

PM BROWNE HOLDS DISCUSSIONS WITH UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL

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The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority mounted an exhibition at the National Geographic Traveller Food Festival on Saturday 15th July, where over 7,000 food lovers visited London's Business Design Centre for the event. *Story on page 4.*

Prime Minister Gaston Browne holds discussions with UNESCO Director-General

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, paid an official visit to the headquarters of UNESCO this Wednesday, July 19th, and met with the Director-General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay.

Discussions were focused on:

1. The protection of the oceans and the environment as a universal cultural asset of humanity;

2. The promotion of exchanges and partnerships between countries for education, particularly international university students' exchanges;

3. The improvement of access to information technologies (in particular the possibility of connection); an essential cultural and educational vector for developing States or with geographical particulari-

ties (small sizes, insularity, etc.);

The visit was organised on the initiative of H.E. Boris Latour, Ambassador Extraordinary, and Plenipotentiary, recently appointed as Permanent Delegate of Antigua and Barbuda to UNESCO in Paris.

The Prime Minister mentioned during this meeting that he has full

confidence in his new Ambassador H.E. Boris Latour, for this important representation of Antigua and Barbuda to UNESCO, which involves many issues of high importance for the country.

The Prime Minister and the Director-General also discussed establishing capacity building in Antigua and Barbuda to protect and track the country's cultural assets, and to improve education infrastructure and human resources in relation to new technologies and artificial intelligence.

The Prime Minister stated, "It is very important for each country to be autonomous in matters of information technology, especially about the development of artificial intelligence, and the institutions of multilateral diplomacy which have a crucial role to play in this area, in particular, UNESCO."

Present during the meeting were H.E. Colin Murdoch, Ambassador of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States to the World Trade Organisation and other international organizations in Geneva, as well as Timothée Bauer, Deputy Permanent Delegate for Antigua and Barbuda.

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Over five thousand passengers arrive aboard two cruise ships

Antigua and Barbuda welcomed more than five thousand cruise ship passengers, who arrived aboard two cruise ships that called at the Heritage Quay Pier on Wednesday.

According to Antigua Cruise Ports (ACP) Ltd., the arrival of two cruise ships on the same day during the summer off-season months is considered a rare occurrence for the Eastern Caribbean. ACP identified the vessels as Disney Fantasy which brought over 3,600 passengers and Norwegian Sky which sailed into the harbour with over 2,200 passengers.

Both vessels ‘unleashed’ thousands of passengers into the Heritage Quay shopping centre and other places of in-



terest in the country.

ACP Leasing and Marketing Officer Jessica Russell said, “Antigua has been enjoying an extended season with Norwegian Sky making multiple calls throughout the summer; this is to the credit of Antigua Cruise Port. We’re also happy to have Disney Fantasy.”

Antigua Cruise Port and the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority also collab-

orated to provide entertainment.

The guests enjoyed the sounds of a steel pan orchestra creating a festive Carnival atmosphere. Cultural greeters also posed with visitors generating memories.

The summer months are generally dormant in the Eastern Caribbean as many cruise vessels make their way to Europe.

However, this is the sec-

ond time two vessels have simultaneously docked in Antigua this summer.

There are more than nineteen calls booked for this period, more than doubling last year’s figures. The summer visits also surpass 2019 which had 16 calls.

Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez visited the port on Wednesday and said the summer cruise tourism performance is because of the partnership between the Antigua and Barbuda government and Antigua Cruise Port.

He was also impressed that 24 calls are already booked for summer 2024.

The winter cruise season is also expected to be busy with inaugural visits and homeporting.

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Antigua and Barbuda participates in National Geographic food festival

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has revealed that it mounted an exhibition at the National Geographic Traveller Food Festival – a unique celebration of food and travel. Now in its third year, on Saturday 15th July, over 7,000 food lovers visited London's Business Design Centre for the event.

It was a first for the twin island nation of Antigua and Barbuda as it was one of the destinations represented at the Food Festival, showcasing local delicacies such as saltfish, fungi, goat

water with fried dumplings, seasoned rice, sugar cake and rum cake, provided by London-based Antiguan caterers.

Special guest, Kareem Roberts, son of Antiguan cricketing legend Sir Andy Roberts, joined the stand following his appearance on the Great British Menu to discuss Antigua and Barbuda's culinary delights.

At the wider festival, there were demonstrations and interviews with the culinary world's leading voices on the Main Stage, teaching guests how to



make delicious dishes in the Masterclass Theatres. The legendary celebrity chef Andi Oliver appeared in the Speakers Corner followed by a book signing of her recent book *Pepperpot Diaries*.

On the exhibition floor, a wide array of exhibitors from across the globe offered samples and expertise, while in the Marketplace, visitors were able to buy gifts, source rare ingredients for their store cupboards and enjoy some of London's best street food all in one place.

Director - UK & Europe for the ABTA, Cherrie Osborne says: "We were thrilled to be exhibiting for the first time at such a pres-

tigious event which was attended by so many keen travellers. The National Geographic Food Festival is a fantastic way to share Antigua and Barbuda's gastronomy with foodies, inspiring them to consider the islands for their next culinary holiday. We were especially excited to promote Restaurant Week 2024 following the incredible success of the 2023 iteration."

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda visit www.visitantiguabarbuda.com. For more information on the National Geographic Traveller Food Festival 2023 visit www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/national-geographic-traveler-food-festival



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Tourism Authority launches new online specialist training programme

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has launched a new online Specialist training program, as well as a Rewards & Incentive program for travel advisors. This is aimed at strengthening the country's profile among travel advisors and other travel consultants in the industry.

It comes as all indications are that Antigua and Barbuda is set for another record-breaking year in tourism, with an influx of travelers who are falling in love with the Caribbean destination. The twin-island destination has become more popular with its increased airlift and visitor arrivals, along with countless new excursions, restaurants, events, and activities.

The new global online course provides benefits and rewards for both advisors and their clients. Graduates will see an increase in their bookings and be eligible to participate in various reward opportunities with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA). The Specialist program offers a comprehensive curriculum that covers a wide range of topics and unique selling points of the destination, ensuring that participating advisors gain a deeper understanding of everything that Antigua and Barbuda has to offer visitors from the ultra-luxury to cost-friendly experiences for couples, families, solo travelers, and groups. The program is designed to be flexible, allowing advisors to complete the program at their own pace while accommodating their busy schedules.

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez said, "The program represents Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to supporting travel professionals around the world by providing them with the tools, knowledge, and resources needed to thrive in an increasingly competitive market."

The Antigua and Barbuda Specialist program caters to a global travel advisor audience in five different languages: English, Spanish, French, Italian, and German.

Upon successful completion of the program, graduates will receive a prestigious Specialist certification, highlighting their commitment to excellence and dedication to providing exceptional service, as well as access to resources such as a "Do It Yourself- DIY" marketing kit, promotional materials, and exclusive perks to further enhance their visibility and attract

new clients. Additionally, Antigua and Barbuda Specialists will gain access to a redefined and exciting Rewards and Incentive program.

The Rewards and Incentive program was designed with the support and expertise of taCONNECT, and their database of 100,000+ travel advisors incentivizes them for booking the destination with perks such as bonus commissions, gift cards, branded merchandise for them or their clients, as well as Familiarization (FAM) Trip opportunities to the destination, among other exciting options.





