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REVERSED DECISION: KELVIN SIMON'S RESIGNATION STANDS

Story on Page 2



The Antigua Public Utilities Authority APUA) is this week celebrating its 50th anniversary with various activities planned to mark the occasion. One of the highlights of the activities is the return of the popular Miss APUA Pageant, which is returning after a four-year break. Vying for the crown will be (top row from left) Daikoya Thomas, Kiarah Christian, Kimsha Manning, N'Dea Joseph, Veyella Peters, (bottom row from left) Rochelle Kirby, Tammisha Roberts, Tayjah Shaw, and Vellicia Francis. *Story on page 7*

Sir Gerald reverses decision: Kelvin 'Shugy' Simon's resignation stands

Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Gerald Watt, has reversed his earlier decision regarding the resignation of the member of St. Mary's South, Kelvin 'Shugy' Simon.

During an appearance on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, Sir Gerald said that under the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution, the letter submitted by Simon in early June complies with the dictates of the Constitution on the grounds for a member to resign.

This means that the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission is duty-bound to call a by-election in the constituency within a matter of 120 days.

This comes as the Election Court is due to hear a petition filed by a member of the St. Mary's Constituency, Casworth Aaron, which was originally scheduled to be heard today.

However, Simon has also filed a petition to the court stating that based on the fact that he has since resigned, the matters raised in the original petition before the court has to be deemed moot.

Aaron had questioned Simon's eligibility to contest the general elections, as at the time of his nomination he had not tendered his resignation and therefore was still a public servant, which is not permissible under the Constitution.

Sir Gerald said there clearly is a

loophole in the Constitution that the framers of the document perhaps never anticipated. However, it is clear that Simon saw this and decided to exploit it.

Sir Gerald has written a letter to the Attorney General explaining the reasons for the reversal of his position, regarding Simon's resignation.

An intense political campaign is now likely to ensue as both the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and the opposition United Progressive Party are expected to pour resources into the campaign, to win the seat. Whilst it will not change the power balance in the House, it will give the winning party a significant moral victory.



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Samantha challenges Kelvin Simon to a Public Debate

In the spirit of open democracy and a commitment to serving the constituents of St Mary's South, I, Samantha Marshall, representing the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), hereby challenge Kelvin Simon from the United Progressive Party (UPP) to a public debate. This debate aims to provide an opportunity for us to share and outline our plans and programs for the constituents, fostering transparency and enabling voters to make an informed decision.

Recent developments in the political landscape of Antigua and Barbuda have highlighted the importance of open discussions and the role of the people as trustees of the Constitution. The Speaker of the House of Represen-



Samantha Marshall

tatives, Sir Gerald Watt KC, who previously led a public debate regarding Mr. Simon's inability to resign, has now changed his position, which may trigger the possibility of a by-election. This realisation serves as a valuable lesson for all, especially the Speaker, emphasizing the need for thorough consideration of the

law and matters at hand before leading public debates.

Given the potential by-election, albeit subject to the outcome of the petition before the High Court, it is crucial that both Mr. Simon and I allow the people to hear, examine, and question our records and plans for the constituency of St Mary's South. This public debate will provide a platform for constituents to engage directly with us, understand our visions, and assess our capabilities.

We propose that this significant event be organized by the National Youth Parliament Association of Antigua and Barbuda, a representative body comprising youth across the political divide. The involvement of our young citizens is vital, as they

represent the future and need to understand the issues affecting our constituency and nation. Moreover, we believe that conducting the debate in St Mary's South will facilitate maximum participation from a cross-section of the constituency. By bringing the discussion directly to the constituents, we demonstrate our commitment to serving their interests and fostering a sense of inclusivity.

Therefore, let us present ourselves before the constituents, answer their questions, and provide them with a clear understanding of our plans and programs. Together, we can honour the values of democracy while showing our competence to serve, ensuring a brighter future for St Mary's South.

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School Uniforms Grant Programme starts today

The 2023 School Uniforms Grant Programme (SUGP) commences on Monday, July 3rd and will continue until August 31st.

Now in its 18th year, the

distribution of vouchers under the programme will take place at the Multi-Purpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre, Perry Bay, from Monday to Thursday 9 am - 4 pm and

every Friday from 9 am - 2 pm.

Supervisor, Tanesha McKenzie-James said the SUGP's eligibility requirements remain unchanged,

but she is appealing to members of the general public to remember the documentation needed for presentation when accessing the programme. She noted that to be eligible, children must be 5 years old by December 31, 2023, and will remain in the database until completion of 4th Form.

When visiting the Multi-Purpose Centre, returning beneficiaries must present the student's most recent school report and a form of identification (government-issued), while an acceptance letter from the school or 3rd term report, along with valid identification for the student and parent/guardian must be presented to representatives of the SUGP.

Students entering secondary schools through the Grade Six National Assessment cannot receive vouchers until after the release of the results on Friday, July 7, 2023.

This year, beneficiaries of the SUGP can use either the face-to-face or drop box option, the latter will be available at the programme's Perry Bay location.

A team of 40 customer service agents have completed training ahead of the launch of this year's programme.

For more information on the School Uniforms Grant Programme, call 562-7247/8.



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SLBMC performs the first penile implant in the region

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has performed a dual penile implant and artificial urinary sphincter (AUS) procedure, to treat erectile dysfunction

(ED) and urinary incontinence—a first in the Eastern Caribbean.

The procedure was performed on a male in his sixties, who had been suffering from erectile dysfunction (ED) and urinary incontinence for several years, after his treatment for prostate cancer.

Erectile dysfunction and urinary incontinence are the two major post-operative complications from prostate cancer treatment. The patient had previously been put on other treatment modalities but was not responsive.

The surgery, which took about two hours, was performed by Urologist Dr. Dwayne Thwaites, with assistance from SLBMC Consultant Urologist, Dr. Regene Johnson. It involved the dual implantation of an artificial urinary sphincter (AUS) and an inflatable penile prosthesis.

“The advantage of this dual surgery is not only in time and cost savings but more importantly, quality of life,” explains Dr. Dwayne Thwaites, the lead surgeon for the procedure. The patient can get back to his normal life sooner without having to prepare for another surgery as soon as they heal.”

“Erectile dysfunction continues to be an under-reported issue despite its increased prevalence, negative impact, and the availability of successful treatment,” said Dr. Regene Johnson.

“So, it is important for men to talk to their doctor, as this procedure, as well as other treatment op-

tions, can be truly life-changing. These procedures offer a new opportunity for men to enjoy all aspects of healthy interactions with their partner, which can greatly enhance their relationship.”

“Both implant procedures offer new hope for men suffering from erectile dysfunction and urinary incontinence and are alternative options when other less invasive treatments have failed and further treatment is desired,” adds Dr. Thwaites.

