

# APUA INVESTIGATES CAUSES OF WEEKEND POWER OUTAGES

Story on Page 2



The Halo Foundation donated \$75,000 (seventy-five thousand dollars) to the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps (ABNCC). Lady Williams handed over the cheque to Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin (centre), and Commandant of the ABNCC, Major Samuel Roberts (left), at a ceremony held at Government House.

## APUA investigates the causes of the weekend's power outages

APUA, the country's lone utility company, has provided some answers to the frequent and lengthy power outages that affected thousands of customers over the weekend.

In what it described as a preliminary report, Electricity Business Manager, Andre Matthias said the causes of the problem are still being investigated, and that a more comprehensive report will be released on Monday.

According to the report, the first stage of outages was from approximately 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday. It said that this happened in preparation for planned maintenance at the Cassada Gardens Substation. It added that APUA had prepared an advisory.



Accordingly, the second set of interruptions resulted from a sudden and unplanned failure at the Friars Hill Substation. This created an emergency, causing an un-scheduled and widespread interruption to electricity customers, including commercial St.

John's. This outage lasted from approximately 9:30 pm on Saturday to just after 10:00 am on Sunday.

On Sunday evening, the authority's statement said the situation is presently under control with power restored to all customers, although all the feeders are not in their original configuration. It said that they would all be restored to their normal configuration by today.

Large sections of St. John's and its environs were without electricity for varying lengths of time from Saturday night into Sunday due to the issues at the Cassada Gardens substation.

Teams of engineers are carrying out their investigations to understand what caused the outages.



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## Inclement weather forced postponement of Piango Festival Day 2

A system of disturbed weather located south of Antigua and Barbuda gave rise to heavy rainfall across the twin-island state. The rain forced the cancellation of several events, including the second of the two-day Piango festival being held at Cades Bay.

Weather forecaster Lennox Josiah said the system was due to move away from Antigua and Barbuda, but not before dumping over two inches of rain within three hours on Sunday afternoon.

The forecaster reported that most of the rain fell in the Diamond Estate area, where 2.2 inches of rain were recorded. The second-highest total was in the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium area where 1.81 inches of rain fell. Other notable rainfall was in the Orange Valley area where 1.78 inches were recorded. At Cobbs Cross, the total was 1.64 and in Bethesda, the total was 1.46 inches.

These rainfall totals were up to 3:00 pm on Sun-



Sen Dwayne George (left) enjoys a light moment at Piango Fest day and the Met Office said it anticipated further rainfall later in the afternoon and into Monday.

According to Josiah, the Met Office will continue to monitor the area of disturbed weather or any signs of further development. However, he noted that should this happen, the system would not pose any further threat to Antigua and Barbuda as it would be moving further away from the two islands.

Meanwhile, sources say Sunday, thereby allowing vendors to generate more business. Festival will take place next



### FIXTURE

21 | AUGUST | 2023

 <b>BER VS BRB</b> 11:30AM   ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 2 (TIER II   GROUP B)	 <b>ATG VS BOE</b> 11:00AM   ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER II   GROUP B)
 <b>SKN VS LCA</b> 2:00PM   ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER II   GROUP C)	 <b>TCA VS CAY</b> 4:30PM   ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 2 (TIER I   GROUP B)
 <b>TRI VS JAM</b> 5:30PM   ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE 1 (TIER I   GROUP A)	

ABFA TECHNICAL CENTRE

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## Mother and Daughter space travelers return home

Information Minister, Melford Nicholas was among a team of well-wishers and family members who greeted Keisha Schahaff and Anastatia Mayers upon their arrival home, last Saturday.

The two women were returning to the country following their historic journey to the edge of space aboard the Virgin Galactic 2 spacecraft, built by a team led by Sir Richard Branson who is making plans to launch commercial space for future tourism flights.

Minister Nicholas who led the official team, which also included representatives of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), welcomed home Keisha and Anastatia telling them that their history-making journey was something they will re-



Information Minister, Melford Nicholas, centre, with Keisha Schahaff and Anastatia Mayers

member for a lifetime.

He also noted that the flight has done much for Antigua and Barbuda's tourism, as all aspects of their journey received much international media coverage. Nicholas added that the August 10th voyage, coupled with the journey by three Antigua and Barbuda females who rowed

across the Pacific Ocean, have helped to 'put Antigua and Barbuda on the map.'

"Those three young women, along with the two space voyagers have done Antigua and Barbuda exceptionally well in terms of putting Antigua in a positive light. What that could do in terms of our tourism and cre-

ate awareness of Antigua and Barbuda as a country, where achievements are things that we celebrate in pursuit of excellence, is something we should all be happy about," Nicholas stated.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Tourism and the ABTA will convene a press conference at the John E. St. Luce Conference Centre on Tuesday, to formally welcome home Keisha and Anastatia, and congratulate them for making the historic journey into space.

The press conference will have speeches by the Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez, and the Antigua and Barbuda Astronauts, Keisha Schahaff and Anastatia Mayers; there will also be opportunities for questions from reporters.



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## New person at the helm at Antigua Cruise Port

There is a new person at the helm of Antigua Cruise Port (ACP), the subsidiary of Global Ports Ltd, which has the responsibility to manage the cruise port in Antigua and Barbuda.

This comes following the departure of General Manager, Dona Regis-Prosper, who held the post for four years and is now leaving to take up an appointment as Secretary General of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation, (CTO), headquartered in Barbados.

“We thank her for being instrumental in the initial set-up of Antigua Cruise Port, mentoring and training the local team and guiding Antigua Cruise Port through some of the most trying times the tourism industry has faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also commend her for the successful reopening of the port and bringing homeporting to Antigua, which has significantly benefitted the country.



*Dona Regis-Prosper*

“Dona will always be part of the GPH Family,” said Mehmet Kutman, Chairman of Global Ports Holding, during a farewell event held for Mrs. Regis-Prosper.

Regis-Prosper said, “I am grateful for the experience I’ve had at Antigua Cruise Port and in Antigua in general. I thank the team and wider port community for the support they’ve shown



*Cynthia Jacobs-Browne*

throughout my tenure, and I am confident that ACP is in a good position to move forward.”

“As the company transitions, we are pleased to announce Cynthia Jacobs-Browne as the Officer-in-Charge, effective August 19, 2023. Jacobs-Browne is currently Antigua Cruise Port’s Financial Controller and has worked at the company since its inception. Over the past four years, she has worked closely with the company’s leadership in areas beyond finance, including operations, port security, facility management, and marketing and leasing,” ACP said in a media release.