EVERETT LAKE SCHOLARSHIP 2023

The Everett Lake Scholarship is designed to help primary school students whose parents/guardian face difficult economic circumstances and are not able to provide their young children with the basic supplies for the academic year.

Applications are invited from the public. Students will be awarded the scholarship based on a need based assessment.

APPLICATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

- * Johnson's Point Health Clinic
- * Browne's Avenue Health Clinic
- * Gray's Farm Health Clinic
- * A.G Morgan (Redcliffe St.)
- * Modern Chic (Village Walk)
- * Methodist Book Store (St Mary's St)

**Deadline for submission of applications
31-July 2023**

Chairperson of Cervical Cancer Taskforce gains international recognition

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cervical Cancer Task Force, Dr. Cherie Tulloch, has gained international recognition by being selected as one of ten members of the new Young Leaders in Global Cancer Control 2023/2024 cohort.

The candidates were selected from a pool of 377 applicants from professionals across 86 countries. The submissions were evaluated based on their track record, expertise, leadership skills, demonstrated impact on cancer control in their region or country, and the potential benefit the members will derive as young leaders.

This recognition is directly related to Dr. Tulloch's pivotal role in implementing Antigua and Barbuda's national strategy to eliminate cervical cancer in Antigua and Barbuda. The pilot program which was implemented in 2022 followed PAHO's evaluation of several

countries in the region and selected Antigua and Barbuda based on the countries' readiness and capabilities to successfully carry out the program.

The pilot program was deemed a success and was given the nod of approval from PAHO to scale up efforts in eliminating cervical cancer.

The ULCC initiative supports mid-career cancer control professionals with a proven track record and a multi-disciplinary and collaborative outlook to expand their opportunities for international engagement and maximize their impact within the broader global or regional context.

Over the next year, Young Leaders will have the chance to attend ULCC's flagship global events – the World Cancer Leaders' Summit in October 2023 in the US and the World Cancer Congress in September 2024 in Switzerland. They will also engage in collaborative project



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cervical Cancer Task Force, Dr. Cherie Tulloch

work, hone their ability to drive change at the system level and access other opportunities to raise their international profile.

Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph as well as management and staff within the Ministry have congratulated Dr. Tulloch on her successful candidacy in the International Young Leaders Program 2023/2024, and he has expressed his appreciation for her continued leadership in the country's effort, in the elimination of cervical cancer in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Minister says the goal of eliminating cervical cancer in Antigua and Barbuda is of top priority and is confident that it can be achieved similarly to when the country eliminated mother-to-child transmission of HIV and Syphilis.

He further stated that in addition to the fight against cervical cancer, the ministry will continue to simultaneously develop and implement robust campaigns in the fight against other cancers, by undertaking vigorous programs to educate and bring awareness to the screening and treatment available in Antigua and Barbuda. These Cancers include breast, prostate, lung, and colon cancer which are leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Antigua and Barbuda.



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Local News



Statement by Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda on the General Elections in Guatemala at the Regular Meeting of the Permanent Council on Wednesday, 19th July 2023

My delegation makes this statement with a heavy heart.

We have collaborated in this Council with the delegation of Guatemala on several resolutions and declarations that have advanced the interests of this Organization and the people of this hemisphere.

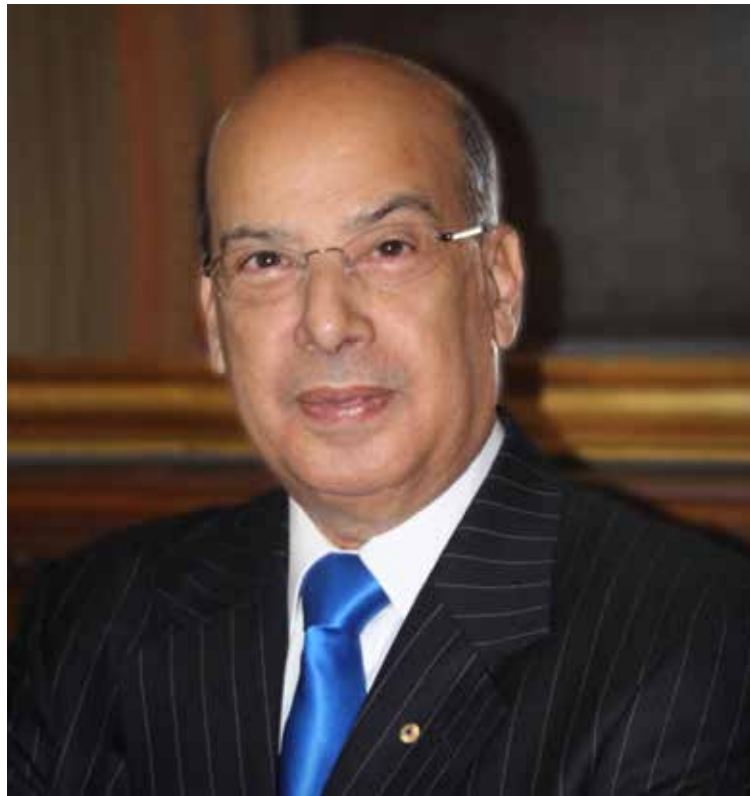
We have the highest regard for the Ambassador of Guatemala Rita di Scioli and Foreign Minister Mario Búcaro.

In this context, we are saddened that we must express our great concern about events by authorities in Guatemala that place democracy at risk, particularly in relation to Articles 3 and 6 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

Article 3 calls for the exercise of power in accordance with the rule of law, the pluralistic system of political parties and organizations, free and fair elections, and the independence of the branches of government.

However, it has become clear that in the run-up to the June 25th Presidential and other elections and since then, including events that took place yesterday, there have been abuses of authority to frustrate the will of the electorate, particularly in the presidential elections.

My delegation will not rehearse the several abuses



that have taken place, especially by the Public Prosecutor's Office, designed to overturn the result of the first round of the elections which have now been twice upheld by the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

These deliberate attempts to topple the expressed will of the electorate have been well documented by the OAS Election Observer Mission and by other international agencies, particularly the European Union.

However, my delegation notes that the result of the elections and the recount of the votes led to final results which were almost identical to the preliminary results.

There was no conclusive

evidence of vote tampering, which is the unsupported allegation on which the Public Prosecutor continues to base actions designed to disqualify presidential candidate, Bernardo Arévalo and his Movimiento Semilla party.

Furthermore, Guatemalan law prohibits the disqualification of any party once the election process has started.

Consequently, my delegation is deeply concerned that instead of upholding the law the Public Prosecutor is violating it.

This is not only unacceptable, it runs counter to the spirit and letter of the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

The Supreme Electoral

Tribunal has authorised that the second presidential elections to determine a winner will be held on August 20 with the two front runners, Sandra Torres of the National Union of Hope and Bernardo Arévalo of Semilla as the contenders.

My delegation urges the authorities in Guatemala to respect the democratic process and the will of the electorate by ensuring free and fair elections and upholding the rule of law.

Credible, free, and fair elections are the bedrock of representative democracy.