This procedure is the first of its kind to be conducted in the region because it requires rare, specialized expertise; that being a sub-specialty in urology.



IN PHOTO (L-R): Dr. Dwayne Thwaites (Urologist) and Dr. Regene Johnson (SLBMC Consultant Urologist)
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CARPHA, Ministry of Health tackles mosquito-borne diseases

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) is combining efforts with the Ministry of Health in St. John's to fight the spread of mosquito-borne diseases.

This effort forms part of the CARPHA rollout, of the regionally approved Integrated Public Health Surveillance Strategy, across its Members States.

Under one of the priority areas for this strategy, CARPHA is seeking to build capacity in Vector Borne Disease surveillance. CARPHA has partnered with the Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment in Antigua and Barbuda, to further build capacity in the control of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases, using exciting new Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology.

Vector control staff were trained in using an electronic tablet-based GIS system to do premises inspections. This will replace the older, outdated paper-based inspection forms and modernize the operations of the vector control unit. This field-based

GIS is coupled with desktop GIS systems to do advanced spatiotemporal analyses for health trends.

The overall objective of the training is to improve the Ministry's ability to detect, target, and respond to areas with high levels of mosquito infestation and thereby significantly reduce the risk of arboviral disease outbreaks (e.g., Dengue) in Antigua and Barbuda.

It is expected that the implementation of these new technologies will greatly enhance the Integrated Vector Management (IVM) Strategy for the country and provide better real-time, evidence-based, targeted vector control operations.

This GIS training was facilitated by Mr. Rajesh Ragoo - Senior Technical Officer, Vector Borne Diseases Unit, and Ms. Jenna Indarsingh - CariVecNet Coordinator, CARPHA. Funding for this training is provided in part through the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Zika and Other Mosquito-Borne Diseases Project.

APUA marks 50th anniversary with Miss APUA Pageant and more

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is this week celebrating its 50th anniversary with various activities planned to mark the occasion.

The Authority is celebrating the anniversary under the theme 'Resilience, Innovation, Growth and Togetherness' and it kicks off with a church service taking place on Monday (today) at the Holy Family Cathedral at Michael's Mount.

One of the highlights of the activities is the return of the popular Miss APUA Pageant, which is returning

after a four-year break. The pageant takes place on Tuesday night at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds starting at 7:30 pm, with nine contestants taking part, representing the different units within the authority.

The contestants are; Tammisha Roberts - Miss Inet, Kimsha Manning - Miss Cash Collections, Rochelle Kirby - Miss Telecoms Installation & Repairs, Tayjah Shaw - Miss Data Processing, Daikoiya Thomas - Miss Corporate Communications, Kiarah Christian - Miss Statistics, N'Dea Joseph - Miss Customer Service, Vellicia

Francis - Miss Telecoms Support, and Veyella Peters - Miss Janitorial Services.

An APUA spokesman said, during this week the authority will be making donations to several charitable organisations and will also host customer appreciation activities at all its branches on Friday. Events will also take place in Barbuda.

Additionally, there will be staff centred events during this week, according to the spokesman. Other activities are planned for the remainder of the year.



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The Minister of Public Utilities, Board of Commissioners and Management wish to convey appreciation to the Government and People of Antigua & Barbuda, its Stakeholders, Past and Present Employees for their contributions to the growth and success of the Authority over the past five decades.



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

Celebrating 50 Years of Resilience, Innovation, Growth & Togetherness

ST. JOHN'S Antigua, July 3rd 2023 – The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) is proud to announce its 50th anniversary celebrations, marking five decades of dedicated service, remarkable achievements and unwavering commitment to the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Under the theme, “Resilience, Innovation, Growth & Togetherness,” APUA commemorates this significant milestone by reflecting on its rich history and looking ahead to a future of continued excellence.

Founded in 1973, APUA emerged as a groundbreaking entity following the merger between the Electricity, Water, and Telephone Departments. This merger, which took place on July 4th, laid the foundation for a dynamic and comprehensive utility provider that would serve as the backbone of the nation’s provision of essential services.

Over the past fifty (50) years, APUA has been instrumental in revolutionizing the provision of Electricity, Water, and Telecommunications services throughout Antigua and Barbuda as the state’s authorized public utility. To commemorate this momentous occasion, APUA has also implemented a series of company-wide internal activities since January 9th 2023.

Reflecting on this milestone, Mr. Esworth Martin, General Manager, stated, “After fifty years, APUA has experienced a major transformation. It has been revitalized and is now poised for significant growth. This was only made possible by the commitment, dedication, and loyalty of a vast number of Antiguan and Barbudans who would have graced her doors—the bastion and pride of indigenous ownership. Its Stakeholders must recognize its value to the quality of Antiguan life to enable its perpetual viability. Happy Birthday APUA!”

As APUA looks towards the future, the company is dedicated to the continued enhancement of its service offerings. APUA remains steadfast in providing first-world technological services, a robust and reliable electricity network, transitioning and adapting cleaner and resilient energy, and expanding its reverse osmosis water production and distribution network. APUA’s vision is to create a sustainable future, ensuring that the people of Antigua and Barbuda and their future generations continue to benefit from reliable, efficient and innovative utility services.

Join us in celebrating APUA’s 50th anniversary and the remarkable milestones achieved over the past half-century. Together, we can forge a future of Resilience, Innovation, Growth and Togetherness.

- END -

Fertilizers arrive from Morocco

The Kingdom of Morocco continues its benevolence to the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda as it makes another donation of fertilizers to the nation's farmers.

Chief Extension Officer, Owolabi Elabanjo said four containers, packed with fertilizers are to be cleared from the port today for distribution, to what he termed 'bona fide' farmers.

He noted that the fertilizers are to help with the production of a wide variety of vegetable crops. Some of the fertilizers will also be sent over to Barbuda for distribution to the farming community on the island.

The Kingdom of Morocco has been donating fertilizers to Antigua and Barbuda over a period of years.



Antigua Agronomics donates to S.R Olivia David Primary School in Bolans

A company in medicinal marijuana space donates to Bolans Primary

Antigua Agronomics, one of the companies licensed to operate in the medicinal marijuana space is making another charitable donation.

This time, the institution benefiting from this donation is the S.R. Olivia David Primary School, formerly the Bolans Primary School.

The company has donated two sets of football uniforms to the school's football team.

"These are complete sets of uniforms including jerseys, shorts, and socks.

"One set of uniforms is for home games, and the other, for away games," the Antigua Agronomics spokesman stated.

He said the company is doing this as part of its corporate responsibility to the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

"We believe that our role as a corporate entity, licensed to operate in Antigua and Barbuda, is to give back to the community in tangible ways.

"We see ourselves as investing in the country and helping to build stronger communities and a stronger nation," he remarked.

Senator Samantha Marshall also participated in the presentation exercise.

This week, the company will donate to the Fiennes Institute.

