

GREENE: CARICOM HAS SERVED US WELL

Story on Page 2



Local News



Foreign Minister Greene: CARICOM has served us well

Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene has said that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) has served the region well.

Speaking on a special radio programme on Pointe FM to commemorate 50 years of CARICOM, Greene said there is much for the region to celebrate with the achievements of the regional grouping over the last fifty years.

One of the major achievements has been the Caribbean Examination Council (CXC) the regionally managed and operated secondary school leaving examinations.

“Those of us who did GCE (British exams), when the time came for CXC,



Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene

those who were of the Caribbean integration lineage and who always wanted what was best for the region, were very happy to finally get rid of the British exams and have fashioned exams by Caribbean people for Caribbean people,” he remarked.

Greene noted that at this CARICOM’s 50th anniversary,

the time has come for there to be an assessment of the CXC exams and to determine their practical value to the region’s continued growth and development.

“If you ask me, I will tell you that too much value is placed on the number of subjects, as opposed to the value of these subjects to regional development. Back

then if a child left school with six subjects he/she would have been considered bright. Today if you don’t have 23 subjects you are not considered bright,” Greene observed.

Despite this, Greene wants the region to celebrate the fact that it has moved away from British exams to install exams written and administered by Caribbean people. Additionally, we should also be proud of the global recognition that the CXC exams have attained.

“We must also note that Caribbean students are given high recognition wherever they go and whatever institution they attend based on the value of the regional exams,” he revealed.

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3rd July 2023

Challenging Kelvin Simon to a Public Debate in St Mary's South

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 Representatives, 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, emphasising 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 organised 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.

-End-



Local News

Prime Minister Browne holds bilateral meetings in the margins of the CARICOM Summit

Prime Minister Gaston Browne used the opportunity of being in Trinidad and Tobago for the CARICOM Summit, to hold a series of bilateral meetings.

The first meeting was with a delegation from the People's Republic of China (PRC), led by Her Excellency Hua Chunying, Assistant Foreign Minister, and included Wang Wei, Deputy Director General for Latin American and Caribbean Affairs, and Xu Jian, Counselor and Director for Latin American and Caribbean Affairs.

The Assistant Foreign Minister underscored Antigua and Barbuda as a most reliable partner and a very close friend. She told Prime Minister Browne that the People's Republic

of China "appreciates Antigua and Barbuda adhering to the One China policy." "We seek your unwavering commitment to advocate this principle within the CARICOM fraternity," she said. In response, Prime Minister Browne thanked the Chinese Delegation and requested that they communicate with President Xi Jinping, the Country's deep appreciation for the continued financial and technical development support given to Antigua and Barbuda.

Assistant Foreign Minister Chunying advised that the PRC will be accelerating arrangements to have the start of construction of the housing project in Booby Alley very shortly, to which Prime Minister Browne expressed his appreciation, given the time that the former residents of the community have been waiting for this development.

Additionally, she disclosed that the People's Republic of China will be making available one million USD for disaster relief, to be shared among member states of CARICOM, and by the level of need in those countries. This, she described, as a goodwill gesture and expression of their commitment to more cooperation with Caribbean countries. Moreover, Chunying mentioned that the People's Republic of China will also support the 4th International SIDS Conference to be hosted by Antigua and Barbuda next year.

There were also discussions on a state visit to China by Prime Minister Browne during the course of this year, perhaps at the time of a Trade Expo to be held in Shanghai in November. Prime Minister Browne welcomed this



PM Browne greets PRC's Assistant Foreign Minister Chunying

news and indicated that Antigua and Barbuda will attend and participate.

Among the incentives being offered to CARICOM countries to encourage their participation in the Trade Expo are free shipping and accommodation.

Following this exchange, Prime Minister Browne also had the opportunity to meet with Sarah Cleveland, jurist and US candidate for a seat at the International Court of Justice.

The Prime Minister was impressed with her excellent credentials and noted that Antigua and Barbuda is willing to support her candidature, trusting that she will do an excellent job, once in the position.



PM Browne also greets US candidate for International Court of Justice, Sarah Cleveland

Non-communicable diseases; a leading cause of death and of early death

The Ministry of Health has released figures that confirm what has been stated for many years; chronic non-communicable diseases are a leading cause of death and they also lead to an early death.

“NCDs (non-communicable diseases) are a major problem in Antigua and Barbuda. In 2020 among all deaths reported in the country which counts for 490 deaths, a total of 83 deaths occurred before the age of 70 years due to NCDs,” according to a statement from the Ministry.

In keeping with its commitment, the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation, and the En-

vironment, in conjunction with the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), is planning to undertake a STEPS Survey, which is a Non-Communicable Diseases Risk factor population-based survey, during the period August 9th to October 31st, 2023.

Antigua STEPS survey is the first nationally representative survey to collect comprehensive information on NCDs in Antigua and Barbuda. It will provide essential information on key indicators, for non-communicable diseases for persons aged 18-69 years.

This survey also has the potential for data collected, to support/target

3.4 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—a one-third reduction in premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by 2030.

A PAHO report said chronic non-communicable diseases are the number one cause of death and disability worldwide. 4.1 million people die each year worldwide from NCDs, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally.

Each year 2.2 million people in the region of the Americas die from an NCD between the ages of 30 to 69. Over 85% of these premature deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Horrific crash leaves one road fatality

A man in his 30s was pronounced dead at the Mount St. Johns Medical Centre (MSJMC), on Monday afternoon, following a horrific vehicular crash in Urlings. Three other people who were in the car are now nursing injuries, in hospital.

The crash happened shortly before 1:30 pm when the driver apparently lost control of the white car, which slammed into a lamp post. The Emergency Medical Services received the call at 1:22 pm, mobilized two ambulances and a rapid response vehicle within two minutes, and arrived on the scene at 1:39 pm.

CPR was performed on the male in his 30s who was found unresponsive, with major chest injuries. He was quickly rushed to the hospital by the EMS but was later pronounced dead.

Three other occupants of the car, a 40-year-old man and two women, aged 70 and 53, were also rushed to hospital with various injuries, including cuts and bruises.