Mr. Chairman, my delegation also calls on the general secretariat not only to observe the run-off election on 20th August but also to keep this Council fully informed of developments in Guatemala on this issue.

Finally, my delegation thanks the OAS electoral observer mission, headed by the distinguished former Foreign Minister of Paraguay, for its professional and careful work on these elections in Guatemala, and for the reports it has submitted.

This Observer mission to Guatemala underscores the important role that international election observation missions play in ensuring that the will of the electorate is respected and that democracy is upheld.



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Queen contestant



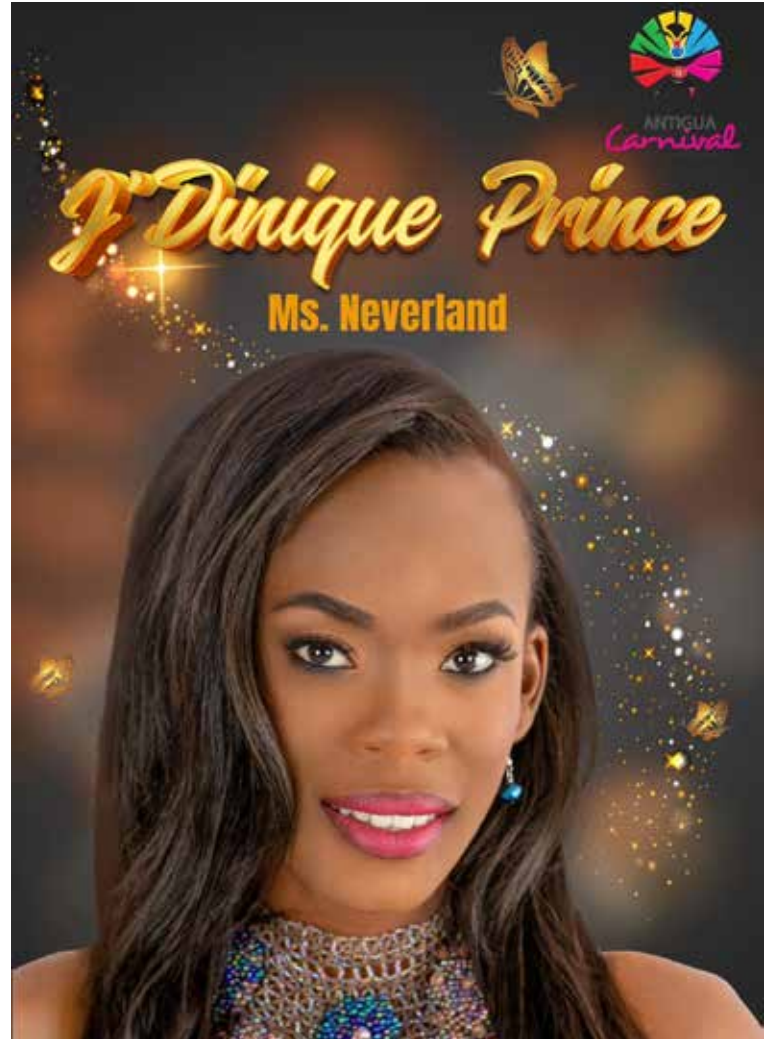
Delegate Number Six

J'Dinique Prince Ms. Neverland

Ms. J'Dinique Prince is a talented, vibrant, and ambitious 21-year-old beauty who loves her twin island home of Antigua & Barbuda. Ms. Prince has long been passionate about tourism and hospitality and rooted herself in ensuring that she plays a vital role in this sector. Her journey began at The Antigua & Barbuda International Institute of Technology where she majored in Human Resource Management. After completing her foundation studies, she continued on a path that facilitated her love for service to country, by furthering her knowledge at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute.

With a love for dance and adventure coupled with her amazing personality and determination to succeed, J'Dinique decided to venture into the world of pageantry. In 2019 she was crowned Ms. St Paul's and a few years later captured the ABLP Labour Queen Pageant in the 2nd Runner Up position.

Outside of pageantry, this hospitality ambassador enjoys modeling and personal fitness. J'Dinique considers herself a humanitarian at heart. She is always willing to assist her peers and others who may call upon her. She is the epitome of bravery and resilience and has been one of her only sources of encouragement for the past three years. J'Dinique considers herself extremely blessed to be a contestant in this year's Queen of Carnival Competition.



Delegate Number Seven

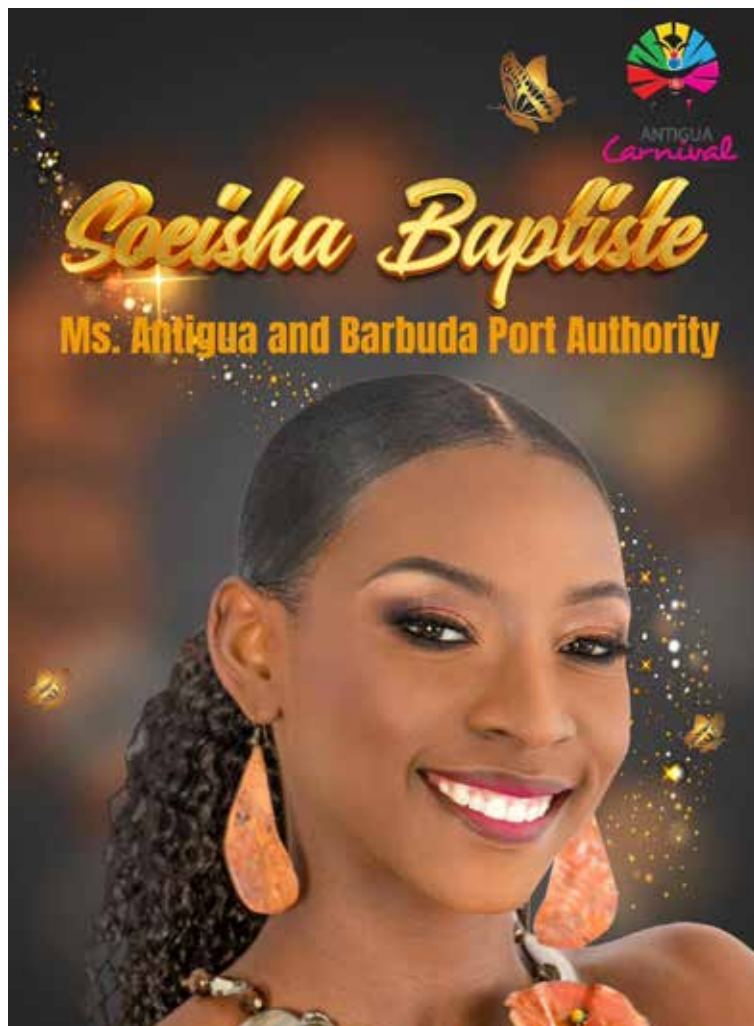
Soeisha Baptiste Ms. Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority

Twenty-one-year-old Soeisha Baptiste stands at 5'11" and is an alluring, resilient, and determined young woman. Soeisha hails from the village of Jennings from humble beginnings. Being raised by a single mother, surrounded predominantly by close family, she gained a better appreciation for the success it takes to be a thriving woman in today's society.