The new Officer-in-Charge said, “While change can be difficult, we wish to assure our industry partners and the local community that we are committed to growing and improving our cruise tourism product. We will continue to build on the relationships that we’ve formed and our successes thus far. We remain committed to the development of Antigua Cruise Port.”

Cynthia Jacobs-Browne is an Antiguan business executive with over eleven years of experience, specializing in financial accounting and management reporting. Mrs. Jacobs-Browne holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting with highest honors from Florida Memorial University.



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# Local News



## Daily flights from Canada expected this winter season

Antigua and Barbuda can expect daily flights out of Canada during the upcoming winter tourist season, one of the country's most important source markets for visitors.

This follows extensive marketing and promotional efforts undertaken in the Canadian market by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's (ABTA) team in Canada. Over the past week, Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James, was in Toronto to take part in several media and other promotional events organized by the ABTA team, in Canada.

"ABTA has just concluded a successful week of marketing and media activations in Toronto Canada. CEO James joined Canada's Director of Tourism (ag) Tameka Wharton and the other members of the ABTA Canadian team to support their efforts on an intense 4 days of broad media and trade promotions.

"This was planned with a focus on strengthening partnerships, reaffirming Antigua and Barbuda's affection and commitment for the Canadian market, while simultaneously exposing the destination to a huge swathe of Canadian consumers," an ABTA media release stated.

James attended a series of special events and met with key representatives from the travel industry who all reported strong growth in business



to Antigua and Barbuda as a direct result of the sterling marketing efforts of the ABTA Team in Canada.

According to the release the week's activities included attending important meetings with key tour operators like Air Canada Vacations, Sunwing, TravelBrands, and WestJet. This winter will see flights returning to pre-pandemic levels with a flight from Canada every day of the week during the busy winter season.

The destination also announced its new strategic partnership with Ensemble, a major travel consortium with decades of experience and thousands of travel advisors throughout Canada and the US. This arrangement provides Antigua and Barbuda with a new marketing channel that is a direct fit with its high-end properties. An engaging fireside chat event, jointly hosted by the ABTA and Ensemble drew media and attendees from diverse stakeholder groups, including trade professionals, agency

el trade publications such as Canadian Travel Press, Open Jaw, Travelweek, and Travel Industry Today. Every opportunity was used to share the many virtues of Antigua and Barbuda and a few exciting announcements of the new or renovated hotel product for the upcoming season and the exciting events on the tourism calendar for 2024.

owners, and travel advisors.

CEO James was consistent in his messaging at each appearance, highlighting the robust calendar of events that make up Antigua and Barbuda's ongoing 'Year of Wellness.' Speaking to the latest statistics, James noted that 2023 visitor arrivals from Canada had already reached 17,780 by the end of June - eclipsing 2022's figure by 164% percent and representing a return to near pre-pandemic levels. Incredibly, Canada's year-to-date (YTD) growth was over 100 percent higher than the next closest market, speaking to the exploding popularity of the destination with Canadians.

Notably, James was also interviewed live on the breakfast show of CP24, which is Canada's premier English language specialty news channel with an audience of over one million viewers each day.

Other media interviews were held with Jewel 88.5 FM, MNI Media, and Dreamscapes as well as trav-

The destination's new "AND" campaign, which espoused Antigua and Barbuda's unique selling point: the distinct charms of both islands, coming together into one cohesive experience was widely promoted and well received.

CEO James also took pride in sharing the remarkable accomplishment of the recent Virgin Galactic space launch, which saw an Antiguan and Barbudan mother-daughter duo become the first people of Caribbean origin and Antigua and Barbuda nationals to visit space. This feat as well as the amazing rowing accomplishments of the Team Antigua Island Girls has put an unprecedented media spotlight on the destination.

The ABTA Canadian team is committed to continuing to build on the momentum and the growth experienced so far this year, which from all indications is on track for delivering a strong result from our 3rd largest source market by year-end.

## Halo donates \$75,000 to National Cadet Corps

The Halo Foundation donated \$75,000 (seventy-five thousand dollars) to the Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps (ABNCC). The funds are intended for the purchase of new musical instruments for the organization's marching band.

Lady Williams handed over the

cheque to Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin, and Commandant of the ABNCC, Major Samuel Roberts, at a ceremony held at Government House.

She remarked that "the Halo Foundation will continue to support youth, culture, and the arts, as well as the

Foundation's other areas of concentration."

The National Cadet Corps currently has 162 cadets enrolled, with an additional 200 cadets soon to be registered. The Governor General, Sir Rodney and Lady Williams have recently been named Patrons of the ABNCC.

## Over eight hundred men participate in prostate screening

Approximately eight hundred and ten (810) men took part in the annual prostate screening clinic, organized jointly by the Antigua Lion's Club and local urologist, Dr. Dwayne Thwaites.

The event was held on Saturday at the Lion's Club in St. John's with large numbers of men, age 40 and older taking part in the screening, as it is one of the best ways to detect prostate cancer early, thereby making successful

treatment more likely.

Each year, Dr. Thwaites has been assisted with the screening by several of his colleagues from the United States.

This year, the visiting doctors included Dr. Regene Johnson, Dr. Daniel Caruso, Dr. Obi Ekenawa, Dr. Brian Cohen, Dr. Christopher Gomez, and Dr. Wesley Ekertoru.

Dr. Thwaites said Saturday's clinic went off smoothly, with patient wait time reduced to no more

than fifteen minutes each.

He thanked the visiting doctors for their invaluable assistance and he also thanked the Lion's Club and the team of vol-

unteers for coming out to assist with this worthwhile venture. He expressed appreciation to the sponsors who also made the event possible.



# Commentary



## Embracing diversity: An all-inclusive curriculum for people with disabilities

By Kwasi Tonge. PhD

Some people think that our educational system in the OECS is an all-encompassing, all-inclusive one. This article hopes to shed light on what exactly constitutes an all-Inclusive Curriculum.

In pursuing the building of a fair and all-inclusive society, it is almost unavoidable that we should create an inclusive educational environment for the benefit of all individuals, regardless of their abilities. An all-inclusive curriculum that aims to embrace people with all forms of disabilities is not only a matter of social justice and human rights,

but also a means of empowering and enriching the lives of those with diverse needs. By implementing an educational system that recognises and accommodates people with diverse needs, we can therefore foster an inclusive society that celebrates diversity and provides equal opportunities for individuals of all abilities.