DEWS

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CARICOM warned it cannot be business as usual over the next 50 years

CMC - The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Assistant Secretary General, Joseph Cox, has warned the region that the next 50 years of the regional integration movement “certainly can’t be business as usual.”

“We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now and therefore have no time for procrastination or complacency. It is time for action grounded in strategic nimbleness, guided by pragmatism as optimized growth and development of the services sector is paramount,” Cox told a one-day conference on “Advancing the Services Agenda within CARICOM,” organized by the Antigua and Barbuda government.

Cox, the Assistant Secretary General - Economic Integration, Innovation & Development, told the event during his virtual address on Friday, that in contemplating the current dynamic within the region’s services sector “we must take cognizance of the fact that the sector is yet again at another inflexion point.

“However, we must be equally cognizant that cookie-cutter approaches are antithetical to the kind of nuanced re-engineering, required at the national level throughout the region for there to be an optimization of output for the services sector.”

But he said that this process requires transformational leadership and thought,

translated into deliberate action to effect the requisite adjustments to occasion meaningful change,” he said, noting that the regime for services is anchored in the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas, which is our collective reference point across the Community.”

Cox said industries such as tourism, the hospitality sector, health, construction, technology, and transport among others are at the backbone of the services sector in the region.

“We must also take account of the range of digital services that are now the staple of our everyday lives. Indeed, the business architecture has already been sufficiently transformed where ICT (Information, Communication Technology) is no longer deemed a mere support service, but a principal driver in the Post-COVID operating environment.”

The senior CARICOM public service official said this points to the need for increased emphasis to be placed on the operating ethos that currently obtains in the regional space and where necessary, the need for legislative and regulatory guidelines to be reviewed and strengthened to assure the modernization of the economies.

Meanwhile, Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to CARICOM, Dr. Clarence Henry, told the conference that it is amazing that as the

regional integration movement observes its 50th anniversary “there is no special award being given to workers in the vineyard.”

“We must correct this glaring omission,” Henry noted, that there should be created perhaps every two or three years, a special recognition for the hard, dedicated staff at the Guyana-based CARICOM Secretariat “who work under much pressure and difficult circumstances.”

“I applaud them for their unwavering stewardship. A person should receive such an award of recognition where the community acknowledges their contribution to building the community of our one Caribbean Communities. Many have come and left the stage, but we ought to remember them as well. The selection must be done utilizing agreed criteria and selected by a select committee,” he told the ceremony.



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Opinion



Tony and his Bajan pride

By Tony Deyal

Dedicated to the Barbados nation for being first in the line and, with The Gleaner, keeping the flag flying, the ball rolling and the pen beating the sword in every duel.

Even though “Bajan Pride” is a flour, I am full of it. The only thing I am not full of in Barbados is banks, which although not my cup of tea or any other kind of beverage for that matter, I can grin and beer it with the best. When I go to Barbados I always have a sense of homecoming.

On Tuesday, this column, which started in the Barbados Nation in 1993, celebrated its 30th birthday. Even though I had written columns in Canada for my university newspaper, and for both the Express and Guardian in Trinidad, the first article I wrote in Barbados was “Brian Lara: truly a blade apart” and it was accepted. I learned why afterwards. The executive editor of the newspaper, Roxanne Gibbs, who started the “ball” rolling, explained, “In the early ‘90s I was one of Brian Lara’s biggest fans. In fact, my friends called me the president of the Brian Lara Fan Club. I am not sure if Tony Deyal had wind of this and plotted his move accordingly. But in 1993 when he approached me about writing a column for the paper, the sample column he submitted was headlined, Brian Lara – A Blade

Apart. That’s all I needed. I loved the column.” In my case, I loved the country and, even more, so did my two children, Jasmine and Zubin (who were born there) and their Guyanese mother, Indranie. In fact, when someone in the kindergarten school that they went to in Trinidad told them that they were Indians they adamantly insisted, almost to the point of tears, “We are not Indians. We are Barbadians.”

Working in Barbados as the media communications advisor for the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO/WHO) was a learning experience for life. Interestingly, the first thing I found out was that a “ton” has nothing to do with weights and measures, but means that some cricketer has scored a century or 100 runs. In this case it was Lara. I learned that “unfair” is a verb in Barbados as in the example, “He unfaired me”, meaning, “he was unfair to me”. Even after 30 years, I have not yet been to the annual crop-over festival, “Cohobplot”, because I had promised myself that I would never to go to a show with a name which I cannot pronounce. I avoid the word “Kadooment” because I am still not sure how to pronounce it. I still love the way my Bajan friends pronounce the word commonly used to denote “an institution for the treatment of illness”. They say, “horse-spittle” and some hospitals in the countries



Tony Deyal

I’ve been to can win that accolade with flying colours.

PROPER USAGE

More than anything else I had to learn the proper usage and meanings of the words “above” and “below”. In my first visit to Cave Shepherd, the best known store in Broad Street, Barbados, I went to the ground-floor display of “T”-shirts and asked for a special souvenir as a birthday gift for my PAHO boss. The salesperson said that it was “above”. I took the escalator to the next floor and found only books, ladies garments and kitchen utensils. I later learned that she meant, “ahead” or “further on”. In Barbados you will find “Husbands” without wives, “Sixmens” (if one is not enough), and “Allmans”. You can discover “Hope” and “Friendship” but can’t have both at the same time. Or you can enjoy “Penny Hole”. “Featherbed Lane” is nearby.

At first, my column was named “Saturday’s Child” and I got enough jokes about how this big “show-and-show” man could be called a “child”. Then it was “New Man In Town”. However, after people got angry because they could not find or see the star Paul Newman, and asked how an Old Man like me could be called a “New” man, the column then became plain “Tony Deyal” who was always last seen somewhere, most likely creating, remembering or just imagining a scene.

The best known of those scenes, and the one that became my trademark, grew out of two things. The first was one of my favourite jokes about my being old. I am like a dog chasing a car – if I catch it, I can’t drive it. The other was my Mini Moke which I introduced to my readers in an early article, “Running amoke” with, “We in the Caribbean deal

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with our stresses and strains, our trials, travails and tribulations, the agonies and ecstasies of daily life each in our own particular, and often peculiar, ways. Some of us run a mile. Some run amok. I run a Moke - a Mini Moke. I use the verb 'run' in the strictly British sense as in 'Understandably, one runs a Bentley at Balmoral but when one is at Buckingham one runs the Rolls.' I am in Barbados and here no self-respecting Bajan runs a Moke. They might run from them, particularly given the way American tourists drive, but they never run them. In the first place Bajans do not consider Mokes to be cars." I once took mine to a garage for an oil-change and the mechanic looked at me, laughed and advised, "Sir, I suggest that you change the car and keep the oil."