One of the women was reportedly in a semi-conscious state.



Local News



Judge to make a ruling in Election Petition case on Wednesday

High Court Judge, Justice Jan Drysdale will deliver her decision this Wednesday, on whether the election petition against former St Mary's South Member of Parliament, Kelvin Simon should proceed. The judge heard arguments on Monday morning, from At-

torney Hugh Marshall Jr., representing petitioner Casworth Aaron, and Kendrickson Kentish, who spoke on behalf of the respondent, Kelvin Simon.

The petitioner is asking the court to declare that Simon was invalidly nominated and that the votes he received at

the January 18 elections be discarded.

The main issues argued this morning were whether the petition is moot now that Simon has resigned from Parliament, and whether the court can and should proceed with the matter, even if it is moot.

Sir Gerald's letter to Kelvin Simon

Mr. Kelvin Simon
Bolans
Parish of St. Mary
Antigua and Barbuda

30th June 2023

Dear Sir,

I refer to yours of 13th June, 2023, requesting that I reconsider my refusal to accept your resignation, by letter dated June 7, 2023. After a careful study of sections 125(1) (b) and (2), I have come to the conclusion that resignations pursuant to these sections are "at large." Consequently, your resignation is automatic and does not require acceptance by the Speaker. It should be noted also that section 125 of the Constitution is mirrored in all of the Constitutions of the States comprising the OECS, and resignations in those States are also "at large" and automatic.

My research further discloses that, unlike these Constitutions, the laws governing resignations from the Parliaments of the United Kingdom, Canada, (and apparently other Commonwealth jurisdictions) do not permit resignations of their Members "at large" and in the case of the UK Parliament at all. Indeed, the laws of Canada do not allow resignations of a Member, while an Election petition is in existence in which that Member is a respondent.

While I accept the Constitutional position, I have grave concerns, as to the practical consequences of the present situation. You have resigned your seat in Parliament in order to bring an Election Petition in which you are a Respondent to an end, and to facilitate that closure, you have filed an application before the High Court to have those proceedings declared moot. One is left to wonder if you and your legal team were not confident of the Court deciding in your favour.

We as thoughtful Antiguan must take note, that if this type of political chicanery is constitutionally permissible then unscrupulous politicians and Members of our Parliament can very easily manipulate resignations in such a manner as to create Constitutional crises, including the removal of a sitting Government, dissolution of Parliament, and other parliamentary chaos. This could hardly have been the intention of the framers of the Constitution and what we have in Antigua is a lacuna in the Constitution, and I may add, so do the other Constitutions with similar provisions.

As a consequence, I consider it my duty as Speaker, and as a lawyer of long standing to prepare and publish a legal opinion in respect of the above, the same to be distributed to the Executive, the Parliament, the media, and the body politic, for public discussion, and possibly reform of section 125. I am confident, that, if not addressed, there will be a constitutional crises of major proportions in the not too distant future.

Very truly yours,
Sir Gerald A. Watt, KCN, KC
Speaker of the House of Representatives

c.c. Hon. Gaston Browne – Prime Minister
Hon. Jamale Pringle – Leader of the Opposition
Hon. Steadroy Benjamin – Attorney General

Ministry of Trade urges banks to notify consumers before implementing fees

The Ministry of Trade has issued an alert to banks and other financial institutions and consumers, regarding the need for consumers to be notified before being charged any fees.

Under the 1985 UN Resolution adopting Guidelines for Consumer Protection and the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas (Cap 8. Article 184), the consumer has a right to information, education, and choice. Banks and other financial institutions must inform consumers of new or increased charges and explain these charges, so consumers can develop a better understanding, allowing consumers to terminate the service if they do not agree with the fees, before being charged.

According to the Ministry of Trade, many consumers have made enquires with the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division after receiving new or increased bank charges without prior notification. After contacting their banks, consumers often received insufficient explanations regarding the charges.

“We strongly recommend that banks and other financial institutions provide written notification of any pending new charges or increases in charges directly to a consumer, at least 30 days before the charge is implemented. This would give the consumer time to

seek information and make an informed decision on important financial matters,” the ministry said in a media release.

Considering banking fees, consumers should keep the following tips in mind:

1. Conduct research. Know the fees charged by the local banks and choose the one which best meets your needs.

2. Know the services for which your bank charges a fee. Find out the services that can be transacted online or at the ATM without a fee.

Keep a minimum balance. Maintain at least the minimum required balance in your account. This helps to avoid additional fees.

Don’t overspend. Know your account balances and track your transactions to avoid overdraft fees.

Download the Financial Institution’s App and sign up for email or text notifications to keep informed.

Request additional information and seek answers from your bank for clarity.

“As we celebrate 50 years of CARICOM on July 4th, we must keep at the forefront that the community is intended to integrate the economies and peoples within the region to promote trade and development. For this to be achieved, banks and other financial institutions must have functional

cooperation with consumers and businesses,” the release added.

It is advising consumers that financial decisions are not just another transaction. Many times, these are life-changing choices filled with uncertainty. If financial institutions are treating consumer interactions like purchases, then it’s time to shift your attention from completing transactions to having real connections.

“The Ministry hopes the

banks and other financial institutions will see this as an opportunity to engage consumers and make adequate information available to them, so they can acquire the knowledge and skill to be informed consumers, conscious of their rights and responsibilities,” the release noted.

The Ministry and Division stand ready to offer guidance to banks and consumers to ensure a more harmonious relationship between both parties.



National Solid Waste Management Authority
 Sir George Walter Highway
 Tel: (268) 562-1347/8
 Email: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag

July 3rd, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Authority wishes to inform the general public that the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is the agency mandated by law to collect, transport, and dispose of solid waste in Antigua and Barbuda.

Due to operational challenges faced by the Authority, there have been periodic delays. Therefore, the areas affected are as follows:

- Fitches Creek
- Pigotts

The National Solid Waste Management Authority wishes to advise private citizens that if there is a delay or missed collection of their residential waste services, to contact the Authority via the hotline number 562-1347. Once alerted, a prompt response will follow for the collection.

