

TOURISM OFFICIALS PRESENT 'STATE OF THE INDUSTRY' REPORT

Story on Page 2



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez addresses a special gathering of industry partners and media representatives yesterday. Seated at the head table are (from left) President of the ABHTI Craig Marshall, ABWU representative Chester Hughes and ABTA Chief Executive Officer Colin C. James.

Tourism officials present comprehensive ‘state of the industry’ report

A comprehensive report on the state of the tourism industry in Antigua and Barbuda was unveiled on Thursday at a special gathering of industry partners and media representatives.

The report was a joint undertaking of the Ministry of Tourism, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association (ABHTA) and the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union, which represents the vast majority of workers in the industry.

Using a multi-media format as well as booklet, the officials indicated that

the state of the industry is generally good with improvements on the horizon.

Tourism Minister the Honourable Charles Fernandez provided an overview of developments taking place in the key sectors of airlines (air-lifts), hotels (accommodation) as well as future developments. The minister also unveiled what he dubbed Vision 2032, which is a ten-year development plan for the industry.

“Our vision for the tourism industry, simply put, is for all partners inclusive of the citizens and residents of our twin-island nation to buy into the policies and plans set forth that

would keep the industry on a positive trajectory. A key component to this is Vision 2032 – Vision 2032 strives through partnership to actively contribute towards ensuring that the industry is sustained while benefiting all,” he remarked.

The minister also highlighted five crucial focus areas for the destination’s development. These areas encompass sustainability, the creation of authentic local experiences, the establishment of a robust legislative and policy framework, investment in a highly skilled workforce, and the cultivation of an industry that benefits all Antiguans and Barbudans through economic linkages.

In his remarks, President of the ABHTI, Craig Marshall of Royalton Resort, stressed the importance of advancing the tourism industry by concentrating on key factors, particularly bolstering airlift, especially from primary source markets like the UK. He pointed out that a reduction in flights from the UK during the past summer significantly impacted the performance of many ABHTA members. Marshall emphasized the

need to prioritize sustained airlift during the summer months for the destination’s year-round success.

He disclosed that the ABHTA has embarked on a significant mission for the upcoming year – the re-imaging of the hospitality sector.

The ABWU representative, Chester Hughes, spoke of the need for tripartism noting that if tourism is every body’s business as the slogan says then workers, the backbone of the industry must share equitable in the proceeds of the industry. He also raised issues of continued learning for workers as well as issues related to the absence of a public transportation system.

ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James highlighted that “Key to our airlift strategy is the need to balance airlift with the growth in room stock and demand for the destination. For the 2024, winter season, Antigua and Barbuda will benefit from increased service out of the USA, Canada and the Caribbean. New flights are also expected, with Silver Airways scheduled to begin servicing the destination as of November 16.”

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

I Glenfield Francis of Barnes Hill part owner of P.E.G Enterprise along with Elden Henry and Percival James also of Barnes Hill DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is our intention to apply at next sitting of Liquor License Court, to be held at the Magistrate Court St. John`s Antigua on Thursday 5th October, 2023, The premise known as P.E.G. Enterprise is registered and situated at Barnes Hill, in the Parish of St George Antigua and Barbuda. The application is ensuring for a Bottle License in. respect of the said premise, and is made pursuant to section 11 (5) of the Licensing (intoxicating Liquor) Act. Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992.

Dated: this the 20th September 2023

.....
Glenfield Francis



ABTA launches major promotional blitz across the United States

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has unveiled an ambitious plan to promote tourism in the United States. The ABTA has embarked on a comprehensive promotional tour to engage with travel professionals in more than 30 cities nationwide.

The primary goal of this extensive tour is to provide updates on the latest developments and activities in Antigua and Barbuda's tourism sector to boost tourist arrivals. Dean Fenton, the ABTA Director for the USA, leads this promotional effort.

The United States tourism team is leaving no stone unturned, hosting engaging road shows designed to ignite the enthusiasm of travel agents. They aim to drive sales to new heights for the upcoming 2023-2024 tourism season in Antigua and Barbuda. This sales campaign spans multiple cities, where the team shares fresh and captivating insights about the irresistible charm of Antigua and Barbuda and

their award-winning tourism offerings.

Last week, the ABTA USA team, led by Norrell Joseph, the USA Sales and Marketing Manager, conducted informative sessions for travel agents in Boston, Hartford, New York City, and Long Island, New York. Over the next several months, they will traverse the United States, organizing 38 training events. These events will occur in various states, including New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Washington, D.C., California, Colorado, Illinois, Ohio, Minnesota, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, and Texas. The goal is to equip travel agents with the knowledge and tools to promote Antigua and Barbuda effectively.

Notably, the Antigua and Barbuda team is joined by partners representing key properties, airlines, cruise lines, tour operators, and other regional travel suppliers. This collaborative effort ensures that travel agents leave these events fully in-

formed and well-prepared to highlight the destination's most compelling features.

