

CABINET: NO LIMITED STATES OF EMERGENCY

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A team comprising representatives from the government, Antigua Power Company Ltd.-Caribbean LNG, and the US embassy in Barbados, were on hand to welcome the arrival of two huge storage tanks for the new Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) power plant being constructed at Crabbes. *Story on page 4.*

Local News



Limited states of emergency fail to get Cabinet's approval

A proposal by the Commissioner of Police, to have an amendment to the legislation to allow for the declaration of limited states of emergency in certain circumstances, has been denied by the Cabinet.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Lionel Max Hurst, reported that the Cabinet 'was not persuaded' that such a move was desirable for Antigua and Barbuda.

Hurst said the members felt that declaring a limited state of emergency, in a particular area, was unnecessary for a country as small as Antigua and Barbuda.

The Chief of Staff was addressing Thursday's post-Cabinet press briefing in response to a question on gun crimes

in the country.

He said practically all Caribbean countries are dealing with the issue, noting that guns are not produced in the region and Antigua and Barbuda with its many beaches and coves makes it easy for these items to be smuggled into the country.

"The issue therefore is whether this justifies having states of emergency that are confined to small areas of the country at a time.

"What the Cabinet concluded on Wednesday, was that given the small size of our country; and the fact that we are a microstate; we are one hundred times smaller than Jamaica and fifty times smaller than Trinidad and Tobago.

"We are so much smaller than many

of those countries that are experiencing the problem, the Cabinet felt it was not a suitable methodology to fighting crime," he explained.

Recognizing that the proposal was mooted by the Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, Hurst said whilst the government does not like to publicly disagree with the Commissioner, the Cabinet was also concerned about the suspension of people's rights as would happen under a state of emergency.

"We don't like states of emergency as they are a deprivation of rights during that time. Nobody wants their rights squashed even for a short period of time. It is also something that is hardly ever used here in Antigua and Barbuda," he declared.

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PM Browne remains hopeful about the future of LIAT 2020

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says he remains hopeful about the future of intra-regional air travel, led by LIAT 2020, as support for a more reliable air transportation system is gathering momentum.

The prime minister was commenting on recent statements by the former chairman of LIAT (1974) Ltd., St. Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves who has indicated a willingness to invest in the new airline.

PM Browne recalled that over the years he has tried to impress on his regional colleagues that maintaining an airline to move people and goods throughout the region was a vital necessity.

He suggested that some governments wanted to have the benefits of a regional carrier, but who did not want to invest in the airline to ensure the sustainability of the venture.



According to the prime minister, these are some of the factors that led to the grounding of LIAT 1974 Ltd in 2020 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Antigua and Barbuda, on its own, decided to incorporate LIAT 2020 and it has invested millions of dollars into the entity to keep it afloat thus far. However, it does not have the required fleet to adequately service

the region.

Another Caribbean airline, InterCaribbean, has been servicing many of the routes previously served by LIAT 1974 Ltd. However, there has been a region-wide outcry over its service, reliability, and overall operations, that many in the region are asking for the return of LIAT.

“Forty years ago, when our economies were much

smaller, were we able to sustain an airline, and now 2023 with our economies much larger and with more resources, we can’t sustain an airline, how do you rationalize that? Obviously, it’s a lack of cooperation and collaboration among states; that is a fundamental problem and it’s one of the issues affecting regional integration,” PM Browne suggested.

The Antigua and Barbuda leader holds the view that the failures of InterCaribbean during this summer have made the point about the necessity of a reliable airline, that will get people to their destinations on time.

Already, the SVG leader, Dr. Gonsalves, and the leader of St. Lucia, Philip Pierre, are on board with investing in LIAT 2020. “We are making progress,” he stated.

Green Bay man charged with murder

The police have arrested and charged 42-year-old Kareem Simon of Green Bay with the alleged murder of 66-year-old Dennis Edwards of Bolans.

The alleged incident occurred on Monday, August 21, shortly after 8 p.m. on Lower All Saints Road.

The accused is expected to make his first appearance before the court on Friday, August 25, 2023.

Edwards, a former resident of Bolans, was found motionless on Lower All Saints Road with what appeared to be puncture wounds to his upper body.

In an earlier release, the police said it is alleged that Edwards was involved in an altercation with an unknown assailant at the time. The police now believe that Simon was the other person involved in the incident.

LNG storage tanks arrive for new LNG power plant

A team comprising representatives from the government, Antigua Power Company Ltd.-Caribbean LNG, and the US embassy in Barbados, were on hand to welcome the arrival of two huge storage tanks for the new Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) power plant being constructed at Crabbes.

Utilities and Energy Minister, Melford Nicholas, said LNG represents a key component of the government's move to become carbon neutral by the end of the decade. He noted that LNG, while carbon-based, releases forty percent less of the harmful emissions of fossil fuels such as diesel and bunker fuel.

He described LNG as 'a transitional' fuel as the country moves towards renewable



Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas speaks at the landing of the LNG storage tanks

energy sources such as solar and wind power.

However, Nicholas says that establishing an LNG

power plant and terminal in Antigua and Barbuda will usher in much economic benefits for the country.

"The most important part of this development, in my mind, stems from the future economic benefits that this development will spurn. Most of the new cruise ships that are being built are being built with LNG engines to generate power. It is clear therefore that with the developments of both the cargo and cruise ports in St. John's, it means that as more and more cruise ships ply their trade in the Caribbean, they have an additional incentive to use Antigua and Barbuda as a refueling stop. This helps us with our exports and it also helps with the economic diversity we want to build into everything that we do here," he remarked.



LNG storage tanks arrive at the St. John's Harbour

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ABDF plans 8-day programme of activities to mark 42nd Anniversary

Activities marking the 42nd Anniversary of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF) commencing tomorrow and will conclude on September 2nd.

Branded as the Field's Week of Activities, on display, will be a wide variety of skills, capabilities, and talents of the members of the ABDF. The public domain will be allowed to witness such, as the force celebrates in brotherhood and camaraderie, in recognition of the Force's 42nd Anniversary milestone.

On Saturday, August 26th, a Family Fun Day will take place at Camp Blizzard from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Activities include a BBQ, Sound Clash, Car

Show, and fun activities for children and persons of all ages. On Sunday, members of the force will join the congregation at the Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church.

Monday's activities include the traditional 16-mile relay starting at 5 a.m. at Long Bay Beach and ending at Camp Blizzard.

Four teams, consisting of eight persons each, will showcase their grit and willpower to run the long distance, as Houses battle to win bragging rights and hoist the trophy as the 2023 16-Mile Relay Champions.