Soeisha is a graduate of Christ the King High School and the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute where she graduated with honors in Culinary Arts. She has carried her school's motto "Excelsior: Higher Yet" through the years, as she believes success can be attained by hard work and perseverance. Her passions include cooking, writing, interior designing, and real estate development.

She believes that everyone has a purpose in life, and they are simply waiting to unlock their full potential. Her love for helping others has inspired her to one day create her own youth program for teens and young adults who may be battling depression, anxiety, and other issues that are difficult yet painful to talk about.

Soeisha is ready to grace the stage and leave her mark. She lives by the Viola Davis quote, "May you live long enough to know why you were born."



Artificial intelligence: Experts propose guidelines for safe systems

By Zoe Kleinman

A global group of AI experts and data scientists has released a new voluntary framework for developing artificial intelligence products safely.

The World Ethical Data Foundation has 25,000 members including staff working at various tech giants such as Meta, Google and Samsung.

The framework contains a checklist of 84 questions for developers to consider at the start of an AI project.

The Foundation is also inviting the public to submit their own questions.

It says they will all be considered at its next annual conference.

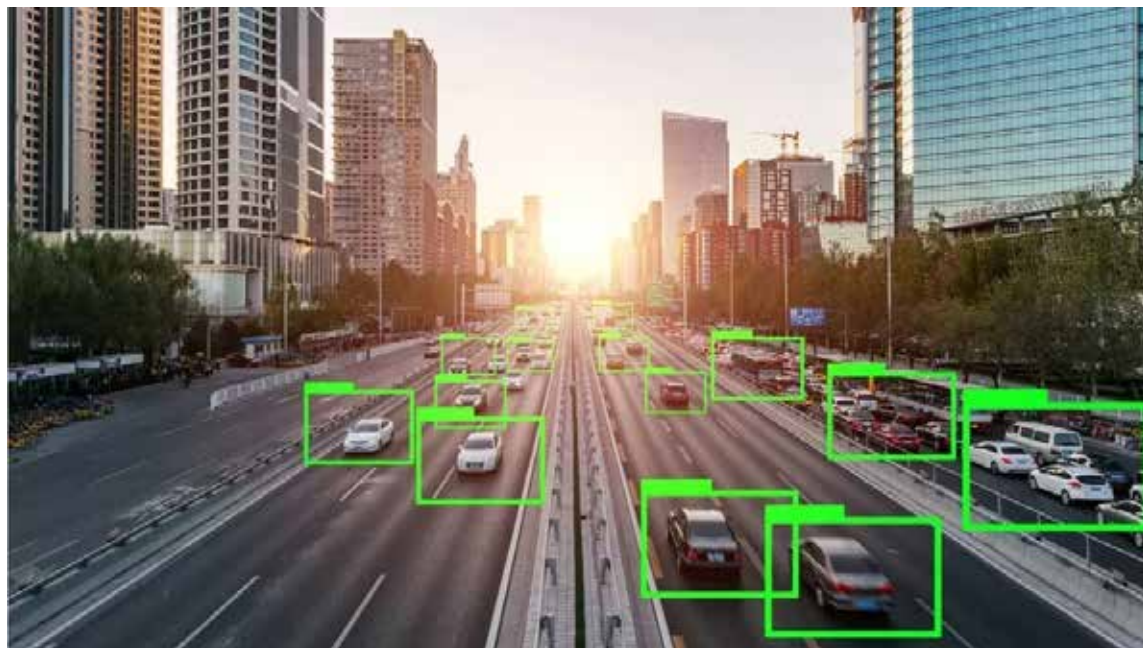
The framework has been released in the form of an open letter, seemingly the preferred format of the AI community. It has hundreds of signatories.

AI lets a computer act and respond almost as if it were human.

Computers can be fed huge amounts of information and trained to identify the patterns in it, in order to make predictions, solve problems, and even learn from their own mistakes.

As well as data, AI relies on algorithms - lists of rules which must be followed in the correct order to complete a task.

The Foundation was launched in 2018 and is a non-profit global group



Automatic image tagging uses machine learning technology to identify the contents of an image.

bringing together people working in tech and academia to look at the development of new technologies.

Its questions for developers include how they will prevent an AI product from incorporating bias, and how they would deal with a situation in which the result generated by a tool results in law-breaking.

This week shadow home secretary Yvette Cooper said that the Labour Party would criminalise those who deliberately use AI tools for terrorist purposes.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has appointed Ian Hogarth, a tech entrepreneur and AI investor to lead an AI taskforce. Mr Hogarth told me this week he wanted “to better understand the risks associated with these frontier AI systems” and hold the companies who de-

velop them accountable.

Other considerations in the framework include the data protection laws of various territories, whether it is clear to a user that they are interacting with AI, and whether human workers who input or tag data used to train the product were treated fairly.

The full list is divided into three chapters: questions for individual developers, questions for a team to consider together, and questions for people testing the product.

“We’re in this Wild West stage, where it’s just kind of: ‘Chuck it out in the open and see how it goes’.” said Vince Lynch, founder of the firm IV.AI and advisor to the World Ethical Data Foundation board. He came up with the idea for the framework.

“And now those cracks that are in the foundations

are becoming more apparent, as people are having conversations about intellectual property, how human rights are considered in relation to AI and what they’re doing.”

If, for example, a model has been trained using some data that is copyright protected, it’s not an option to just strip it out - the entire model may have to be trained again.

“That can cost hundreds of millions of dollars sometimes. It is incredibly expensive to get it wrong,” Mr Lynch said.

Other voluntary frameworks for the safe development of AI have been proposed.

Margrethe Vestager, the EU’s Competition Commissioner, is spearheading EU efforts to create a voluntary code of conduct with

cont’d on pg 13

Gigi Hadid arrested over drug possession in Cayman Islands

By Rachel Russell

American model Gigi Hadid was arrested and fined in the Cayman Islands earlier this month over cannabis possession, it has been revealed.

The 28-year-old and her friend were detained after their luggage was searched as they arrived on a private jet for a holiday on 10 July.

They pleaded guilty in court and paid a fine, but no conviction was recorded.

Hadid's representative said the marijuana was purchased legally in New York "with a medical license".

"It has also been legal for medical use in Grand Cayman since 2017. Her record remains clear and she enjoyed the rest of her time on the island," they said in a statement shared with the PA news agency.

According to the Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control, Hadid and her friend Leah McCarthy were arrested for "the importation of marijuana



and importation of utensils used for the consumption of marijuana".

It was a small amount, seemingly for personal consumption, the agency added.

They were taken to a detention centre and released on bail, local newspaper the Cayman Marl Road reported.

The pair appeared in the Cayman Islands sum-

mary court two days later, where they were fined 1,000 Cayman Islands dollars (\$1,200; £920).

Despite this, the model appeared to still enjoy her holiday.

"All's well that ends well", she told her Instagram followers on Tuesday, posting photos of the beachside getaway.

Gigi Hadid is one of the world's most famous mod-

els - and reportedly one of the highest paid. She has worked with leading luxury brands including Versace, Chanel, Fendi and Marc Jacobs and has graced the cover of Vogue more than 30 times.

The Cayman Islands is a British overseas territory in the Caribbean that has beautiful beaches, coral reefs and abundant marine life.

cont'd from pg 12

the US government, which would see companies using or developing AI sign up to a set of standards that are not legally binding.