Recognizing the Importance of Inclusivity in our local educational system:

Inclusion is a fundamental right that promotes equal access to basic education while ensuring that individuals with disabilities are not excluded or disadvantaged. By embracing inclusion,



Kwasi Tonge

society acknowledges the unique strengths and challenges of everyone, valuing their contributions and facilitating their active participation in the learning process. An all-inclusive curriculum goes beyond mere accessibility by incorporating strategies that address diverse learning styles, communication methods, and adaptive technologies to create a supportive and inclusive learning environment.

What are the benefits of an All-Inclusive Curriculum:

Enhanced Learning Experience:

An all-inclusive curriculum encourages collaboration and cooperation among students with and without disabilities. Whether it is a physical, mental, sensory, or intellectual disability an in-

clusive curriculum considers all types of disabilities. Working together, students learn to appreciate each other's strengths, have an opportunity to develop empathy and foster meaningful relationships among their peers. Which is one way of removing societal barriers. This inclusive environment fosters a strong sense of belonging, positively impacting academic achievement and overall well-being.

Promoting Social and Emotional Development:

Inclusive education allows students with disabilities to interact with their peers in a normalized environment. This interaction promotes social and emotional development, improving communication skills, self-esteem, and

*cont'd on pg 9*

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
A.D. 2023

**AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

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

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

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

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

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*cont'd from pg 8*

self-confidence. Additionally, it helps break down stereotypes, reduces stigma, which is a huge social barrier to inclusiveness, and nurtures a culture of acceptance and respect.

Preparation for the Real World:

Inclusive education prepares students for life beyond the classroom. By engaging with individuals of diverse abilities, students learn valuable life skills such as empathy, adaptability, and problem-solving. They gain a broader understanding of the world, enhancing their ability to navigate and contribute to a diverse society.

How can our Education Departments in the OECS Implement an All-Inclusive Curriculum:

Universal Design for Learning (UDL):

UDL is an approach used in developing countries to promote flexibility in teaching methods, materials, and assessments to meet the diverse needs of all learners. By providing multiple means of representation, engagement, and expression, Universal Design Learning ensures that students with disabilities can access and engage with, and have input into the curriculum effectively, throughout their educational journey.

Individualised Education Plans (IEPs):

Individual Education Plans are personalized plans developed by educators, parents, and students to ad-

dress specific learning goals and accommodations for students with disabilities. Notwithstanding, the dedicated time and man-hours to see the successful implementation of such a plan must not be underestimated. However, the outcome and long-term success can be very rewarding. These developmental plans outline the necessary adaptations, support services, and assistive technologies (ATs) required to enable students to succeed academically.

3. Teacher Training and Professional Development:

Educators and our local Ministry of Education play

a vital role in creating an inclusive classroom environment. Providing teachers with comprehensive training and professional development opportunities equips them with the knowledge and skills needed to cater to diverse learners effectively. This includes understanding different disabilities, implementing appropriate teaching strategies, and fostering a continued culture of inclusivity.

4. Collaboration, Making and Maintaining Partnership:

Collaboration between educators, parents, and community stakeholders is

essential for the successful implementation of an all-inclusive curriculum. Regular communication shared goals and decision-making, and the involvement of support services and specialists, foster a collaborative approach that supports the individual needs of students with disabilities.

Conclusion:

An all-inclusive curriculum that embraces people with disabilities is a crucial step toward building an equitable and inclusive society. By recognizing the unique abilities and challenges that people and students who are disabled face.



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# Opinion

# The joker is wild

By Tony Deyal

A sadist and a masochist meet to satisfy their carnal desires. The masochist gives the sadist a whip and says “Beat me, beat me until I beg for mercy, then beat me some more.” The sadist says “No”. One of my readers, who has never missed any of my columns over the more than thirty years I have been Saturday’s Child, heard that my next collection would be the best jokes from all my articles. He called me and asked for a hint, especially what I consider the best jokes I ever posted. Unfortunately, I could not say “No!”.

My favourite West Indian political story is about the prime minister whose country was in serious financial straits. Desperate for a solution he called a Cabinet meeting to discuss the problem. After much discussion, one of his ministers came up with an idea. “Let’s declare war on the United States,” he suggested. “We will attack them and like Germany and Japan, lose the war but win the peace. They will come in with money and assistance and we will be much better off afterwards. Like Puerto Rico or St Thomas we might be lucky and become part of the US. No more VISA or anything after.” All the other ministers were extremely enthusiastic and applauded. Except the prime minister. His brow was furrowed and

he was mightily disturbed. “That is not a good idea at all,” he said sternly, “suppose we win.”

In those days when people ask me about my favourite jokes I went into rapid response mode and said quickly, “Patrick Manning and Basdeo Panday”. In Jamaica I thought of saying “Michael Manley and Edward Seaga” but that was risky and not risqué. Barbados was the same. I left Tom Adams and my choice for best of all, Errol Barrow, alone. Regardless of their political affiliation or the country we were in, my audience invariably laughed loudly, especially in Trinidad.

### THREE BEST

I looked through all the thousands of puns and wordplays in my columns but had to go back to what are still my three best which I first posted in February 1998, shortly after I started my column in Barbados Nation. Next was The Gleaner followed by Trinidad Express and then many others throughout the region. Facebook was late but still one of my Saturday spots. These are still “my glee-some threesome”.

This is one I still use in my training programmes, especially in the other Caribbean countries. It is about a Trinidadian in New York. He worked in the construction industry putting up skyscrapers. He invari-



Tony Deyal

ably had lunch with his two best friends, a Barbadian and a Jamaican. One day, as they sat on a steel-girder 50 floors high, the Barbadian opened his lunch kit and saw flying fish and cou-cou. He got angry. “Flying fish and cou-cou again!” he exclaimed.

“If I get this one more day I will throw myself from up here.” The Jamaican opened his lunch-kit and found ackee and salt-fish. “Ackee and salt-fish again,” he roared. “If I get this one more day, I will throw myself from up here.” The Trinidadian opened his lunch and found roti and fried potatoes. He shouted, “If I get this one more day I will throw myself from up here.” Next day the three men opened their lunches. The Barbadian said in disgust, “Flying fish and cou-

cou again!” and jumped. The Jamaican took one disgusted look at his lunch, “Ackee and salt-fish again” and jumped. The Trinidadian saw the roti and fried potatoes and he jumped too. At the joint funeral of all three men, the widows got together. The Barbadian’s widow cried softly, “Ef I know he would do something so drastic I would have given him something else.” The Jamaican widow said, “If hi thought he would do that I would have given him a hamleete instead.” The Trinidadian’s widow said in frustration, “I can’t understand why he do that at all. He used to fix his own lunch.”

