

FRIDAY 28TH JULY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 145 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

# MARSHALL DROPS OUT

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*Carnival begins! - Page 3*





# Marshall drops out

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's caretaker for the St. Mary's South constituency over the past several months, Senator Samantha Marshall, has decided to drop out of the race clearing the way for a new caretaker to be selected.

The announcement came as a surprise to political observers, especially given Marshall's intense campaigning over the past few months.

Sources say party officials were locked away in a meeting on Thursday afternoon to deal with the matter. Shortly after the meeting, a letter was issued by Sen. Marshall confirming her decision to step aside.

Since the announce-



ment, another candidate, Dwayne George, has been nominated as the ABLP caretaker in the constituency. It is now expected that he will be nominated to contest the St. Mary's South

seat on behalf of the party. The full text of Marshall's letter is printed below;

**SAMANTHA N. MARSHALL**  
St. Marys South ABLP Branch  
Bolans, St. Mary's , Antigua

Chairman  
St. Mary's South Constituency Branch  
C/o Casworth Aaron  
Crab Hill  
St. Mary, Antigua

26<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Comrades

I come to you after much reflection and after further consultation with my close family and loved ones. In 2007 I was proud to answer the call to serve and stand as your selected candidate in the then upcoming General Elections of 2009. Though not initially successful, I was able to answer your call to serve as caretaker for the constituency leading up to the General Elections of 2014 in which we held the seat and again in 2018. I am proud to have been selected by you and honoured by the trust and faith you and most residents placed in me over the years. Indeed, I am heartened by your unwavering commitment to me even having lost the last general elections in 2023.

However, we live in a Parliamentary Democracy where the majority speaks. I must recognize the clear message sent to me at the last polls. I know you believe in me and are aware of the challenges I have faced over the recent years. Despite this I remain satisfied that under the Antigua Labour Party stewardship, the constituency has grown, and the people of the constituency have greatly benefited. I am sure that history, in time, will confirm this.

However, today I have significantly different personal circumstances than when I first answered the call to serve the good people of St. Mary's South. Today, with a young family I consider the time has come for me to step aside and allow others to carry forth the fight to improve living standards and maintain educational and employment opportunities that will allow the good people within St. Mary's South to grow.

It is for this reason that I now step-down from the caretaker position that I have served in and accordingly I will not contest the up coming By Election. However, I will support and render all possible assistance to any person you select and hope by taking this step now you are afforded a reasonable opportunity to make an appropriate selection of another who is willing and ready to serve.

I remain committed to the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, the people of St. Mary's South and most of all the people of Antigua and Barbuda as a whole. It is my intention to continue to give service in any other way that my Party and my People may see fit.

Yours Comradeship

Samantha N. Marshall

CC. General Secretary ABLP

**AUCTION NOTICE**

<b>REGISTRATION SECTION</b>	<b>BLOCK</b>	<b>PARCEL</b>
POTTERS & BELMONT	613 1991C	336

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August 2023 at 11:00am the above residential property at Potters.

The property is under the ownership of **EUSTACE M. DANIEL JR.** The land is a 0.15 acre plot with a single storey concrete apartment building with 2-2bedroom units.

The property is in residential development with a gentle slope.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 562-7653 and 464-7653.

Dated this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of July 2023

---

Trevor Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer

# Carnival begins!

A colourful parade through the streets of St John's and a tribute to the popular Burning Flames band were among the highlights of the official opening of Antigua Carnival 2023 on Thursday afternoon.

The members of the Burning Flames band, Antigua and Barbuda's most successful jam band – Toriano 'Onyan' Edwards, Clarence 'Oungku' Edwards, David 'Crokus' Edwards, and Rhone Watkins – were hailed as the musical ambassadors of Antigua and Barbuda who made nationals proud, whenever they travelled and heard their music playing in other countries.

Creative Industries Minister Daryll Matthew said



it was the Burning Flames band that set the tone for the carnival festivities, with their Jam Pond sessions followed by weeklong dances at Lion's Den.

During the opening exercises, Matthew presented keys to Carnival City to the members of the band.

Earlier, Matthew wel-

comed the return of Carnival with a full programme, following the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the Festivals Commission and the Ministry have been working tirelessly to ensure that the events making up the Carnival programme 2023, are all of a high standard.

The reigning Queen of Carnival, Ischikelle Corbin welcomed all to Carnival City and introduced the other contestants who competed in the pageant on Sunday night.

The finalists for the calypso competitions both junior and senior together with the finalist in the Party Monarch competition were also introduced on stage, as well as the contestants taking part in the JCI Caribbean Queen show, slated for Monday night.

The opening exercises were capped off with a colourful fireworks display and then a performance by Burning Flames.

Antigua's Carnival 2023 runs from July 27 to August 8.



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## House of Representatives approves Ian Hughes for SOE

Ian Hughes, who has been acting in the post of the Supervisor of Elections since the departure of Dame Lorna Simon earlier this year, is one step closer to being confirmed in the position.

This comes as a result of a resolution being tabled in the House of Representatives on Thursday by Prime Minister Gaston Browne, which has been approved by the lower House and will now make its way to the Upper House, the Senate, for its approval, before heading to the

desk of the Governor General where it will be signed into effect.

PM Browne noted that Hughes, the current Human Resources and Training Officer at the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission is set to be the country's next Supervisor of Elections.

The resolution noted that the actual appointment of the Supervisor of Elections is done by the Governor General, following the adoption of a resolution to that effect by both the House of Representatives and the

Senate.

“Mr. Speaker, the person nominated is already within the system; he would have acted as Supervisor of Elections on several occasions, and having looked at two possible options, Mr. Hughes is best suited for this position. He has a BA degree from Monroe College and has served as Head of Missions for CARICOM Observer Groups, monitoring elections in the region and beyond,” the Prime Minister explained.

*cont'd on pg 5*



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*cont'd from pg 4*

Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin also endorsed Hughes' nomination noting that he has served in the post for many years and that he has done so without even a hint of impropriety.

Leader of the Opposition Jamale Pringle supported Hughes noting that he has served in the All Saints East and St. Luke constituency in a manner 'without fear or favour.' He however chided the government for not involving the opposition in the decision, making note that such involvement leads to closer cooperation between both sides of the aisle.

Other members of the House endorsed the nomination of Hughes, whom they described as a man of integrity and a professional at all times.

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 THE DISTRICT  
 A.O MORGAN MENS COLLECTION  
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**betting**



## No visa requirements for the UK

The visa-free access that Antigua and Barbuda nationals have enjoyed into the United Kingdom remains in place, although that country now requires that all visitors must first complete an Electronic Travel Authorisation (ETA) before entry into the UK.

