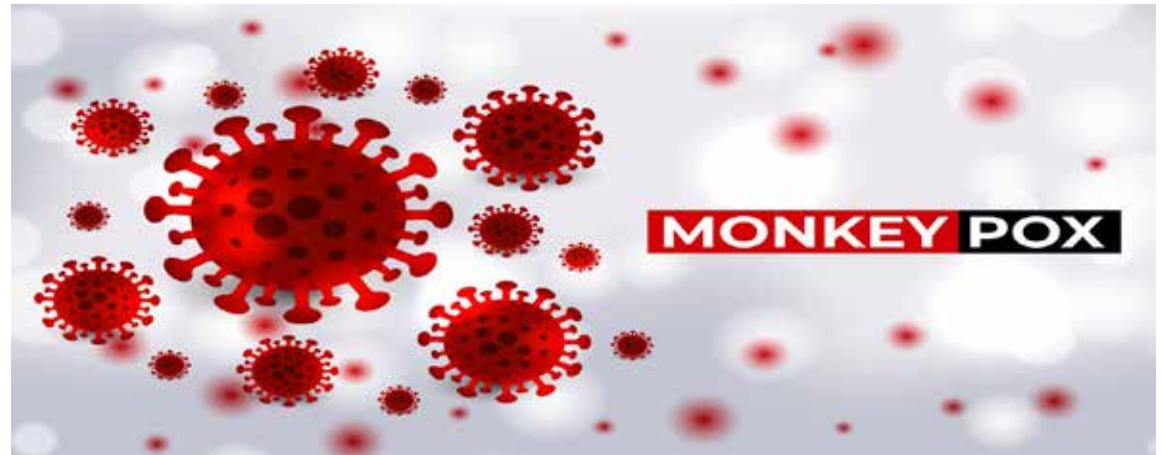
He, like other signatories, believes regulation will be needed to avoid the misuse of AI.

Ms Purohit says a motive for signing was the need for rules to “make sure that we don’t just run off and create lots and lots of things without paying attention to the testing and the governance, and the assurance that sits behind it”.

Trinidad records third case of Mpox virus

CMC - Health authorities Tuesday urged the population to follow all protocols regarding the spread of the Monkeypox virus as they seek to “manage the outbreak” in Trinidad and Tobago.

A statement from the Ministry of Health said that the country had recorded a third case of the virus on Monday and that “all three cases of the Mpox virus are in home isolation and do not require hospital care at this



time.

“Additionally, 2,800 doses of the vaccine were procured to be administered

to non-symptomatic close contacts and health care professionals in any facility where a patient would

be warded. To date, no vaccines have been administered,” the ministry said in the statement.

The ministry said that the first case “in this current global outbreak was identified in May 2022 and peaked in August 2022.

“During this period, the Ministry of Health ensured that all protocols for testing, contact tracing and isolation were implemented, inclusive of sensitisation of medical professionals,” the statement said, adding that the Caura Hospital has since been designated “as the facility to care for any patient that may require hospitalisation if necessary”.

The ministry said that three confirmed cases, Trinidad and Tobago is now the 113th country to record active cases and that the Ministry of Health “is a self-limiting disease in most instances, and it is commonly spread by close contact with a positive case”.



BAD COMPANY

PLATINUM FM
97.9

THURSDAYS - 2PM - 6PM
SATURDAYS - 12PM - 4PM
SUNDAYS - 1PM - 5PM

BVI Airports fully operational after temporary closure

The BVI Airports Authority is informing the public that all three airports in the territory are now fully operational and normal operations have resumed.

The Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport was re-opened after being briefly closed on Monday. However, it was stated the airport would be re-opened to international traffic on July 18.

The airports on Virgin



Terrance B. Lettsome International Airport.

Gorda and Anegada were Monday as a result of operational issues within the

Fire Services. This temporary closure was done to bring resolution to the issue which would allow the resumption of normal operations.

The BVI Airports Authority has apologised for any inconvenience caused due to the closure of the airports and thanked the travelling public for its indulgence as the Authority seeks to ensure that safety is maintained at all times.