My second favourite is about the bell-ringers of Paris. After the departure of Quasimodo for Disney-

*cont’d on pg 11*

## Ron Cephas Jones, This Is Us star, dies aged 66

US actor Ron Cephas Jones has died at the age of 66.

A veteran stage actor, he was best known for the series *This Is Us* - his role as a long-lost father who finds redemption earned him two Emmy Awards.

Jones had a "long-standing pulmonary issue", his manager told US outlets. He had a double lung transplant in 2020, according to media reports.

His "kindness and heart were felt by anyone who had the good fortune of knowing him", his manager said.

Jones's love for the stage



The actor pictured in 2017.

"was present throughout his entire career, including his recent Tony-nominated and Drama Desk Award-winning performance for his role in *Clyde's* on Broadway", the

statement added.

Academy Award-winning actress Octavia Spencer, who played alongside Jones in the series *Truth Be Told*, was among the co-stars

remembering the late actor.

She wrote on Instagram that she was "heartbroken" by the news.

"Ron was an incredibly talented actor and, most importantly, a wonderfully kind human being," Spencer said. "Every day on set with Ron was a good day."

Sterling K Brown - who played the son of Jones's character William Hill in *This Is Us* - paid his own tribute on Instagram.

"Life imitated art today, and one of the most wonderful people the world has ever seen is no longer with us," he wrote.

*cont'd from pg 10*

world, a young man went to the Bishop of Notre Dame and said he was the brother of Quasimodo and wanted the job of bell-ringer. The Bishop asked the young man to give him a demonstration. The young man walked to one side of the narrow parapet of the bell-tower and ran straight at the huge bell, hitting it head-on. The bell rang loudly.

A little dazed, the young man walked to the edge of the platform and again ran straight at the bell. It rang again but left the young man even more dazed. Undeterred he ran at the bell a third time and this made him so disoriented that he overshot the tower and fell far into the street below. By the time the Bishop reached the pavement, a crowd had gathered and an officious gendarme asked the Bishop, "Do you know this young man?" "No," replied the Bishop. "But his face rings a bell."

Following the passing of the unfortunate young man, lo and behold

another one, almost identical in appearance, arrived claiming to be the brother of both Quasimodo and the other young man. He demanded an audition. He, too, sprinted at the bell and hit it head-on. He, too, became dazed after hitting the bell. And he, too, fell splat into the street beneath. By the time the Bishop arrived, a crowd had gathered and the same officious gendarme, notebook in hand, fiercely questioned the Bishop. "Do you know this young man?" asked the gendarme. "No," replied the Bishop, "But he is a dead ringer for his brother."

My third favourite joke is one about a farmer and his wife in Trinidad who had a bull and a cow. The cow was a sweet animal and produced milk profusely, so much in fact that the couple earned a lot of money and eventually figured out if they had a second cow they could do much better. So they went to a far-off village and bought a cow that looked suitable. However, there were problems that

eventually led them to the village holy man, a Pundit, for advice. The farmer explained the situation. "Pundit," he said, "when the bull come up to the new cow from behind her, she jumps forward. If he comes from the side of her, she moves away. When he tackle her from the front, she back-back. The bull is frustrated and the other cow is suffering too." The Pundit nodded his head sagely and asked, "Where you get this cow? From Penal?" The farmer and his wife were astounded. "But Pundit," they said, "you really smart and are truly a wise man. How you know the cow was from Penal." The Pundit nodded sadly and said, "Because my wife from Penal."

*Tony Deyal was last seen saying that, fortunately or unfortunately, it was Patrick Manning's destiny, and Basdeo Panday's karma, not to be from Penal. I am not sure about their replacements and whether the new elite deserve penal labour or penal fortitude.*

# Technology



## Regional governments to discuss public sector digital transformation

CMC – A hybrid meeting of the Global Government Forum (GGF) and the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is being planned for October 16th to the 20th in Barbados, to discuss opportunities and challenges of public sector digital transformation.

The meeting which would be held under the theme ‘Embracing a Digital Caribbean: Opportunities for Growth and Innovation’, is expected to provide a platform for the exchange of ideas that bring together stakeholders from various sectors in the Caribbean and beyond, including government officials, industry leaders, technology experts, academics, and representatives from regional and international organisations.

Kevin Sorkin, Founder and Chief

Executive of Pendragon International Media Ltd, which publishes GGF and organises the Caribbean Digital Summit said, “GGF is proud to launch the inaugural Caribbean Digital Summit and co-locate the event with CTU’s

ICT Week.

“Together we will provide the essential programme of events and activities for the region’s digital leaders to help their transformation and further improve delivery for citizens,” Sorkin said adding that “we can’t wait to share the interim results of our study of digital transformation in the region and look forward to welcoming the region’s government CIOs for a valuable, successful and effective discussion.”

Rodney Taylor, secretary General of CTU, welcomed the aligning of the events and stated that “the collaboration with the Government of Barbados and the Global Government Forum marks a significant milestone for the Caribbean region’s digital development.

“By combining the Caribbean Digital Summit with the CTU’s ICT Week, we are creating a powerful platform to propel digital transformation and innovation forward,” Taylor said, adding that, “together, we will empower our digital leaders to address challenges and embrace opportunities, ultimately enhancing the lives of our citizens and driving progress throughout the region.”



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## Great grandmother released from jail on gun charge in The Bahamas

CMC - An 81-year-old great-grandmother, who suffers from early dementia, hyperlipidemia issues, and an enlarged heart that requires medication, was released from prison after serving half of her one-year jail term on a gun-related charge.

The Court of Appeal in a majority ruling ordered the release of Freda Hart, who had been convicted of trying to conceal an unlicensed gun that belonged to her grandson when police armed with a search warrant came to her house in December 2020.

“There can be no doubt that an appellant’s age and medical condition are relevant factors in determining a proper sentence which a court should impose,” Sir Michael Barnett said read on behalf of the majority, adding that her medical records were not shown to the magistrate during the sentencing.

Hart was sentenced In February 2023, after being convicted in the Magistrate’s Court of one count of possession of an unlicensed firearm and one count of possession of ammunition. Her grandson was also charged with the same offences and was also jailed for a longer period.

She had served six months and 12 days in prison before the Court of Appeal ordered her immedi-



ate release, saying she had served sufficient time for her “serious mistake”.

“The court appreciates that it should be loathe to interfere with the sentence of a sentencing judge and should only do so in limited circumstances. However, the appellant’s medical evidence was not before the magistrate.