Houses have been named after past Commanders and Sergeant Majors of the Force who made significant con-

tributions to forging the administration into the fine establishment it is today. The names of the esteemed are, Herman Blackman, Dannie Nicholas, Maurice James, and Llewelyn Haywood.

There will also be a community outreach project held at the Fiennes Institute where members of the Force will spend the day at the institution with the elderly. As part of the day's happenings, they will assist with the provision of meals and will also make presentations of donations and care packages, all while in fellowship with those who have served the nation.

Other activities are planned for the remainder of the week.

cont'd from pg 4

Speaking on behalf of Caribbean LNG, Francis Hadeed explained the significance of having these specialized tanks here in Antigua and Barbuda.

"These tanks are almost like a freezer; they keep the LNG frozen. They have to keep the LNG frozen at a temperature of 196 degrees below zero. These tanks will be transported to Crabbes using barges, as they are too large to be transported on the nation's roadways. The Crabbes Terminal will be the only LNG terminal in the Caribbean region, with the capacity to do small crafts and ship-to-ship fueling of LNG. Antigua and Barbuda is now strategically poised through-

out the region, to fill ships and to distribute. This will be a dual-purpose facility; to supply the plant as well as ships and to export as well," he disclosed.

Hadeed described the development as 'a game changer' noting that Antigua and Barbuda will solidify its position as a leader in energy generation within the sub-region with the development placing the country a further step ahead of 'everyone else.'

The US Embassy was represented by political affairs officer, Tapitha Snowberger. Other representatives were on hand from the American partners in Caribbean LNG, along with the Antigua Port Authority and the shipping company.



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24th August 2023

PRESS RELEASE MBS Encourages Wellness Checks

The Medical Benefits Scheme (MBS) encourages its members to schedule and attend regular wellness appointments with their physicians. This will ensure efficient chronic disease management and adherence to medication regimens. Patients are also advised to consult their physicians immediately if they have concerns or experience side effects from any medication rather than to discontinue its use. As a result of such engagement, both beneficiaries and physicians will have the opportunity to dialogue and reassess the efficacy of continuing to use any medication. Improper use of medication can result in wastage which can be a significant financial burden.

The Medical Benefits Scheme provides medication to assist its beneficiaries in the management of eleven (11) chronic conditions, including hypertension, diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases. Approximately nineteen million Eastern Caribbean dollars is expended by the MBS in procuring these pharmaceuticals.

The MBS continues to make every effort to procure pharmaceuticals despite global supply issues. Beneficiaries are assured that the medication required for the management of their chronic conditions is available and can be sourced from the MBS network of pharmacies. Beneficiaries are also encouraged to engage in physical activity and healthy eating as part of their wellness plan.

Physicians are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the list of medications on the national formulary to ensure that the medications they prescribe to beneficiaries are those on the formulary. This will ensure that the medications they prescribe to beneficiaries are readily available at our pharmacies.

Major yacht show slated for later this year

The Antigua and Barbuda Yachting & Marine Association (ABYMA) will host its second annual ABYMA Industry Showcase. The event, slated to take place from the 16-17th November, will be hosted by Falmouth Harbour Marina.

President, Franklyn Braithwaite says, ‘The first year was a huge success and we were able to engage with many students and adults interested in finding out more about the yachting industry.’

In year two, we look forward to seeing attendance from more educational facilities and adults who may be interested in finding out how their skills can be transferred into the industry.”

The show will be held at Falmouth Harbour Marina where an additional super yacht dock was constructed in 2022 and will have some yachts already harbored, in readiness for the 2023-24 yachting season. Vice President of the ABYMA Bobby Reis says, “As a company which has 100% ownership by Antiguans and Barbudans, Falmouth Harbour Marina has always had as its

objective, to ensure the people of this country benefit from the industry.

“We look forward to showcasing the industry, our members, and our marina to our citizens and to early arrivals of international yachts, for the winter season.”

On display will be sailmakers, engineering companies, provisioners, sailing training organizations, boat builders, and a whole array of other companies that depend on the yachting industry.

Reis continues, “A lot of effort is going into developing pathways in the industry right now, and the Showcase will be a great place for people to research how they too can benefit from being involved in this very lucrative industry.”

Companies wishing to register for the Showcase can get in touch with the secretariat by emailing news@abma.ag or calling +1268 736-6367.

Three clinics receive donated vaccine solar refrigerators

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment has started the installation of vaccine solar refrigerators donated by the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), with funding provided by the Government of Canada.

Three refrigerators were donated by the organization to the Ministry and will be placed within three clinics in Antigua and Barbuda.

These are the Villa Poly-clinic, Bolans Clinic, and the Hannah Thomas Hospital in Barbuda



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Commentary



Hon. Ralph Gonzalves' 'Mia' Culpa

By **Makeda Mikael**

The former Chairman of LIAT and current Prime Minister of St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Hon. Ralph Gonzalves' 'Mia' Culpa, on flinging the last stone that hit LIAT, causing the valiant Caribbean Airline to lose altitude, is the topic of aviation talk in the region. It has even blanked out Dominica's outreach to join LIAT 2020, putting their dollars where their talk centered, and now

we are all awaiting papers to commit to the resuscitation of LIAT, the Little Airline that Could!

As someone who falls in love with airports and runways, staying in love with LIAT has always been easy. From the days of the first advertisement ditty, "LIAT, LIAT, I LOVE," to today as we hear the sound and look up to see what is left of LIAT, still flying high, safe and sound, with loving pilots,

and smiling efficient crew, and the best engineers and mechanics, and, even when they bring you home late, they bring you home!

Sixty years is long enough to develop a culture in the airline business, and its track record builds confidence in the marketplace, a confidence based on safety, doing the best they can, sometimes in the worst of times, like over the last few years. The culture of LIAT

is based on care, and even as the majority of LIAT workers have always been female, it could be that the nurturing science of women may have helped mold the kinder side of the LIAT, which we all knew. However, it was never acceptable for LIAT, "Leaving Island Any Time," so whenever it dropped to that level, loud, unloving, and unkind words were exchanged, until LIAT again saved the day, and the LIAT love flowed again.

We managed a pandemic without LIAT, and that was the time, when down, that LIAT received the violence of the plantation, the destruction of our only means of integration, LIAT grounded! LIAT was stomped on, and LIAT's elegant and self-assured pilots, crew, engineers, mechanics, operations, and airport staff, were reduced to begging for their well-earned severance or some 'kinda' money, just to live. The contempt and abuse metered out against these hardworking, loyal, and constant workers of LIAT certainly was not love from the politicians who ran the airline to the ground and then abused it.