Willo is a Glasgow-based recruitment platform which has recently launched an AI tool to go with its service. The firm said it took three years to collect sufficient data to build it.

Co-founder Andrew Wood said at one point the firm chose to pause its

development in response to ethical concerns raised by its customers.

"We're not using our AI capabilities to do any decision making. The decision making is solely left with the employer," he said.

"There are certain areas where AI is really applicable, for example, scheduling interviews... but making the decision on whether to move forward [with hiring a candidate] or not, that's always going to be left to the hu-

man as far as we're concerned."

Co-founder Euan Cameron said that transparency to users was for him an important section of the Foundation framework.

"If anyone's using AI, you can't sneak it through the backdoor and pretend it was a human who created that content," he said.

"It needs to be clear it was done by AI technology. That really stood out to me."

CDB to invest USD \$1.8 million in the region's creative sector

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) has committed USD 1.8 million to support the development of the region's creative industries.

This Bank's Board recently approved the injection into the institution's Creative Industries Innovation Fund (CIIF), a multi-donor endowment, established in 2017 to encourage innovation, job creation and improved enterprise sustainability within the sector.

According to Daniel Best, CDB's Director of Projects "We are pleased to support this initiative. Given the challenges faced by our creatives, this fund will continue to fill a prevailing void by providing resources to create an enabling environment for the sector. We anticipate support for trade and export facilitation, marketing and distribution, human resource development and research as well the development of legal and policy frameworks in our 19 Borrowing Member Countries (BMCs)."

Globally, the creative economy is recognised as a growth sector and a meaningful contributor to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), having the capacity to spur innovation and knowledge transfer across all sectors of the economy. It is a critical sector to foster inclusive



development, possessing both commercial and cultural value, while presenting opportunities for human imagination and spreading important social and cultural values.

Commenting on CIIF, Lisa Harding, the Bank's Acting Head, Private Sector Division, added that "Caribbean cultural entrepreneurs, Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs), and Business Support Organisations (BSOs), which support the Creative Industries will benefit from grants and capacity building aid to increase competitiveness and improve data intelligence and analysis as we continue to construct programmes to enhance the creative economy."

Beneficiary MSMEs

and other eligible entities are expected to contribute a minimum of 10 per cent of project costs in cash and or in-kind.

CIIF, which is governed by a cross-section of regional organisations and administered by CDB, has since inception financed approximately USD 1.2 million in a variety of initiatives spanning music production, distribution, sales and events, audiovisual, film, animation and gaming, festivals and carnivals, fashion, and contemporary design through non-reimbursable grants.

Of note, was the piloting of a dedicated CIIF Haiti programme that served 90 direct beneficiaries through the implementation of three Accelerator partnership grants; the development of

a Community of Practice model to increase collaborative learning and sharing between creative stakeholders; the development of on-line resources, toolkits and learning materials and over USD 100,000 in prize grants built into Accelerators.

The Bank's continued investment in the fund will lead to the increased contribution by the Creative Industry sector to economic outputs and foreign exchange earnings by improving the enabling environment, enhancing data collection and reporting, and improving the competitiveness of beneficiary MSMEs. This will build social resilience by ensuring no one is left behind and contribute to economic resilience for inclusive growth.

Dominica loses visa free access to the UK over security concerns

By Dillon De Shong

Dominican passport holders now need a visa to travel to and transit the United Kingdom.

UK Home Secretary, Suella Braverman, made the announcement today in a statement to the House of Commons.

The visa restriction was imposed on Dominica, Honduras, Namibia, Timor-Leste, and Vanuatu.

In her remarks, Braverman commented: "Careful consideration of Dominica's and Vanuatu's operation of



a citizenship by investment scheme has shown clear and evident abuse of the scheme, including the granting of citizenship to individuals

known to pose a risk to the UK".

"The decision to impose these visa requirements has been taken solely for migra-

tion and border security reasons and is not a sign of poor relations with these countries. Any decision to change a visa regime is not taken lightly and we keep our border and immigration system under regular review to ensure it continues to work in the UK national interest".

She said arrangements are in place for nationals from these countries to apply for visas.

Braverman said an exception is being made for nationals of these countries, who have confirmed bookings, the travel visa free to the UK no later than 16 August 2023.

Dominica joins Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica as the Caribbean countries whose passport holders need a visa to enter the UK.

Dominicans can still travel to 144 countries either visa-free or with visa on arrival access making their passport the 34th most powerful globally.



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

Two cops with Caribbean roots to lead the NYPD

By Dillon De Shong

New York City Mayor Eric Adams created history by appointing two veteran police officers, who have Caribbean roots, to serve as the commissioner and deputy commissioner of the New York City Police Department (NYPD).

Edward Caban, a Puerto Rican-American, is the 46th NYPD commissioner and first Latino to hold that office.

Tania Kinsella, who is the youngest daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and Guyana, is the first woman of colour to serve as deputy top cop.

In announcing their appointments on Monday, Adams said he was honoured to have Caban and Kinsella leading the NYPD.

Caban, a 32 year veteran in the service, held a number of roles in the NYPD including as deputy commissioner and commander of the 23rd Precinct in East Harlem.

He is also a legacy officer as his father, Juan, was a New York City Transit Police detective, who also served as the president of the Transit Police Hispanic Society.

Caban said he plans to continue efforts to reduce crime in the city.

“I am humbled to be on



New York City Police Commissioner, Edward Caban, celebrates with Deputy Commissioner, Tania Kinsella, after they were appointed to their positions by New York City Mayor Eric Adams on Monday.

your team and to lead the greatest police department on the globe. The NYPD is the most consequential police department in all of law enforcement. Its storied history is a living legacy of valour, bravery, and sacrifice — of ordinary New Yorkers who did extraordinary things. When a person in need rings the bell, you can always count on the NYPD to answer the call. Together, we will build upon our successes and continue to drive down crime and improve the quality of life in our communities,” he commented.

Caban is replace Keechant Sewell, who is the first woman and third

black person to serve in the position.

Kinsella, a 20-year police officer, was previously the commanding officer of the 120th Precinct.

She said she was “incredibly grateful for this opportunity to do even more for the city I love”.

“From the very first moment I joined the NYPD 20 years ago, it was love at first sight because being a police officer is about so much more than keeping people safe. It’s about building community, helping others from all walks of life, and making a difference in people’s lives, especially those in need. As a mother, I am always

thinking of my children’s safety and well-being, and as the commanding officer at the 120th Precinct — in my home borough of Staten Island — I have been determined to protect all of our children and families and make a difference in the place I love and call home,” she said. “The Bronx made me, and Staten Island raised me. As the daughter of two immigrants, this is the American Dream, and I want to thank Mayor Adams and Commissioner Caban for helping fulfill that dream. I am honoured to take on this role and thankful for this opportunity to serve my fellow New Yorkers.”

Suriname says processing slavery past does not stop at €200M

CMC - President Chandrikapersad Santokh says the €200 million promised by the Dutch government to finance social initiatives for its role in the slave trade in the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) should not be regarded as the end of the process.

Santokhi, who met with outgoing Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on the sidelines of the just concluded European Union-Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (EI-CLLAC) in Brussels, said: "This is just part of the slavery past".