“At the time of sentencing, the appellant was not represented by counsel. Had the magistrate had the benefit of full argument and the appellant’s medical report to assist him, he may well have come to a different sentencing decision. Therefore, the magistrate was unable to fully consider all relevant factors, particularly the appellant’s medical condition,” said Sir Michael.

The Court of Appeal said that having the bene-

fit of that information, it is “satisfied that this is a proper case to interfere with the sentencing discretion of the magistrate.

“The appellant has already spent over six months and 12 days in prison. Given her age and medical condition, the court is satisfied that this is sufficient punishment for her serious mistake. She should spend no further time in prison and should be released immediately.”

However, Justice Jon Isaacs, in a dissenting opinion wrote that he is “unable to agree with his decision to interfere with the sentence imposed by the magistrate.

“The actions of the intended appellant in attempting to conceal the firearm amounted to shielding her co-accused. Such actions hinder the police’s efforts

to interdict illegal firearms and remove them from our streets. The carnage inflicted through the use of such weapons is a notorious fact of which the court may take judicial notice.”

“I find that this court lacks jurisdiction to interfere with the intended appellant’s incarceration at BDOCS (Bahamas Department of Correctional Services) because there is nothing from the medical officer at BDOCS to show that she cannot be adequately treated at BDOCS.

“Further, during the sentencing phase, the magistrate took into account all of the evidence presented to him. As such, I do not find that the magistrate fell into error when he sentenced the intended appellant to twelve months at BDOCS,” Justice Isaacs added.

## Guyana: Descendants of UK slave owners coming to apologise

CMC - Family members of John Gladstone, a former owner of enslaved Africans, will be arriving in Guyana later this week to participate in the launch of the International Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies (MiDias) at the University of Guyana (UoG).

The family also plans to apologise for their ancestor's role in that dehumanising period of world history.

"The Gladstone family, which includes several historians have today confirmed that they will in fact offer an apology given the role their ancestors had played here," UoG said in a statement on Saturday.

John Gladstone was the father of four-time British Prime Minister William Gladstone, owned 2,500 slaves and according to the UK Guardian, was the fifth-largest beneficiary of the £20 million fund (about £16 billion today) set aside by the British government to compensate planters when the Slavery Abolition Act was passed in 1833.

The paper also reported that in addition to making an official apology for Gladstone's ownership of Africans, the 21st-century Gladstones have agreed to pay reparations to fund further research into the impact of slavery, through a £100,000 grant to the MiDias.

The Diaspora and Migration Centre is set up to



pursue five specific areas of research interest including Diaspora and Migration in and around Academia, Youth, Technology and Vulnerable Communities, Indigeneity, Indentureship and Slavery as specific and integral aspects of dispersion.

"The research track for Slavery and indentureship is the reason why it was deemed appropriate to launch the MiDias in this historically auspicious month in regard to the emancipation of enslaved peoples as well as the 200th anniversary of the 1823 slave revolution in Demerara," UG added.

UoG says it has been collaborating for several years with a number of universities as well as the Guyana Reparations Committee on specific aspects of impacts of the plantations' enterprise of slavery and indenture as well as indige-

neity on native populations, including relations being experienced today.

According to that publicly funded tertiary institution, as such UG and the Guyana Reparations Committee invited members of the Gladstone family, part of the heirs of slavery grouping to participate in the event since Quamina and his son John, who led the 1823 rebellions were enslaved on Gladstone plantations.

John Gladstone owned or held mortgages over 2,508 enslaved Africans in Guyana and Jamaica. After emancipation, he was paid nearly £106,000, a huge sum at the time. The Demerara rebellion in August 1823 began on one of his plantations. It was led by Jack Gladstone, an enslaved man forced to take his owner's name, and his father, Quamina, who had been transported from Africa as

a child.

About 13,000 Africans rose up in Demerara, a British colony that later became part of Guyana. Conditions for the enslaved were particularly brutal there. The plantations were the most profitable in the British Empire, with an enslaved person in Demerara worth twice that of one in Jamaica.

More than 250 enslaved Africans were killed and a further 51 were sentenced to death when the uprising was crushed. Many of the convicted were tortured, decapitated and had their heads impaled on poles as a warning to others. Quamina's body was hung in chains outside one of John Gladstone's plantations.

Friday's launch is being done in collaboration with the National Reparations Committee and Heirs of Slavery, a group that

*cont'd on pg 15*

## Dominican Republic officials say plastics company to blame for deadly blast

Dominican authorities announced late Friday that they are pursuing a criminal case against a plastics company based on evidence found during an investigation into a powerful explosion this week that killed at least 31 people.

Police and the Public Ministry issued a joint statement saying the blast occurred at a business called Vidal Plast, rather than at a bakery as authorities had said initially. The explosion occurred Monday afternoon in a bustling commercial centre in San Cristobal, a city just west of the capital of Santo Domingo.

“The Public Ministry has evidence that compromises the criminal responsibility of those responsible who, with their actions, caused the death of dozens of people and caused millions in losses,” the statement said, citing prosecutor Fadulia Rosa Rubio.

The ministry said it was investigating several people, but did not identify them.

The owners of Vidal Plast could not be immediately



Firefighters put out a fire after a powerful explosion in San Cristobal, Dominican Republic, Monday, August 14, 2023. (Jolivel Brito/Diario Libre via AP)

reached for comment. The company recycles, buys and sells plastic materials, officials said.

Authorities also said they have evidence that there was a fire at the business in March caused by a spark and a chemical substance and that the company did not take any measures “despite knowing the high risk of its operations.”

Víctor Bisonó, the minister of industry and commerce, told reporters

that the municipality had closed the factory in the past, but he did not provide more details.

N Digital, a respected online newspaper in the Dominican Republic, reported that the company was founded in 2003. It quoted one of the company’s founders as saying that the factory was not operating and that two of its employees were simply removing material from the site when the explosion

occurred, with one of them being killed.

Officials on Friday also raised the number of dead to 31 from 28. They said seven of the dead had been identified so far. On Thursday, the government said it could take up to three months to identify all those killed in the blast.

An additional 59 people were injured in the blast, and the majority remain hospitalized.

San Cristobal, the birthplace of dictator Rafael Trujillo, was the site of another explosion nearly 23 years ago. An arms depot blew up in October 2000, killing at least two people and injured more than two dozen, forcing authorities to evacuate thousands.

### cont'd from pg 14

includes the Gladstones, at the George Walcott Lecture Theatre of the Turkeyen Campus and is expected to be attended by several elders, the Guyana reparations Committee and other groups, students and senior potentates to witness the launch and receive the formal apology from the Gladstone family.