To further energize the travel agents, the team successfully enticed some of the country's top-performing agents, who were already familiar with the destination, to attend the roadshows. Local hotels

and resorts have also seized the opportunity provided by the ABTA to participate in these events. For them, it's an ideal platform to present new attractions and build and strengthen relationships with individuals contributing to the growth of the tourism industry in Antigua and Barbuda.



MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

PM Browne meets Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister for important talks

Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne continues his packed agenda of engagements while he is in New York for the 78th meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

The prime minister has reported that one such meeting was held Thursday in the margins of the General Assembly with the Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan during which they discussed a range of issues.

“I am pleased to report that I had very good bilateral talks with Saudi Foreign Min-



PM Gaston Browne and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan

ister and the Minister of Tourism on deepening corporation in investment and trade. As a

consequence, I will travel to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in mid-October to hold more

detailed discussions. These follow-up discussions are to focus largely on exploring opportunities for investments into Antigua and Barbuda in the critical area of tourism,” PM Browne stated.

Antigua and Barbuda and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are developing closer ties especially in light of the Saudi commitment to assist with the country’s educational infrastructure. The Saudi Development Fund has approved a loan for US\$80 million to upgrade the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

“That expansion will include additional lecture theatres and dorms primarily for foreign students. It is expected that the campus will expand to 5000 students, contributing up to five percent of GDP,” PM Browne explained. Work on this transformative project will start in the first quarter of next year. As the funds have been approved and allocated.



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Antigua and Barbuda helps facilitate dialogue on energy transition

As the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly kicks into high gear this week, Antigua and Barbuda played a pivotal role in facilitating useful and productive dialogue on the pressing issue of energy transition for small island states.

The matter was the subject of an enthusiastic and insightful exchange of ideas during a side event at the United Nations headquarters on Monday 18th September.

The event was hosted jointly by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Scotia Group, which is a global network of prominent and influential thinkers in law, politics, academia, and business.

Another major partner involved is RAND Europe, a well-respected non-profit institution that seeks to help improve policy and decision making through research and analysis.

The discussions have brought RAND Europe and the Scotia Group a step closer to issuing a Call to Action that advocates a fundamental shift in the way climate finance is raised and deployed for Small Island Developing States.

As part of this undertaking, RAND Europe and the Scotia Group will reveal their findings in a document called "Roadmap for a Global Energy Transition". It will introduce new financial and legal tools that will encourage green investments in Small Island Development States (SIDs), like Antigua and Barbuda.

News of this coincides with a major development that will take off in Antigua and Barbuda next year which will address the knowledge and data gaps that island nations experience.

"While we are not going to solve all issues here today, I am pleased to

announce that Antigua and Barbuda initiated the establishment of a Centre of Excellence for SIDS so that we co-create solutions with our partners that are suitable for our case, that meet the special circumstances of SIDS," Ambassador Aubrey Webson explained to the meeting.

"The Centre will work across sectors in technology and innovation, advanced data science and financing and we look forward to working with you all - and Scotia and RAND in particular- in the implementation of the New Programme of Action including through the Centre," he affirmed.

The Programme of Action is the result of months of hard work in defining a 10-year agenda for SIDS and will be unveiled at the end of the 4th SIDS Conference which will be held in Antigua and Barbuda in May next year.

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Minister of Foreign Affairs addresses Global Development Initiative meeting at UNGA

Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Honourable E.P Chet Greene is in the midst of a frenzied schedule of important engagements and bilateral meetings with development partners in New York where he is attending the 78th United Nations General Assembly.

His first major engagement took place on Tuesday when he joined an impressive list of speakers to address a Ministerial Meeting of the Global Development Initiative. The GDI is primarily an ambitious undertaking by the People's Republic of China to support the development goals of small states like Antigua and Barbuda in the areas of food security, debt recovery, renewable energy and digital economy.

Minister Greene used the occasion to reflect on the 40 years of diplomatic relations between their two countries, noting the mutual interest they share in pursuing the type of

development that positively impacts their people in an equitable way.

"It is against this background that Antigua and Barbuda supports the call made by His Excellency Wang Yi, Foreign Minister of China for the global community to remain dedicated to 'development' as a priority for international cooperation and alliance building," Minister Greene offered.

The Minister was further strident in his call, against the backdrop of the GDI project, for a deepening and strengthening of the engagement required to ensure "equity in the global development architecture" on a number of issues with which island nations are forced to contend.

The issue of climate change, Minister Greene noted, was an urgent and pressing priority and matters like the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund and the adoption of a Multi-Dimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) are now essential tools in

ensuring the inhabitants of island nations not only survive, but also thrive.

"We must continue to encourage the reform of the international financial system and call for change among international financial institutions and Multilateral Development Banks for the benefit of developing countries," Minister Greene urged.

"As evident from our experiences in Antigua and Barbuda, the GDI supports social and economic opportunities in developing countries, thereby giving a boost to fulfilling the UN 2030 agenda for Sustainable Development," the Minister continued.