EU releases funds to tackle humanitarian crisis in Haiti

CMC - The European Union says it is providing emergency funding of Euro 10 million (One Euro=US\$1.29 cents) in response to the unprecedented increase in humanitarian needs in Haiti.

It said that this brings the humanitarian funding committed for Haiti this year to Euro 18.5 million.

The EU said that people in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country face the consequences of overlapping crises fuelled by widespread violence, the ongoing economic collapse, and a cholera epidemic.

It said the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance in Haiti has doubled over the past five years reaching 5.2 million, nearly half of the country's population.

In relation to the total population, the percentage of Haitians facing levels of emergency food insecurity is the second highest in the world, the EU



said, adding that the rapid worsening of the situation in Haiti has also induced a mass exodus and a spillover of the humanitarian crisis to other countries in the region.

The emergency funding released by the EU aims to enable humanitarian organisations to step up the response and tackle the most urgent needs, primarily focusing on food and nutrition.

The funding will also support healthcare, cash assistance, protection and logistics, in both rural and urban areas.

"Hunger, widespread violence, disease outbreaks, disasters. When we ask ourselves how much suffering a human being can take, we should remember that people in Haiti are enduring

cont'd on pg 16

Regional News



EU-CELAC summit ends on optimistic note

CMC - The two-day summit of the European Union and the Community of Latin American and the Caribbean States (EU-CELAC) ended here on Tuesday with a Declaration containing “wide-ranging agreements” concerning all the major contemporary issues confronting both regions.

“We have some actions to do, we have a lot of follow-up. This is really just part of the process of the renewal and this reaffirmation of the friendship and the relationship between Latin America and the Caribbean,” St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves told the end of the summit news conference.

Gonsalves, who is also the CELAC pro tempore president, told reporters that the summit, the first to be held in the last eight years,

will now take place every two years and that the European Union is stronger today than it was yesterday or the day before yesterday as a consequence of the declaration.

He described the two-summit as a “historic gathering” and the Declaration contains “wide-ranging agreements of 41 paragraphs concerning all the major contemporary issues which concern us, both regions.

“What we have to seek to build is not only a relationship between states, but the relationship between civilisations, Latin America and Caribbean and European civilisation. We touched on a wide range of practical issues... and not everybody got the language which they wanted. You would expect that there will be disagreements and it was hard to get the Declara-



St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves, CELAC pro tempore president. (Photo credit: NBC Radio/Demion McTair).

tion but we have arrived at this particular point.”

But Gonsalves said the Declaration touched on issues concerning climate change, reform of the international financial architecture, inclusive sustainable development and matters which have arisen out of history including the contemporary manifestations of historical legacies,

like for instance, slavery and the slave trade.

He said another issue was that of the “terrible embargo against Cuba” as well as the question of the involvement of the private sector in the development of Latin America, in the Caribbean and in Europe.

He said issues of international human rights and good governance and multilateralism and the defence of international law, defence and promotion of international law, fundamental precepts of the Charter of the United Nations made flesh were also dealt with during the summit.

During the news conference, the European Union announced that on the first day of the summit, it launched the Global Gateway investment agenda for Latin America and the Caribbean.

“We will bring over Euro

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ing all of this and much more. The EU has not forgotten them,” said the EU Commissioner for Crisis Management, Janez Lenarčič.

“While celebrating this fruitful partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, bringing relief to people in Haiti remains our utmost concern and priority in the region,” she added.

The EU said that the humanitarian crisis in Haiti is one of the most complex and acute worldwide, aggravated by a context of socio-political instability and that natural hazards and disasters also regularly im-

pact the country, worsening the situation and affecting the already scarce resources of the population.

Insecurity in Haiti has reached unprecedented levels, with at least 1.5 million people living in gang-controlled areas (approximately 10 per cent of the country's population), deprived of freedom of movement and lacking access to food or safe water. Children, the elderly and women are particularly exposed to abuse, exploitation, and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence.

The EU has been providing assistance to Haiti since 1994, with a humanitarian funding totalling over Euro 482 million.

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45 billion of high-quality European investment to Latin America and the Caribbean and more than 135 projects are already in the pipeline. So it's a very good start.