That is the word from Prime Minister Gaston Browne when he answered a question posed during ‘Questions to the Prime Minister,’ whilst in a sitting of the House of Representatives on Thursday.

“What the UK has done is to require that all passengers irrespective of where they are coming from com-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

plete an Electronic Travel Authorisation application before entry into the UK. This is not a visa, but all non-

UK citizens are now required to complete it, even citizens of the United States and Antigua and Barbuda are not exempted,” he noted.

He said the new arrangement is ‘not quite a visa,’ but a pre-screening for all visitors into the UK where requests for visas are made online. He added that almost invariably the ETA applications are approved, ‘unless there is something untoward about a particular applicant.’

In response to a follow-up question, the prime minister said he does not think that the new requirement

*cont'd on pg 8*

Antigua Barbuda FESTIVALS COMMISSION PRESENTS

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**JRCALYPSO MONARCH**

SUN JUL 30TH | 6:30pm

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## Visa-free entry signed with Serbia

Antigua and Barbuda and the government of Serbia have signed an agreement that eliminates the need for citizens of either country to obtain an entry

visa to facilitate travel between them.

Details of the agreement were read in parliament on Thursday by the Minister of Legal Affairs and Attorney

General, Steadroy Benjamin.

According to Benjamin, the agreement contained a treaty that was presented to the House of Representa-

tives for its approval. "This happened in May 2023, when it was agreed by both parties to abolish visa requirements between the two countries, as the government moves to expand the tourism industry and other benefits that may derive from this arrangement. However, for the agreement to be ratified it must be brought to the parliament for approval," Benjamin stated.

*cont'd from pg 6*

will affect applications for Antigua and Barbuda citizenship, under the CIP Programme. "We do not anticipate any reduction in CIP applications as it is not a visa requirement and CIP passport holders have visa-free entry into the UK as

any other visitor," he explained.

Since the UK announced that it was withdrawing visa-free requirements for Dominica, there has been much concern about if or when the UK will extend the policy to other CIP countries in the OECS.

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**TSHIRT MAS**

Parade starts UP Old Parham Road, RIGHT on St. Johnson's Village Main Road (Simon Bolivar Drive), RIGHT on Factory Road, LEFT on to Parliament Drive, and RIGHT on to Queen Elizabeth Highway, RIGHT on Independence Drive, LEFT on Redcliffe Street, RIGHT on Thames Street, RIGHT on High Street

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MIDNIGHT - 8AM





## Almeda King is Antigua and Barbuda's newest centenarian

Still credited with a sharp memory despite her age, she diligently watches what she eats.



She is Almeda King who was born July 27, 1923, in the village of Urlings. Growing up with 8 other siblings, she was the first. Five of her siblings are deceased and three alive. She mothered two children; a son and a daughter, sadly her son died.

Living in McKinnons with her daughter, Mrs. Jean King-David, she is the grandmother of 4 grandchildren and 7

great-great-grandchildren. Also, she is the sister of the late Jerome Josiah known as 'Sympo,' who was one of Antigua's top calypsonians.

Almeda loves to sing and has a lovely singing voice but is not a heavy eater and does not have a favourite meal. Surprisingly, she has never had a hot dog or hamburger in her life.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
A.D. 2023

### AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Instructed by the ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 31 August 2023 at 11:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property.

The property is located at Dyett Street in Villa, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 2,178 sq. ft./ 0.05 acre, with a 514 sq. ft. single storey, two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom wooden dwelling thereon.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

**REGISTRATION SECTION:** Villa  
**BLOCK:** 62 1693F  
**PARCEL:** 37

Parcel No. 37 of Block No. 62 1693F is bounded by the following:

- On the North by: Parcel 35;
- On the South by: Parcel 39;
- On the East by: Public Road;
- On the West by: Parcel 36

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos  
Licensed Auctioneer  
Office: (268) 562-7653  
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653  
Email: [info@go-going-gone.com](mailto:info@go-going-gone.com)  
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Facebook: Auction Antigua

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**ATB**  
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board



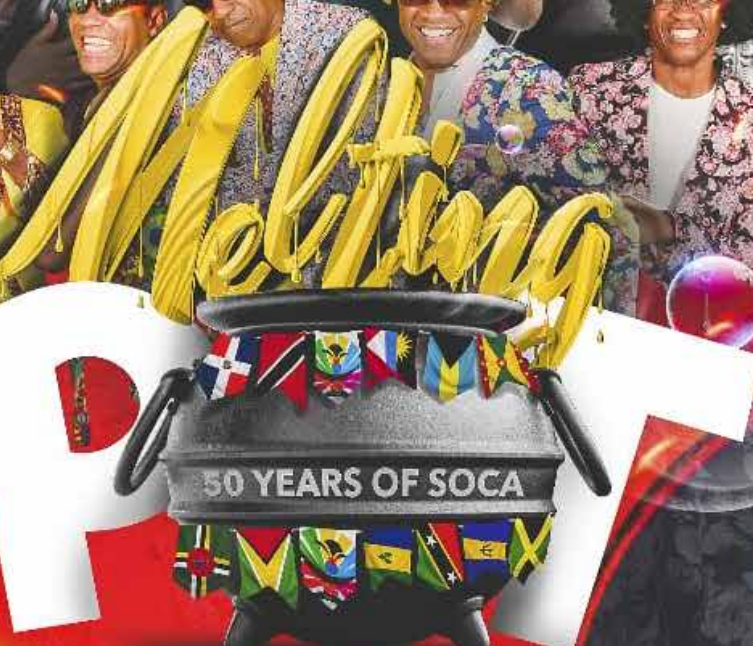


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GROUNDS  
8:00PM

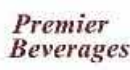


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CLAUDETTE PETERS | TIAN WINTER | RICARDO DRUE | MERVYN SLEEPY EDWARDS | TIZZY | KENNE BLESSIN  
MENACE | KING BANKERS | SINGING ALTHEA | BLADE | BYKE | ASA BANTAN | SUPA MARIO  
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# Opinion

## A crucial test for democracy in Guatemala elections

By *Sir Ronald Sanders*

Guatemala, the largest country in Central America, is undergoing a critical test of its commitment to democracy and the rule of law in its presidential elections. The outcome will shape the nation's political and social stability, economic development, and international standing, particularly within the Organization of American States (OAS).

The general elections on June 25 concluded successfully, but no candidate secured the required majority to replace the incumbent President Alejandro Giammattei, whose term ends in January 2024.