Working In Partnership for a Cleaner Antigua And Barbuda”



The National Solid Waste Management Authority

Local News



Local businesswoman vows to re-open restaurant after robbery

The owner and operator of the Fox House Restaurant near Valley Church vows to reopen the business following a robbery that has crippled her operations, at least temporarily.

Adela Fox, commonly called Lady Fox, said she closed and secured the restaurant, as usual, on Saturday night around 10:00 pm

and when her staff turned up for work on Sunday morning, they discovered that the restaurant was burgled and five of her heavy-duty refrigerators were stolen.

Fox took to social media to express her disgust at what she described as an attack on “a black-owned business.” She said she felt ‘violated’ by the act, as not

only were the refrigerators missing, but there was vandalism committed against the business with various items strewn about the floor of the restaurant.

One estimate put the losses at close to \$50,000.00.

Fox said she is determined that the closure will be short-lived, as she expects to be back in business

as soon as possible.

She also expressed concern for the ten members of staff of Fox House Restaurant whose livelihoods were also under attack by the robbery.

She was particularly dismayed that the robbery took place and none of the neighbours seemed to have known.

Another cruise line is offering jobs to residents

Royal Caribbean Group, one of the main cruise lines operating regular cruise calls at St. John’s Harbour, is teaming up with the Ministry of Tourism in offering job opportunities

aboard its vessels to residents.

“We are inviting all aspiring professionals to join us at our exclusive job fair scheduled to take place on July 11-12, 2023. The event will be held at

John E. St. Luce Finance and Convention Center, located on Factory Road from 9 am to 12 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm, offering flexibility for attendees to explore various career possibilities,” a joint statement noted.

The statement said aspiring candidates will have the chance to participate in pre-screening interviews, scheduled for July 6th and 7th, 2023. To secure a spot for these interviews, applicants are kindly requested to email their CV/Resume to careers@visitaandb.com.

Please note that only individuals who actively participate in the pre-screening interviews will be eligible for further consideration.

“During the pre-screening interview process, candidates will receive comprehensive details about specific job descriptions, competitive compensation packages, and pre-boarding requirements. This unique opportunity allows individuals to discover the incredible array of career paths and growth prospects available within Royal Caribbean Group,” it stated.

For more information about the job fair or any inquiries, please contact us at careers@visitaandb.com.

Business donates to Cancer Center

Dwayne Jarvis, the proprietor of Papi Joe Plumbing donated a cheque of \$500.00 to Honourable Sir Molwyn Joseph, the Minister of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment, to assist with the expenses of the Cancer Center.

Jarvis, who has been operating his business in Antigua and Barbuda since 2019 but was previously operating in the United States since 2006, presented Sir Molwyn with the check at the Ministry's Headquarters on July 3, 2023.

His mother who lived with cancer for 25 years was one of the main reasons for him making this donation. He also mentioned the fact that as a child growing up, he saw several persons dying and it was only when he was older, he learned that many of them died from cancer, whether it was breast, prostate, or cancer of the cervix.

He was elated to make a meaningful contribution to Antigua and Barbuda, knowing the importance of diagnosing and treating patients living with cancer.

In response, Sir Molwyn thanked Jarvis for his timely contribution, noting that this is the first time in his history as Minister of Health that such a donation was made directly to the cancer center from a lone person, simply seeking to make a difference one step at a time.

The Minister thanked Jarvis for his contribution and for being a part of something as important as the cancer center. He thanked him for making a difference.

Meanwhile, the Minister continues to push for the speedy reopening of the Cancer Center as the Attorney General completes the legal requirements to clear the way for the reopening.



Dwayne Jarvis makes donation as Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph accepts



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Local News



Health Ministry relocates services of the Clare Hall Clinic temporarily

The Ministry of Health is advising members of the public that services rendered at

the Clare Hall Health Center have been temporarily relocated, with immediate effect.

This relocation is due to extensive upgrades being made to the facility.

Effective immediately, the new schedule is as follows:

- Antenatal Clinic - Pigotts Clinic – Mondays
- Postnatal and Neonatal (Appointment Only - 462-1271) Pigotts Clinic
- Family Planning and Registration of Infants (Walk-Ins) - Pigotts Clinic
- Hypertension and Diabetic Clinic – Pigotts Clinic – Tuesdays
- District Medical Officer (Persons ages 0-16 OR 60+) – Pigotts Clinic – Fridays
- Psychiatric Clinic – Pigotts Clinic – every 2nd Thursday
- Nephrology (Dr. Cox) – Villa Polyclinic – Fridays
- Nutritionist (Appointment Only - 462-1271) – Pigotts
- Child Health Clinic – Villa Polyclinic – 1st Wednesdays / 4th Thursdays
- Wound Care (Dressing) – Potters Clinic- Monday to Friday
- Daily Doctor – Potters Clinic – Monday to Friday

The Ministry apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and assures that the issues will be rectified soonest. Updates will be provided accordingly.



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The Terms of Reference can be accessed at:
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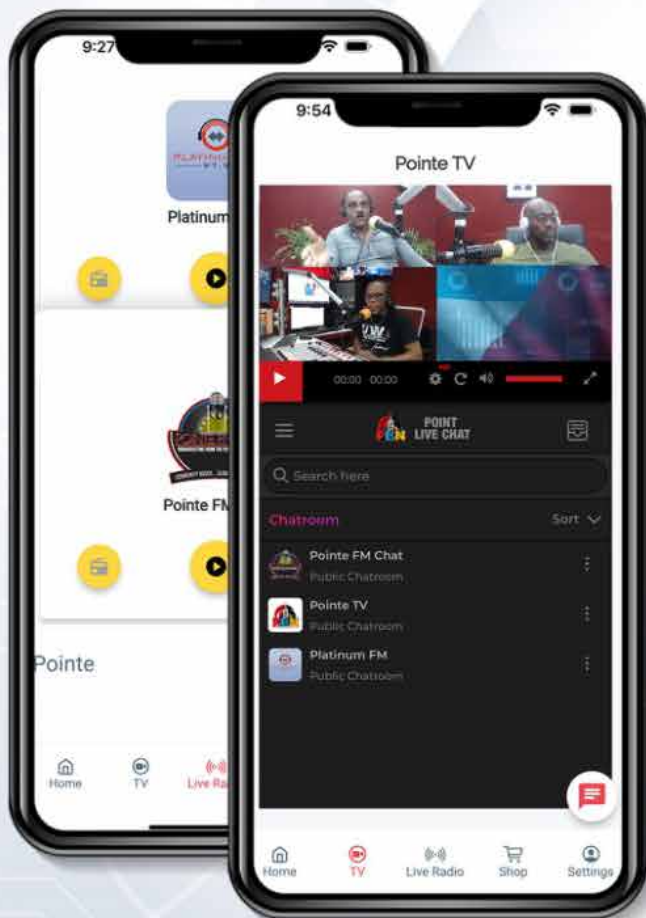
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Technology