WORRIED ME

What really worried me was being bitten by one of the big dogs that chased me and the car wherever I went. Barking furiously and ferociously, their teeth ready to grab me by my short and curly, they were definitely up to no good. Still, I was not as frightened by the dogs as by going to the hospital and explaining to the nurse that I was bitten by one or more. In my mind, she says, "Where did this happen, Sir?" I reply, "In my car." She then asks soothingly and sympathetically, "You mean your own dog bite you?" I say, "No. I was driving and this dog jumped

in and bit me." She does not understand this. She asks in astonishment, "But how this happen? It jump through the window?" I say, "No. It just jumped in and bit me." Not understanding, she asks, "Is it some kind of Dobermann or German shepherd?" I say, "No. It was a Pompek and I drive a Moke." She then asserts, "I thought you said you

were driving a car. A Moke is not a car."

Sadly, I replaced the Moke with a "real" car and ended up living in the Sugar Cane Breeding Station in Groves, Barbados, among the best and friendliest people I have ever met. However, after having two children in rapid succession, we agreed that there was some-

thing in the breeding station that was catching so we caught a flight out.

Tony Deyal was last seen responding to a young Barbadian salesman who was trying to sell him a condominium in Westmooring that was "a great investment for the future". He replied, "Son, at my age I don't even buy green bananas."



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ECCB records loss in last financial year

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) says it has recorded a net loss of \$54.5 million for the 2022 to 2023 financial year, a \$5.4 million increase over the previous financial year.

The ECCB stated this in its published Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Financial Year ended March 31, 2023.

The ECCB said the deteriorated performance was largely driven by significant losses on foreign investment securities as interest rates in the United States rose dramatically from near zero over the financial year.

The Governor of the ECCB, Timothy N. J. Antoine said the 2023 to 2024 financial year will be a 'bounce back' year for the Bank due to the projected slowdown or cessation of interest rate hikes by the US Federal Reserve, and elevated interest rates.

Governor Antoine confirmed the



Governor of the ECCB, Timothy N. J. Antoine.

Bank remains ever-more committed to advancing its strategic goals in support of its member countries, which continue to face an extremely challenging economic and policy environment.

During the 2022 to 2023 financial year, the ECCB advanced a number of key initiatives, guided by its 2022 to

2026 Strategic Plan.

Those included: the development of a Payment System Vision and Strategy for the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU); laying the groundwork for the establishment of an Office of Financial Market Con-

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Caribbean Airlines improves connectivity in the Eastern Caribbean

CMC - Caribbean Airlines has unveiled its exciting expansion into the Eastern Caribbean.

Starting July 24, the airline will add new non-stop services between Barbados and St Vincent, as well as St Lucia.

Additionally, there will be increased capacity to Dominica and Grenada, strengthening the carrier's commitment to the region's connectivity.

The Barbados to St Vincent route has been increased to 7 weekly services, in addition to 4 new weekly flights between Barbados and St Lucia. Direct St Lucia to St Vincent return flights will operate on Thursdays, making island-hopping a breeze.

The airline's ATR-72 fleet, comprising nine aircraft, will operate these routes. With these strategic additions, Caribbean



Airlines is bringing more convenience and seamless travel experiences to its valued customers.

Further, as part of Caribbean Airlines ongoing commitment to the Eastern Caribbean, starting from August 23, customers will enjoy new services between Trinidad, Dominica and Antigua on Wednesday and Sundays; and even more direct travel options

from Barbados to Ogle, Guyana. There will also be additional flights from Trinidad to St Vincent and Grenada, enhancing connectivity across the region.

CEO, Garvin Medera, expressed his enthusiasm for this expanded schedule, stating, "We are excited to progress our plans for regional connectivity. There continues to be a call for increased frequency and

capacity between Caribbean destinations, and by adjusting our strategies and route network to connect these destinations, we can provide more sustainable travel options for our customers."

Caribbean Airlines is the leading carrier in the region, and this expansion into the Eastern Caribbean further solidifies its growth trajectory. Customers

can look forward to more seamless travel and greater convenience, as Caribbean Airlines shapes the future of travel in the region.

All flights are open for sale and customers can visit www.caribbean-airlines.com for more details on the schedule, the latest updates and to complete bookings.

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duct; and continued strong surveillance and vigilance, which has resulted in the maintenance of resilience and stability of the ECCU financial sector.

The Bank also captured two prestigious international Central Banking awards: The Green Initiative Award for its Greening of the ECCB Campus Initiative, and the Communication Initiative of the Year Award for the production of its public

education programme – ECCB Connects.

Looking ahead, Governor Antoine calls for a 'Big Push' across the region. This 'Big Push' he says is a call to implement innovative and transformative policies and initiatives to double the size of the ECCU economy for the benefit of the people of the region. The elements of the Big Push are: Wealth Creation; Food and Nutrition Security; Energy Security; and Digital Transformation.

Haitian migrant vessel stopped near Turks and Caicos Islands

The interception of what is believed to be a Haitian vessel carrying irregular migrants was carried out on Saturday afternoon in a joint operation between the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Marine Branch and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force.

The 40 ft wooden vessel with approximately 189 Haitian nationals – 140 males including one minor and 49 females, were detained and passed to TCI Immigration Officers for processing.

Commissioner of Police Trevor Botting said: “The

Northern Caribbean Region is experiencing an increase in the number of vessels seeking to smuggle people into the Turks and Caicos Islands and Bahamas. So far in 2023, 21 vessels have been intercepted by the RT-CIPF Marine Branch with over 2,600 migrants being detained. The number of vessels and persons detained exceeds all previous year’s totals and we are just 6 months into 2023.

In response to this rising threat to our National Security, we are working in collaboration with our coun-



Interception of migrants near TCI

ins from the Bahamas and our partnership is strengthening the response to this threat both in respect of our individual jurisdictions and as a region. The RMDS LL

Smith was operating in TCI waters in support of the RT-CIPF Marine Branch and I am grateful to the crew of the RMBS LL Smith for their
cont'd on pg 17

Police investigating brazen daylight robbery on island of Tortola

Authorities in the British Virgin Islands say no stone will be left unturned in the search for the perpetrators behind a brazen daylight robbery at the C.B. Romney Tortola Pier Park.

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force is seeking witnesses to the robbery which took place around 2 pm on Saturday. According to reports, two persons dressed in all white were seen walking towards House of Luxury and shortly after running towards the parking lot discharging a firearm in the air.

No injuries were reported in the incident.

Several persons were in or around the Pier Park at the time of the incident. Those who witnessed the robbery are being asked to provide any information, no matter how insignificant it may seem, to the RVIPF Intelligence Unit.

Meanwhile, members of the Na-



Robbery at C.B. Romney Tortola Pier Park. (Photo via: RVIPF).

tional Security Council (NSC) have been briefed by the Commissioner of Police on Saturday’s armed robbery at the Cyril B. Romney Tortola Pier Park.