Surprising many, Bernardo Arévalo of the Movimiento Semilla party emerged as the second-leading candidate, campaigning against corruption and gaining strong grassroots support.

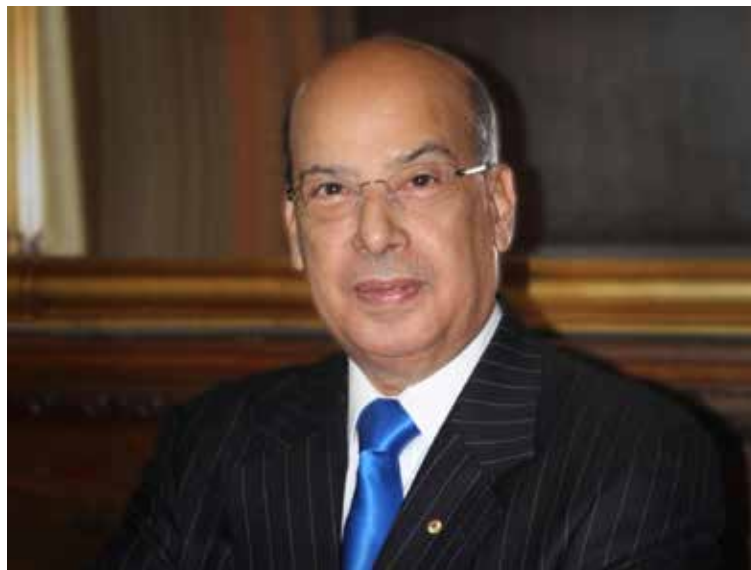
This development clearly caused consternation among persons in the executive and judicial branches of the government who may have felt threatened by the possibility of Arévalo winning run-off elections against Sandra Torres, the leader of Unidad Nacional de la Esperanza party, scheduled for August 20.

The President of Inter-American Commission

on Human Rights (IACHR), Margaret Macaulay, described the sequence of disturbing events that followed in this way: "On July 12th, on the same day that the Supreme Electoral Tribunal ratified the validity of the first round of the presidential election, the Public Prosecutor's Office by means of its Special Prosecutor's Office Against Corruption and Crime, announced a criminal investigation against the political party Movimiento Semilla [-] Also, at the request of the Public Prosecutor's Office, a criminal judge had ordered the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to provisionally suspend the party's legal status to prevent its members from "participating in any subsequent political events".

The IACHR Chair also noted that "on July 21st, arrest warrants were issued for members of Movimiento Semilla whose headquarters were raided, and an arrest warrant was issued for an official of the Citizen Registry of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, and new raids on this facilities took place".

The account of these events was substantiated by Dr. Irma Elizabeth Palencia Orellana, the Chief Magistrate of The Supreme Electoral Court of Guatemala, who told a



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

meeting of the OAS Permanent Council on July 26 that "actions were brought against the Supreme Electoral Court's Register of Citizens, which included arbitrary searches and requests", including "retention of workers for more than ten hours straight, behind closed doors; the use of ski masks and firearms, when our staff are unarmed civilians and ours are administrative offices".

Dr Orellana made the point that these actions unjustifiably violated constitutional provisions. She also drew specific attention to Article 92 of the electoral law which states that "a party may not be suspended after an election has been called and until after the election has taken place."

All of this caused great alarm among member states of the OAS which, along with the European

Union, had sent Electoral Observation Missions to Guatemala. Neither mission found any evidence of fraud or major irregularities that would call the elections results into question. The OAS mission warned that "feeding a narrative of fraud without evidentiary support undermines the will of the people and democratic institutions."

Against this background, on July 26, the OAS Permanent Council welcomed an invitation from the President of Guatemala to the Secretary-General, Luis Almagro, to "meet with government authorities and state institutions regarding the electoral process". It was also particularly helpful that the letter also noted "that this visit does not interfere with the work that the Electoral Observation Mission of the

*cont'd on pg 13*



*cont'd from pg 12*

Organization of American States will carry out”.

This invitation is a positive step by the Guatemalan government, demonstrating a willingness to dialogue and, hopefully, to explore ways of ensuring that clear guarantees will be given, allowing the Supreme Electoral Tribunal to conduct the run-off presidential elections with the same impartiality that it employed in the conduct of the general elections on June 25.

Equally important will be a commitment that the current improper use of the legal system to alter or influence the election result, as described by Chief Magistrate, Dr. Orellana,

will cease.

Antigua and Barbuda, Canada, Costa Rica, Colombia, and the United States played a leading role in advancing concerns about the threats to Guatemala's electoral process, a cornerstone of democracy in the hemisphere.

Respecting the will of the people through free and fair elections is paramount to protect human and political rights from being overshadowed by dictatorship and chaos.

Secretary-General Almagro will go to Guatemala on August 1, just 19 days before the scheduled run-off presidential elections on August 20. The success of his discussions will be pivotal to the future of democracy

in Guatemala.

In this critical moment, the Guatemalan authorities must demonstrate unwavering commitment to democracy, transparency, and the rule of law, not only for the nation's sake but also for the trust of the international community.

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



# Environment

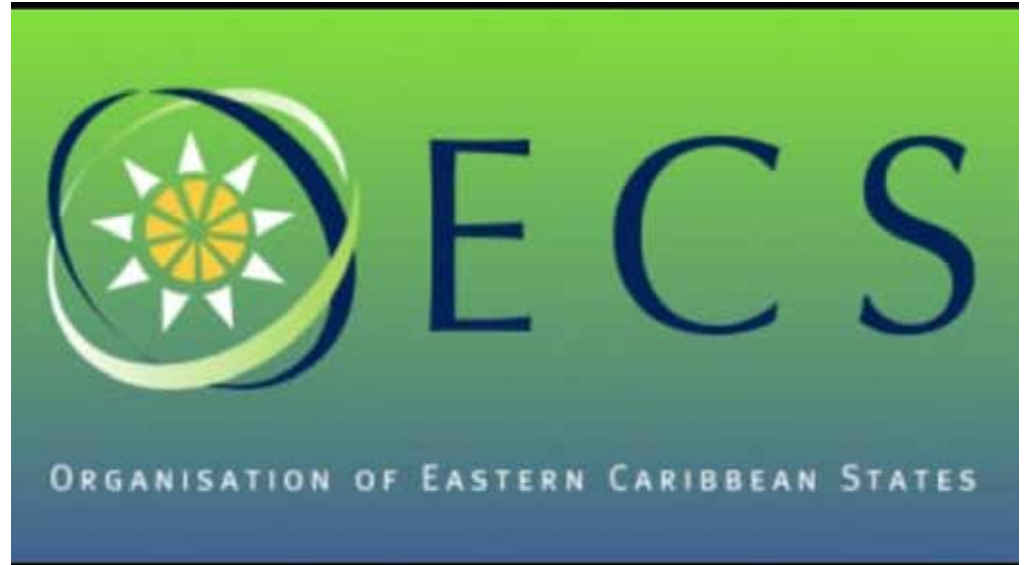


## OECS ministers approve agenda for environmental sustainability

CMC - Environment ministers from the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) have approved the agenda and priorities for environmental sustainability in the sub-region for the next seven years.