In this connection, Minister Greene advised the meeting about the landmark SIDS4 Conference, which will be held in Antigua from May 27 – 30 next year and the launch of a Centre of Excellence that will coincide with the hosting of the major gathering of island nations from across the globe.



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Debt and SIDS4 dominate talks between PM Browne and UK minister

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has expressed his gratitude to the Government of the United Kingdom for setting an impressive example of the type of support the Government of Antigua and Barbuda needs in ensuring that next year's SIDS4 Conference is a success.

Prime Minister Browne, who is in New York attending the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly, had the occasion to extend his appreciation during a bilateral meeting with the UK's Development Minister the Hon. Andrew Mitchell.

It was one of a series of meetings with top and senior officials in government that occupied the time of Prime Minister Browne during his first day of official meetings of the most important policy making session of the United Nations.

Accompanying him to the bilateral discussion with the senior minister in the UK Government were Minister for Health and the Environment Sir Molwyn Joseph and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade the Honourable E.P Chet Greene.

The UK Government has not only pledged fi-



PM Gaston Browne on his way to the UN Headquarters

ancial support to Antigua and Barbuda for the May 27-30 SIDS4 Conference, a world gathering of island nations, but is also providing technical expertise on

island and at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission in New York which is leading the coordination of the exercise in consultation with the support of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Browne, in recognition of the United Kingdom's role as a non-borrowing member of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), also took advantage of the opportunity to intercede on behalf of Antigua and Barbuda and other island nations in seeking the UK's support in debt sustainability considerations for SIDS.

Prime Minister Browne has been persistent in arguing that burdensome and onerous debt only exacerbates the issues of climate change and other threats that stand in the way of Antigua and Barbuda truly achieving sustained economic growth.



Notice To Our Customers

Please be advised that **A.S. Bryden & Sons (Antigua) Ltd.** and the **Food Service Division** will be closed for annual stocktaking on **28 - 29 September 2023**.

The **Health & Wellness Department** will be closed from **27 - 29 September 2023** and our **Cork & Basket** store in English Harbour will be closed on **28 - 30 September 2023**.

All customers are asked to submit their orders no later than **Monday 25 September 2023 by 10:00 a.m.**

The last day to return goods for a refund in September will be **Friday 22nd September 2023**.

Our Bryden's online delivery service will also be unavailable on **28 & 29 September 2023** due to stocktaking.

The last day for orders is **Tuesday 26th September 2023**.

We will resume normal operations on **Monday 2nd October 2023**

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Management

Wanted man on the run

The police have issued a Wanted bulletin for the information leading to the arrest of Delon Shawn Wills of St. Phillip.

According to the police the 35-year-old is wanted for multiple Fraud offences, Aggravated Robbery, and Housebreaking.

“He is believed to be armed and therefore considered dangerous. He was last spotted at the airport. The police are appealing to him to surrender at any of the police stations without delay,” a STRATCOM media release indicated.



Delon Shawn Wills

Anyone with information is asked to contact the nearest police station or call the Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-Tips (8477). The public is also cautioned not to harbour or assist him in eluding the police.

NOTICE

TO: The Licensing Magistrate
District "A"
Grays Farm
St. John's
Antigua

The Management
Pointe FM 99.1 Radio Station
Lower St. John's
Antigua

Tuesday 5th September 2023

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR BUSINESS RESGISTERED AS
NATURAL MYSTIC VARIETY SHOP

I **Stafan Robertson**, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of Liquor Licence Court to be held at the St. John Magistrate Court located at Grays Farm, Antigua on 6th day of October 2023 ensuing for a bottle license in respect of the premises known as "**NATURAL MYSTIC VARIETY SHOP**" located at All Saints Road, in the parish of St. John's, Antigua in the vicinity of Kennedy's Liquor world pursuant to Section 11 (5) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

For any Further information I can be contacted at 726-3858

.....
Stafan Robertson

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IICA presents report on its activities over the past year

The International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA) presented its country report on Antigua and Barbuda to stakeholders in agriculture on Thursday.

Country Programme Manager, Craig Thomas said the organization is required to present an annual report detailing its activities in each member state where it operates.

The presentation of the report was done in a forum dubbed an 'accountability seminar' that brought together representatives from the various groups and organisations with which IICA has been interacting over the past year.

"The report was based on three key pillars; transparency, accountability to stakeholders and feedback.

Following the presentation of the country report the general feedback from the stakeholders was for us to continue the work that we have been doing and even to expand as well as congratulate us on what we have accomplished so far," Thomas reported.

The report covered the year 2022 where the IICA focused on territorial development and family farming. Territorial development has to do with working with producer groups such as beekeepers on both Barbuda and Antigua, the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development (GARD) Centre as well as other NGO's and Community-based Development Organisation (CDO's).