The NSC said it is thankful to God that no one was physically injured

during the incident.

“The NSC wishes to assure everyone that the security of the people of the Virgin Islands is of paramount concern and that no stone will be left unturned in bringing the perpetrators of this crime to justice.”

The NSC is appealing to anyone with information on those responsible for this violent act to contact the Police with tips at Crime Stoppers and/or the confidential and untraceable hotline 800-8477[TIPS], 800-847-8477 and 368-9339.

Meanwhile, there will be an increased presence at the Pier Park and at other events taking place in the Territory this weekend to help ensure the public’s safety.

Tortola Pier Park is a colonial-styled cruise and shopping facility, located in the heart of the island of Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

Guyana: School girl who accused minister of rape withdraws allegations

Police on Friday night confirmed that a 16-year-old school girl who had accused Local Government Minister, Nigel Dharamlall, of rape, has said she no longer wants to pursue the matter.

Head of the Criminal Investigations Department, Assistant Commissioner Wendell Blanhum, in a brief statement said “at this time, I am only able to confirm that the alleged victim has given a ‘no further action statement’ to investigators in the presence of one of her parents and a representative from the ChildCare Agency.

“The file is currently being prepared to be sent to the DPP (Director of Public Prosecutions) for further legal advice,” Blanhum added.

Media reports here said that on Friday, the 16-year-old was taken for a round of forensic interviews with police and other authorities at Blossom Inc, the leading child advocacy body in Guyana.

The reports said afterwards “she was unnecessary



Nigel Dharamlall.

ily shunted to another advocacy group-Child Link to answer the same questions she had been asked during several rounds of questioning”.

Dharamlall, an executive member of the ruling People’s Progressive Party (PPP), who is on one million dollars (one Guyana dollar=US\$0.004 cents) bail, has publicly denied all accusations.

Police had arrested the minister, who has since gone on leave to facilitate the probe, when he presented himself at the Brickdam Police Station in the com-

pany of his attorney, Nigel Hughes, last week Monday night.

There have been calls from the opposition, as well as several civil society organisations including the Amerindian Peoples Association and Red Thread, for Dharamlall to be removed from public office,.

Earlier this week, Attorney General, Anil Nandlall, said the embattled minister, is innocent until proven guilty as the DPP called on the police to continue their investigations into the rape allegations.

“Mr Dharamlall as a

citizen is accorded certain constitutional and legal safeguards by the highest of our laws – the Constitution. He is accorded certain facilities, he is presumed innocent like every other citizen of this country, and the investigative arm of the State must be allowed, free from any form of pressure to conduct its investigatory role and functions,” Nandlall said on his televised programme ‘Issues in the News’ on Tuesday night.

The Office of the DPP, in a statement, said that it will not be intimidated by individuals who profess to want justice in a criminal matter even while a police file is being given due legal attention.

It had urged the public to desist from politicizing an alleged criminal offence, adding “all statements or evidence must be considered before legal advice is given to the Guyana Police Force.”

cont’d from pg 16

diligence and professionalism in executing today’s intercepting and to the Government of the Bahamas and the Commodore of the RBDF for their continued and committed partnership in protecting our territorial waters and Border.

“As ever, I pass on my thanks to the RT-CIPF Marine Branch Team for their continued outstanding work in dealing with the threats of people smuggling at sea. I cannot speak more highly of their dedication and

commitment to the task of protecting the TCI border.

“All of the agencies on the TCI remain committed to meeting the current threats of Irregular Migration

“This Operation was executed under the shiprider agreement signed by both countries in 2022 and highlights the continued collaboration and partnership the two countries share, together we are stronger in the defence of our countries through delivering our shared objectives.”

Zulu King Misuzulu kaZwelithini treated for suspected poisoning - aide

By **Farouk Chothia**

South Africa's Zulu King Misuzulu kaZwelithini is being treated in hospital for suspected poisoning, his traditional prime minister has said.

The king sought medical attention in Eswatini as he is uncomfortable with seeking treatment in South Africa, Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi added.

This follows the sudden death of one of his senior advisers, also of suspected poisoning, Chief Buthelezi said.

However, the king's official spokesman said he was in "perfect health".

The monarch was currently not in hospital, and "unnecessary panic" should not be created, Prince Africa Zulu said, in what appeared to be an indirect reference to Chief Buthelezi's statement.

King Misuzulu was crowned in front of thousands of his subjects last October.

But a vicious power struggle has been raging within the royal family over the 48-year-old's accession, and tensions have also recently surfaced between the monarch and Chief Buthelezi.

The Zulu king does not have formal political power and the monarch's role within broader South African society is largely ceremonial, but he remains hugely influential with a yearly government-funded budget of several million dollars.

A faction within the family is challenging his claim to the throne in court, insisting that he is not the rightful heir of his late father, King Goodwill Zwelithini.

They insist that another son of the late king, Prince Simakade, should be the monarch.



The monarch has been at the centre of bitter feuds within the royal family.

King Zwelithini had six wives and at least 26 children.

His will has also been challenged in court by his first wife, Queen Sibongile Dlamini-Zulu, and her two daughters.

A court dismissed their case last year, but they said they would appeal against the ruling.

There is no suggestion that any members of the royal family are behind King Misuzulu's suspected poisoning.

The South African police have not yet commented on the claims.

In his statement, Chief Buthelezi said King Misuzulu's senior aide, Douglas Xaba who stayed with him, "passed on quite suddenly and that there are suspicions that he was poisoned".

"When His Majesty began to feel unwell, he suspected that he too may have been poisoned.

"He immediately sought out medical treatment in Eswatini. I am informed that His Majesty felt uncomfortable seeking treatment in South Africa, as his parents had both received treatment in South Africa and subsequently died," Chief Buthelezi

said. Chief Buthelezi added that while the king had recently appointed Prince Africa as the head of communications in his office, he, as the traditional prime minister, had an obligation to inform the Zulu nation of "this worrying situation".

"Our immediate concern is the King's wellbeing. We as the Zulu nation pray for His Majesty's full and swift recovery.

"Should there be any reason for further investigations, that will be attended to by the authorities," Chief Buthelezi said.

In his subsequent statement, Prince Africa said there appeared to be an "orchestrated agenda and a desperate narrative to communicate defamatory and baseless claims" about the king's health.

"Ultimately, this creates unnecessary panic and perceptions of instability in the Royal Crown," he added.

However, Prince Africa confirmed the monarch had undergone a thorough medical examination in Eswatini while visiting his uncle, King Mswati III.

cont'd on pg 19

Paris riots: Suburban mayor's wife hurt as rioters attack their home

Attackers in France tried to set fire to the home of a suburban Paris mayor's home overnight and fired rockets at the official's fleeing wife and children.