The ministers, who met in Anguilla for the 10th annual meeting of the Council of Ministers on Environmental Sustainability (COMES) agreed also to play a “more dynamic and intentional role” in setting and driving the agenda for COMES, reaching a consensus on specific priorities which align with the six thematic areas of SGD 2040 that is intended to respond to priority environmental problems and opportunities for nature-based solutions in the Eastern Caribbean.

According to a statement issued here Wednesday by the St. Lu-



cia-based OECS Commission, the six thematic areas are climate and disaster resilience to be led by St Lucia, biodiversity and ecosystems to be championed by Guadeloupe, while Anguilla will be responsible for land and wa-

ter and Martinique taking the lead on chemicals, pollution and waste.

Antigua and Barbuda will be the lead country on ocean governance and fisheries with Dominica taking the lead on sustainable energy.

The meeting also endorsed the establishment of five standing committees to be led by respective ministers over a two-year term, with the support of relevant technocrats and partners with regards to the thematic areas.

It said Grenada would oversee regional strategies progress monitoring, St Kitts and Nevis stakeholder engagement with information and network is the responsibility of Montserrat.

Antigua and Barbuda will be responsible for mobilisation of resources and partnerships with Anguilla responsible for cross-sectoral linkages.

The Commission said that other notable elements of the approved Road Map include: Implementation of a sustainable financing mechanism, with regional capacity to support development and mobilisation of projects; the establishment of ministerial peer-to-peer networks and the com-

*cont'd on pg 16*

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Antigua Carnival 2023



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FESTIVALS  
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# ANTIGUA Carnival 2023

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS  
MR. AND MS. TEENAGE PAGEANT**  
Sat Jul 22nd | 8:00pm | \$20

**QUEEN OF CARNIVAL**  
Sun Jul 23rd | 8:00pm | \$25 | \$50

**OFFICIAL OPENING**  
Thur Jul 27th | 3:00pm - 9:00pm

**FACEOFF**  
Fri Jul 28th | 9:00pm

**CAVALIER RUM TSHIRT MAS**  
Sat Jul 29th | 3:00pm - 9:00pm

**OASIS JR CARNIVAL** | 2:30pm  
**SMALTA JR CALYPSO** | 6:00pm  
Sun Jul 30th | \$15

**JAYCEES QUEEN SHOW**  
Mon Jul 31st | 8:00pm | \$50 | \$150

**DRUESDAY**  
Tue Aug 1st | 9:00pm

**GLOBAL PORTS  
JR PARTY MONARCH**  
Wed Aug 2nd | 8:00pm | \$15

**COOL & SMOOTH MELTING POT**  
Thur Aug 3rd | 8:00pm | \$65 | \$350

**CARIB BEER  
CALYPSO MONARCH**  
Fri Aug 4th | 8:00pm | \$30

**STATE INSURANCE  
COMPANY LTD PANORAMA**  
Sat Aug 5th | 8:00pm | \$30

**APUA INET PARTY MONARCH**  
Sun Aug 6th | 8:00pm | \$40

**CAVALIER RUM J'OUVERT**  
3:00am - 10:00am  
**CAVALIER RUM  
CARNIVAL MONDAY**  
Mon Aug 7th | 2:00pm

**CAVALIER RUM  
PARADE OF THE BANDS**  
Tue Aug 8th | 12 Noon

**LAST LAP**  
Tue Aug 8th | 7:00pm

OFFICIAL

**#carnivaliscalling**





## St Kitts and Nevis PM tells shoppers to choose cheaper products when buying groceries

St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Terrance Drew has told islanders that they can make small and simple changes to reduce their monthly food bills.

Speaking on Freedom FM's Issues programme on Wednesday, the prime minister said one step could be looking at alternatives to brand named products since it "can help a dollar to go further".

He added: "I want to encourage people to grow some of your food in your yards because this can help you to save. For example, over the COVID period, I took care of my banana trees and so forth and was able to have bananas. So, we have to also do our part to deal with the cost of living and the cost of food."

Drew said he has spoken with local imports such as RAMS and O.D. Brisbane to discuss the price of products and what could be done to make them more affordable for consumers.



According to Drew, the importers said the brand consumers choose plays a part in their bills.

"I spoke with the Director of RAMS...and he sent me a list of the cost of branded stuff compared to those that are not branded and there is a significant difference, so people do have some level of choice.

"Nonetheless, one has to acknowledge that there has been an increase in food prices as a result of the pandemic, supply chains and

transportation costs because of fuel and so forth and that has affected all countries in the world and that has affected St Kitts and Nevis as well," he stated.

Drew said his government has implemented a number of measures to make living affordable.

"We have capped freight to make sure that the transportation of food is at the lowest cost and if we have to cap it more, we will cap it more.

"We have also capped

gasoline so that transportation costs of food across the island would not be extremely expensive and also to make sure that our people can commute without an excessively high cost of gasoline, and so, the Government has taken a hit in order to make sure that our people have access to affordable gasoline," Drew said.

Freight charges for 20-foot and 40-foot dry food and cold storage containers have been capped at the 2019 pre-COVID rates, while the temporary reduction in the Excise Tax from \$2.25 per gallon to \$0.95 per gallon has been extended until December 31, 2023.

The prime minister said the Cost of Living Taskforce will continue to engage stakeholders to find solutions to issues facing islanders.

### cont'd from pg 14

missioning of quinquennial state of the regional environment assessments.

The meeting also endorsed multiple regional frameworks and initiatives, which align with the Road Map themes and priorities, including a needs-based climate finance strategy, and complementary carbon alliance and an OECS model on plastic waste separation.

"With the upcoming and consequential fourth International SIDS Conference during May 27-30, 2024, the Council of Ministers affirmed support for Antigua and Barbuda as the host of the Conference and reaffirmed the need to maintain the status of the particular circumstances of SIDS and the momentum on a Multi-dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI)," the statement said.