Confusion at Twitter continues over Elon Musk's tweet limits

BBC - Confusion at Twitter appears to be continuing after owner Elon Musk introduced limits to the amount of posts users can read in a day.

The billionaire announced the "temporary measure" to address extreme levels of data scraping on the site.

Initial limits were quickly increased by Mr Musk at the weekend.

While many users reported no longer seeing limits on Sunday, some said a "rate limit exceeded" notification had returned on Monday.

Mr Musk - who took over Twitter in October 2022 had said previously that he was not happy about artificial intelligence (AI) firms using Twitter's data to train their large language models.

Changes to the platform at the weekend saw it impose an initial 600-tweet limit for unverified Twitter users who are not paying for a subscription to the platform, but Mr Musk said this had increased to 1,000 on Saturday evening.

He has not yet provided an update on whether the limits will remain in place.

Responding to a user flagging issues with site features, Mr Musk said in a tweet on Saturday morning Twitter had imposed the measures as a result of "EXTREME levels of data



scraping".

The process is a key method of gathering content and information from web platforms, and involves extracting data from sites, often at great scale, to make it accessible and readable in local formats, such as in a spreadsheet.

"Almost every company doing AI, from start-ups to some of the biggest corporations on Earth, was scraping vast amounts of data," Mr Musk added in his tweet.

"It is rather galling to have to bring large numbers of servers online on an emergency basis just to facilitate some AI startup's outrageous valuation."

Similar concerns over the mass use of platform data to train AI models in part sparked Reddit's decision to make companies pay to access its data.

Data scientist and ex-Twitter employee, Dr

Rumman Chowdhury, told the BBC it was unclear if AI organisations had been scraping data from Twitter, but suggested financial issues could be behind the changes.

"Frankly, I think I'm in a majority of people who believe that it's due to his lack of payment of his bills... and he's attempting to reduce his costs," she said.

An Australian project management firm has filed a lawsuit against Twitter in a US court seeking cumulative payments of about A\$1m (£534,000) over alleged non-payment of bills for work done in four countries, court filings show.

In May, a former public relations firm filed a suit in a New York court saying Twitter had not paid its bills, while early this year US-based advisory firm Innisfree M&A Inc sued it, seeking about \$1.9m (£1.4m)

for what it said were unpaid bills after it advised Twitter on its acquisition by Mr Musk.

Since Mr Musk bought Twitter he has focused on reducing costs by laying off half the workforce and introducing the subscription service, which offers the sought-after "verified" badge for a monthly fee.

For a platform that requires engagement, limiting posts seems to go in the opposite direction. It is a "very extreme and unprecedented tactic" which is "already failing", said Dr Chowdhury.

Twitter saw advertisers flee amid worries about Mr Musk's approach to content moderation rules, affecting its revenue.

When Mr Musk spoke to the BBC in April, he said the company was now "roughly breaking even",

cont'd on pg 13

CARICOM Day

PAGE 13

Five things about CARICOM you probably didn't know

As someone living or born in the Caribbean, how much do you know about the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)?

It's a word you may have come across at least once while listening to the news or browsing the web, but exactly what is it and how long has the organisation been around?

Here are five things about CARICOM you probably didn't know:

What is CARICOM

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) is a political and economic union of 20 countries (15 Member States and 5 Associate Members) whose main focus is to strengthen regional integration and enhance the social and economic development of Caribbean nations. Leaders of member states shape the Community's policies and priorities. They meet twice yearly to discuss issues affecting the Community and the wider world at the Conferences of Heads of Government.

Not all CARICOM members are from the Caribbean



When you hear Caribbean Community you might think only islands in the Caribbean form part of CARICOM. However, there are members from South America and one from Central America.

There are 15 Member States: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Montserrat, Saint Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago.

The five Associate Members are: Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cay-

man Islands and Turks and Caicos Islands.

How old is CARICOM

It is the oldest surviving integration movement in the developing world.

CARICOM came into being on July 4, 1973, with the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas by its four founding members, Barbados, Jamaica, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Treaty was later revised in 2001 to allow for the eventual establishment of a single market and a single economy.

There is a CARICOM song

Yes, there is an official CARICOM song, and it was found during a song competition in 2013.

The winning composition "Celebrating CARICOM" by Michele Henderson from the Commonwealth of Dominica was selected by a regional panel of judges as the official CARICOM song.

You can check out the song right here.

One CARICOM member has a public holiday for CARICOM Day

There is a lot of buzz this year (2023) about a one-off holiday for CARICOM Day on July 4, with some CARICOM nations acceding to the request to declare a holiday for the 50th anniversary.

However, one Member State has always been ahead of the group.

Guyana already observes CARICOM Day as a public holiday annually on the first Monday of July.

cont'd from pg 12

claiming most of its advertisers were returning.

The limit on tweets saw some journalists, who use Twitter to find information for live reporting and verification of stories, confronted with the curbs.

Bel Trew, chief international correspondent for The Independent, tweet-

ed that limits to how many tweets she could read on the platform had left her at a "complete loss" while reporting on Sunday.

And a reporter in the US city of Baltimore was left unable to view tweets from the local police department's Twitter account in the wake of a shooting that left two people killed and a further 28 injured.

Barbie movie gets Vietnam ban over South China Sea map

By Nicholas Yong

Vietnam has banned the upcoming Barbie film over a scene featuring a map depicting contested Chinese territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Vietnam is among a number of countries that contest China's claim to almost all of the South China Sea.