"Now, of course, together we have to shape the investment agenda. And we have to decide which sectors which value chains to prioritise and then we have to implement and deliver the range of projects is very wide goes from clean hydrogen to critical raw materials, from data cable networks. To mRNA vaccines."

The EU said that it was important to have discussed the Global Gateway and that "we want that our investment comes with the highest environmental and social standards, with transparency about what is happening.

"We want to share technology and knowledge and the training of local workforce for the jobs of the future is one of the core elements.

"For us as important in this investment and that makes it different that the local communities benefit from the value chain the added value there. This is also in our interest, because we want reliable and trustworthy suppliers," the EU official said, adding that several bilateral agreements had been concluded at the summit.

The declaration also notes that the parties "look forward to the signature of the partnership agreement between the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the European Union and its Member States and the implementation of the regional protocol, which will further strengthen relations between the Caribbean and the EU".

The accord which is a follow-up to the Cotonou Agreement, the overarching framework for EU relations with African, Caribbean and Pacific countries that ended in 2020.

However, to avoid a legal vacuum in relations, the provisions of the Cotonou

Agreement were extended until end-June 2023. The matter will be discussed at two-day EU-OACPS Council meeting that gets underway here on Wednesday.

The leaders in their Declaration also expressed concern regarding the continuing deterioration of the public security and humanitarian situation in Haiti, where criminal gangs have been causing widespread havoc and the population living in fear. In addition, efforts are being made to replace the government of Prime Minister Dr Ariel Henry that came to office following the July 2021 assassination of then President Jovenel Moise.

The summit called for continued sub-regional, regional and international efforts to support the process of dialogue between the government, the various political parties, institutions and other actors of Haitian society, "with the aim of drawing up a road map that will allow them to overcome the complex crisis that afflicts them.

"We call on the international community and organisations to support Haitian-led efforts to find a solution to this crisis, based on the principles of solidarity and international cooperation, with the consent and participation of Haitian authorities," the Declaration added.

On the issue of Ukraine, a major talking point here, the summit expressed "deep concern on the ongoing war against Ukraine, which continues to cause immense human suffering and is exacerbating existing fragilities in the global economy, constraining growth, increasing inflation, disrupting supply chains, heightening energy and food insecurity and elevating financial stability risks.

"In this sense, we support the need for a just and sustainable peace. We reiterate equally our support for the Black Sea Grain Initiative and the efforts of the UNSG to secure its extension. We support all diplomatic efforts aimed at

a just and sustainable peace in line with the UN charter."

Gonsalves disagreed with questions by reporters that too much time had been taken up with the Russia-Ukraine war, saying "absolutely not".

He said he had prior to the summit informed the European Union that "we cannot make this summit between the European Union and CELAC be a summit on Ukraine. But clearly Ukraine is a matter of great importance to Europe and the world.

"Clearly, we have concerns, Europe has concerns about Ukraine ...and the concerns for us about Ukraine among other things is the terrible suffering that is taking place among peoples who are directly involved in the conflict but also because of increase in prices, shortage...."

On the issue of climate change, Gonsalves said the Declaration notes "we stress the importance to fulfil the commitment by developed countries jointly to mobilise promptly US\$100 billion per year for climate finance to support developing countries, and to double He recalled a promise had been made in Stockholm dating back to 2009 and "we should start something by 2020, nothing has happened.

"Now we are having the 27 countries of the European Union saying we are going to push and do something about this. Now this is an important Declaration. Now we have to work through details

"I know it is good for journalists to be cynical ...but there is great promise here and I think we should not suspend our judgement as to what is here, but to hold us and particularly the Europeans in this case...to hold their feet to the fire.

"I mean it would be an awful thing if you write that in paragraph 23 (of the Declaration) and then in 2025 you see no money. That will be a hell of a thing. Then your cynicism will be justified," Gonsalves told reporters.



South Korean soldiers stand guard in the village of Panmunjom in the Joint Security Area.

US soldier held by North Korea after crossing border

North Korea is reported to have detained a serving US army soldier who crossed the heavily-fortified border from South Korea without permission.