CIBC FirstCaribbean

# Jam for the Cure T-shirt Mas

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Mas Troupe*

**Saturday, 29 July, 2023**

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**Meeting Point: Environmental Division**

All funds raised will be donated to Breast Friends and The Oncology Department at The Sir Lester Bird Mount St. John's Medical Centre.

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

- Alexei Whyte – 484-5104
- Khadijah James – 484-5064
- Natasha Charles – 484-5137
- Priscilla Leonce – 484-5115

**SIR LESTER BIRD  
MEDICAL CENTRE**



**FirstCaribbean  
International Bank**



## Bahamian government announces comprehensive review of immigration decisions

CMC - The Bahamian Government on Wednesday said it would be undertaking “a comprehensive review of the checks and balances regarding how immigration decisions are made” even as the main opposition Free National Movement (FNM) maintained its call for the resignation of the incumbent minister, Keith Bell.

In a statement, Prime Minister Philip Davis said that the review would be done “with a view to strengthening the checks and balances”, adding that “every Bahamian deserves to have confidence that the rules promote efficiency, fairness, and accountability to the greatest extent possible”.

Bell has come under criticism since overseeing the swearing-in ceremony of three people at the funeral of Franck Racine, saying that he was fulfilling the man’s dying wishes.

But on Monday, former prime minister Dr Hubert Minnis questioned whether Bell spoke the truth when he said he had received a call in Switzerland from a dying man who wanted his wife and children to get Bahamian citizenship.

Also on Monday, both FNM and ruling Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) supporters staged counter proposals outside the Parliament in support and against the Immigration Minister.

Minnis said the facts show the Racine died on June 29 before Bell travelled to Switzerland.

“Parliamentary record reflects that Keith Bell was in Parliament on the 31st. According to Cable 12 news, Keith Bell said himself that the man called him in Switzerland. Keith Bell could not have been in Switzerland because the conference didn’t start un-



*Prime Minister Philip Davis.*

til the fifth,” Minnis said, adding “it is quite evident that Keith Bell is not telling the truth”.

But in his statement, Davis acknowledged that the opposition had raised questions in Parliament, and that the Department of Immigration would be releasing a statement to address those questions.

But he told Bahamians “it is my understanding that, in many instances, the opposition’s questions were based on wrong and inaccurate information.

“As an important aside, I want everyone to understand that when civil servants share the names and personal details of individuals from files in the custody of their department, they are in violation of the law, and they have breached the public trust.

“People who share their private information with the government of The Bahamas, in departments across our Ministries should be able to do so with confidence that they will not find their names being shouted at press conferences or thrown around to score political points.

Let’s return, at this moment, to immigration.”

Davis said it is “fundamentally important that Bahamians have confi-

dence that every immigration matter is handled fairly, in accordance with the law, and in the best interest of The Bahamas and the Bahamian people”.

He said that there has always been a substantial amount of discretion in the enforcement of immigration laws here and in other countries in the Westminster system.

“There are practical reasons for that, including the need for flexibility to respond to unique or complex situations and the need to respond to new and changing circumstances without requiring constant legislative changes. And, of course, that discretion operates within a system of checks and balances to promote fairness and due process.”

Davis acknowledged that just because a system has always operated a particular way doesn’t mean it can’t be strengthened or improved.

“As you have heard me say on many occasions, I didn’t come here to defend the status quo, I came here to change it. When there are ways to improve governance, we are going to modernise the system instead of maintaining it”

He told the nation that earlier on Wednesday, his administration introduced historic legislation to make the Parliament an independent branch of government, which will increase accountability and strengthen the representation of the people.

“I have had a lot of conversations with Bahamians in recent weeks about immigration – and I want to let you know that I hear you. I hear your concerns about how things work in this country and intend to address them,” Davis added.



## Caribbean countries benefit from IDB bond project

CMC - The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) Wednesday said that its pioneering Education, Youth and Employment (EYE) bond programme, through which countries such as Suriname and Jamaica are beneficiaries, is expected to benefit more than 2.7 million students over the next four years.

EYE bonds, which carry the triple-A credit rating of the IDB, help connect investors with IDB programmes in education, youth and employment, in Latin America and the Caribbean, the IDB said, noting that since its launch, the Washington-based financial institution has issued 52 EYE bonds, for a total of US\$3.1 billion.

The IDB said that over the next four years, projects supported by IDB EYE bonds are expected to train



266,000 teachers, test 725,000 students and provide training to 8,000.

The programme aims to solve the challenges of poverty and inequality through a life cycle approach, from early childhood care and education, through formal primary and secondary education, as well as facilitating labour market placement. It focuses on the Sustainable Development Goals of quality education, gender equality, decent work and economic growth, and

reduced inequalities.

“We are thrilled with the transformative results we are seeing from our EYE bond programme,” said Gustavo de Rosa, the IDB’s Vice-President of Finance.

“EYE bonds provide more than a solid financial return. They provide a social return by investing in the human capital of Latin America and the Caribbean.”

According to data released here providing several examples of projects supported by EYE Bonds, Jamaica has benefitted through the skills development for global services project.

The IDB said that projects are evaluated and reviewed by its operational staff, with assessments and monitoring of environmental and social impacts throughout the project cycle.

## St Kitts and Nevis to offer kidney transplants at local hospital

Prime Minister Terrance Drew said kidney transplant surgeries would soon be available at the Joseph N France General Hospital in St Kitts and Nevis.

Drew provided the update while appearing on Freedom FM’s Issues programme yesterday.

“[It is for the] people who cannot catch a plane and go overseas. These people are dying sooner than they should because they don’t have access to transplants. I cannot allow our people to die when we have an opportunity to save their lives,” he said.



“I would encourage our people to eat well, exercise, keep their pressure under control, your sugar, change their lifestyle, but in the event that they develop end-stage renal

disease, we want to make sure that they have an option for renal transplant and we are going to launch the renal transplant programme.”

Drew added that a team

from Canada would visit the country soon to train staff at the Haemodialysis Unit on the proper use of the dialysis machines that they recently received.



## Donald Trump faces further charges in Mar-a-Lago documents inquiry

By **Brandon Drenon**

Former US President Donald Trump is accused of pressuring an employee to delete Mar-a-Lago security camera footage, new charges allege.

In a revised indictment, Mr Trump is charged with three new counts, one of wilful retention of defence information and two of obstruction.

An additional person, Mar-a-Lago staff member Carlos de Oliveira, has also been indicted in the case.

Mr de Oliveira is alleged to have asked what could be done to delete footage.

Mr Trump has pleaded not guilty alongside his close aide Walt Nauta, who also received two additional charges of obstruction on Thursday.