After the formal ceremony at the UoG, the moment will be marked by an inter-generational dialogue between students and youthful members of the Gladstone family, a linking of the University of Guyana Library with digital archives of the Council of World Missions and an exhibition of scholarly work throughout the day on the subject matter.

## Niger coup leader Gen Tchiani promises to hand over power in three years

By Chris Ewokor

Niger's coup leader has promised to return the West African nation to civilian rule within three years.

Gen Abdourahamane Tchiani made the announcement after meeting mediators from the West African regional bloc Ecowas in the capital, Niamey.

Ecowas has threatened military action to reverse last month's overthrow of President Mohamed Bazoum if talks fail.

The junta head said that Niger did not want a war but would defend itself against any foreign intervention.

"If an attack were to be undertaken against us, it will not be the walk in the park some people seem to think," he warned in his televised address on Saturday evening.

Gen Tchiani also reiterated criticism of what he called the "illegal and inhumane" sanctions imposed by Ecowas on the landlocked country.

This has included cutting electricity, resulting in blackouts in Niamey and other major cities, as well as blocking crucial imports.

Lorry drivers have been stuck for weeks waiting to bring in supplies, forcing up food prices.

"Sanctions are not conceived with the aim of finding a solution but to bring us to our knees and humiliate us," Gen Tchiani said.



*The junta head said that Niger did not want a war but would defend itself.*

Thousands of men came to a stadium in Niamey on Saturday to register for a volunteer force in case of invasion - although overcrowding prevented the registration process starting, the Reuters news agency reports.

Ecowas rejected the three-year timeframe after talks on Sunday.

"Ecowas is not accepting any prolonged transition again in the region. They just have to get ready to hand over in the shortest possible time," Abdel-Fatau Musah, the bloc's commissioner for political affairs, peace and security, told the BBC.

He said the "military aspect is very much on".

He added: "The earlier they give power back to civilians and concentrate on their primary responsibility that is defending the territorial integrity of Niger, the

better for them."

Regional efforts to reverse the coup have been backed by the US and France, which both have military bases in Niger. These bases are part of efforts to tackle jihadist groups in the wider Sahel region.

The junta leader, who headed the presidential guard before seizing power on 26 July, said military intervention could worsen the Islamist insurgencies linked to al-Qaeda and the Islamic State group.

"They seem ignorant to the fact that it is in large part thanks to the professionalism and valour of the defence and security forces of Niger that Niger has remained a barrier preventing terrorist hordes from destabilising the whole region," he said.

The coup mirrors similar recent takeovers in

neighbouring Burkina Faso and Mali.

And the influence of Russia in the wider Sahel region is also growing through its mercenary group Wagner.

Gen Tchiani did not give details about the handover of power, but said the principles for the transition would be decided within 30 days at a "dialogue" hosted by the coup leaders.

Their delegation was led by former Nigerian military leader Gen Abdulsalami Abubakar and also included Nigeria's most senior Muslim leader, the Sultan of Sokoto, Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III.

He wields huge influence in Niger, part of which used to be in the Sokoto Caliphate, a powerful kingdom before colonial rule.

Saturday's meeting was the first between leaders of the junta and Ecowas.





One Kelowna resident told the BBC the fires came over the mountainside like an “ominous cloud of destruction”.

## Canada wildfires: At least 30,000 households in British Columbia told to evacuate

About 30,000 households have been ordered to evacuate in Canada’s British Columbia province, where nearly 400 wildfires are raging.

Two huge fires in the Shuswap region merged overnight, destroying blocks of houses and other buildings.

To the south, travel to the water-side city of Kelowna has been restricted, and smoke from nearby fires hangs over Lake Okanagan.

Fires have charred homes in West Kelowna, a nearby city of 36,000.

The travel restriction around Kelowna is designed to ensure enough accommodation for evacuees and emergency workers. It also applies to the towns of Kamloops, Oliver, Penticton and Vernon and Osoyoos.

Hundreds of miles north, a huge

fire continues to edge towards the city of Yellowknife.

An official deadline to evacuate the city - the capital of Canada’s Northwest Territories - lapsed on Friday. A local official said later that day that nearly all residents had left, either by car or plane.

About 19,000 of the city’s 20,000 inhabitants had evacuated. Authorities said 39 patients were moved out of a hospital to alternative facilities on Friday evening, making them the last people to be evacuated from the city.

Environment and communities minister Shane Thompson said some people had chosen “to shelter in place”, but urged locals to leave.

In British Columbia, evacuation orders grew from covering 15,000

homes on Friday to at least 30,000 by Saturday evening. Another 36,000 homes are under evacuation alert.

The province’s emergency management minister said officials “cannot stress strongly enough how critical it is to follow evacuation orders”.

Bowinn Ma added: “They are a matter of life and death not only for the people in those properties, but also for the first responders who will often go back to try to implore people to leave.”

Premier of the province, David Eby, put the total number of people ordered to leave at 35,000, with 30,000 told to be prepared to evacuate.

Canada is having its worst wildfire season on record, with at least 1,000  
*cont’d on pg 18*

## Donald Trump confirms he will skip Republican presidential debates

By Jaroslav Lukiv

Donald Trump has confirmed that he will not take part in Republican presidential debates with his rivals in the race for the White House.

The ex-president said one latest poll showed he had “legendary” numbers ahead of other hopefuls to be the party’s nominee for the 2024 election.

“The public knows who I am & what a successful Presidency I had,” Mr Trump, 77, wrote in a post on social media.

The first Republican presidential primary debate will be on 23 August.

The second debate can possibly follow the next day. At least two more debates are expected in the ensuing months.

Voting in the Republican primary election begins in the state of Iowa on 15 January 2024, but more debates are likely to be held to help winnow the field.

Recent polls have consistently shown that Mr Trump - who faces a number of criminal charges - is currently the frontrunner



Donald Trump is the frontrunner for the Republican presidential nomination, recent polls show.

for the Republican nomination.

In a post on his Truth Social platform on Sunday, Mr Trump wrote: “New CBS POLL, just out, has me leading the field by “legendary” numbers.”

He added that several other contenders - including Florida Governor Ron DeSantis - were lagging far behind.

“The public knows who I am & what a successful Presidency I had, with Energy Independence, Strong Borders & Military, Big-

gest EVER Tax & Regulation Cuts, No Inflation, Strongest Economy in History, & much more.

“I WILL THEREFORE NOT BE DOING THE DEBATES!”

In recent months, Mr Trump had repeatedly suggested that he would not join the Republican debates.