"We also focused on agriculture health and food safety. Currently, we are de-

veloping the draft new health and food safety policy document for Antigua and Barbuda. We are also working with the Plant Protection Union in the Ministry of Agriculture as well as Bureau of Standards. During the past year, we also did work to mitigate the effects of climate change. One aspect was a project to grow vetiver grass (bed grass) in collaboration with the GARD Centre," he disclosed.

The vetiver grass has been successfully used to carry out soil stabilization as well as used in what Thomas described as green business. This is where the grass is processed and used in ice cream making as well as soaps. "We engaged in green engineering. That is where we use plants to control soil erosion and soil slippage," Thomas



Country Programme Officer, Craig Thomas of IICA

stated.

For its 2023 work programme, IICA has its eyes focused on working with women involved in the agro-processing sector as well as a programme to revive the Antigua Black pineapple. Antigua and Barbuda joins Jamaica and St. Lucia in a pilot project to improve sweet potato.



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JOB SUMMARY

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Alfa Nero claimant may be ultimate loser

The Cabinet spokesman has taken a swipe at the claimant in the latest legal challenge brought against the government in the sale of the Alfa Nero, saying she likely stands to lose whatever the outcome.

Yulia Guryeva-Motlokhov is the daughter of Russian Oligarch Andrey Gurvey and claims to be the sole shareholder in a Guernsey-based trust that is the only shareholder in the Flying Dutchman Limited that owns the superyacht. As such, she is laying claim to the Alfa Nero and has retained the services of Dr. David Dorsett to represent her cause in the High Court.

Cabinet Spokesman Melford Nicholas on Thursday maintained that adequate time was given for claims to be made and that period has long expired. He said even if the court rules against the government, it will not be a simple handing over of the Alfa Nero, since the initial sanctions placed on the vessel will likely be re-instituted.

"It is quite opportunistic now for these other persons who are staging these court cases to be saying that they are the rightful owners. If they for one moment hold the view that should they prevail and they are still part of the sanctioned group of persons that that craft will not go back unto a sanctions list and be subject to what it was prior to all of this actions we have taken, I think they're living

in fairyland," the information minister asserted.

In June, the United States removed the Alfa Nero from its sanctions list, following in-depth discussions between Antiguan and Barbudan and US officials. This made it possible for the vessel to be placed on the auction block after it was compulsorily acquired earlier.

However, the latest legal challenge, along with the drawn-out process has caused American billionaire and former Google Executive Eric Schmidt to withdraw from the purchase of the Alfa Nero, after his bid of US\$67 million was accepted approximately three months ago.

Despite the setbacks, the government insists the vessel was legally acquired and will be sold.

"We are still encumbered by these legal challenges and we're going to have to determine how we go forward from there. But the thing to do is not to lose sight of what the ultimate objective is that the craft, has been confiscated, as a result of the abandonment in our waters and it has brought with it the possibility that it can become an environmental challenge, not only to our marine environment, but to our tourism facilities as well," Minister Nicholas reiterated.

The matter came up for hearing in the High Court of Justice on Wednesday and will continue on 18th December, 2023.

Automotive Parts Manager - Summary

An automotive dealership in Antigua is seeking an Automotive Parts Manager who strives to return a satisfactory profit on the capital invested in parts inventory. Accomplishes objectives using proper purchasing procedures, inventory control, staff utilization, security and pricing.

Automotive Parts Manager - Essential Duties

- Forecasts goals and objectives for the department and strives to meet them.
- Hires, trains, motivates, counsels and monitors the performance of all parts department staff.
- Prepares and administers an annual operating budget for the parts department.
- Maintains a balanced inventory consistent with the requirements of the service department, and the do-it-yourself public.
- Establishes pricing parameters in each customer category that generate enough gross profit to produce a satisfactory profit while maintaining customer loyalty.
- Establishes individual parts inventory levels and balances them for maximum turnover.
- Ensures that parts inventory turns (established #) times per year.
- Monitors and adjusts inventory to minimize obsolescence.
- Supervises stock order procedures.
- Sets and enforces a policy on the special ordering of parts. Ensures that stock orders represent at least the established percent of all orders.
- Analyzes inventory sales and expenses monthly to maintain profit goals.
- Ensures that the same high-quality level of service provided to outside customers is also provided to internal dealership customers.
- Works with the service manager to ensure a timely turnaround of parts needed for internal jobs.
- Attends managers meetings.
- Holds frequent department meetings.
- Analyzes departmental operations and storage layout and revises as needed for maximum effectiveness.
- Provides technical assistance to parts department employees.
- Coordinates a prompt, efficient and timely flow of paperwork.
- Directs shipping and receiving efforts to ensure timely processing.
- Monitors daily reports such as sales productivity.
- Develops sales promotions.
- Develops, enforces and monitors guidelines for working with customers to ensure maximum customer satisfaction.
- Handles customer complaints immediately and according to the dealership's guidelines.
- Understands, keeps abreast of, and complies with local regulations that may affect parts sales.
- Maintains professional conduct with staff and customers.
- Organize and manage the physical annual stock taking
- Ensures that all stock received is adequately processed and entered into the inventory.
- Quarterly reconciliation of physical stock levels to computerized stock levels for selected stock items.
- Other duties as assigned.