The film about the famous doll, which has already taken over social media, is due to release in cinemas on 21 July.

It is unclear which scene depicts what a senior official called the "offensive image" of China's nine-dash line.

The nine-dash line is used in Chinese maps of the



Margot Robbie plays the lead in the Barbie movie.

South China Sea to show its territorial claims.

Beijing has been building military bases on artificial islands in the area for years and

also often conducts naval patrols there in a bid to assert its territorial claims.

In 2016 an international tribunal in The Hague ruled

against Chinese claims in the South China Sea, but Beijing did not recognise the judgement.

Film studio Warner Bros' Barbie is not the only production to be banned by Vietnam for featuring the nine-dash line.

In 2019, the DreamWorks animated film Abominable was pulled for the same reason. Three years later, the Sony action movie Uncharted also fell foul of the Department of Cinema, a government body in charge of licensing and censoring foreign films.

Two years ago, Australian spy drama Pine Gap was removed from the Vietnamese market by Netflix, following a complaint from authorities.

China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan, Malaysia and Brunei all have competing claims in the South China Sea.

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CCJ celebrates CARICOM's 50th anniversary



Loop - Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) President Justice Adrian Saunders said the institution is a living embodiment of the great things the region can achieve if countries work together.

Saunders made the observation as he celebrated the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Chaguaramas, which established the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

"The institutional arrangements developed to fund the Court and to select and appoint judges have been praised the world over for their uniqueness," he said in a statement.

"The Court notes with appreciation the undeniable progress the Community has made in achieving its goals over the last five decades and we look

forward to playing our own part in consolidating those achievements as the Court pursues its mission to provide accessible, fair and efficient justice for the people and states of the Caribbean Community."

The CCJ, which is located in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, was established in 2001 to serve as the final court of appeal for CARICOM member states, as well as the body to adjudicate over matters pertaining to the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas.

Currently, only Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, and Saint Lucia have made the CCJ their final court of appeal, replacing the United Kingdom's Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (JCPC).

Belize's new Attorney General sworn in

Loop - Anthony Sylvestre was sworn in as the new Attorney General before Dame Froyla Tzalam, Governor General of Belize.

Sylvestre's appointment became effective on July 1, 2023, following the announcement of his nomination by the prime minister on June 28.

He succeeds Magali Marin Young, SC, who held the post for just over two years.

Joining family and friends at the swearing-in ceremony was Prime Minister John Briceño.

The prime minister congratulated the new Attorney General, expressing Cabinet's confidence in his ability to take on the new role and tasks before him.

Sylvestre expressed his honour in taking on the new position. He thanked



New Attorney General of Belize, Anthony Sylvestre.

Prime Minister Briceño and the Cabinet for giving him the opportunity to

serve the people and the Government of Belize in this capacity.

Regional News

St Kitts & Nevis to introduce Spanish in preschools

Loop - St Kitts and Nevis is set to make major changes to the school curriculum when classes resume in September.

Education Minister Dr Geoffrey Hanley revealed at the recent Boys of Excellence Awards Ceremony that the first phase of the new education program would see Spanish introduced as a subject in preschool.

Currently, students begin learning Spanish in their second year of public high school.

The expansion of social clubs in schools is also planned to complement The Explorer's Group, Boys' Brigade and others.

"I am a Boy Scout," said Hanley, adding that he still is actively involved and will host a camp in mid-July.



"These groups are important for shaping and moulding the lives of our young people. In these clubs, that is where you establish discipline. Here is where you get to find out your true self, and with the training, they position you [for success]."

Prime Minister and Minister of National Security, Terrance Drew, also attended the awards ceremony

and noted that opportunities for young men to join the St Kitts and Nevis Cadet Corps will be readily available.

"If a boy thinks that he wants to go up into the mountains and do all of these types of things that the Cadets do, we are offering the Cadets to our young boys as well. We are going to expand it and make it much larger," the prime minister stated.



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Baltimore shooting: Police hunt for suspects after dozens shot at block party

By Madeline Halpert

Police are searching for multiple suspects after a shooting in the US city of Baltimore left two people dead and 28 others injured.

Fifteen children were among those wounded when gunfire erupted at a block party in the Brooklyn Homes area of the city on Sunday.

Surveillance footage from a building showed people fleeing the shooting.

It is not clear whether the attack was targeted, police said, and officers are hunting for at least two suspects.

At a news conference on Monday police announced a reward of \$28,000 (£22,000) for information on the suspects.

Authorities said multiple weapons and bullet casings were recovered from the scene of the crime.

Police have yet to name a suspect, but said a young man who has been seen in footage circulating on social media appearing to pull a semi-automatic weapon from a backpack is one of the suspects.

"Anyone who had a weapon at the scene will be one of our suspects until we eliminate that they are not," said Baltimore Police Department acting commissioner Richard Worley.

The shooting began at about 00:35 local time (04:35 GMT) in a courtyard between a pair of rowhouses in the south of the city. Investigators spent hours on Sunday combing a large crime scene for evidence.

Police said 18-year-old Aaliyah Gonzalez died at the scene, while 20-year-old Kyllis Fagbemi was pronounced dead at hospital.

The victims were mostly teenagers, ranging in age from 13 to 19. The others were aged 20, 22, 23, 31 and 32, according to police.



Witnesses said hundreds of people were at the party when the shooting unfolded.

As of Monday afternoon, seven victims remained in hospital, including four who are in critical condition.

Hospital officials said they worked under stressful circumstances with the assailants still at large to treat 19 patients, many of whom were minors and critically injured.

Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott said his office was dedicating every resource possible to finding those responsible.

"We will not stop until we find you - and we will find you," he said. "This was a reckless, cowardly act that happened here."

"I hope that with every single breath that you take that you think about the lives that you took and you think about the lives that you impacted here tonight," he said.

Mr Worley told reporters on Sunday that the block party - an annual community gathering known as "Brooklyn Day" - was "unpermitted", because police were not warned about it ahead of time.

He added that officials would examine what actions officers took once they found out about the gathering.