The man was on an organised tour of the UN-run zone dividing the two countries.

The crisis comes during a particularly tense time with the North, one of the world's most isolated states. US citizens are advised not to go there.

Hours after the soldier's detention, North Korea launched two suspected ballistic missiles into the nearby sea.

The missile launch, which has been confirmed by South Korea's military, comes as tensions run high on the Korean peninsula. There has been no suggestion that the launch is tied to the soldier's detention.

It's unclear if the man has defected to North Korea or hopes to return. There has been no word yet from the North.

The Pentagon has identified the soldier as Private 2nd Class Travis King. In a statement, a Pentagon spokesperson said that Pte King has been in the Army since January 2021.

He is a cavalry scout - a reconnaissance specialist - originally assigned to an element of the army's 1st Armoured Division on a rotation with the US military in South Korea.

Officials told the BBC's US partner CBS News, that Pte King was being escorted back to America for disciplinary reasons after spending time at a military detention facility.

According to CBS, Pte King had passed through airport security in Seoul but somehow managed to leave the terminal and get on a tour of the border, from where he crossed over.

The American military has said he did so "wilfully and without authorisation".

An eyewitness on the same tour told CBS they had visited a building

at the border site - reported by local media to be the truce village of Panmunjom - when "this man gives out a loud 'ha ha ha' and just runs in between some buildings".

"I thought it was a bad joke at first but, when he didn't come back, I realised it wasn't a joke and then everybody reacted and things got crazy," they said.

The United Nations Command, which operates the Demilitarised Zone and joint security area (JSA), said earlier its team had made contact with the North Korean military to try to negotiate his release.

"We believe he is currently in DPRK custody and are working with our KPA counterparts to resolve this incident," it said.

It is unclear where or in what conditions Pte King is being held.

Greg Scarlatoiu, the executive director of the Washington DC-based

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Michigan attorney general Dana Nessel files charges in fake elector scheme

By Holly Honderich

Michigan's attorney general has announced charges against 16 people for their role in an alleged false electors scheme after the 2020 election.

US presidents are technically elected by slates of electors in each state.

Dana Nessel, a Democrat and the state's top legal official, accused the 16 of falsely claiming Donald Trump had won the state in paperwork.

She claimed their alleged actions "undermined the public's faith" in election integrity.

Each of the defendants was charged with eight felony counts, including forgery and conspiracy to commit forgery, each carrying a possible penalty of up to 14 years in prison.

The group of Michigan residents participated in an "orchestrated plan", Ms Nessel alleged, in hopes of flipping the winner of Michigan from Joe Biden to Donald Trump.

The accused are said to have met in the basement of the Michigan Republican Party headquarters to sign



Dana Nessel has charged 16 Michigan residents in connection with an alleged fake elector scheme.

multiple certificates claiming they were duly elected and qualified electors for president and vice-president.

"This was a lie. They weren't duly elected electors and each of the defendants knew it," Ms Nessel said.

"They carried out these actions with the hope and belief that the electoral votes of Michigan's 2020 election would be awarded to the candidate of their choosing, instead of the candidate Michigan voters actually chose."

The falsified certificates were then transferred to the US Senate in an effort to have their votes counted in the place of Michigan's real electors, and overturn Mr Biden's win both in Michigan and nationwide, Ms Nessel said.

President Biden won the state of Michigan by approximately 154,000 votes, which helped carry him to victory.

The group of defendants includes Meshawn Maddock, 55, a former co-chair of the Michigan Republican party and the wife of a

state representative. Others include Amy Facchinello, 55, of Grand Blanc - one of the youngest defendants - and John Haggard, 82, of Charlevoix, the oldest.

The announcement comes just hours after former president Donald Trump said he expected to be charged in connection with a federal investigation into other alleged efforts to undermine the 2020 presidential election.

Michigan was one of several swing states that Mr Trump, a Republican, lost in 2020.

In the wake of his loss, the former president and his team launched a widespread effort to challenge the outcome of the election. Without evidence, Mr Trump continues to deny the 2020 results and Mr Biden's victory.