Automotive Parts Manager - Qualifications

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

Automotive Parts Manager - Education and/or Experience

- 5-10 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience in inventory mana
- Knowledge of automotive dealership software (especially CDK) would be an assets
- Sound knowledge of the automotive industry

Automotive Parts Manager - Other Skills

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups of customers or employees of organization.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations. Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, clients, customers and the general public.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret common scientific and technical journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints from customers, regulatory agencies or members of the business community. Ability to effectively present information to top management, and/or boards of directors.
- Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, interest, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumference and volume. Ability to apply concepts of basic algebra and geometry.
- Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as probability and statistical inference, and fundamentals of plane and solid geometry and trigonometry. Ability to apply concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios and proportions to practical situations.
- Ability to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where only limited standardization exists. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram or schedule form.
- Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions. Ability to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions in mathematical or diagram form and deal with several abstract and concrete variables.
- Ability to apply principles of logical or scientific thinking to a wide range of intellectual and practical problems. Ability to deal with nonverbal symbolism (formulas, scientific equations, graphs, etc.) in its most difficult phases. Ability to deal with a variety of abstract and concrete variables.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is September 29,2023, with the names and contact information for 2 referees able to provide professional references on your behalf.

Email applications to: Accting.officer@gmail.com

Commentary

Rowing the friendship paddle together towards a better future

Co-Authored By

E.P. Chet Greene, Foreign Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and, Zhang Yanling, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China set off on a journey into friendship 40 years ago. In their letters to each other, leaders of both countries expressed congratulations on the achievements of four decades of bilateral relations and commitments to strengthening the steady and sound friendly ties between the two countries.

In St John's and Beijing, each side held a series of celebrations. As one of the celebrating events, the 'Friendship Paddle' Table Tennis Open was successfully held at the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Center of Antigua and Barbuda Saturday 9th September, 2023. Players from both sides swapped skills and made friends through the Open, providing new impetus for the ship of good relations between the two countries to sail towards a better future.

Thanks to the commitment of Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne and the concerted efforts of all sectors, the pragmatic cooperation and friendly exchanges between the two countries have made new progress in various fields this year. Preparations for the construction of the affordable housing project are being stepped up; 11 students who got the Chinese Government Scholarships have started their university life in China; The soon-to-be-opened Embassy of Antigua and Barbuda in Beijing will be a new home for Antiguan and Barbudans; Agricultural experts from both sides together visited 16 farms in five agricultural growing areas in Antigua and Barbuda and exchanged in-depth views on high-quality seeds, water conservation and irrigation, seedling and grafting, pest and grass control; During the Car-

nival, Chinese diaspora dressed in traditional Chinese costumes celebrating the development of Antiguan and Barbudan cultural heritage.

It is expressed in the letters from Chinese President Xi Jinping to Governor General H.E. Sir Rodney Williams and Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne that 'our political mutual trust has grown ever stronger; our practical cooperation has produced fruitful outcomes; and the friendship between our peoples has kept deepening'.

Looking back on 40 years of journey, the cooperation between the two countries has maintained a good momentum which rests on three pillars:

The first is to take mutual respect and equal treatment as fundamental. Transcending differences in political systems and national conditions, we two sides have always understood each other and adhered to the principle of non-interference in each other's internal affairs. As Prime Minister Hon. Gaston Browne pointed out, 'The establishment of diplomatic relations between our two countries on 1st January, 1983, was intended to mark a new beginning between the most populous state in the world, and the smallest sovereign state in existence then'.

The second is a high level of political mutual trust. The leaders of both sides have maintained close contacts since the start of our diplomatic ties. We have supported each other on issues concerning the core interests and major concerns of the other side. Antigua and Barbuda adheres to the One-China principle. China firmly supports Antigua and Barbuda in safeguarding its independence and national development.

Last but not least is the recognition of mutual assistance and mutual benefit as the core principal of our relationship. The needs of people forms primary focus in our cooperation in infrastructure,



Chinese Ambassador Zhang Yanling and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene disaster prevention and mitigation, climate change, agriculture, education, culture, medical care, small and medium-sized enterprises and the empowerment of youth and women.

It is evident that the cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and China has brought tangible benefits to both sides and serves the fundamental interests of the two peoples.

Looking ahead, we shall carry forward the friendly relationship and make greater achievements to open up a new voyage of friendship. In so doing, we need to plan and develop relations between the two countries from a long-term perspective, and deepen the synergy of our development strategies. We need to actively explore new potentials of cooperation, and together safeguard the interests of developing countries and promote fairness and justice.