The MIA Culpa of the Hon. Prime Minister is accepted. However, as he has been the Chairman of LIAT for more years than he can remember, he will need to undo what he did, renew Hon. MIA Motley's faith in LIAT, and bring Barbados back into the family, LIAT 2020!

PROTECT YOURSELF

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Opinion



Stopping the spread of political assassinations and gang violence

By Sir Ronald Sanders

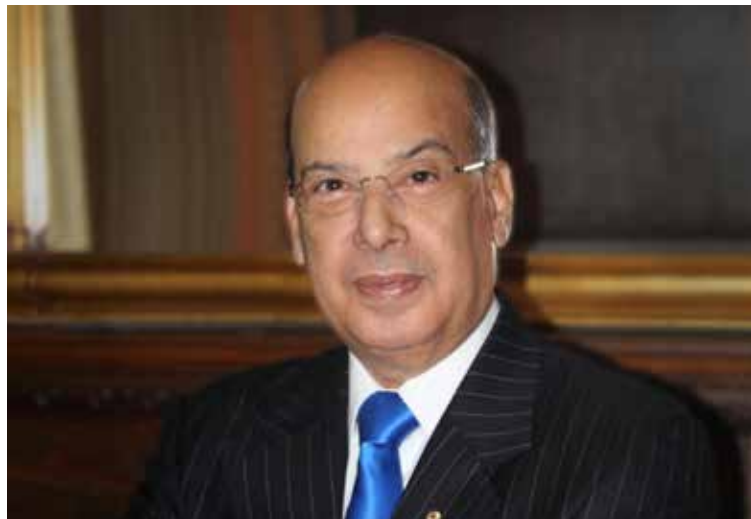
The saying, coined by the Latin poet, Horace, that “you too are in danger when your neighbour’s house is on fire” is particularly relevant now in relation to Latin American countries which are the closest neighbours to the member states of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

There has been a marked increase in deadly violent incidents in Latin America, linked to organized criminal gangs. This includes the assassination of the leading candidate in Ecuador’s presidential elections and the murder of two other politicians over the last month.

Fernando Villavicencio was assassinated on 9 August, eleven days before the 2023

Ecuadorian general election on August 20, at which he was polling in second place to win the presidential contest. He had a fearless and courageous stance against organized crime and corruption which have increased dramatically over the last three years. He was shot in broad daylight.

It is generally accepted in Ecuador that Villavicencio was the victim of organised criminals who feared that he would crack-down upon their activities if he won the presidency. Ecuadorian police reported 3,568 violent deaths between January and July this year. There are some neighbourhoods that police, who are outgunned, unprepared and underpaid, dare not enter.



Sir Ronald Sanders

According to the International Crisis Group (ICG), there have also been upsurges in violence in Argentina, Costa Rica, Panama and Paraguay. The ICG reports that “Even in Chile and Uruguay, long considered bastions of regional calm, crime is skyrocketing. In 2022 alone, murders in Chile increased by 32%, reaching a record high. Similarly, incidents of rape and the illegal use of firearms rose. In Uruguay, a transit nation for cocaine smuggling, a surge in crime last year saw a 25% increase in murders. Feeding the region’s epidemic of violence is the unchecked flow and circulation of illegal weapons.”

In Mexico, the number of criminal groups doubled between 2010 and 2020. In El Salvador, over the last two years, the government of President Nayib Bukele locked up more than 70,000 persons with what has been described as “little semblance of due process”. The purpose

was to eliminate criminal gangs that have tormented the country for years.

The governments of the neighbouring states of Honduras and Guatemala have praised the El Salvador model as one “worth emulating”. And, Honduras President, Xiomara Castro, announced her own crackdown on gangs.

Both the governments of El Salvador and Honduras have been criticised for human rights abuses in relation to these responses to violence and crime. But analysts say that the security situation is “pretty dire”. Therefore, although the general population acknowledges human rights abuses in El Salvador, “people are so sick of crime that they’re willing to sacrifice democracy or personal freedoms if it means that they can sleep easy at night”.

These events in Latin America are taking place in the CARICOM neighbourhood; it would be foolhardy to ignore them or to pretend

cont’d on pg 11

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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that Latin America is some distant part of the world that matters little. Latin America envelopes the Caribbean, bound by shared waters.

Crime, particularly involving gangs linked to drug and human trafficking, knows no borders. Much like communicable diseases, it can spread unchecked across nations. Scholarly research shows that enterprises of organized crime are far better funded and organised than the law enforcement agencies of all the CARICOM countries combined. In this connection, it is time that the Caribbean pays serious attention Latin America, not only for occasional forays into trade and tourism opportunities, but to safeguard against the spread of crime which now terrorises people and murders politicians and government officials who stand in their way.

The limited attention given to Latin America is evident in the Caribbean media's lacklustre reportage and com-

mentary. Such events as are reported in the press, radio and television are captured from the Internet or international broadcasters such as CNN and the BBC. Consequently, the Caribbean public receives news of Latin America that CNN and the BBC deem important or relevant.

In any event, CARICOM countries cannot ignore matters in neighbouring states in Latin America, particularly as connections, through modern day technology, are being freely used by criminal elements to organise and strengthen their own networks. This begs the question concerning what structured links are there between law enforcement agencies in Latin America and CARICOM?

The Organization of American States (OAS), through several of its programmes, offers the opportunity for discussion and formulation of actions by law enforcement bodies throughout the hemisphere. However, while the OAS forum is beneficial, it should not be the

only means by which the burgeoning problems of crime, gangs and violence are addressed between Latin American and Caribbean authorities.

Much more is needed; the fire is raging in some Latin American states, and it is also blazing in Haiti. The Caribbean must try to stop the spread before it happens. This requires focussed national and regional attention by governments and law enforcement agencies within CARICOM, but it also needs a structured relationship with Latin American states to learn from their experiences and to exchange information.

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



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Sir John Eliot Gardiner: Famed conductor pulls out of the Proms after alleged assault

By Mark Savage

Sir John Eliot Gardiner, one of the world's most prominent conductors, has pulled out of the BBC Proms after being accused of assaulting a singer.

He allegedly punched William Thomas, a bass, because he left the podium in the wrong direction at a concert in France.

In a statement, Sir John said he "deeply regretted" losing his "temper".

He added that he understood "how much this has affected all the participants involved in this major project, which has been so dear to my heart".

"I make no excuses for my behaviour and have apologised personally to Will Thomas, for whom I have the greatest respect. I do so again, and to the other artists, for the distress that this has caused."