The incident has caused widespread shock and is being treated as attempted murder. Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne described it as intolerable.

Mayor Vincent Jeanbrun was not at home, but his wife suffered a broken leg and a child was also hurt.

France has seen violent protests after police killed a teenager on Tuesday.

The suspects in the incident in L'Hay-les-Roses, south of Paris, have not been identified.

Mr Jeanbrun said he had been in his office overseeing the situation when the attack on his home occurred at 01:30 (23:30 GMT on Saturday).

The attackers used a car to ram through the gates of



Mayor Vincent Jeanbrun (L) called it "a murder attempt of unspeakable cowardice".

their home before setting the vehicle on fire so that the blaze would spread to the house, the mayor said in a statement.

Then when his wife, Melanie Nowak, tried to flee with the children, aged five and seven, they were attacked with firework rockets.

Mayor Jeanbrun called it "a murder attempt of unspeakable cowardice".

"A line has been crossed," he said.

"If my priority today is to take care of my family, my determination to protect and serve the Republic is greater than before," he added.

The mayor, from the centre-right Les Republicains, has received widespread support from across the French political spectrum.

The public prosecutor's office has started an investigation for attempted murder.

The attack on Mayor Jeanbrun's home came during the fifth night of violent protests across France over the death of Nahel M, 17, who was shot by police at point-blank range during a traffic stop.

Around 45,000 police were deployed in France on Saturday to control the protests and the interior ministry said Saturday night had been quieter, with fewer arrests overall.

However there were more than 700 arrests across the country and more than 800 fires were lit by rioters during the course of the night, officials said.

Mr Jeanbrun had urged the French government earlier to impose a state of emergency in response to the riots, which President Emmanuel Macron has so far declined to do.

The French leader is due to meet with top officials later to discuss the crisis.

cont'd from pg 18

The checks were carried out because of "our current times of pandemics such as Covid-19 and other dangerous ailments", and also "to mitigate against any untimely eventuality, given the reports of Mr Xaba's sudden passing".

King Misuzulu's accession to the throne was sooner than expected, and he has been at the centre of palace intrigue.

His father died during the Covid pandemic in March 2021 of diabe-

tes-related complications.

He was the Zulu nation's longest-reigning monarch, having served on the throne for almost 50 years.

King Misuzulu's mother, Queen Mantfombi Dlamini-Zulu, then became the regent, but she died a month later.

She was the sister of Eswatini's King Mswati III - Africa's only absolute monarch.

At the time, Chief Buthelezi dismissed rumours that she had been poisoned.

He had backed King Misuzulu's accession to the throne after her death, but recent reports suggested that sharp differences had emerged between the two.

It followed a dispute over the chairmanship of the Ingonyama Trust Board, which manages vast tracts of land controlled by the monarch.

The king appointed Chief Thanduyise Mzimela as its chairman, but this was opposed by Chief Buthelezi who felt he was inexperienced for the post, according to local media.

Sweden Quran burning: Iran won't send ambassador to Stockholm over incident

By Antoinette Radford

The Iranian government has refused to send a new ambassador to Sweden after a protester burned a Quran outside a mosque in the capital, Stockholm.

An Iraqi-born refugee burnt the Muslim holy book outside a mosque on the first day of Eid al-Adha.

Swedish police charged him with agitation against an ethnic or national group last week.

Iran's foreign minister, Hossein Amirabdollahian, blamed the government for granting him the protest permit.

Plans to burn copies of the Quran have sparked riots in Sweden in recent months. Police had rejected similar protest applications recently, but courts then ruled that they should be allowed on freedom of expression grounds.

Muslims consider the Quran the sacred word of God and view any intentional damage or show of disrespect towards it as deeply offensive.

Mr Amirabdollahian said despite appointing a new ambassador, Tehran would not be sending them.

"The process of dispatching them has been held off due to the Swedish government's issuing



of a permit to desecrate the Holy Koran", he said in a statement on Twitter.

Iraq's foreign ministry also asked its Swedish counterpart to extradite the man who burned the Quran. They argued that since he still holds an Iraqi citizenship, he should face trial in Baghdad.

After the incident, thousands of Iraqi protesters raided the Swedish embassy in Iraq at the instigation of the the populist Shia cleric, Moqtaha al-Sadr. They left after fifteen minutes when a security force was deployed.

The prime minister of Sweden, Ulf Kristersson, denounced the raid on the embassy, but also said it was time for Sweden to re-

flect on its identity.

"It is of course completely unacceptable for people to unlawfully break into Swedish embassies in other countries. I think we also need to reflect in Sweden. It is a serious security situation, there is no reason to insult other people," he said.

Following an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah on Sunday, the Saudi-based organisation called for member states to take "unified and collective measures" to stop countries burning copies of Islam's holy book.

The secretary general, Houssein Ibrahim Taha said the burnings of the Quran were "not mere ordinary Is-

lamophobia incidents" and urged countries worldwide to adhere to international law "which clearly prohibits any advocacy of religious hatred".

Morocco, Kuwait, Jordan and the United Arab Emirates - among other countries - have recalled their ambassadors to Stockholm following the incident.

It has also sparked anger in other Muslim-majority nations including Turkey - a Nato member which has a say over whether Sweden also gains membership.

On Wednesday, the country's foreign minister tweeted that it was "unacceptable to allow anti-Islam protests in the name of freedom of expression".

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Bascombe appointed new CWI Director of Cricket

At a Board of Directors meeting on Friday, 30 June 2023, at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua, Cricket West Indies (CWI) appointed Miles Bascombe as the new Director of Cricket, on a three-year contract. Bascombe will take over from Jimmy Adams, who had been in the role for the past six years.

Bascombe, 37, played one T20 International for the West Indies in 2011 and played first-class cricket between 2007 and 2017, for both the Windward Islands and the Combined Campuses and Colleges. He is a graduate of the University of the West Indies with both Bachelor's and Master's degrees and is a certified coach.

Bascombe, who was a CWI Men's Selector be-

tween 2019 and 2021, has been the Technical Director at the Windward Islands Cricket Board over the last two years.

Under his technical leadership, there have been a remarkable turnaround of fortunes for both male and female cricket across different levels, including an unbeaten first-class season in 2023.

Johnny Grave, CWI Chief Executive Officer said, "Following a thorough recruitment process, Miles stood out to the panel with his skills, experience and intimate knowledge of our cricket system, especially at Territorial Board level.

"His passion and understanding of the game at all levels are outstanding. He is a critical thinker with a strong analytical and stra-



Miles Bascombe has been appointed as the new Director of Cricket at Cricket West Indies. (CWI Media)

tegic mindset, which will be hugely beneficial to us as we embark on formulating our new 4-year strategic plan.

"I have no doubt he will hit the ground running and will relish the challenge before us to develop higher

cont'd on pg 23

Teams to contest Thursday League semi-finals decided

The semi-finalists for the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Vivian Richards Thursday League have been decided.