He had cited polls that showed him leading other candidates by “seemingly insurmountable numbers” and had complained that proposed moderators and

venues might be “hostile” towards him.

Other Republican presidential hopefuls have so far not commented on the the latest developments.

Donald Trump, America’s 45th president in 2017-21, has been criminally indicted four times, and will have a series of trials to attend in 2024 as he runs again for the White House.

He describes the charges against him as a political “witch hunt”.

The charges could - in theory - lead to substantial prison time if Mr Trump is convicted.

But the logistics, security and politics of jailing a former president mean a conventional prison sentence is seen as unlikely by many experts.

*cont’d from pg 17*

fires burning across the country, according to the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC).

Experts say climate change increases the risk of the hot, dry weather that is likely to fuel wildfires.

Extreme and long-lasting heat draws

more and more moisture out of the ground - which can provide fuel for fires that can spread at an incredible speed, particularly if winds are strong.

Although no deaths have been reported in the latest fires, at least four firefighters have lost their lives during this record-breaking season.

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## Antigua and Barbuda lose opener to Bermuda in CFU Challenge Series

Antigua and Barbuda Benna Girls made a losing start to their campaign in the 2023 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series, which kicked off with five matches at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday.

The young Benna Girls were beaten 2-0 by Bermuda in the Tier II Group B match that started with great intensity and end-to-end action that thrilled the spectators.

Rolesha Humphreys of Antigua and Barbuda attempted to open the scoring in the second minute, but the alert Bermuda keeper, Semaj Baisden-Scott, saved the shot. Baisden-Scott had another save in the 11th minute after a strike from Keitonya Skepple of the Benna Girls.

The deadlock was broken in the 18th minute with a brilliant strike by Cayli Dowling, which eluded the fingers of Antigua and Barbuda's custodian, Alyssa Laviscount. Avery Taylor then sealed Bermuda's victory by scoring her team's second goal in the 31st minute.

Barbados also made a winning start in the Tier II Group B campaign with a 2-0 win over Bonaire when the teams met on Friday at the ABFA Technical Center.

Barbados broke the deadlock in the 32nd min-



*The players of the Bermuda team celebrate after scoring one of their two goals against Antigua and Barbuda in the 2023 CFU Girls' U14 Challenge Series at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Friday, August 18, 2023. (CFU)*

ute when Bonaire's keeper Simoneè Sint Jago couldn't quite handle a cross, and Janiyah Nurse capitalized on the opportunity. Nurse pounced on the loose ball to steer it into an open net, giving the Bajan girls a 1-0 lead at the halfway mark.

Defender Gabrielle Birmingham sealed the win for the Bajan girls by converting a free kick in the 55th minute.

Kaylee Durand produced a double hat-trick by scoring all six goals to propel Anguilla to a 6-0 drubbing of Dominica in their Tier II Group A opener to kick-off the CFU Girls Under-14 Challenge Series.

Durand put Anguilla ahead eight minutes into the

game with a shot into the right corner of the Dominica goal. Galisha Cinnolthia Lockhart came on in the 18th minute after an unfortunate injury to Dominica's starting goalkeeper, Dian Margles Augustine.

Durand popped up with her second and third goals in the 30th and 41st minutes, knocking the wind out of Dominica's challenge.

On the resumption of the second half, Dominica came out stronger with a lighter spirit; however, it was short-lived, as two minutes in, Durand dulled their spark by scoring her fourth goal of the match.

Durand was not done yet, and she struck again with goals in the 67th and

77th minutes to complete her double hat-trick and seal Anguilla's emphatic victory over the Dominicans.

Stephanie Hunte recorded a hat-trick as St. Vincent and the Grenadines triumphed 3-1 over the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) in their opening encounter.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines came out in full attacking mode in the Tier II Group A match, while the USVI found themselves in rapid defensive mode.

Stephanie Hunte and Astrel Bynoe of the Vincy Heat wasted little time attacking and creating multiple opportunities for their team. But excellent goal-keeping from the USVI's

*cont'd on pg 21*

## Antiguan Jewel Andrew is selected in West Indies Under-19 squad

Antiguan and Leeward Islands player Jewel Andrew has been selected in a 15-member West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under 19 squad for the upcoming tour of Sri Lanka, starting on August 25th.

Andrew, a talented right-handed batsman and wicketkeeper, was the vice-captain of the Leeward Islands team at the 2023 Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Regional Men's Under-19 Championships, which were held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in July and early August.

Andrew, who also plays for the Pigotts Crushers team in Antigua, is one of two Leeward Islands players selected in the West Indies Under-19 squad.

The other is all-rounder Nathan Edwards, a talented left-handed batsman and left-arm fast bowler from the island of St. Maarten.

The Under-19 squad, which was announced by Cricket West Indies on

Thursday, will play three 50-over matches and two four-day matches against the Sri Lanka Under-19 team at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium during the tour.

Top-order batter Stephan Pascal will be captain for the white ball matches, with Nathan Sealy, the left-handed slow bowling allrounder, leading the side for two red ball matches, that conclude the tour.

The squad includes three players who played in the ICC Men's Under-19 World Cup in 2022, which was hosted in the West Indies. They are fast bowlers Isai Thorne and Nathan Edwards, and left-handed batter Jordan Johnson.

Rohan Nurse, CWI's Talent Pathway Manager is the head coach of the team.

The West Indies Under-19s will begin their tour of Sri Lanka with a 50-over warm-up match at Colts Cricket Club, Colombo, on August 25.



Antiguan and Leeward Islands player Jewel Andrew. (File photo)

They will then take on the Sri Lanka Under-19 squad in the first Youth One-Day International at the Rangiri Dambulla International Cricket Stadium on August 27th.

The next ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup will be played in Sri

Lanka in January and February 2024.

**FULL SQUAD:** Stephan Pascal, Nathan Sealy, Jewel Andrew, Mavendra Dindyal, Joshua Dorne, Nathan Edward, Tarrique Edward, Reon Edwards, Deshawn James, Jordan Johnson, Devonie Joseph, Tamarie Redwood, Isai Thorne, Steve Wedderburn, and Adrian Weir.  
**Team Management:** Rohan Nurse (Head Coach), Rohan Clarke (Assistant Coach), Nick Wilton (Assistant Coach), Gibbs Williams (Team Manager), Dominic Angoy (Physiotherapist), and Gregory Seale (Strength and Conditioning Coach).

### cont'd from pg 20

Jimmillia Plante denied them.

But Hunte was able to break the deadlock in the 45th minute when she scored into the far corner to give the Vincentians the lead.