The new court documents outline alleged efforts between Mr Nauta and Mr de Oliveira, the property manager at Mar-a-Lago, to obstruct the justice department's investigation.

According to the new court documents, Mr Nauta and Mr de Oliveira conspired to delete footage from security cameras after the Department of Justice issued a subpoena asking for surveillance footage of the basement where it said confidential documents were held.



Former US President Donald Trump

In the court documents, Mr de Oliveira is claimed to have texted another employee who was the director of information technology that "the boss" wanted the server deleted.

The documents allege that Mr de Oliveira later met with the employee in a small IT room, told him their conversation should remain private, then pressured the man into obliging his request after the employee told Mr de Oliveira that he did not have the authority.

The indictment sets out a scene where it is claimed Mr Nauta and Mr de Oliveira walked through bushes and foliage at the edge of Mar-a-Lago, a leisure resort that had been known as the Winter White House, to get to the IT room.

"What are we going

to do," Mr de Oliveira allegedly asked his co-worker. A lawyer for Mr de Oliveira has declined to comment.

The updated indictment alleges that Mr Trump knowingly discussed a top-secret document with biographers visiting Mar-a-Lago to interview him.

The indictment says the document Mr Trump revealed to the biographers contained possible plans to attack "Country A", which CNN and other outlets identified as Iran.

"Look what I found... Isn't it amazing? I have a big pile of papers, this thing just came up. Look," Mr Trump allegedly said to one of his guests.

The documents case is led by special prosecutor Jack Smith, who earlier in the day met with Mr Trump's lawyers over a

separate investigation into alleged efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Mr Trump's attorneys John Lauro and Todd Blanche met officials at Mr Smith's office in Washington DC, US media reported.

The former president said earlier this month that he expected to be indicted in that case, but said on Thursday his lawyers received no indication of timing.

Mr Trump dismissed the fresh charges in the documents case in an emailed statement from his 2024 presidential campaign.

"Deranged Jack Smith knows that they have no case and is casting about for any way to salvage their illegal witch hunt," the statement read.

*cont'd on pg 21*



## Alicia Navarro: Girl missing for nearly four years walks into police station

By Sam Cabral

An Arizona girl who disappeared nearly four years ago has turned up at a police station in Montana.

Thousands of tips have come in to the FBI and the Center for Missing and Exploited Children since Alicia Navarro allegedly ran away in 2019.

On Tuesday, police in her hometown of Glendale, Arizona, said she had “showed up to a police department” some 40 miles (64km) from the US-Canada border.

“Miracles do exist,” her mother Jessica Nunez said in a post on Facebook.

When Alicia vanished from their home on 15 September 2019, the then-14-year-old left behind a signed note that read: “I ran away. I will be back, I swear. I’m sorry.”

But her mother told CBS News, the BBC’s US partner, that she believed her daughter had been lured away by somebody she met online.

“It’s not something that happened out of the blue,”



A picture of Alicia Navarro after she was identified.

she said, “and I do believe that she was lured thinking that she was going to have some kind of adventure, party or maybe love.”

The teenager had been diagnosed as high-functioning on the autism spectrum and was an avid video game player, she added.

According to Ms Nunez, her child was the first in Arizona to receive a silver alert, a rare emergency notification for missing persons with “specific cognitive or developmental disabilities” and seniors.

At a news conference on Tuesday, Glendale police spokesman Jose Santiago said Alicia, now 18, had walked into the Montana police station alone and identified herself.

She asked for help to clear her from the missing juvenile list but seemed safe, healthy and happy, he said.

Mr Santiago added that she appeared to have wilfully left home and was not in “any kind of trouble”.

It is unclear how Alicia got all the way to Montana, which is more than 1,200

miles (1,900km) away from her home, and the case remains under investigation.

Ms Nunez announced her daughter’s safe return in a video on the Finding Alicia Facebook page, but said she had no details.

“I want to give glory to God for answering prayers and for this miracle,” she said.

“For everyone who has missing loved ones, I want you to use this case as an example. Miracles do exist. Never lose hope and always fight.”

Lieutenant Scott Waite told reporters mother and daughter had an “emotionally overwhelming” reunion, in which Alicia was “very apologetic as to what she has put her mother through”.

*cont’d from pg 20*

The latest charge against Mr Trump adds to a growing list of legal problems for the property and reality TV mogul.

He currently awaits trial for a hush-money case in which he faces 34

felony counts, he faces civil charges in a defamation case against author E Jean Carroll, and Georgia prosecutors are still weighing whether or not to press charges over an alleged effort overturn the election results there.

# Canada approves historic C\$23bn child welfare settlement

By Nadine Yousif

Canada's Human Rights Tribunal has approved a landmark C\$23.4bn (\$17.7bn; £13.8bn) settlement for indigenous children and families harmed by the child welfare system.

It is said to be the largest class-action settlement in Canadian history.

The agreement also includes a request for an apology from the Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau.

Around 300,000 people are expected to be compensated, including babies and children currently in care.

The settlement, approved on Wednesday, comes after the tribunal ruled in 2016 that Canada had underfunded on-reserve First Nations children's services compared to those for non-indigenous children.

This resulted in indigenous children being removed from their families unnecessarily and denied basic services, the ruling said.

Cindy Blackstock, the executive director of the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society who has helped negotiate the settlement, said the funds will go to indigenous people who were impacted by the child welfare system from 1991 to 2022.

"There are babies who are eligible for compensation," Ms Blackstock told



*More than half of the children in Canadian foster homes are indigenous, despite them making up less than 8% of the country's child population, census data shows.*

BBC News. "A large number of these children in care are actually still children."

A federal court will review the settlement in October. If approved, those who are eligible could begin to receive the amount they are owed as early as summer 2024.

It is part of a long-running legal battle that began in 2007, when the First Nations Child and Family Caring Society filed a complaint alleging the child welfare system was discriminatory.

Nine years later, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) ruled against the federal government and ordered that it offer compensation payments worth C\$40,000 plus interest for each indigenous child forced to leave their home to access services.

That amount is the maximum allowed under Canada's Human Rights Act.

Others, like caregivers and parents, as well as the children's estates, are also entitled to compensation.

At one point, the Canadian government challenged the findings, arguing that the tribunal was wrong to award the pay-outs. At the time, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said that his cabinet wanted to "make sure we're getting compensation right".

Later, the government said it would pay C\$40bn - with C\$20bn going to children and their families, and the other half going to child welfare reform.

That proposal was rejected by the CHRT in late 2022 because of fears that some children would be

left out or not compensated enough.