The decision was made after last Thursday's abandonment of the final round of matches in the preliminary phase due to wet pitches caused by overnight rain.

This has resulted in the top four teams that were leading the competition prior to the last round of matches in the preliminary phase advancing to

the semi-finals.

The Liberta Black Hawks, Mahico, the Pigotts Crushers, and the Rising Sun Spartans are the semi-finalists.

The Liberta Black Hawks and Mahico finished as joint leaders at the end of the preliminary round of matches with 16 points each, while the Pigotts Crushers and the Rising Sun Spartans ended with 12 points each.

The other two teams that contested the T20 competition, the All Saints Pythons and the defending champion

Police, were eliminated.

The All Saints Pythons and the Police ended their campaigns at the bottom of the standings with eight points apiece.

The Liberta Black Hawks and Mahico will host the two Thursday League semi-finals on July 6th.

The Liberta Black Hawks will entertain the Rising Sun Spartans at Ball Beef in Liberta, while Mahico will host the Pigotts Crushers at the Clare Hall playing field.

West Indies Women win ODI series against Ireland

GROS ISLET, St. Lucia- The West Indies Women took the three-match CG United One Day International series 2-0, defeating Ireland by six wickets in the final match at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Saturday.

Winning the toss and batting first, the Irish women posted 203 all out in 50 overs. The star of the Irish innings was Gaby Lewis, who got stranded on 95 not out, off 121 deliveries.

Lewis shared a 50-run partnership with Cara Murray which was crucial in steadying the ship after Ireland lost quick wickets. Afy Fletcher with three for 37, and Shamilia Connell with two for 16 kept the Irish batters in check.

In response, the West Indies Women started their innings shakily, losing a few early wickets. However, it was Stafanie Taylor, who once again rescued her side with an unbeaten 79.

Taylor, who notched



The players of the West Indies women's team celebrate with the trophy after winning the ODI series against Ireland at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Saturday, July 1st, 2023. (CWI Media)

her 40th ODI half-century, showcased her experience and composure in a challenging situation, constructing her innings carefully.

Taylor found a reliable partner in Chinelle Henry, who carried on her good form from the first ODI, hitting 53 not out, her second consecutive half-century. Together, they put on a match-winning 104-run partnership, steering their

team to a comfortable victory with 8.4 overs to spare.

This was captain Hayley Matthews first series win and she told CWI Media, "I'm happy that we were able to get over the line in a series that we were looking to dominate.

"We earned valuable ICC Women's Championship points, Stafanie is back in form and Chinelle is coming into her own along with

debutants from our youngsters, I'd say those are some serious positives we can take away from this series.

"We all knew the potential Chinelle has and what we have been expecting from her, it's great to see her scoring runs and I know there's more to come."

The Player of the Match was awarded to Stafanie Taylor for her outstanding knock of 79 not out under pressure, while the Player of the Series was given to Hayley Matthews for her all-round performance.

The two teams will now switch to the shorter format when the three-match T20 International series starts tomorrow Tuesday at the same venue. All matches will start at 5 pm Eastern Caribbean time (4 pm Jamaica time).

cont'd from pg 22

standards and better structures within our cricket system."

Miles Bascombe said, "West Indies Cricket is at a critical stage with an urgent need to improve performances. We have made significant progress with establishing a central High-Performance system that now needs to be rolled out across all of our Territories.

"I am looking forward to working as a

member of the CWI senior leadership team and closely with the Territorial Boards to bring about the necessary improvements that I am confident will lead to more success by implementing a robust system based on achieving world-class standards and by driving a winning culture."

CWI High Performance Manager, Graeme West, will act as the interim Director of Cricket until Bascombe takes up his new role on 1st August, 2023.

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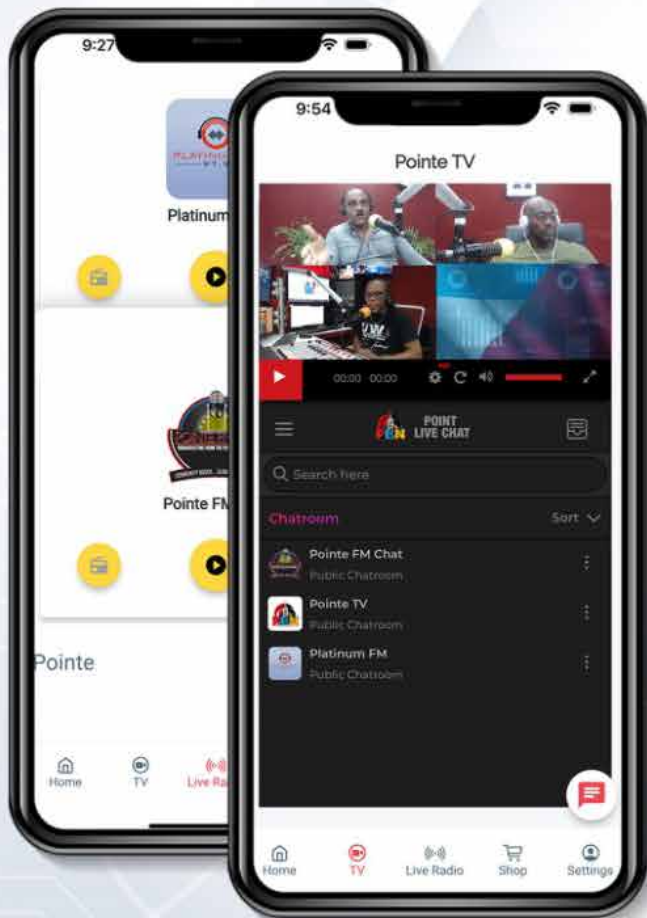


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Spanish Heat and Stingerz claim wins in ABBA league

The Spanish Heat and the Northside Stingerz recorded wins when the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division One league resumed at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday night.

The Spanish Heat claimed their second win in nine encounters by snatching a two-point victory over the Flyers in the second game of a double-header.

Jesus Reyes shot a game-high 15 points and snatched six rebounds to lead the Spanish Heat to their 66-64 victory against the Flyers.

In support, Israel Pulinario grabbed 22 rebounds and sank 12 points; Steven Matthew had 11 points, eight rebounds, and six assists; and Gabriel Perez chipped in with 11 points for the Spanish Heat.

Selassie Brathwaite scored 14 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Jabari Williams snatched 12 rebounds and converted 11 points; and T-Shawn Lewis contributed 10 points for the Flyers, who lost for the third time in eight games.

The Stingerz surged to their ninth win in 10 encounters by trouncing the Braves by 40 points in the opening affair following a two-week break to facilitate the senior national team's preparation and participation in the FIBA AmeriCup



The Spanish Heat basketball team

2025 Pre-Qualifiers in Nicaragua.

Point guard Jayden Andrew produced a game-high 21 points with nine assists and seven rebounds to lead the Stingerz to their emphatic 108-68 drubbing of the Braves.