Witnesses at the scene said hundreds of people were at the party when

the chaotic scene unfolded.

Danny Gonzalez, 57, who is not related to the woman who died in the shooting, told the Washington Post that he heard gunshots from his home and saw young people running away.

"It was at least 40 or 50 rounds," he said, adding that he and his neighbours were no strangers to gunfire in the Maryland port city. "It's just another killing weekend. This is Baltimore, Murderland."

There have been 140 homicides this year in Baltimore, according to the Baltimore Sun newspaper. In 2022, the city reported more than 300 killings for the eighth year in a row.

Local authorities said the shooting would result in long-lasting trauma for the community, while Mayor Scott called for stricter gun laws across the US.

"This is our longest standing public health challenge, and we need to focus on gun violence regardless of where it happens," he said on Monday.

The US has seen more than 330 mass shootings this year, according to the non-profit Gun Violence Archive, which defines a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are injured or killed.

France riots ease as mayors hold anti-violence rally

By Laura Gozzi

Riots in France appear to be calming, after five days of violent protests in response to the shooting of teenager Nahel M during a police traffic stop.

Sunday night saw violence subside and fewer arrests were made.

However, President Emmanuel Macron has asked the interior ministry to keep a “massive” police presence on the streets.

On Monday, mayors called for rallies to be held outside town halls to protest the violence and looting.

In Nanterre, Nahel’s hometown, mayor Patrick Jarry said he was pleased the violence had subsided, but added that “we shouldn’t lose sight of the incident that sparked this situation and the continuing need for justice”.

Later in the afternoon, several hundred people attended a rally in L’Haÿ-les-Roses in support of Vincent Jeanbrun, the mayor whose home was attacked by rioters who fired rockets at his fleeing wife and children, breaking her leg and injuring one of the children. The incident is being treated as attempted murder.

A visibly emotional Mr Jeanbrun said: “We saw the real faces of the rioters: they are murderers... They wanted to kill my wife and my two young children in



Rioters run as French police officers use tear gas in Paris on 2 July.

their sleep by burning them alive.”

To applause, Mr Jeanbrun also said that over the last week “democracy itself was attacked... We need the majority of people who has so far been silent to say: enough!”

The six days of riots have reportedly caused millions of euros worth of damage to public transport in the Paris region, the Ile-de-France transport network said.

While Sunday night was far calmer, authorities were careful not to prematurely hail a return to normality on Monday.

Buses and trams in the Paris region will again be halted early on Monday night, while President Macron has asked the ministry of the interior to maintain a “massive” police pres-

ence across France in order to guarantee a “return to calm”.

About 45,000 officers have been deployed across the country for the past three nights and will be out on the streets again on Monday, interior minister Gérald Darmanin confirmed.

More than 150 people were arrested on Sunday night, compared with more than 700 the night before.

There were 297 cars set on fire compared with Thursday’s 1,900, while 34 buildings were damaged or set ablaze compared with more than 500 on Thursday.

At the weekend, the family of Nahel, the teenager who was killed by police, called for the violence to end.

His grandmother accused rioters of using Nahel’s death as an excuse and

urged them to stop destroying public goods.

Another relative told the BBC that the family did not want his death to spark riots, but insisted the law around lethal force at traffic stops must change.

She also said her “heart is in pain” about a GoFundMe page for the family of the police officer who shot Nahel, which as of Monday had raised more than €1.1m (£956,200) and was growing steadily.

The fundraiser, which was set up by a far-right media commentator, has been criticised by several politicians - but the platform told French newspaper Le Parisien that GoFundMe’s terms and conditions were not being broken because the funds are destined for the officer’s family and “not meant for the legal defence

cont’d on pg 19

Eight-year election ban for Brazil's Jair Bolsonaro

By Robert Plummer

Brazil's Supreme Electoral Court has voted 5-2 to bar ex-president Jair Bolsonaro from running for office for eight years.

Mr Bolsonaro was found guilty of abusing his power ahead of last year's presidential poll.

He had been accused of undermining Brazilian democracy by falsely claiming that the electronic ballots used were vulnerable to hacking and fraud.

Mr Bolsonaro's lawyers are expected to appeal against the verdict.

They have argued that his statements had no bearing on the election result.

The ban is backdated to 2 October 2022, when the presidential election took place.

If the verdict is allowed to stand, Mr Bolsonaro will not be eligible to take part in the next presidential election in 2026, but will be able to run again in 2030.

He will also be barred from municipal elections due in 2024 and 2028.

Mr Bolsonaro called the decision a "stab in the back" and said he would keep working to advance right-wing



politics in Brazil.

The case against the ex-president revolved around a speech he gave while he was still president in 2022.

On 18 July, he invited foreign diplomats to his residence in the capital, Brasilia, where he falsely claimed that the electronic voting machines used in Brazil were prone to being hacked and open to large-scale fraud.

Mr Bolsonaro maintained that he "simply explained how elections work in Brazil" and did not criticise or attack the electoral system.

But the speech came amid a polarising presidential campaign which

saw Mr Bolsonaro being challenged for the top job by his arch-rival, left-winger Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

The bitterly fought election went into a run-off on 30 October and was won by an extremely narrow margin by Lula.

Mr Bolsonaro never publicly acknowledged his defeat and left Brazil for Florida two days before Lula was sworn in as president.

His supporters, who refused to accept the outcome of the election, stormed Brazil's Congress, the presidential palace and the building housing the Supreme Court on 8 January.

cont'd from pg 18

of an alleged violent crime".

A fundraiser for Nahel's family was set up on a different platform and had raised €215,000 (£184,862) on Monday afternoon.

Meanwhile, French regional authorities are starting to announce financial support measures for looted businesses and hospitality venues.

Grants will be made available for business owners in Marseille and funding in the Paris region will help to restore the public buildings that were damaged and looted.

But there are concerns that the spate of violence might have a long-term effect on the tourism sector just as the summer season begins.

French media outlet Le Point quoted a tourism official as estimating that up to 25% of hotel bookings in Paris had already been cancelled.

The regional transport network for Ile-de-France told AFP that €20m in damage was caused to public transport, including "burned buses, a torched tramway, two damaged tramways and

urban infrastructure which was smashed".