Canada and the Assembly of First Nations then agreed to increase the settlement amount to C\$23.3bn in April.

Marc Miller, the minister responsible for crown-indigenous relations at the time, has said the agreement is "an important part of Canada's accountability towards First Nations children".

The class-action settlement is one of the largest in North America, surpassed only by a \$20bn pay-out from BP in 2010 to cover environmental damage caused by an oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, and a \$206bn lawsuit against tobacco companies in 1998 to recover healthcare costs for tobacco-related illnesses.



## Nigeria upset Australia at the Women's World Cup

BRISBANE (Reuters) - Nigeria produced the first major shock of the Women's World Cup as they stunned Australia 3-2 on Thursday to leave the co-hosts' tournament hopes on thin ice and home fans reeling.

Asisat Oshoala volleyed into an open goal in the 72nd minute to seal a deserved win for the Africans after Uchenna Kanu cancelled out Emily van Egmond's opener on the cusp of halftime and Osinachi Ohale nudged Nigeria ahead after the break.

Australia cut the deficit to one goal when Alanna Kennedy nodded home a header in the 10th minute of stoppage time but Nigeria rode out the final seconds to claim one of the finest wins in their history at the global showpiece.

The victory in front of a huge crowd at Lang Park put Nigeria top of Group B level with Canada on four points but ahead on goals scored. The 11-time African champions play eliminated Ireland in their last group match on Monday.

Australia must beat Canada on Monday to move on. A draw does Australia no good if Nigeria picks up a point against the Republic of Ireland.

Nigeria needs a win or draw to move into the knockout phase. It must better Canada's result against



Nigeria's Asisat Oshoala, left, celebrates with teammates after scoring their side's third goal during the Women's World Cup Group B soccer match between Australia and Nigeria in Brisbane, Australia, Thursday, July 27th, 2023. (AP)

Australia to get through as the group winner.

Portugal's Telma Encarnacao scored one goal and set up the other in a 2-0 win over fellow Women's World Cup debutants Vietnam, sending the Southeast Asian side out of the tournament at Waikato Stadium on Thursday.

Portugal's coach Francisco Neto made seven changes to the team that lost 1-0 to the Netherlands in their Group E opener and the decision paid off as first-half goals from Encarnacao and Francisca Nazareth earned them a first ever World Cup win.

Portugal are third in Group E with three points and will face the U.S. in

their final group game in Auckland while Vietnam, yet to score or pick up a point, take on the Netherlands in Dunedin, with both matches on Tuesday.

The United States are level on four points with the Dutch but top the table on goal difference after the teams drew 1-1 on Thursday.

A second-half goal from co-captain Lindsey Horan allowed the United States to battle back for a 1-1 draw against the Netherlands in a thrilling Women's World Cup Group E match on Thursday.

The fiercely fought re-run of the 2019 final lived up to its billing as the Dutch enjoyed the ascendancy in the

first half before hanging on when the Americans found their groove in the second.

The Dutch struck first through a fine shot from midfielder Jill Roord in the 17th minute and the U.S. went in at halftime trailing in a World Cup match for the first time since 2011.

Horan answered for the four-times champions from a Rose Lavelle corner in 62nd minute, making a great run to the near post to power an unstoppable header past Dutch goalkeeper Daphne van Domselaar.

The Americans had not drawn a World Cup match since 2015 and will rue a slow start to the game as well as an inability to take their chances at the end.






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## ABNDA to host last fund-raisers ahead of world domino championship

The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) will this weekend wrap-up its fund-raising drive to facilitate its participation at the 19th World Council of Domino Federation's (WCDF) Championship in Guyana next month.

The ABNDA will host its last fund-raising lunch sale at its headquarters in Ottos on Saturday from noon to 3 pm before the national team, the Wadadli Warriors', departure to Guyana to defend their back-to-back titles they won

at the last two world championships.

The fund-raising efforts are geared towards the Wadadli Warriors' trip to the northeastern coast of South America to defend their title at the world championship that will be hosted at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence from August 12th to 21st.

The public relations officer of the national domino association, Carol-Faye Bynoe, is appealing to the general public to support Saturday's lunch sale.

Bynoe is also expressing



Members of the Wadadli Warriors national team engage in a practice session at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos. (ABNDA)



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gratitude to those businesses that have supported their fund-raising efforts to offset expenses in facilitating the Wadadli Warriors' participation at next month's world domino championship.

"I know that a lot of business places wished they could have assisted us, but some of them told us up front that things are really bad and they were unable to make a contribution at this time. But for those who did, we have to say thank you because everybody is feeling the pinch right now," Bynoe stated.

"Some businesses gave financial contributions, and some gave in kind. We are not only looking for monetary support; but in-kind contributions are also accepted. So for those who

came on board, we have to really thank them."

Bynoe said John F. Shoul and another company in Antigua have joined Bristol Marine, a boat and yacht building company based in Rhode Island in the United States of America, in sponsoring the Wadadli Warriors with sets of uniforms to wear at the world championships in Guyana.

"I have to also say that we have secured three sets of uniforms, the first of which was sponsored by a company in Rhode Island, USA. We got them last Saturday. They came already printed with our names and our flags, and we are very grateful to Bristol Marine, who were the first to donate towards our uniforms," Bynoe

*cont'd on pg 27*



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## Flyers take one-nil lead in Division One playoff finals

The third-seeded Flyers have taken a one-nil lead in the best-of-five finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association’s (ABBA) First Division Playoff Championship.

The Flyers stunned league champions and top seed Cuties Ovals OJays 76-63 in Game One at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

The Flyers made a brilliant start to the game by taking a 25-13 lead at the end of the first quarter before ending with a 47-35 advantage at halftime.

The Ovals OJays came storming back to outscore the Flyers 19-11 in their third quarter. But the Flyers never relinquished their lead and finished the third quarter with a 58-54 advantage.

The Flyers then outscored the Ovals 18-9 in the fourth and final quarter to seal their 13-point victory over the OJays.

The Flyers were led by Xavier Me-



The Flyers basketball team.

ade, who produced a game-high 25 points with eight rebounds and five assists.

Adonis Humphreys gave support with 16 points and 13 rebounds; Jabari Williams had 12 points and 14 rebounds; Selassie Brathwaite contributed nine points and five assists; and Kenya Ahcom chipped in with seven points and

seven rebounds for the Flyers.

Alexis Jackson produced 22 points and 13 rebounds; Joshua Minner scored 17 points; and Mario Davis had 11 points, six rebounds, and six assists for the Ovals OJays.

Both teams will clash in Game Two at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday at 8 pm.

cont'd from pg 25

noe said.