"Soon the colonial past needs to be addressed. We also have the indigenous people and also the descendants of the indentured workers," he added.

He said during the brief meeting with Rutte, they discussed in particular the continuation of the bilateral relationship after the changed political situation in the Netherlands.

"The relationship between the two countries will continue undisturbed," said Santokhi underscoring the "fruitful and bilateral" cooperation with the Netherlands aimed at maintaining Suriname's democracy, security and socio-economic progress.

"The relationship between Suriname and the Netherlands is one that we should all give further substance to," he added.

Referring to the formal apologies of King Willem-Alexander on July 1 for his country's role in the slave trade, Santokhi said: "The Netherlands has been a trendsetter.

"I hope other countries will follow," he said.

"I think it is a whole journey that will not end at the €200 million with reparations being a part." Santokhi



President Santokhi (left) and Prime Minister Mark Rutte holding talks on the sidelines of the EU-CELAC summit. Photo: Communicatie Dienst Suriname.

said, adding that King Willem-Alexander has been invited to visit the Caribbean country adding "hopefully he will be present on July 1 next year.

The Declaration issued after the two-day EU-CELAC summit on Tuesday, noted that "we acknowledge and profoundly regret the untold suffering inflicted on millions of men, women and children as a result of the trans-Atlantic slave trade.

"We underline our full support to the related principles and elements contained in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, including the acknowledgment that slavery and the slave trade, including the transatlantic slave trade, were appalling tragedies in the history of humanity not only because of their abhorrent

barbarism but also in terms of their magnitude, organised nature and especially their negation of the essence of the victims, and that slavery and the slave trade are a crime against humanity. CELAC referred to the CARICOM ten point Plan for Reparatory Justice," it added.

Santokhi said that the meeting with Rutte, they discussed the offers and the apologies made by King Willem-Alexander including the Mankra project through which the Netherlands provide technical assistance to Suriname.

Santokhi said in the coming days, discussions would also be held with Dutch authorities regarding the problems passengers have when travelling to Suriname via the Netherlands.

Ukraine war: Russia strikes Ukraine grain after ending sea deal

By Paul Kirby

Russian missile attacks on Ukraine's Black Sea coast have destroyed 60,000 tonnes of grain and damaged storage infrastructure, officials say.

Agriculture Minister Mykola Solskyi said a "considerable amount" of export infrastructure was out of operation.

Russia has pulled out of a deal guaranteeing safe passage for exports across the Black Sea.

Later on Wednesday Russia's President Putin accused the West of using the grain deal as "political blackmail".

He added he would consider rejoining the international agreement, in place since last summer, only "if all principles under which Russia agreed to participate in the deal are fully taken into account and fulfilled".

His comments came shortly after Russia's defence ministry declared that from midnight on Wednesday night (21:00 GMT), any ships heading to Ukrainian ports would be viewed as potential carriers of military cargo and party to the conflict.

Some north-western and south-eastern areas of the Black Sea would be temporarily dangerous for shipping, it added.

Russia began targeting Ukraine's ports in the early hours of Tuesday within hours of its withdrawal from the grain deal.

More strikes followed overnight into Wednesday, targeting grain terminals and port infrastructure in Odesa and further down the Black Sea coast in Chornomorsk, two of the three ports that were included in the export deal.

At least 12 civilians, including



Explosions were reported for several hours from the ammunition depot in Crimea.

a nine-year-old boy, were wounded during the attacks, which also caused damage to blocks of flats, military officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said each missile strike was a blow not just to Ukraine, but to "everyone in the world striving for a normal and safe life".

France and Germany also condemned the attack. Germany Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock said that by covering Odesa with a hail of bombs, Russian President Vladimir Putin was robbing the world of any hope of Ukrainian grain and "hitting the world's poorest".

The infrastructure ministry published a series of photos showing damage to silos and other grain facilities. Officials said there had been damage to wharves and reservoirs, but it was international and Ukrainian traders that had suffered the most.

Russian war commentators said the damage proved that Kyiv was unable to shoot down the majority of Russian missiles and drones.

Officials said the co-ordinated attack involved Kalibr cruise missiles,

Onyx supersonic and Kh-22 anti-ship missiles as well as kamikaze drones, fired from the Black Sea, Crimea and southern Russia. Although 37 Russian missiles and drones were shot down, a number did penetrate Ukrainian defences, they said.

Russia had called its initial attack on Odesa a "mass revenge strike" for an attack on the Russian-built bridge over the Kerch strait linking occupied Crimea to Russia.

Seaborne drones were blamed for Monday's bridge strike that knocked out a section of bridge and killed a Russian couple.

Crimea saw further disruption on Wednesday. Some 2,200 residents were evacuated from four villages near a military training range after a fire triggered hours of explosions at a nearby ammunition depot.

Russian-installed officials also shut a 12-km (7.5-mile) section of the Tavrida motorway that links the cities of Simferopol and Sevastopol in southern Crimea to the bridge over the Kerch strait. Construction of the road by Russia's occupation authorities began in 2017.

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Deadly shooting in Auckland hours before Women's World Cup

A shooting has left two people dead in the centre of Auckland, New Zealand, hours before the city is due to open the Fifa Women's World Cup.

Six other people, including police officers, were injured and the gunman is also dead after the incident at 07:22 (19:22 GMT) on a construction site in the central business district.

PM Chris Hipkins said the attack was not being seen as an act of terrorism.

The tournament would go ahead as planned, he said.

The public, he added, could be assured police had neutralised the threat and there was no ongoing risk after the incident on Queen Street.

No political or ideological motive for the attack had been identified, the prime minister said.

The gunman, he said, had been armed with a pump-action shotgun.

Mr Hipkins thanked "the brave men and women of the New Zealand police who ran into the gunfire,



Police in Auckland's central business district following the shooting at a construction site.

straight into harm's way, in order to save the lives of others".

"These kinds of situations move fast and the actions of those who risk their lives to save others are nothing short of heroic," he added.

According to Auckland Mayor Wayne Brown, all Fifa personnel and football teams are safe and have been accounted for.

The opening match is

to be held between New Zealand and Norway in the city's Eden Park.

Sport Minister Grant Robertson said there would be extra police in the area to provide reassurance.

The ninth Women's World Cup is being co-hosted by New Zealand and Australia.

Earlier, the mayor warned people should stay home and avoid travelling into the city. Mr Brown said it was a "dreadful thing to happen" in his city.

Police say they heard reports of a person discharging a firearm inside the construction site, and the gunman moved through the building and continued to fire.

The man then went into a lift shaft and police attempted to engage with him.

Further shots were fired by the man and he was found dead a short time later, police say.

Following the shooting there was a large armed police presence in the central business district not far from the waterfront and the fan park.

Tatjana Haenni, chief sporting director for National Women's Soccer league USA, is staying close to where the shooting happened.

She told BBC News she had woken up to sounds of police cars arriving and was told to stay inside. "So far we feel safe," she said.

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A series of explosions were heard in the area from about 04:30 (01:30 GMT) on Wednesday.

Officials did not explain the cause of the fire near the city of Staryi Krim. But unconfirmed reports on social media spoke of three Ukrainian strikes.