François Rial said that the riots posed "a real risk" to the image of France: "This is true even if the unrest subsides, as many tourists are allergic to risk."

On Tuesday, President Macron will meet the mayors of 220 municipal areas that have been affected by the violence.



President of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board Enoch Lewis, right, with members of the Leeward Islands Under-19 Women's team at the VC Bird International Airport on Sunday, July 2nd, just prior to their departure to Trinidad & Tobago to contest the 2023 CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Women's Tournament. (LICB)

Five Antiguan in Leewards Under-19 Women's squad

Five players from Antigua and Barbuda have been included in a 14-member Leeward Islands squad to contest the 2023 Women's Rising Stars Under 19s Championship, which will take place in Trinidad & Tobago from July 2nd to 16th.

Among them is Chey-Anne Moses, who is the vice-captain of the team. Moses was also a member of the senior Leeward Islands team that contested the CWI Women's Championship and T20 Blaze in St. Kitts earlier this year.

The other four Antiguan have retained their places in the squad after representing the Leeward Islands in last year's inaugural CWI Women's Rising Stars Under-19 Championship that the United States played unbeaten to win in Trinidad & Tobago in July 2022.

They are Kimberly Anthony, Ruchira Daly, Sheanna Wallace, and Courtney Browne.

Also retaining her place in the

squad is Sarah Ghandeo, who is the only player from Nevis in the team. The squad will be captained by West Indies Under-19 player Jahzara Claxton.

Claxton, who was also a member of last year's Leeward Islands team, is one of eight players from St. Kitts that are in the squad. She has taken over the captaincy from her compatriot Latchmi Cyril, who skippered the team in last year's tournament in Trinidad & Tobago.

Cyril has retained her place on the team. The other Kittitians that have retained their places in the team are Berniece Huggins, J'Cazenique Hodge, and Gabrielle Harrylall.

The squad is completed by newcomers and fellow Kittitians Aaliyah Weekes, Jada Collis, and Leanga Warner.

Nevisian Carlisa Pluck, who was a member of last year's team, has been named as one of three reserve players.

The others are Keoanna Duggan of Antigua and Kayzge Boyles of St. Kitts.

Percy Daniel has been retained as head coach, and Leeward Islands senior team player Saneldo Willett is the assistant coach. The manager is Sharlene Martin.

The competition, which will consist of six rounds of 30-over matches, will commence with the opening round of encounters tomorrow (Tuesday) at 10 am.

The Leeward Islands will meet Jamaica at UWI SPEC, the Windward Islands will face Guyana at GPCG, and Trinidad & Tobago will clash with Barbados at the NCC.

Leeward Islands Squad: Jahzara Claxton (Captain), Chey-Anne Moses, Latchmi Cyril, Kimberly Anthony, Aaliyah Weekes, Berniece Huggins, Leanga Warner, Sarah Ghandeo, J'Cazenique Hodge, Jada Collis, Gabrielle Harrylall, Ruchira Daly, Sheanna Wallace, and Courtney Browne.

James set to make debut in CPL

By Carlena Knight

It's truly been a stellar year for Kofi James when it comes to his cricketing career and it seems as if there are no plans of slowing down for the Leeward Islands and Antigua and Barbuda all-rounder as he is set to make his debut in this year's staging of the Caribbean Premier League (CPL).

James was selected by the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots during last week's draft.

He was chosen in the 14th round.

"I got the news after the draft took place but I was excited to be honest. I was actually eager to hear the news because I was looking forward for things to happen this year.

"I had a pretty decent Super 50, a pretty okay four-day and I've been playing some local tournaments, T10 and T20 and doing well, so, my name

was out and about and I was just praying and hoping that everything happened and it did," James told listeners on Monday morning on the Platinum Sports Center radio show with host Carlena Knight.

He is expected to meet up with the squad next month and begin training for the August 16- September 24 tournament.

"I am hoping to just improve upon my all round game and my mental capacity but I really do think I have what it takes to do well.

"I am just going to have fun while performing to the best of my abilities. It's my first CPL and I want to learn and improve a lot, so that in the future if I do get picked in another T20 franchise I know what to expect. It's my first year, I am not planning a lot with bat and the ball in terms of targets, I just want to do my best," James



Kofi James

mentioned.

He will play alongside Evin Lewis, Andre Fletcher, Shrefane Rutherford, Dominic Drakes, Sheldon Cottrell, George Linde, Yannic

Cariah, Oshane Thomas, Corbin Bosch, Dewald Brevis, Jyd Goolie, Izharulhaq Naveed, Joshua da Silva, Ashmead Nedd and Johann Layne.

Squad named to contest Little League Baseball tournament

By Carlena Knight

A 12-member team has been selected by the Little League Baseball Association to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Caribbean Little League Championships.

The competition which is in its 10th year is being hosted right here in Antigua at the newly built baseball facility in Potters Village.

This is the second time the twin-island nation will host the tournament

having done so in 2017.

Derek Lopez, William Perez, Terrance Carew, Samuel Ambrose, Omarlin Morales and Richard Anthony, Jose Angelo Martinez, Franklin Soriano, Jhorwan Jimenez, Yadiel Bastardo, Davisson Matos and Manuel Codero will fly the flag in the 11-13 age category competition.

Close to 50 players were involved in training but this final 12 was decided upon.

An opening ceremony was held on Sunday afternoon (July 2) at the facility with the six teams- Antigua and Barbuda, Venezuela, Aruba, USVI, Dominican Republic and defending champions, Curacao in attendance.

It is expected to culminate on July 9. The winner of the competition will qualify for next month's Little League World Cup in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania at the Little League headquarters complex.



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Champions USA and Jamaica (yellow shirt) compete during last year's inaugural Cricket West Indies Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship in Trinidad. (CWI Media)

Rising Stars Under-19 contests set to start today

The region's best young cricketers will assemble in Trinidad and St Vincent for Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Women's Under-19 Championship and the Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Championships that will commence today.