We are of the view that by working together to cultivate more development opportunities, more achievements will be brought to the two peoples. May the practical cooperation between the two countries break new grounds and take our traditional friendship to a new level.

THE COMPANY

The *Bar None* is a bar, café and lounge offering breakfast, lunch, and tapas in a trendy, modern environment (comfortable indoor and outdoor dining in ambient air-conditioned comfort). It will commence operations soon.

THE ROLE

We are seeking a specialist Chef / Mixologist with regional and internal experience, for the launch of a new business. The successful candidate will have a proven track record of brand building through creativity and innovation, with a heavy emphasis on creating positive customer experiences, training of employees, staging of events and innovative menu design aimed at securing repeat business. The successful candidate will also be experienced with creating cost-effective budgets, as well as drafting policies and procedures which will ensure operations are in accordance with established HACCP standards.

Finally, the successful candidate will have a demonstrated track record of service excellence in the hospitality industry. We offer you a challenging and stimulating environment, and the opportunity to work with professionals. We also offer a competitive compensation and benefits package.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS

- Degree in Culinary Arts.
- 3+ Years' experience as a Mixologist.
- Strong interpersonal, motivational and leadership skills
- 5+ Years' experience working as an Executive Chef in a large restaurant or resort.
- International / regional experience in USA or Europe at Hotels/Restaurants of comparable standards is preferred.
- Knowledge and experience of budgetary controls and computerized Point of Sale Systems.
- Proven track record of designing innovative menus, drafting policies and procedures and training.
- Prior experience in effectively managing a medium- sized team.
- Must be flexible, able to work nights, weekends, and public holidays.
- Must be computer literate, proficient with the MS Office suite of applications. Proficiency with CPSQL would be an advantage.
- Must have a valid Food Handler's Certificate.

Interested persons are kindly asked to apply in writing, including salary expectations and two business references to:

to hr@brydensantigua.com

Deadline for receipt of applications is 6 October 2023.

****Only suitable candidates will be acknowledged****

Do Caribbean countries need a new social contract?

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Recent findings by the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) ring alarm bells for the global community: democratic governance is under threat, with an increasing number of people subjected to authoritarian regimes that bluntly infringe on human rights and freedoms.

While authoritarian regimes are emerging, detaining opposition figures, muzzling the media, and instilling fear, their societies are fragmenting and their economies are weakening, making them less able to satisfy the basic needs of their people, millions of whom are fleeing to other lands.

Their hold on power is buttressed by fear and the capacity of governing parties to keep the military loyal by acts of unusual generosity to leading figures and even to the institutions themselves. But as the adage goes, “Uneasy lies the head that wears the Crown”.

Comfort in leadership is best and most sustainably derived from the wish of the people, by their informed votes cast at free, fair and transparent elections which are observed by international organizations. It ought not to rest on the vested interests of a few who benefit from the imposed structures

of power.

True democracy nourishes human rights, ensures voices are heard, and confronts past injustices to foster a promising future. In this connection, governments that uphold the rule of law, human and political rights, and the freedoms of speech and dissent are more likely to guide their countries towards political stability, social advancement, and economic development.

Yet, challenges abound. The rise of misinformation and disinformation, exacerbated by fake news on social media platforms, corrodes the fabric of democratic societies. This isn't just about inaccurate information; it's about using disinformation and misinformation as strategic ploys to mislead and harm societies.

The United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has expressed great concern about the use of misinformation and disinformation in societies.

While misinformation refers to the unintentional spread of inaccurate information, disinformation is not just inaccurate – it is crafted with the intent to deceive and cause harm, including race-hate and reputational damage.

All societies have to be alert to both misinformation and disinformation, questioning the accuracy of



Sir Ronald Sanders

what they see and hear on social media platforms. The established media also have a responsibility to point out when false information is being spread on social media, and not to fall into the trap of themselves providing platforms for flawed and unsubstantiated charges.

In light of this, governments owe it to both themselves and their societies to maximize transparency and access to information, in order to build trust in public institutions, governance, and processes. As Secretary General Guterres put it, “they should also encourage public participation at all levels and enable meaningful dialogues and debates”.

On the link between democracy and development,

robust democracies are magnets for investments. They foster an environment of stability, predictability, and trust—cornerstones for any thriving economy.

However, the quality of life of the people is inextricably tied to these economic realities.

Hence, at the intersection of democracy and development lies the urgent task of eradicating extreme poverty, elevating living standards, and ensuring that the fruits of economic growth are equitably shared.

Democracy has not fully achieved these goals, but authoritarian regimes have not attained them at all, particularly since, in their pur-

cont'd on pg 15

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suit, the essential elements of human participation in decisions have been absent.

But democracies cannot rest on their laurels, having succeeded in creating societies where democracy is upheld and institutionalised, through the separation of powers between the executive, the legislature and the judiciary, a great urgency now exists to narrow the gaps between the rich and the poor, within nations and between them, by upgrading the quality of human life.