“Since then, we have

had two other local sponsors, one of which I cannot name as yet, but the other

one is John F. Shoul. They contributed 50 percent to one of our uniforms.

“Travelling arrangements and our accommodations in Guyana are about 90 percent complete. The national association will be taking on the responsibility of providing breakfast for the entire team and some other expenses for the 12 days we will be in Guyana.

“So we are getting there, and we have about two weeks left to wrap it up. We have not received a contribution from the government as yet, but we are hoping we will do so in the upcoming week.”

A 45-member Wadadli Warriors’ team, which

comprises male and female players, is currently training on Thursday nights, Friday nights, and Sunday afternoons in preparation for the world championship.

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

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

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## International coaches to conduct Players Development Camp

The Young Warriors Football Club and its partner, The Helping Hand Foundation, will be staging a Player Development Camp in Antigua and Barbuda next month.

The event will be held at the Buckleys Primary School playing field from August 13th to 20th from 9 am to 6 pm daily.

This unique, all-inclusive programme will comprise thirty (30) male and female players between the ages of 10 and 19 years old.

The players will be engaged in football, basketball, tennis, and volleyball clinics and will also be accommodated at a facility for theoretical sessions and meals.

The camp will be facilitated by three renowned coaches, headed by the highly-experienced FIFA-qualified Jamaal Shabazz, a former Trinidad & Tobago national coach who recently led the Guyana national team to the



Coach Nesta Felix at a session with the Wings Sports Club at the YMCA Sports Complex in Antigua earlier this year. (CPTSA Wings)

CONCACAF Gold Cup finals in the United States.

Shabazz will be assisted by Billy Hughes, MBE, who has coached and worked with England's football legend, Sir Bobby Charlton, in Manchester, United Kingdom, and has more than forty (40) years

of experience at semi-pro and professional levels.

They will be joined by St. Lucian-born Nesta Felix, a Caribbean-American women's sports coach with ties to US colleges and community organizations, who will tutor tennis, volleyball, and basketball.

All three coaches are no strangers to Antigua. Shabazz coached his Trinidad pro-team Caledonia in Antigua during the mid-2000s as well as recruited Antiguan players to play in Port-of-Spain.

This will be Felix's third visit to St. John's since 2019 and her second of the year. In January, she conducted sessions with schools and club teams in Antigua and Barbuda.

Hughes has visited in the past while accompanying Sir Bobby to his native St. Kitts.

The camp is open to all interested players for a fee of EC\$300, which will cover seven (7) nights' accommodation, kit, and meals.

For further information, call 1-268-786-0116 or 716-9972; email: warriorscup@gmail.com; youngwarriorsfc@hotmail.com or visit on Facebook: warriorsballers; youngwarriorsfc; warriorsyouthcup.

*cont'd from pg 30*

King for 17 off 23 as the West Indies slipped to 45 for three in 8.3 overs. The Windies brought up their 50 runs in 9.4 overs.

At the end of the mandatory powerplay in 10 overs, the West Indies were at 52 for three, with Shimron Hetmyer and Shai Hope at the crease.

Hetmyer and Hope put on a 43-run stand for the fourth wicket. Just when it seemed that Windies would recover, Hetmyer was bowled by Jadeja for

a struggling 11 off 19 balls. The West Indies were 88 for four in 15.4 overs.

Jadeja's next over saw him take two quick wickets of Rovman Powell (4) and Romario Shepherd (0), to reduce the West Indies to 96 for six in 17.4 overs.

Following this, it was Kuldeep Yadav's turn to unleash a rampage. The West Indies crossed the 100-run mark in 18.4 overs. Kuldeep destroyed the rest of Windies' line-up by dismissing the lower order and finally Hope for

43 off 45 balls. The Windies were bundled out for 114 in 23 overs.

Kuldeep was the pick of the bowlers for India, taking four wickets for six runs in his three overs. Jadeja took three for 37. Hardik, Mukesh and Shardul got one wicket each.

Brief Scores: WI: 114 in 23 overs (Shai Hope 43, Alick Athanaze 22, Kuldeep Yadav 4/6) lost to India: 118/5 in 22.5 overs (Ishan Kishan 52, Ravindra Jadeja 16 not out, Gudakesh Motie 2/26).

## India cruise to ODI win over West Indies

A four-wicket haul by Kuldeep Yadav and a half-century by Ishan Kishan were the highlights as India defeated West Indies by five wickets in the first One-Day International (ODI) of three-match series at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Thursday.

Set 115 to win, India started off decently. Ishan Kishan was promoted up the order to open with Shubman Gill. Gill's disappointing run in recent international matches continued as he poked a delivery by Jayden Seales and was dismissed for seven off 16 balls.

Suryakumar Yadav was also promoted to bat at number three. Ishan and Suryakumar started to build a partnership, with the former playing some good shots, looking to make the most of his opportunity.

However, Suryakumar's aggressive innings could not continue for long, as while attempting to sweep, he was trapped leg before wicket by Gudkesh Motie for 19 off 25 balls, consisting of three fours and a six.

Hardik Pandya was then run out for just five to leave



West Indies' Yannic Cariah is dismissed LBW by India's Kuldeep Yadav during their first ODI at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, on July 27th, 2023. (AP)

India at 70 for three. Ishan reached his half-century in just 44 balls.

Motie got his second wicket of the match, dismissing Kishan for 52 off 46, consisting of seven fours and a six. Rovman Powell took a brilliant catch at deep mid-wicket. India was 94 for four.

Shardul Thakur was also dismissed for just one run by Yannic Cariah. India was 97 for five. India reached the 100-run mark in 18.3 overs.

Skipper Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja took

India to victory, finishing at 118 for five in 22.5 overs, with Rohit (12 not out) and Jadeja unbeaten on 16.

Motie took two for 26 and was the pick of the bowlers for the Windies. Cariah and Seales also got a wicket.

Earlier, fantastic performances by spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Ravindra Jadeja helped India to restrict the West Indies to just 114 runs in 23 overs.

Put to bat first by India, the West Indies lost a quick wicket in their second over after Hardik Pandya re-

moved Kyle Mayers for just two when he lobbed the ball towards skipper Rohit Sharma at mid-on.

Following this, Brandon King and Alick Athanaze started to rebuild the Windies innings. The 38-run partnership between King and Alick was over when Mukesh Kumar dismissed Athanaze for 22 off 18 balls. Ravindra Jadeja took a brilliant catch at backward point. WI was 45 for two in 7.5 overs.

In the very next over, Shardul Thakur bowled

*cont'd on pg 29*