She continued to excel with great strides and was able to convert two additional goals in the 66th and 69th minutes, securing the first hat-trick of the competition.

The USVI, however, kept their compo-

sure and resilience, and it paid off. Vigga Tyson was successful in etching her name on the score sheet by scoring the only goal for the Virgin Islanders in the 70th minute of play.

Curacao and Guadeloupe launched their campaigns in Tier II Group C by battling to a goalless draw in their other opening day encounter in the CFU's developmental competition that is taking place from August 18th to 27th in Antigua and Barbuda.



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## Cornelius captures Men's Physique title at national championships

Tennessee Cornelius captured the overall Men's Physique title at the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Federation's (ABABWF) National Championships at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday night.

Cornelius claimed the Men's Physique Class A honours on his way to clinching the overall title. Larenz Benjamin won the Men's Physique Class B honours.

Cornelius also captured the Jr. Men's Physique crown and the Novice Men's Physique title. Shaquelle Thomas



The winners of the various categories at the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Bodybuilding & Weightlifting Federation's (ABABWF) National Championships at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Saturday, August 19th, 2023. (ABABWF)

reigned supreme in the Classis Physique Open Competition, while Jonathan Aubrey took home the Novice Classic Physique title.

Thomas won the Bernard

Percival Classic Physique Best Poser Award, while Aubrey claimed the Novice Classic Physique Best Poser OSA Award.

Rodney George captured

the overall Men's Bodybuilding title. George also won the Men's Bodybuilding Lightweight crown. Tony Phillip won the Men's Bodybuilding Heavyweight title. George also claimed the Mark Whetton Most Muscular Award.

Franklyn Carbon won the Masters Bodybuilding title, while Kayla Joseph retained her Bikini Wellness crown.

Naricca Ballantyne claimed the overall Bikini Fitness title and also captured the Masters Bikini Fitness crown.

Ballantyne won the top honours in Bikini Class B, while Rachael Greaves claimed top honours in Bikini Class A. Ballantyne also took home the Best Bikini Legs OSA Award.

Ahjanya King won the Masters Bikini Wellness title, while Jeridith John-Jules captured the Novice Bikini Wellness crown. Joshuel Chiddick claimed the Novice Bikini Fitness title.

Orlanda Small won the Best Bikini Novice Poser OSA Award.

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Team Spain celebrates after winning the Women's World Cup soccer final against England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. (AP)

## Spain defeat England in final of record-breaking Women's World Cup

SYDNEY (Reuters) - Spain defeated England 1-0 in the Women's World Cup final on Sunday, capping off a tournament that has broken attendance and TV records and raised hopes of a surge in interest for the women's game.

Co-hosted by Australia and New Zealand, the ninth edition of the global showpiece event was the first to be held in the southern hemisphere.

While local interest ebbed when Australia exited in the semi-finals, just shy of two million fans will have passed through the gates in nine host cities after Sunday's final crowd of 75,784 is added to the tally.

An Olga Carmona goal was the difference between the two sides in a pulsating game that saw Spain create the majority of the clear-cut chances.

"We suffered, it was a difficult match (but) we always thought we were going to make it," Carmona, who

was also named player of the match, told Spanish state broadcaster TVE.

La Roja were rocked by a locker room dispute between the squad and coach Jorge Vilda and the Spanish football federation, with some of their best players absent from the tournament as a result.

But despite a shock 4-0 loss to Japan in the group stage, the team has shone throughout the tournament with their brand of attractive, attacking football.

"I can't imagine how much excitement there will be in Spain," Vilda told TVE.

"We are going to celebrate here and we don't know when it will end."

England and Spain were both making their first appearance at a Women's World Cup final, while England's wait for a first trophy since the men's tournament in 1966 goes on.

Women were banned from official facilities in England, the home of the game, until 1970 and have long lagged the men's team in interest and funding, although that began to change after the Lionesses won the European Championship last year.

England captain Millie Bright told reporters after the final whistle she was proud of the progress the women's game had made.

"Credit to the tournament, it's been phenomenal, the crowds that we've generated and the support that all teams have and it's been surreal, it's been so visible," she said.

"In terms of the women's game ... I definitely think we're at our peak."

Thousands of fans milled around Stadium Australia in Sydney hours before kick-off on Sunday, with troupes of drummers and stilt walkers creating a festival atmosphere.

## Black Hawks retain ABCA Super40 Cup

PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks have retained the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's Super40 Cup championship.

The Black Hawks secured the title after the final between Liberta and Empire Nation was abandoned as a result of rain and wet conditions at the Ball Beef playing field in Liberta yesterday.

Liberta was awarded the title by virtue of finishing as the top seeded team ahead of Empire Nation at the end of the preliminary round of the competition.

Both teams had booked their places in Sunday's final after winning their respective semi-finals on Saturday.

The Black Hawks snatched a last-ball, two-wicket win against the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in a match that was reduced to a T20 affair due to wet conditions at Ball Beef.

The Golden Eagles, who lost the toss and were sent in to bat, made 120 for eight off their allotted 20 overs. Shacoy Floyd struck



The PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks which won the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's Super40 Cup championship in 2022. The Black Hawks retained the title after the final on Sunday, August 20, 2023, was abandoned due to rain.

39, Kevin Pitman got 21, Gavin Tonge scored 18, and captain Deran Benta chipped in with 17.

Liberta's captain and left-arm spinner Kadeem Phillip picked up four wickets for 20 runs in his four overs.

The Black Hawks achieved victory by scoring 122 for eight off their 20 overs. The Black Hawks needed three runs to win off the final ball, and Terek Charles hit the last delivery for four to secure the victory for his team.

Charles finished on 32

not out off 29 balls, and he struck four boundaries in his innings. Amahl Nathaniel hit 29 off 28 balls, Wilden Cornwall Jr. struck 23 off 17 balls, and opener Wilden "Pollo" Cornwall chipped in with 19 off nine balls.

Experienced right-arm pacer Gavin Tonge captured three wickets for 24 runs in his four overs.

Empire Nation trounced the Pigotts Crushers by 108 runs at the Pigotts playing field. Captain Kenrick Scott cracked a half century to propel Em-

pire to 164 for six off 30 overs after being sent in to bat.

Scott scored 59 off 79 balls with seven fours and a six. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. chipped in with 40 off 44 balls, smashing four fours and two sixes. Crushers' skipper Elroy Francis Jr. claimed two for 16, and Tyree Moore took two for 26.

In reply, the Crushers were bundled out for 56 in 15.1 overs, with Tariq Benjamin snapping up seven wickets for 19 runs in six overs.