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Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, told the BBC that North Korean authorities are likely to "try pump information out of him" about his military service and "try to coerce him into becoming a propaganda tool".

The KPA is the Korean People's Army

- North Korea's military. The Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) separates the two Koreas and is one of the most heavily fortified areas in the world.

It is filled with landmines, surrounded by electric and barbed wire fencing and surveillance cameras. Armed guards are supposed to be on alert 24 hours a day.

Ricardo Martinelli: Panama's ex-leader guilty of money laundering

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

A court in Panama has found former President Ricardo Martinelli guilty of money laundering and sentenced him to 10 years and eight months in jail.

Mr Martinelli, 71, has denied any wrongdoing and says the charges against him are politically motivated.

He is expected to appeal against the verdict, which comes less than a year before Panama's presidential election.

Last month his party had chosen Mr Martinelli as its presidential candidate.

Mr Martinelli was in power from 2009 to 2014. Since he left office, he has faced a number of charges.

Two years ago, he was acquitted on charges of embezzlement and of spying on his opponents and journalists by tapping their phones.

But he is still facing another court case - expected to go to trial next month - in which he is accused of laundering



Ricardo Martinelli had been nominated as his party's presidential candidate for the 2024 election.

bribes from Brazilian firm Odebrecht.

Mr Martinelli says he is innocent and that the legal cases are aimed at keeping him from running for another term in office.

In Tuesday's ruling, the judge found that Mr Martinelli and several other accused had used millions of dollars from public funds to buy a ma-

jority share in one of Panama's main media groups.

Prosecutors alleged that the newspapers belonging to the group subsequently adopted an editorial line supportive of Mr Martinelli's government.

The judge also ordered that Mr Martinelli pay a fine of \$19.2m (£14.7m).



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National swim team attend World Aquatics Championships

A four-member national swim team left Antigua and Barbuda on Monday to represent the twin-island nation at the 20th World Aquatics Championships, which are being hosted in Fukuoka, Japan, from July 14th to 30th.

The team comprises Jadon Wuilliez, Stefano Mitchell, Aunjelique Liddie, and Bianca Mitchell. They are being accompanied by coaches Nelson Molina and James Winchester and team manager Melanie Wuilliez.

Each swimmer will compete in two individual events and a team 4x100 mixed freestyle relay.

Jadon Wuilliez will compete in the men's 100 and

50-meter breaststroke, and Bianca Mitchell will contest the women's 200-meter freestyle and 50-meter butterfly.

Aunjelique Liddie will compete in the women's 100 and 50-meter freestyle, while Stefano Mitchell will compete in the men's 100 and 50-meter freestyle.

The World Aquatics Championships are the world championships for aquatic sports: swimming, diving, high diving, open water swimming, artistic swimming, and water polo.

The World Aquatics Federations comprises 209 national member associations from the five continents.



From left to right: Nelson Molina, Bianca Mitchell, Aunjelique Liddie and Stefano Mitchell. (ABSF)

Sinclair in West Indies squad for second Test

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Senior Men's Selection Panel has announced the squad for the second Cycle Pure Agarbathi Test Match powered by YES BANK against India.

The Panel named 13 squad members and two traveling reserve players for the match, which will be played at Queen's Park Oval in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad from Thursday, July 20th to Monday, July 24th.

Kevin Sinclair, the off-spinning all-rounder has replaced Raymon Reifer in the squad. Reifer will, however, travel to Trinidad as cover in case of injury.



Kevin Sinclair received his maiden Test call-up for the West Indies. (File photo)

Sinclair was among the leading players in the West Indies Championship four-day first-class competition

earlier this year. He also played a significant role with bat and ball in the recent West Indies "A" Team series win in Bangladesh.

Overall, he has so far played 18 first-class matches with 54 wickets, including three five-wicket hauls at an average of 23.98 each. With the bat, he has scored 756 runs at an average of 29, including six half centuries.

The upcoming second Cycle Pure Agarbathi Test Match powered by YES BANK will be historic – marking the 100th Test Match between West
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Flyers and Stingerz wrap-up first round playoff series

The Flyers and the Northside Stingerz cruised to lopsided wins to wrap up their respective best-of-three opening round series 2-0 in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division Playoff championship on Monday night.