Russia's appointee boss in Crimea, Sergei Aksyonov, said the cause of the fire at the military range was being investigated, but that no-one was hurt.

Travis King: US soldier in N Korea had been held after fighting in Seoul

Travis King, the American soldier who fled to North Korea, had been detained for getting into fights in South Korea before he crossed the border.

Court documents showed he also damaged a police car and had recently spent time in a detention facility in Seoul.

The 23-year-old serviceman had been recently released and was being sent back to the US when he escaped.

He joined a tour of the Joint Security Area and fled into North Korea, which has not commented so far.

It remains unclear what his intentions were for crossing the border. US authorities have said that he did so “wilfully, of his own volition” and expressed concern about his well-being.

Private 2nd Class (PV2) King’s mother Claudine Gates told ABC News she could not imagine her son doing such a thing. He “had to be out of his mind”, she said.

Ms Gates said she had last heard from the US soldier “a few days ago”, when he told her he would soon be returning to Fort Bliss, his army base in Texas.

PV2 King was reportedly investigated for assault in South Korea in September 2022. According to local media, he was suspected of punching a Korean national in a nightclub in Seoul.

He was fined 5m won (£3,000; \$3,950) for “repeatedly kicking” the back door of a police car and screamed “foul language” at the officers trying to apprehend him.

Local reports quoting officials said he was released on 10 July after serving two months in jail on assault charges, but did not elaborate.

After his release, he was placed



Travis King, dressed in a black shirt and black cap, is seen on the tour before he crossed the border.

under military observation for about a week in South Korea.

He was escorted to the airport in Incheon, near Seoul, for a flight back to the United States, where he was to face disciplinary action.

But he did not board the plane. The Korea Times, quoting an airport official, said he arrived at the boarding gate alone as military police officers were not allowed to accompany him all the way to the plane.

At the gate, he reportedly approached an American Airlines official and claimed his passport had gone missing. An airline employee then escorted him out of the departures area.

After parting ways with his escort, he is reported to have left the terminal to embark on a tour of the Demilitarised Zone, or DMZ, between North and South Korea, where foreigners can visit via tour companies.

It is not clear how PV2 King managed to get on one of these tours, as it typically takes between three days and a week for an individual to be

authorised, and the trips are usually closely monitored.

An eyewitness on the same border tour described hearing the soldier laughing loudly before making a run across the border.

The United Nations Command, which operates the DMZ, said it believed the soldier was now in custody of the North. A senior US commander said there had been no contact with the soldier and the incident was being investigated by US Forces Korea.

Retired General Robert Abrams, a former commander of United States Forces Korea, told BBC Radio 4’s The World Tonight he believed we were “seeing the opening act” of a “tragedy of the utmost proportion”.

“I’ve got serious concerns for [PV2 King’s] health and welfare... I was actually glad they didn’t shoot him on sight when he came sprinting across the military demarcation line,” Ret. Gen Adams said.

“He’s in for a very rude awakening on how North Koreans treat people who unlawfully enter the country.”

Leewards seek to rebound against Jamaica in CWI U/19 contest

The Leeward Islands will be seeking to rebound from a narrow defeat against the Windward Islands when the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Three-Day Under-19 Championship resumes in St. Vincent & the Grenadines today (Thursday).

The Leeward Islands will meet Jamaica at Cumberland in one of three second-round matches that are slated to start at 9 am today.

Barbados will face Trinidad & Tobago at Park Hill, while Guyana will clash with the Windward Islands at the Arnos Vale playing field in the other two matches.

The Leeward Islands began their defense of the West Indies Under-19 men's title with a narrow one-wicket loss against the Windward Islands in the opening round at the Arnos Vale playing field.

The Leeward Islands batted first and scored 141 in 56.2 overs. Openers Michael Palmer and Malique Walsh of Antigua each struck 42, while fellow Antiguan Jewel Andrew chipped in with 21.

Kirt Murray grabbed five wickets for 31 runs, and Tarrique Edward snapped up four wickets for 10 runs.

In reply, the Windward Islands were dismissed for 108 in 44.4 overs. Tarrique



Opener Malique Walsh, left, top scored for the Leeward Islands in their opening round encounter against the Windward Islands. (File photo)

Edward got 27, Jerel Jeremiah made 23, and Stephen Pascal chipped in with 21.

The Leewards tall and lanky off-spinner Onaje Amory claimed five wickets for 31 runs, and Antiguan leg-spinner Micah McKenzie captured three wickets for 23 runs.

After gaining a 33-run lead in the first innings, the Leeward Islands then crashed to a disappointing 111 all-out in 46.2 overs. Malique Walsh hit a top score of 38, and Michael Palmer struck 24.

Kirt Murray bagged

five wickets for 35 runs, and Tarrique Edward took five wickets for 42 runs.

Set 145 to win, the Windward Islands achieved their victory target for the loss of nine wickets in 47.1 overs. Nolle Leo cracked 45, and Stephan Pascal struck 35.

Onaje Amory captured three for 35.

Trinidad and Tobago and Barbados also secured victories in their opening-round matches in the CWI Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Championship.

Trinidad & Tobago

claimed a five-wicket victory over Jamaica, and Barbados defeated Guyana by 80 runs.

Summarised scores:

At Park Hill

BARBADOS 302 for nine dec. (Joshua Morris 59, Joshua Dorne 56, Nimar Bolden 50, Achilles Browne 46; Isaiah Thorne 3/77, Jeremy Sandia 2/45, Jonathan Rampsersaud 2/77) and 152-4 dec. (Zion Brathwaite 51 not out, Joshua Dorne 41, Joshua Morris 37; Aryan Persaud 2/47).

vs GUYANA 183 (Jonathan Rampsersaud 32, Aryan Persaud 31; Isaiah Folkes 2/5, Joshua Dorne 2/34) and 191 (Zeynul Ramsammy 76; Isaiah Folkes 4/66, Nathan Sealy 3/46).

Barbados won by 80 runs.

At Sion Hill

JAMAICA 152-9 declared. (Steven Wedderburn 46; Jacen Agard 3/10, Andrew Rambarran 3/29, Nick Ramlal 2/10) and 145 (Adrian Weir 63, Steven Wedderburn 38; Nick Ramlal 6/18).

vs TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO 191 (Rajeev Ramnath 63, Olando James 28, Nick Ramlal 24; Reon Edwards 3-40, Tamarie Redwood 3-64) and 108-5 (Rajeev Ramnath 35; Alex Hinds 2/20).

Trinidad and Tobago won by five wickets.

Rohit rules out major changes as India eye series sweep

TRINIDAD (Reuters) - India's captain Rohit Sharma is not sure what to expect from the pitch and conditions at Queen's Park Oval, but ruled out any major changes to his side for the second test against West Indies beginning in Trinidad & Tobago today (Thursday).

A day before the first Test in Roseau, which India won inside three days, Rohit announced Yashasvi Jaiswal as his new opening partner replacing Shubman Gill, who moved down to number three.

With the prospect of rain looming over the match in Trinidad, India are yet to settle on their playing XI as they chase a 2-0 series sweep.

"In Dominica, we had a clear idea when we saw the pitch and knew the conditions," Rohit told reporters on Tuesday.