A spokesperson for Mr Thomas had earlier confirmed the incident to the BBC, saying: "All musicians deserve the right to practise their art in an environment free from abuse or physical harm."

Sir John, 80, withdrew from his performance at the Festival Berlioz in La Côte-Saint-André, south eastern France, on Wednesday night.

In a statement, the BBC said Sir John had also "decided to withdraw from the performance of [Berlioz's] *The Trojans* at this year's BBC Proms."

Sir John's assistant, Dinis Sousa, will take his place for that concert, and all remaining performances of *The Trojans* on the Monteverdi Choir's European tour.

A spokesperson for the Monteverdi Orchestra said: "We continue to look into the events that occurred on Tuesday evening.

"Our values of respect and inclu-



Sir John was invited to take part in the King's Coronation Service earlier this year.

sivity are fundamental to us as a company and we take seriously the welfare of all our performers and employees."

News of the alleged altercation first emerged on music website Slipped Disc, which said it had received multiple reports of an incident that took place backstage in France on Tuesday night.

A representative for Sir John told the website that the conductor had been suffering from extreme heat.

Mr Thomas did not appear to be seriously injured, and took to the stage on Wednesday evening in France.

Bruno Messina, the festival's artistic director of the Festival Berlioz, said in a statement that he was "devastated by the incident", but felt it was important that Wednesday's show took place.

The BBC had previously said it was investigating the matter.

"We take allegations about inappropriate behaviour seriously and are currently establishing the facts about the incident," said Proms organisers in a statement.

Sir John, from Fontmell Magna, Dorset, is a leading figure in the period-instrument movement, who is famous for his interpretations of Ba-

roque music, specialising in composers such as Monteverdi, Bach, Mozart and Beethoven.

He established prestigious ensembles including the Monteverdi Choir, the English Baroque Soloists and the Orchestre Révolutionnaire et Romantique, and has conducted many of the world's leading orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, London Symphony Orchestra and Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Many of his recordings are considered classics - including his complete Beethoven Symphonies, and a live recording of Bach's *St John's Passion* - and his 2013 book *Bach: Music in the Castle of Heaven*, was well received by critics.

Earlier this year, Sir John featured at King Charles's Coronation, where he led the Monteverdi Choir and English Baroque Soloists in a pre-service concert at Westminster Abbey.

Concluding his statement on Thursday, Sir John said: "I know that physical violence is never acceptable and that musicians should always feel safe.

"I ask for your patience and understanding as I take time to reflect on my actions."

Some improvement in regional pass rate for CSEC Mathematics

By Melissa Wong

The Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) says while there has been some improvement in the regional pass rate for CSEC Mathematics, the subject remains a cause for concern.

Director of Operations at the Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC), Dr Nicole Manning, stated this during the official release of the results of the 2023 CXC exams on Thursday in St Kitts and Nevis.

Dr Manning, during an analysis of the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) results said in Mathematics, 43 per cent of candidates got acceptable grades, up from 37 per cent in 2022. She said although there was some improvement in Mathematics, CXC thought it would have been more.

The number of Grade Ones achieved this year in the subject was 8 per cent (a 2 per cent increase).

“So it is still a cause for concern, especially with the fact that the paper is standard... and has been a standard paper from day one. It’s just something we have to look at.”

In English A, the pass rate increased from 73 per cent to 78 per cent this year, the highest over the past three years, with the number of Grade Ones far more than what was recorded in

2021.

The pass rate for Caribbean History is 72 per cent with stability in the number of Grade Ones achieved (13 per cent), while the pass rate for Chemistry is 66 per cent, not back up to where CXC wants to see, with the number of Grade Ones less than last year.

French had 59 per cent overall acceptable grades with an increase in the number of Grade Ones from 14 to 15 per cent.

Human and Social Biology saw an increase from 67 per cent to 71 per cent acceptable grades, and an increase in Grade Ones from 12 per cent to 14 per cent.

Candidates achieved 86 per cent overall acceptable grades in Information Technology, an increase from the previous year.

The pass rate for Integrated Science continues to be stable.

Office Administration had a pass rate of 89 per cent, the highest over the

past four years, with 21 per cent achieving Grade Ones, the highest also seen over the last four years.

Dr Manning noted the business subjects did very well this year as Principles of Accounts had 72 per cent overall acceptable grades and Principles of Business had 80 per cent.

She said interesting was Social Studies, in which candidates got 54 per cent acceptable grades, a reduction from previous years.

Spanish saw 54 per cent of candidates achieving acceptable grades and continued stability in the number of Grade Ones.

Turning to the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) results, Dr Manning highlighted some of the subjects.

Caribbean Studies had 97 per cent acceptable grades, an increase, which was noted as the largest amount over the past three years in terms of candidates receiving acceptable grades.

In Communication Studies, 94 per cent of candidates received acceptable grades.

In French Unit I, 95 per cent of candidates achieved acceptable grades while in French Unit II the overall performance for acceptable grades was 99 per cent, an all-time high from the past three years, with the number of Grade Ones moving from 16 per cent to 41 per cent.

Green Engineering Unit 1, which is a fairly new CAPE subject had a 98 per cent pass rate performance with the number of Grade Ones moving from zero in 2022 to 9 per cent in 2023.

The pass rate for Green Engineering Unit II is 98 per cent with an increase in the number of Grade Ones - 6 per cent up from 3 per cent last year.

Dr Manning said there is a future for the latter subject and is encouraging Education ministries to look at them.



SVG academic questions government's apparent focus on appointment of women

CMC - A Vincentian academic has questioned the number of women being appointed to prominent positions in the government of Dr Ralph Gonsalves.

Richard Byron-Cox, who holds a doctorate in public international law, questioned the message being sent to the nation's men, regarding their prospects, despite their qualification.

Byron-Cox, who is also head of the Capacity Development and Innovations Office at the Secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification raised the issue on radio recently.

"I'm going to say something which is going to disturb all of you now. And you could stop me," he said in a call to WE FM's Issue at Hand.

"Now when you look, Ralph Gonsalves, he boasts about, 'Oh, you know, 80 per cent of our diplomatic forces are women.' All of his recent appointments are all women save and except one or two men. What is his saying to our young men? Regardless of how much you're trained and educated, you have no say? Is that what he's saying?" Byron-Cox said.

The international public servant professed his love



Richard Byron-Cox (Photo: CMC)

for Gonsalves, referring to him as "Comrade", as the prime minister is popularly known.

"I know I make people uncomfortable. I know that. Listen to me. I love Comrade. I love Comrade as if he is my blood. That's how I love comrade. But I'm an intelligent man. And Comrade himself said in his speech at the opening of this new institute, the political and governance Institute, he said, 'You know what? I'm afraid of ignorance.'"