He was well supported by Keroi Lee, who snapped up 23 rebounds and sank 16 points; Jamine Charles, with 15 points and nine rebounds; and Donte Trimmingham, with 15 points and eight rebounds.

Tequan Brodie contributed 15 points and five rebounds, and Devorn Benjamin chipped in with 14 points and six rebounds for the Stingerz.

Tamraj Stuart produced 15 points, nine rebounds, and five steals, and Shaheim Omarde had 14 points and seven rebounds for the Braves, who lost for the eighth time in 10 encounters.

Meanwhile, the national basketball association's inaugural Kemba Walker Summer Camp will commence with a special orientation session at the JSC Sports Complex today (Monday, July 3rd), at 5 pm.

In collaboration with professional basketball star Kemba Walker and his team, the camp will run from July 3rd to July 28th at JSC Sports Complex.

The Kemba Walker Fu-

ture Stars Summer Camp is being held for aspiring youth basketball players aged ten (10) to nineteen (19) to provide a platform for their skill development and growth.

Kemba Walker, a four-time NBA All-Star, has deep roots in Antiguan heritage. Born to Kenya Walker, a former national basketball player from Barbuda, and Andrea Walker from St. Croix, he has achieved remarkable success in his basketball career.

Walker, who was selected ninth overall by the Charlotte Bobcats in the 2011 NBA draft, has also played for the Boston Celtics, the New York Knicks, and the Dallas Mavericks.



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West Indies fail to qualify for 2023 World Cup after losing to Scotland

Harare, Zimbabwe – The West Indies are out of contention for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2023, after losing to Scotland in their first Super Six match-up of the Qualifier tournament.

Defending a modest total of 181, the West Indies were not able to contain the Scottish, who won quite easily by seven wickets with 39 balls to spare.

After being put in to bat on a tricky Harare Sports Club surface, the Men in Maroon were unable to effectively navigate the new ball, losing their first three wickets within 6.5 overs.

Captain Shai Hope (13 from 16 balls) and Nicholas Pooran (21 from 43 balls) put up some resistance, with a partnership of 30 runs, before the former was caught behind in the 13th over.

The highlight of the innings came via the seventh wicket partnership between Jason Holder (45 from 79 balls) and Romario Shepherd (36 from 43 balls). They momentarily steadied the West Indies' innings, putting 77 runs on the board.

However, once that partnership was broken, wickets kept falling at regular intervals and the West Indies



The West Indies team players leave the field after losing to Scotland in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifiers in Harare, Zimbabwe, on Saturday, July 1st, 2023. (CWI Media)

were only able to get a score of 181, before being bowled out with 6.1 overs left in the innings.

The standout bowler for Scotland was Brandon McMullen, who bowled nine overs on the trot at the beginning of the innings and picked up three for 32. He was ably assisted by Chris Sole (2-43), Mark Watt (2-25) and leg-spinner, Chris Greaves (2-30).

The West Indies defense of the low total started as good as possible, with opener

Christopher McBride falling on the first ball of the innings, clipping a low full toss from Jason Holder to Kevin Sinclair at mid-on.

However, wickets were difficult to come by thereafter, with wicketkeeper Matthew Cross (74 from 107 balls) and McMullen (69 from 106 balls) putting on a partnership of 125 runs.

Eventually, captain Richard Berrington (13 from 14 balls) joined Cross at the crease to see the Scottish to victory at 185 for three.

Speaking to CWI Media after the match, Hope said, "Firstly, we need to identify the areas in which we need to improve and do so quickly."

He continued, "collectively, we didn't play our best cricket and we understand that. We need to move on from here."

With Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka currently on six points each, the loss means that the West Indies cannot earn a spot at the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup to be played in India in October and November.

The West Indies will play Oman on Wednesday, 5th July, and Sri Lanka on Friday, 7th July, to close out their ICC World Cup qualifying campaign.

cont'd from pg 28

playing field in All Saints Village.

The Pythons crashed to 33 all out in 17.3 overs after they were asked to bat first. Demari Benta picked up three wickets for five runs, Tyree Moore had three

wickets for 10 runs, and Jared JonBaptiste claimed two wickets for nine runs.

The Crushers then raced to victory at 35 without loss in just three overs, with Kadeem Henry hitting an unbeaten 25 off 12 balls.

Black Hawks make winning start to Super-40

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks have made a successful start in defense of their Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Championship.

The Black Hawks trounced the Wes Rising Sun Spartans by 147 runs at the Rising Sun playing field in one of four opening-round matches on Saturday.

Liberta Black Hawks made 259 for nine off their 40 overs after they lost the toss and were asked to bat first. Amahl Nathaniel slammed 74 off 45 balls with seven fours and four sixes, and fellow opener Kofi James struck 41 off 31 deliveries with five fours.

Michael Harilall claimed two for 42, Owen Graham had two for 47, and Spartans' skipper Kerry Mentore cap-



Deran Benta

tured two for 66.

The Spartans were then dismissed for 112 in 28.5 overs. Elvis Weaver Jr. snapped up three for 20, leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. bagged three for 20, and James took two wickets for seven runs with his right-arm off-spin.

Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles, Empire Nation, and Pigotts Crushers also recorded wins in the opening round of matches.

The Golden Eagles soared past the Bolans Blasters by 98 runs at the Bethesda playing field. Set to score 200 runs to win, the Blasters were bowled out for 101 in 23.3 overs.

Middle-order batsman Omar Francis struck 48 off 60 balls and was the only Blasters' player to reach double figures. Mekali Tonge grabbed three for 18, Chad Walsh snatched three for 20, and Oshale Simon took two for 29.

The Golden Eagles made 199 for six off 31 overs after losing the toss



Amahl Nathaniel

and being sent in to bat. Middle-order batsman Deran Benta slammed 59 off 56 balls, and opener Stevel Rodney cracked 55 off 65 deliveries.

Morton Browne took two for 27, Martin Caesar picked up two for 28, and Dwayne Fordyce had two for 32.

The Empire Nation beat the New Winthorpes Lions by 10 wickets at the New Winthorpes playing field. The Lions, who were sent in to bat, crashed to 59 all out in 18.4 overs.

Tyrone Williams Jr. snapped up five wickets for 10 runs, and teenager J'Quan Athanaze grabbed three wickets for 11 runs.

Another teenager, opener Tanez Francis, hit 16 not out, and Williams hammered an unbeaten 34 off 27 balls to propel the Empire Nation to victory at 60 without loss in eight overs.

The Pigotts Crushers also romped to a 10-wicket win against the All Saints Pythons at the Mack Pond

cont'd on pg 27



Tyrone Williams Jr