The Caribbean, with a few exceptions, stands out as a beacon in upholding democratic tenets. However, underlying issues such as high unemployment and escalating costs of living can spark civil unrest, necessitating forward-looking measures.

To navigate these crossroads, Caribbean countries must forge a renewed contract of democracy—one that not only pays homage to our tumultuous past in overcoming the bitter legacies of slavery, indentured labour, colonialism and imperialism, but also illuminates a path of hope, equity, and prosperity for all.

In its 2022 report on the Global State of Democracy, IDEA posited that democracies require a new social contract between political actors and civil society groups. IDEA proposed that this contract should be reconceptualized to reflect today's reality, addressing

new and evolving public needs and demands.

This concept is already being addressed in several countries through citizens' assemblies, governmental dialogue mechanisms and new constitutions which allow for greater power sharing and structures for

wider participation in decision-making.

It is a concept that might be energetically considered by all in the Caribbean.

(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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Plane crashes off Nevis coast after engine trouble

By Latrishka Thomas

Emergency services in St Kitts and Nevis have confirmed that a single-engine Piper aircraft crashed into the waters off Nevis last evening.

The plane, which departed from Antigua and was enroute to St Martin, reportedly encountered engine trouble mid-flight.

The pilot is said to have initiated an emergency landing procedure at Vance Amory International Airport; however, the aircraft ultimately plunged into the

sea near Herbert's Beach.

The plane's occupants, consisting of the pilot from St Martin and his Anguillan student-pilot, reportedly sustained only minor injuries. They reportedly managed to escape the stricken aircraft and swam ashore. Both individuals received medical treatment in Nevis.

Authorities have launched an investigation into the incident to determine the cause of the engine trouble and the circumstances surrounding the emergency landing.




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Venezuela and US spar over Guyana border dispute

By Dillon De Shong

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has rejected “interference” from the United States in its border dispute with Guyana.

Maduro’s statements came after the US State Department’s Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Brian Nichols, expressed the Biden Administration’s support for Guyana in the dispute that is currently before the International

Court of Justice (ICJ).

“The US supports Guyana’s sovereign right to develop its own natural resources. Efforts to infringe upon Guyana’s sovereignty are unacceptable.

“We call on Venezuela to respect international law, including the 1899 Arbitral Award and the ongoing ICJ process between Guyana and Venezuela,” Nichols wrote on X, formally known as Twitter.

Nichols’ post was a re-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro points while meeting Colombia's new ambassador to Venezuela, at the Miraflores Presidential Palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, August 16, 2023. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos, File)

sponse to Venezuela criticising Guyana on Tuesday night for accepting bids for oil blocks in waters of the disputed territory.

Maduro responded to Nichols’ tweet saying the US is trying to strip Venezuela of its territorial rights.

“From Venezuela we firmly reject the insolent interference of the United States, who have manipulated and bought, through Exxon Mobil and the Southern Command, the servile politicians of Guyana who little by little have turned this nation into a colony,” he wrote.

“It is an unacceptable conspiracy that seeks to strip us of the territorial

rights that belong to the Venezuelan people. Rest assured that the truth will prevail over these vile pretensions and Bolívar’s Venezuela will triumph!”

Another statement from the Venezuelan Government accused the US of seeking to build a military base in Guyana, which will then be used for operations to undermine the Bolivarian Republic.

Venezuela stated this “would put the peace and stability of the entire region at risk”.

Venezuela said its people and citizens are committed and ready to defend their homeland against any aggression from the United States.

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The Conversation Continues

New York school bus crash: 'Faulty tyre' leaves two dead and five critically injured

By Max Matza

Two people have died and five others have been critically injured in a school bus crash in New York.

It appears to have been caused by a faulty front tyre, officials say, adding that an inquiry is underway.

The charter bus was taking pupils from Long Island to a band camp when it came off the road and tumbled into a ditch near the town of Wawayanda.

Officials say 44 people were on the bus. They have been taken to six regional hospitals for treatment.

The two people who died have been named as Gina Pelletiere, 43, and Beatrice Ferarri, 77.



Aerials show 'mass casualty' crash of bus carrying students.

According to the school's website, Ms Pelletiere worked in the school's music programme.

Nassau-Suffolk Per-

forming Arts, a community music club in Long Island, says on its website that she is the "director of bands" at the Farmingdale High School.

The crash happened at around 13:10 local time (18:10GMT) on Interstate 84, about two hours north of New York City. Police have closed the highway to allow work to be carried out at the crash scene.

The bus was one of six that was chartered to take some 300 pupils from the Farmingdale High School marching band to a music camp in Greeley, Pennsylvania.

Photos show the bus on its side with broken windows and a ladder raised up to help rescue people

trapped inside.

"A bus that literally tumbled down a 50-ft (15-meter) ravine within minutes. It's extraordinary," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said in an evening news conference.

"While it's preliminary, it's likely that a faulty front tyre contributed to the accident. Although, again, this is still under investigation," she continued.