"That was a wonderful statement," Byron-Cox further stated, adding that he used to bash ignorance and does not like it, "but understand that I'm ignorant of many things".

Byron-Cox, who said he has lectured at over 100 top universities in the world, said "behaviour of the type exhibited by the government "discourages our young men".

Asked to elaborate, Byron-Cox said, "The behaviour where we have a situation in our country now where ...a majority of the appointments being made by our prime minister, Ralph Gonsalves, is of one gender.

"... And we wonder, I wonder ... I, Richard, wonder, what does it mean for young men? How does that encourage them? In what way shape or form?"

Byron-Cox said the ground on which he based the argument might be flawed.

"I have said before. I'm not God, and I'm not Socrates. ... So, I'm not claiming that I'm correct. What I'm claiming is this: that there needs to be a look into this and a discussion about it."

Responding to Byron-Cox, programme co-host Joel Providence, an honorary consul and retired executive, noted that there

was an assumption that Gonsalves, rather than the Cabinet, was making the appointments.

"But could it be from his perspective, a rebalancing act, where, for example, the ministerial realm is dominated by men, and those who represent the country outside and if we say, well let's have a balance between male and female," Providence said.

He said he was not saying that was the case, adding that the prime minister and his Cabinet "may have another purpose, motive, mission behind that.

"But maybe some people believe that there needs to be rebalancing, but 80% seems high. And the question is where are the men and that as we were talking before, about crime and what is happening. Yes, we need to focus on what in some instances seems to be a last group of people," Providence said.

He said that is why he had raised on the previous week's programme the question of fatherhood, saying it needs to be discussed in greater detail.

"But just maybe it's a question of rebalancing taken to a particular level," Providence further said of

cont'd on pg 15

Jamaica: Rastafarian school boys no longer required to wear tams in classes

CMC - The Jamaica government says male Rastafarian students will no longer be required to wear tams to cover their dreadlocks while in classes.

Education Minister Fayval Williams, addressing the 59th annual conference of the Jamaica Teachers Association (JTA), said the measure would most likely go into effect this new academic term.

“There have been a few times that I’ve gone to schools and I see boys, maybe not more than one or two in a particular school, wearing tams to school to cover their locks. This is 2023 we really, really should not be doing that anymore. We need to respect other people’s religion,” Williams said.

She told the conference that the new directive is a

part of a new draft of the dress and grooming policy which is set to be published ahead of the 2023/2024 academic year.

“Yes, we need to say to our students you have to ensure that your hair is clean and so forth. But come on, you shouldn’t have to cover your hair unless that’s what your religion calls for,” she added.

The JTA conference, which ends later on Wednesday, is being held under the theme ‘Advancing the Vision: Reigniting the Passion through Equitable, Inclusive Educational Opportunities’.

During her address, Williams, underscored the importance of the JTA to the island’s education sector, saying that her ministry recognises the association as an important partner in



Education Minister Fayval Williams.

Jamaica’s education system.

“You have been united in advocating for education access for students across the country, and in this, you and the Ministry share a united vision and purpose,” Williams said, commending the educators, whom she said have acted on their passion and calling “and remained in a profession where the rewards rarely

come in the form of material things.

“In your work with the JTA, you have committed to a role of advocacy, not only for your colleagues but also for improvement in education.

“All of us, together, have a unique opportunity, not only to shape lives and minds but, indeed, future generations. Those of you being recognised this evening have played an important role in that process. You have set a fine example for others to emulate.

“Your dedication, professionalism and commitment to teaching, specifically, and the education sector, in general, have left indelible marks on the lives of hundreds of Jamaicans, and the country is the better for this. It is, therefore, fitting that your work should be recognised in the name of the stalwarts who have served the profession with excellence,” Williams added.

cont’d from pg 14

the appointments.

Byron-Cox responded:

“I think you will agree with me that if you have a piece of steel, and you bend it one way, and to correct it, instead of pounding out that bend you bend it another way, all you have is two bends, not a straight piece of steel. All you have is two bends.”

Byron-Cox had begun his contribution to the programme by noting that the main host, Cecil Ryan, had said the programme began with serious issues that the nation needs to tackle.

“The fundamental question I have, Mr Ryan and your panel, is this: Are we truly prepared for open discussion on the seri-

ous issues.”

He noted that Ryan had said at the beginning of the programme that listeners might not agree with him but they must be prepared to listen to each other.

“And in all honesty, I’ve looked at the space, the public space for discussion in our country, and you either have to hold a line going one way or the other, you carry a party line one way or the other or you’re not heard,” Byron-Cox said.

“Even when I call into your programme, and I mention things which are not necessarily in praise of the government, I could feel the uncomfortableness of the programme, I can feel that I’m raising things which you would prefer that I don’t speak about,” Byron-Cox said.

Syria: Protests over growing economic hardship spread in south

By Lina Sinjab

Protests against Syria's government are intensifying in the country's south, amid widespread anger over its decision to cut fuel subsidies when millions of people are already struggling to afford basic goods because of hyperinflation.

A large banner showing President Bashar al-Assad hanging in one of the main squares in the city of Suweida is seen being set on fire in one video shared on social media over the past week.

"We want everyone to come out to the streets across Syria," says a man in another clip. "We are here against poverty and humiliation, calling for our rights. Everyone should be out protesting."

Crowds have even been filmed calling for the fall of the president, with chants such as "Long live Syria and down with Bashar al-Assad" echoing those of 2011 pro-democracy uprising that descended into civil war.

Government-held Suweida has witnessed protests against Mr Assad over the past 12 years, but this is the first time that such slogans have been heard on its streets.

His regime has long been careful in its dealings with the minority Druze sect whose followers make up most of the residents of the city and its surrounding province. It has tolerated



A photo from activist collective Suwayda24 showed protesters waving Druze flags in Suweida's al-Sayr square on Tuesday.

dissent there to a larger degree than it would in other areas under its control.

Some protesters have also been taking place in neighbouring Deraa province, where the 2011 uprising began but which was retaken by the government seven years later.

Deteriorating living conditions have pushed many people to take to the streets in recent months.

But the protests intensified last week, after the government announced the total lifting of subsidies on petrol and a partial lifting of subsidies on fuel oil.

A worsening economic crisis, with a currency collapse fuelling hyperinflation, has left almost 90% of the population living below the poverty line. But the sudden spike in fuel prices has made the situation even

worse.

Some public sector workers' monthly income is worth as little as \$20 (£15.80) at the black market exchange rate. That has left them unable to afford even essential food supplies for their families.