The third-seeded Flyers soared past the sixth-seeded Braves 85-58 in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Xavier Meade sank a game-high 23 points and distributed seven assists; Jabari Williams converted 21 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; and T-Shawn Lewis scored 14 points and snatched 17 rebounds as the top performers for the Flyers.

Jevon Andrew converted 16 points and grabbed six rebounds; Tamaj Stuart had eight points, six rebounds, and five assists; and Sergio Symister chipped in with eight points for the Braves.

The fourth-seeded



The Flyers basketball team. (File photo)

Stingerz prevailed 107-66 against the fifth-seeded Ottos Full Throttle in the second game of Monday night's double-header.

Tequan Brodie scored 22 points and distributed five assists, and Keroi Lee contributed 20 points and snatched 13 rebounds as the leading performers for the Stingerz.

Jamine Charles converted 16 points and snatched 10 rebounds; Teran Zachariah produced 12 points, seven rebounds,

and five steals; Donte Trimmingham sank 10 points; Seth Joseph had eight points and eight rebounds; Jayden Andrew chipped in with eight points and five assists; and Jevonte Valerie contributed eight points for the Stingerz.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 30 points and claimed six rebounds; Shaquille Kelly had 11 points and eight rebounds; Warren Bogle scored nine points; and Kevari Francis chipped in with eight

points and five rebounds as the top performers for the Ottos Full Throttle.

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, starting tomorrow (Thursday).

The Flyers will face the Potters Steelers in Game One at the JSC Sports Complex at 6:45 pm, while the Stingerz will clash with the Cuties Ovals OJays in their opening encounter at 8:30 pm.

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.

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Indies and India, since the two teams first met at the Feroz Shah Kotla in Delhi in 1948. Play starts daily at 10 am (9 am Jamaica/7:30 pm India).

Fans can purchase tickets in their preferred viewing locations from the Windies Tickets service, presented by Mastercard at tickets.windiescricket.com – where they will be able to download tickets securely to their mobile device, or print out

their ticket to present for scanning at the entrance point.

Full West Indies Squad: Kraigg Brathwaite (Captain), Jermaine Blackwood (Vice Captain), Alick Athanaze, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Rahkeem Cornwall, Joshua Da Silva, Shannon Gabriel, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kirk McKenzie, Kemar Roach, Kevin Sinclair, and Jomel Warrican. Traveling Reserves: Tevin Imlach and Akeem Jordan.



The Wadadli FC Football team, which is competing in the ABFA Women's Knockout Competition at the Technical Center. (ABFA)

Cutting Edge and Wadadli FC in knockout final

Cutting Edge and Wadadli FC have advanced to the final of the knockout competition of the 2023 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Women's Invitational Season.

Both teams will clash in the finals at the ABFA's Technical Center at 7 pm tomorrow (Thursday).

Cutting Edge and Wadadli FC booked their spots in the finals by ousting All Saints United and Fort Road

Players in the semi-finals at the Technical Center on Saturday evening.

Myia Kirwan scored in the 18th minute, and Ajahna Martin had a 22nd-minute conversion to give Cutting Edge a 2-1 victory over All Saints United. Kevoncia James scored in the 32nd minute for All Saints United.

Wadadli FC prevailed 4-2 on penalties against Fort Road Players after both teams fought to a 1-1 draw

at the end of 70 minutes of regulation play.

K'Niece Browne had given the Fort Road Players a one-nil halftime lead with a 21st-minute conversion. But Gabriell De Suza scored in the 42nd minute to equalize for Wadadli FC.

The final will be preceded by a third-place playoff between Fort Road Players and All Saints United at 5 pm tomorrow.

Six teams participated in the knockout competition.

The top three teams at the end of the knockout competition will share a total of EC\$11,000 in prize money.

The champions will receive EC\$5,000, the runners-up will collect EC\$3,500, and EC\$2,500 will go to the third-place finishers.

Following the completion of the knockout contest, the seven teams will battle for supremacy in the ABFA Women's Invitational League competition.