India's Rohit Sharma, right, and Yashasvi Jaiswal walk to the crease during the second day of the first Test match against the West Indies at Windsor Park in Roseau, Dominica, on July 14th, 2023. (BCCI)

"Here we don't have clarity as there is talk of rain, but I don't think there will be drastic changes. Whatever

the conditions are, based on that, we will make that decision," Rohit said.

The two-test series is seen as the starting point of a transition for India, with Gill replacing veteran Cheteshwar Pujara at number three and Jaiswal and stumper-batsman Ishan Kishan making their test debut in Roseau.

Kishan, an attacking left-handed batter, was picked ahead of KS Bharat, who kept wicket in the World Test Championship final against Australia last month.

Rohit was impressed with Kishan's glove work in Roseau where India's spin duo of Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja claimed 17 of the 20 West Indian wickets to set up their victory.

"He kept really well considering he was playing his first test and was keeping to Jadeja and Ashwin on a pitch which had turn and bounce and the odd ball kept low," Rohit said.

"Ishan is a very talented guy. He scored a double hundred in a one-day

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SECOND ANNUAL PRIME MINISTER'S CUP

AUG 12 & 13 2023

20K IN CASH PRIZES

CLASSES: 12, 11, 10 9 & OUTLAW
BRACKET: BIKES 13SEC & SLOWER

SATURDAY ADM. \$10
SUNDAY ADM. | GENERAL: \$20 | PIT: \$30 |

SAFETY RULES & REGULATIONS WILL BE ENFORCED

Antiguans make losing start at Billy Jean Cup

The female tennis players of team Antigua and Barbuda have lost their first three matches at the Billie Jean King Cup in the Americas Group III tournament in Panama.

Team Antigua and Barbuda has suffered 3-0 losses to Puerto Rico, Barbados, and Cuba and is currently occupying the cellar position in Group A of the tournament that is being contested by 10 teams, divided into two zones, on clay courts in Panama City from July 17th to 22nd.

Antigua and Barbuda is competing in singles and doubles round-robin matches in Group A alongside Barbados, Puerto Rico, Cuba, and Bermuda, while Jamaica, Panama, El Salvador, Aruba, and the US Virgin Islands are contesting Group B.

Antigua and Barbuda is being represented by a team of four players, along with non-playing captain Cordell Williams, who is also a coach and current president of the national tennis association.

The Antigua and Bar-



buda players, who are all attending overseas colleges, are Ariel Naomi Kelsick, Selene Kentish, Janae George-Alexander, and Samaar Davis.

In their 3-0 loss to Puerto Rico on Tuesday, Janae George-Alexander was beaten 6-2, 6-0 by Lauren Kettlewell and Selene Kentish was defeated by Natalia Perez 6-1, 6-2 in singles play.

Samaar Davis and Ariel Naomi Kelsick were beaten 6-0, 6-2 by Mila Rivero Martinez and Patricia Vila in the doubles.

In their 3-0 loss to Bar-

bados on Monday, Janae George-Alexander was beaten by Serena Bryan 6-0, 6-2, while Selene Kentish lost 6-0, 6-3 against Hannah Chambers in singles play.

Antigua and Barbuda's Ariel Naomi Kelsick and Samaar Davis lost 6-0, 6-0 against Hannah Chambers and Cherise Slocombe in doubles.

In their 3-0 loss to Cuba on Sunday, Janae George-Alexander was beaten 6-3, 6-3 by Yeleidis Luzardo, while Ariel Naomi Kelsick went under 6-0, 6-0 against Roxana Valdez

in singles play.

Antigua and Barbuda's Samaar Davis and Selene Kentish lost 6-1, 6-2 against Yeleidis Luzardo and Roxana Valdez in doubles play.

Jamaica and Panama are currently leading Group B with two wins from as many matches, while the US Virgin Islands are in the cellar after losing their first two matches.

The top finishers in each group will face off in a cross-over promotion play-off, from which the top two will be promoted to Americas Group II.

Previously, Antigua and Barbuda competed in the Billy Jean Cup between 1997 and 2001. Antigua and Barbuda picked up their only victory in the tournament in their last tie in 2001 against Barbados.

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internationals recently.

"He has the game and the talent. We just need to give him the freedom to express himself. I have had a clear chat with him about how we want him to play."

India are set to face West Indies in the

second and final Test at the Queen's Park Oval, Port of Spain, in what will be a momentous match irrespective of the result.

It will be the 100th time the two teams will be clashing in the longest format and the visitors will be determined to claim the series after their triumph in the opener.



Minister of Sports Honourable Daryll Matthew, left front row, and Director of Sports Heather Samuel-Daley, second left front row, pose with members of the Combined Schools cricket team. Manager Ridley Jacobs first right, and Head Coach Pernel Watley, second right, are officials of the support staff traveling as part of the team on their tour to the United Kingdom. (Photo courtesy the Ministry of Sports)

Combined Schools to embark on UK tour

The Antigua and Barbuda Combined Schools Cricket Team will be embarking on a tour to the United Kingdom from July 21st to August 15th.

The tour has been organized in collaboration with the Government of Antigua and Barbuda via the Ministry of Education, Sports, and the Creative Industries and the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission in London.

The Antigua and Barbuda Under-19 team comprises 15 players and four officials, who will form the supporting staff.

Among the players are Combined Schools captain George Elvin, off-spinner Shamar Pereira, Xanden Honson, Noah James Knight, fast bowler Glen Williams, Tyree Moore, and Malique Jacob.

The rest of the players are Dravid Richardson, Hosea Roberts, Brent Joseph, Malinga Burney, Kyland Isaac, Anthony Pierre, Antwane Wilock, and Isaiah Attwood.

Supporting the team will be former

West Indies player Ridley Rasburg Jacobs (manager), Pernel “Shafto” Watley (head coach), Sylvester “Bouncing” Joseph (assistant coach), and Evans “Jawakie” Jones (Physiotherapist/Trainer).

During the tour, the young Antigua Combined Schools team will play 10 matches, including seven one-day games in England and two limited-overs matches in Scotland.

The tour will commence with a one-day match against the Loughborough University X1 at Haslegrave Cricket Ground on July 25th, and it will end with a T20 match against the ACE Programme during the second annual English Cricket Board (ECB) supported Heritage Day on August 13th.

In addition to the matches, the team will participate in presentations about study and scholarship opportunities at Loughborough University and Stirling University.

The young cricketers will also ben-

efit from a specially planned education and character development day, which will be hosted at Lord’s, and enjoy hikes and tours of historic places in England and Scotland.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has expressed its gratitude to its partners for facilitating the tour of the young cricketers to the UK.

They include Cricket Scotland, the Leicester Caribbean Cricket & Social Club, the National Cricket Conference, the Antigua Exchange Programme, and the Ace Programme Charity (ACE).

The others are Alf Langley and Nick Gandon of the NCC, Director of the ACE Programme Chevy Green, Charlotte Spear for her assistance with logistical arrangements, Luisa Weste and James Overy of the MCC, Director of Cricket at Middlesex Alan Coleman, Jigar Naik of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club, Keith Williams of the Antigua Exchange Programme, and Kenny Crichton of Cricket Scotland.