Earlier in the month, a new group calling itself "The 10th of August Movement" issued a statement calling for living conditions to be improved in Syria. Many of those behind the group are believed to be from Mr Assad's minority Alawite sect, which has steadfastly supported him during the war.

The statement demanded the government raise the monthly minimum wage so that it was worth at least \$100; provide electricity for at least 20 hours a day, up from the current average

of three in most areas; and issue new passports within a month, signalling the desire of many young people to leave the country. The statement also called for the release of political prisoners.

In recent days, photos of people in various cities across Syria with letters making similar demands and expressing opposition to Mr Assad's rule have posted on social media.

Exiled opposition groups hope that these developments will lead to long awaited changes, but the president's hold on power appears to be secure for now.

The criticism from his fellow Alawites will, however, be a cause for concern for Mr Assad.

Some are reported to have been arrested after

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California shooting: Four killed, six hurt in Cook's Corner bar

By Joel Guinto

Four people have been killed and six others hurt in a shooting incident at a biker bar in southern California.

The gunman, identified on Thursday as a retired police officer, was among the four who died at Cook's Corner in Orange County.

Two of the six who were injured are in critical condition, county fire chief Brian Fennessy said.

There have been more than 400 mass shootings in 2023 alone, according to the Gun Violence Archive.

The shooting took place at 19:00 local time (02:00 GMT) as the bar was offering an \$8 (£6.30) spaghetti night and a rock music show, which were advertised on the bar's Facebook page.

It is thought the incident may have started as a domestic incident between the gunman and his wife, CBS News reported citing a police source.

On Thursday, authorities



The shooting happened as patrons gathered for spaghetti night at Cook's Corner bar.

named the suspect as John Snowling, a retired sergeant who worked with the Ventura Police Department in California until 2014.

At least one weapon was recovered from the scene, police said.

Orange County supervisor Katrina Foley said on X, formerly known as Twitter, that she was "heartbroken to hear of another senseless mass shooting, this time in

our own backyard".

Senator Dave Min from Orange county said he was "devastated" by the news.

"Our district is one of the safest areas in the country, and yet we too are repeatedly afflicted with the scourge of mass shootings," he said.

Cook's Corner is a popular stop for bikers driving through the foothills of the Santa Ana Mountains.

Its patrons include Arnold Schwarzenegger, the actor and former California governor, who hosted a reception there in 2006, arriving on a motorcycle.

Gun control is a politically charged subject in the US.

While polls show that a majority of Americans are in favour of stricter gun laws, many Republicans oppose such a move.

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they took to social media platforms to call on the president to act.

Ahmed Ibrahim Ismail is one of them. He is from Jableh, a town in the north-western coastal province of Latakia that is the heartland of the Alawites.

Mr Ismail publicly criticised the president following a TV interview two weeks ago.

"I wished to hear something else from you... You are flying away from reality. I am very disappointed. I haven't anything from you to tackle my pain," he said.

He went on to describe his deteriorating living conditions.

A few days later, Mr Ismail's daughter announced on her Facebook that he had been detained.

Many similar stories have been

circulating online.

During the past 12 years of protests and war, many have argued that Mr Assad would be able to stay in power unless the Alawite community turned against him.

So far, there is no evidence of a strong organised movement that could threaten his rule, but the growing public anger - especially among Alawites - could be the start of something bigger.



Witnesses say they saw sparks from power lines which ignited fires during a hurricane.

Maui County sues Hawaiian Electric over wildfire negligence

By **Emily McGarvey**

Maui County is suing energy firm Hawaiian Electric, saying it failed to turn off electric equipment before wildfires started on the island.

If power lines had been switched off during exceptionally high winds and dry conditions, the destruction could have been avoided, the lawsuit said.

The Lahaina fire killed 115 and more than 1,000 people are still missing..

The BBC has reached out to Hawaiian Electric for comment.

Witnesses say they saw sparks from power lines which ignited fires after utility poles were damaged by winds, caused by a passing hurricane.

The lawsuit said the utility company knew high winds “would topple power poles, knock down power lines, and ignite vegetation”.

The company was warned in advance of dangerous wildfire conditions by the National Weather Service, the

lawsuit added.

“Defendants also knew that if their overhead electrical equipment ignited a fire, it would spread at a critically rapid rate,” it said.

“Severe and catastrophic losses... could have easily been prevented” if the firm had a safety shut-off plan during high wind events, similar to that of other utility companies, it suggested.

It further claimed that Hawaiian Electric had a duty to properly maintain and repair its power lines and keep vegetation trimmed to prevent contact with overhead lines and other electric equipment.

The county said it is seeking compensation for damage to public property and resources in Lahaina and in nearby Kula.

The wildfire that ripped through Hawaiian town of Lahaina on 8 August destroyed most of the historic town and the fires are now considered the worst

natural disaster in Hawaii state history.

Authorities are now expected to make public a list of the missing in the coming days to try to narrow the search.

Search teams combing through the rubble are finding only bones or fragments of bodies.

The county said: “Maui County stands alongside the people and communities of Lahaina and Kula to recover public resource damages and rebuild after these devastating utility-caused fires.

“These damages include losses to public infrastructure, fire response costs, losses to revenues, increased costs, environmental damages, and losses of historical or cultural landmarks.”

Temporarily shutting off power to reduce fire risk is a tactic used in western US states, where wildfires are common. In California, power lines have been blamed for half of the state’s most destructive wildfires.

Jamaican Williams claims second world hurdles title

BUDAPEST (Reuters) - Jamaica's Danielle Williams finally raced to world gold in the 100 metres hurdles once again, winning by the narrowest margin eight years after first climbing the global medal podium.

The 30-year-old, who won gold in 2015 and bronze in 2019, edged Olympic champion Jasmine Camacho-Quinn of Puerto Rico by one hundredth of a second to win in 12.43 on Thursday.

"I knew it was going to be tough," Williams said. "I came out here knowing that I could win but I would have to give everything I had.

"I still don't believe I won against such a stellar field. I've been racing these ladies all year and they have been kicking me left, right and centre. But I had such confidence in my training and my abilities that I never stopped believing."

Camacho-Quinn had to settle for silver in 12.44. "I'm not upset at all," Camacho-Quinn said. "I can be grateful with that silver. After I won a bronze at the last world championships now I have a silver.

"If I add my Olympic gold medal I have the whole collection to be proud of. This final was packed with talents... so I don't have any bitter feelings."

American Kendra Harrison, who posted a world-leading time of 12.24 in the heats, took bronze in 12.46, keeping Devynne Charlton of the Bahamas, who was fourth in 12.52, off the podium.