The women's event will be 30-over matches played from 4th to 12th July at the National Cricket Centre (NCC), UWI Sports & Physical Education Centre (UWI SPEC), and Gilbert Park Cricket Ground (GPCG) in Trinidad.

This is the second year of the tournament and players will be identified with a view developing talent and participating in international events such as the 2025 ICC Women's T20 World Cup to be played in Malaysia and Thailand.

The men's event will be played in St. Vincent from 4th July to 1st Au-

gust.

It will feature five rounds of 50-over white ball matches and four rounds of three-day red ball matches. These will be played at Arnos Vales, Sion Hill, Park Hill and Cumberland.

Following the tournaments, West Indies Rising Stars Under 19 team will be selected for a tour of Sri Lanka where they are due to play a four-day match as well as 50-over matches.

This will be part of preparations for the ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup scheduled to be played in Sri Lanka early next year.

These tournaments serve as a pivotal platform for showcasing and identifying talent and facilitating their progression.

CWI's strategic plan has committed resources into developing the game at every level and these tournaments therefore play a vital role in

the strategy to develop the talent pool and produce the next generation of West Indies players.

CWI's Talent Pathway Manager Steve Liburd said, "This tournament is vital for the growth of women's cricket in the region, and we are preparing for our regional youth tournaments to be consistent to the pathway system we have for men's cricket over the next few years.

"This year's tournament is key because we have to identify the next group of players who will make up the squad for the next ICC Women's U19 Cricket World Cup and be the feeder group for the new Women's Academy that will lead into the West Indies senior women's team."

During the tournaments, LIVE ball-by-ball scoring of matches will be available on the www.windiescricket.com match centre.



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Ovals trounce Slam in Division One basketball league

Cuties Ovals Ojays trounced All Saints Slam by 59 points in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League on Sunday night.

Kareem Edwards shot a game-high 20 points and snatched 13 rebounds to lead the Ovals Ojays to their 108-49 victory against the Slam in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Joshua Minner had 19 points, six rebounds, and six assists, and point guard Tavarus Benta produced 16 points, eight rebounds, and six assists.

Troy Vasco sank 10 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and Delonte Philip contributed 10 points for the Ovals Ojays, who won for the fifth time in seven games.

Olivee Morris scored 14 points and Javid Joseph converted 10 points for the All Saints Slam, which lost for the ninth time in 11 games.



The Cuties Ovals Ojays basketball team

The Potters Steelers surged to their ninth win in 10 games by pulling off an 88-69 victory over the Ottos Full Throttle in the second game of Sunday's double-header.

Jacob Lloyd produced 21 points, eight assists, and seven rebounds; Kelvin Si-

mon had 14 points and 13 rebounds; and Cohen Desouza chipped in with 13 points and six rebounds for Potters Steelers.

Warren Bogle shot a game-high 31 points and snatched 17 rebounds, and Lincoln Weekes had 25 points, nine rebounds, and

seven steals for Ottos Full Throttle, who lost for the fifth time in nine encounters. The game between All Saints Slam and Braves Basketball ended prematurely after the umpires suspended the game due to a fight between two opposing players.

cont'd from pg 26

the toss and deciding to bat.

Only Morton Browne, with 20, managed to reach double figures. Captain Andra Samuel snapped up three wickets for four runs; Kadeem Josiah claimed three for 17, Michael Marcelin picked up two for 21, and Xaveek Toppin captured two for 31.

The Pythons achieved victory at 83 for four in 11.1 overs, with Toppin hitting 28 not out. Glenroy Farrell

claimed two for 36.

The Wes Rising Sun Spartans snatched a narrow two-wicket win against the Jennings Tigers in a low-scoring affair at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's.

The Jennings Tigers crashed to 85 all-out in 28.4 overs after winning the toss and choosing to bat first.

Michael Harilall snapped up five wickets for 14 runs, Martin Singh picked up two wickets for six runs in

eight overs, and Richie Thomas captured two for 14.

The Spartans struggled but managed to secure the win, achieving the required victory target of 86 runs for the loss of eight wickets in 18.1 overs.

Fast bowler Jedidiah Martin kept the Tigers in the game by capturing six wickets for 48 runs, while young left-arm spinner Glenton Williams gave good support by picking up two wickets for 13 runs in seven overs.

Black Hawks, Empire get second wins in ABCA Super40

Defending champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks and Empire Nation made it two wins in as many games during the second round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Competition on Sunday.

Coach Wilden "Pollo" Cornwall hit an unbeaten century as the Black Hawks easily soared past the Pigotts Crushers by nine wickets at the Pigotts playing field, while the Empire Nation conquered the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles by

seven wickets at the King George V Grounds.

Cornwall, who opened the innings, slammed 121 not out off 59 balls with 12 fours and nine sixes to propel the Black Hawks to their victory target of 158 for the loss of one wicket with 25 overs to spare.

The former Black Hawks opening batsman, Uri Smith, struck an unbeaten half century as the Crushers were only able to muster 157 for three off their allotted 40 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Smith slammed 83



Wilden 'Pollo' Cornwall hits a century for the Liberta Black Hawks against Pigotts Crushers. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

not out off 119 balls with eight fours and a six, while off-spinner Kofi James captured two wickets for 31 runs.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. also struck an even, unbeaten century to lead Empire Nation to their victory target of 190 for the loss of three wickets with 9.5 overs to spare.

Williams Jr. slammed 100 not out off 91 balls with 14 fours and three sixes. Captain Kenrick Scott chipped in with 30 off 26 balls.

Gavin Tonge struck 37 off 34 balls, and captain Deran Benta scored 31 to

guide Bethesda to 186 for nine off their 40 overs after the Golden Eagles won the toss and opted to bat.

Javaughn James picked up three for 48, and off-spinner Justin Athanaze claimed two for 17.

The All Saints Pythons and the Wes Rising Sun Spartans both notched up their first wins in two outings in the other two matches on Sunday.

The Pythons beat the Bolans Blasters by six wickets at the Bolans playing field. The Blasters were bundled out for just 77 runs in 20.3 overs after winning

cont'd on pg 25



Tyrone Williams Jr. struck an even, unbeaten century for Empire Nation against Bethesda Golden Eagles. (File Photo)