Less than a tenth of a second separated the top four hurdlers, and it was difficult to discern even from the photo finish any difference between Williams, who ran out of lane two, and Camacho-Quinn, who was in lane



Jamaica's Danielle Williams celebrates after winning the women's 100 metres hurdles at the National Athletics Centre, Budapest, Hungary, August 24, 2023. (Getty's Images)

seven.

Olympic champion Miltiadis Tentoglou of Greece was involved in yet another last-round drama as he won long jump gold at the World Championships when his final leap of 8.52 metres edged him ahead of Jamaica's Wayne Pinnock by two centimetres on Thursday.

Tentoglou is no stranger to such things, having won Olympic gold with his final jump in Tokyo after being out of the medals after five rounds.

It went the other way in Eugene last year when he was leading after five, only for Wang Jianan of China to come from nowhere, take gold and demote the Greek to silver.

Tentoglou got Thursday's final off to a flier as he produced a huge season's best 8.50 with his opening jump, only for Pinnock to match it in the second round.

That put Pinnock, who flew to a world-leading 8.54 metres on his opening jump in Wednesday's qualifying and a personal best by 17cm, in the lead on the back of having the best

second jump by one centimetre.

In the final round, though, Tentoglou hit the board perfectly to soar ahead and Pinnock was unable to improve on his final attempt.

Jamaica's Tajay Gayle snatched bronze with his final leap of 8.27, matching compatriot Carey McLeod but edging him on countback.

McLeod was lucky to escape injury after slipping on takeoff on his third jump, spiralling spectacularly into the air and landing face-first in the pit.

Femke Bol of the Netherlands stormed to her first World Championships gold in the women's 400 metres hurdles on Thursday to put last week's crushing relay heartbreak behind her.

The 23-year-old, second at last year's worlds and third at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, was level with American Shamier Little until just before the home straight but pulled away emphatically to cross the line well clear in 51.70 seconds.

Little came second in 52.80, just holding off Jamaica's Rushell Clayton, who took the bronze in 52.81.

Anguilla beat St. Vincent to advance to semi-finals

Anguilla continued their unbeaten run to book a spot in the semi-finals by prevailing 2-0 against St. Vincent & the Grenadines to win Tier II Group A of the 2023 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Girls Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Wednesday.

It was a top-of-the-table clash and the deciding game for first place in Tier II Group A, and with the top spot up for grabs, both teams played a remarkable game of football.

Anguilla kicked off in full attacking mode, pressing the Vincentians' defense line as their main focus was getting the ball to the back of the net as early as possible.

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Anguilla's forward Safiyah Gaskins (white and aqua uniform) battles for the ball with Rayma Campbell of St. Vincent and the Grenadines during their Tier II Group A encounter in the 2023 CFU Under-14 Girls Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Wednesday. (CFU Media)

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Striker Kaylee Durand wasted no time in displaying her potential as the top goal scorer in the tournament when she began taking rapid shots at the goal.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, meanwhile, worked tirelessly in the defense, as they were able to prevent Anguilla from scoring on several occasions. They later picked up the pace in the game, attacking Anguilla predominantly from the right wing with plays from Raydahlia Bunte.

But Durand would not be denied, and she opened the scoring in the 49th minute after receiving a great cross into the six-yard box from Safiyah Gaskins.

Holding midfielder Zeila Harrigan also exhibited great sportsmanship on both defense and attack, but it was her determination to score that brought about the second goal for Anguilla in the 52nd minute.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines struggled offensively in the latter part of the second half and were unable to create any clear-cut chances as they slumped to their defeat.

Tier II Group B winners Bermuda and Tier II Group C winners Guadeloupe have already booked their places in the semi-finals.

St. Kitts and Nevis ended their campaign in Tier II Group C winless after suffering a 3-0 loss to Martinique on Wednesday.

Forward Samira Lamy scored in the second minute and forward Rachel Hippolyte had a 9th-minute conversion to give Martinique a 2-0 lead in a match that was stopped at halftime due to rain on Sunday.

The second half was completed on Wednesday night, with St. Kitts and Nevis goalkeeper Rhagjeanica Bergan scoring an own goal in the third minute of added time to seal Martinique's victory.

Aruba and Puerto Rico notched up

wins to remain unbeaten in their respective groups in Tier I competition on Wednesday.

Aruba picked claimed a 2-0 win over the Turks and Caicos Islands in their Tier I Group B fixture.

Zyana Rogers lashed onto a loose ball, passed two defenders, and hit home with ease to give Aruba a 1-0 lead in the 18th minute. The match would remain that way until the 67th minute, when a Lorendana Nepi Perez penalty made it 2-0 for Aruba.

A double from Amber Cardona Colon in the first half triggered the Puerto Ricans 5-0 win against Jamaica in the Tier I Group A match.

Jamaica, coming off a win against Trinidad and Tobago, were in good spirits despite losing 4-0 to Puerto Rico in their first match. Puerto Rico would quickly stamp out all thoughts of any non-believer.

The issues resulting in the heavy defeat in the first game seemed to be

sorted out by Jamaica in the early stages, giving the Puerto Ricans no room to maneuver and pick passes.

The tides soon shifted when Natalia Aviles's nicely hit left-footed effort flew past Shevinique Barnes in the Jamaican goal in the 16th minute.

Four minutes later, the lead would be doubled by another left-footed effort, this time in the form of a free-kick from Colon that nestled into the back of the net.

Colon's pressure paid off when Brooklyn Grant couldn't effectively clear her lines and was muscled off the ball. Wasting no time and with little support, Colon lifted in a shot from an acute angle over the head of Barnes in the 30th minute to make it 3-0 at the break. Selymar Centeno Sierra extended the lead to 4-0 in the 56th minute, and substitute Amanda Quinones Figueroa capped off the scoring in the 66th minute to wrap up Puerto Rico's emphatic win.



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ABNDA expresses gratitude to Antigua government for its support

The Public Relations Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA), Carol Faye Bynoe, is commending the government of Antigua and Barbuda for its financial support to facilitate its team's participation in the recent world domino tournament in Guyana.

Antigua and Barbuda's Wadadli Warriors became three-peat champions after winning the 19th World Council of Domino Federation's (WCDF) Championship in Guyana at the National Stadium in Providence from August 12th to 21st.

Antigua and Barbuda finished at the top with 20 points, Barbados had 14 points, Guyana had 11, and the USA was in the cellar with three points in the tournament, which was contested by only four teams following the withdrawal of four teams due to financial reasons.

Bynoe said it is important to highlight the Antigua and Barbuda government's contribution to the ABNDA because just one day prior to the start of the tournament, the national teams of Dominica, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Kitts and Nevis informed the WCDF that they were unable to attend the tournament due to a lack of financial assistance from their respective governments.



Carol Faye Bynoe, second left, and her fellow executive members of the World Council of Domino Federation at the 2023 tournament in Guyana earlier this month. (ABNDA)

“Only four countries participated in this year's tournament. On the eve before the start of the competition, the WCDF got word from Dominica, St. Lucia, and Grenada that they would not be able to participate because of a lack of financial support from their governments,” Bynoe stated.

“Two days early, St. Kitts and Nevis informed the WCDF that they were pulling out because of the lack of financial support from their government.

“The teams were given all the information about the number of team members allowed down to the day the teams are expected to arrive in Guyana, only to find out the day or two before the start of the tournament that they will not be able to come again because their governments

fell through.

“On behalf of the national domino association, I want to thank the government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Ministry of Sports for their support.

“When you think about the contribution of the government of Antigua and Barbuda in comparison to the others, we have to commend them because they came through for us.

Bynoe is also expressing gratitude to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene, for assisting the Wadadli Warriors with a set of uniforms.

John F. Shoul and Bristol Marine, a boat and yacht building company based in Rhode Island in the United States of America, also sponsored the Wadadli Warriors with the other sets of uniforms.

Bynoe also said the

government of Guyana also failed to fulfill its promise to the WCDF in the execution of the tournament.

“Even the government of Guyana did not live up to its commitment because what they originally said they were going to do, they did not even fulfill half of what they had committed to do, which resulted in the WCDF having to do a lot of damage control prior to the start of the tournament,” Bynoe stated.

“Even during the week of the tournament, the WCDF had to do some really hard work to secure the trophies, medals, cash prizes, and stuff like that. It was not easy, but we got it done even though we still have a few issues that we are trying to iron out.”

Bynoe also said this year marked the first time cash prizes were awarded to the winners of the various categories of the world domino tournament.

Bynoe said five countries have indicated an interest in hosting the next WCDF tournament in 2025. They are St. Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, the USA, and Antigua and Barbuda.

She said each country must submit a bid, outlining their proposals to host the event, to the WCDF, which will then make a decision before the end of this year.



Jamaica Tallawahs captain Brandon King on his way to a match-winning 67 against the St Kitts and Nevis Patriots. (Getty's Images)

Captain King leads Tallawahs to victory over Patriots

Jamaica Tallawahs continued their unbeaten start to the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) with an eight-wicket win over St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots on Wednesday night.

The Jamaican franchise won the toss and chose to field first, with a superb four wicket haul from Salman Irshad helping them restrict the St Kitts & Nevis Patriots to 156 for nine after 20 overs.

The Tallawahs managed to chase down the target in 16.3 overs, captain Brandon King producing a magnificent innings of 67 to continue the defending champions great start to the season.

The Patriots had got off to a promising early start, Andre Fletcher and Evin Lewis combining to push the score to 20-0 after two overs.

Yet the fourth over would change the whole

complexion of the tie as Irshad took three wickets, including that of Fletcher and Ambati Rayudu, to leave the Patriots reeling at 37 for four.

West Indies international Joshua Da Silva steadily rebuilt the innings with his score of 36, before a late burst from Dominic Drakes saw the Patriots reach 156 for nine at the end of their innings.

Jamaica Tallawah openers Brandon King and

Kirk McKenzie combined to score seven boundaries and take the side to 34 without loss after three overs of their chase.

King would go on to bring up his half century off just 22 balls, before losing his wicket on 67 to a Dominic Drakes delivery.

Shamarh Brooks, who scored an unbeaten 38, would continue to accelerate the score before Amir Jangoon would take his side across the finish line with a six.

Scores: Jamaica Tallawahs 157-2 (King 67, Brooks 38; Thomas 1-25, Drakes 1-28) beat St Kitts & Nevis Patriots 156-9 (Da Silva 36, Drakes 29; Irshad 4-27, Amir 3-20) by 8 wickets.

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Clean Harve won the Male Pairs title for the Wadadli Warriors. Male pairs from Barbados claimed second and third places.

Lorraine Richardson and Natasha Edwards of Willikies Super Stars secured a second-place finish for Antigua and Barbuda in the Female Pairs competition,

which was won by Barbados, who also claimed third place.

Shanica St. Louis and Zenus Williams of Dominatrixx won the Mixed Pairs competition ahead of fellow national team mates Conrad Constant and Lorraine Richardson of Willikies Super Stars, as the Wadadli Warriors clinched the top two places. Barbados took third place.

Antigua and Barbuda three-peat as world domino champs

The Antigua and Barbuda national team, the Wadadli Warriors, are now three-peat world domino champions.

Antigua and Barbuda, which won the competitions in 2016 and 2018, retained the overall title at the 19th World Council of Domino Federation's (WCDF) Championship in Guyana at the National Stadium in Providence from August 12th to 21st.

The 45-member Wadadli Warriors' team, which comprises male and female players, retained the title from a reduced field of competitors as only four teams participated in the first world championship that was being held following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Barbados finished as the runners-up, and host Guyana came in third ahead of the United States of America (USA), the other participating team.

Antigua and Barbuda finished at the top with 20 points, Barbados had 14 points, Guyana had 11, and the USA was in the cellar with three points.

Antigua and Barbuda's Zenus Williams of



The national domino team, the Wadadli Warriors, captured their third successive title at the 19th World Council of Domino Federation's Championship in Guyana from August 12 to 21. (ABNDA)

the Dominatrix club was named the most valuable player of the tournament.

Antigua and Barbuda's Wadadli Warriors surged to the title by winning three of the eight categories of competition that comprised the tournament.

Wadadli Warriors team captain Renfield Davis of the Double Six Club won Kings of Domino.

His fellow Double Six colleague Aldis Benjamin finished second as Antigua

and Barbuda clinched to the top two spots in the King of Domino category. Barbados claimed third place.

Marilyn Gayle of the Bolans Revellers claimed a third-place finish for the Wadadli Warriors in the Queen of Domino competition. Guyana won the top two spots in the Queen of Domino contest.

The Wadadli Warriors came second in the Team Four-Hand competition, which was won by Barba-

dos. Guyana finished third.

Antigua and Barbuda finished second in the Male Team Three-Hand contest that was won by Barbados and Guyana finished third.

Antigua and Barbuda finished last in the Female Team Three-Hand contest, which was won by the USA, with Guyana claiming second place and Barbados third.

The Dominatrix duo of Zenus Williams and Mc-

cont'd on pg 23