"That's a preliminary determination."

Most of the students on the bus were around 14 or 15 years old. The governor said it took 45 minutes to rescue all of them from the wreckage.

"I feel bad for them. I hope they feel better. I

cont'd on pg 19

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South Africa: 'Cannabis muffins' given to 90 schoolchildren

Around ninety primary schoolchildren in South Africa were sent to hospital after eating muffins thought to be laced with cannabis.

Officials said the pupils bought the muffins from a street vendor on their way to Pulamadibogo Primary School, north-west of Pretoria.

They experienced nausea, stomach pain and vomiting - and three girls are still in hospital.

Two people have been arrested and face charges of attempted murder.

The suspects, aged 21 and 19, will appear before Soshanguve Magistrate's Court on Friday, police said.

The Gauteng provincial education department said teachers had called an ambulance after noticing "strange behaviour" from children in class.

It said the incident had caused considerable distress to parents who were worried about their children's safety.

Police, who are conducting a tox-



Police say more than 90 children suffered "serious pains" after consuming the muffins. A toxicology report to confirm if cannabis was used, say more than 90 pupils received the muffins and suffered "serious pains".

They were all sent to nearby medical facilities, and "about 87" have been discharged, the education department said in a statement.

"Only three girl learners remain in hospital, and they are still receiving the necessary medical attention to

return to health," it said.

Earlier this year, the Democratic Alliance (DA) party called for better vetting processes for street vendors, after eight children were admitted to hospital having eaten so-called 'space cookies' outside their school.

The party's spokesperson Khume Ramulifho also said he would pressure the provincial government to improve safety measures at school.

cont'd from pg 18

thought the tyre just came off. I didn't know they crashed and did flips and stuff," one student told the network.

"I usually take a bus," another pupil said. "I don't think I want to take a bus no more."

Some pupils said they had seen images of their injured friends on social media.

"My friend came up to me, showed me a photo, her face was all bloodied and stuff. I started crying," student Wenel Jen-Babtist told ABC News.

"We saw somebody posting on Snapchat, the bus flipped over, we thought it was a joke at first," student Sean Jacobs said. "We didn't even know it was serious. It's horrible."

The cause of the accident is under investigation by New York State Police and the National Transportation Safety Board.

A family reunification centre has been set up at the Orange County Community College.

The camp was due to run from Thursday to Sunday. The uninjured students are expected to return home.

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Disaster Risk Reduction Week - an initiative of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS), will be held from October 8 to 13 under the theme "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future" in observance of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on October 13.

The week begins with a church service at the Spring Gardens Moravian at 8 am.

Monday 9th October will be media day

Tuesday 10th October has been designated Community Outreach Day

Wednesday 11th October - Youths in disaster workshop will be held at NODS targeting secondary school students

Thursday 12th October is Community Risk Reduction Day and the week ends on Friday 13th October with a disaster management expo at the multi-purpose cultural centre from 10 am to 2 pm. Participate in what is expected to be fun, interactive educational.

South Africa make two changes to World Cup squad due to injuries

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa will be without fast bowler Anrich Nortje and all-rounder Sisanda Magala for the Cricket World Cup in India after both were ruled out of the tournament through injury, officials confirmed on Thursday.

Seamer Lizaad Williams and all-rounder Andile Phehlukwayo have been called up as replacements, with South Africa to open their campaign against Sri Lanka on Oct. 7.

Nortje has succumbed to a back issue that saw him miss the latter part of the recent 3-2 home series win against Australia, and the loss of his extreme pace is a heavy blow. Magala has been battling a knee injury.

"This provides an opportunity for Andile and Lizaad on the global stage," coach Rob Walter said in a

Cricket South Africa media release.

"Both players have been part of our winter programs as well as having represented South Africa in the recent white-ball tour against Australia.

"They offer great skill sets and we're excited to have them complete the 15-player squad for this year's World Cup."

Phehlukwayo has played 76 One-Day Internationals but has been in and out of the side with inconsistent form since making his debut in 2016. He is known for his variations with the ball and as a strong lower order hitter.

Williams' only ODI appearance came against Ireland in 2021 when he took one for 62 in eight overs. He has played nine Twenty20 matches, including this month against Australia, and two tests.

South Africa have appeared in four World Cup semi-finals but have yet to lift the trophy.

Revised South Africa squad: Temba Bavuma (captain), Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, Aiden Markram, David Miller, Lungi Ngidi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Kagiso Rabada, Tabraiz Shamsi, Rassie van der Dussen and Lizaad Williams.



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South African fast bowler Anrich Nortje. (Getty Images)

Richie's Shooterz stay perfect in business basketball league

Playoff champions Richie's Shooterz maintained their perfect start to the 2023 Cool & Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League competition on Wednesday night.

They surged to their third win in as many encounters with a 13-point victory against Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the second game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 24 points, and Kwame Brathwaite produced 13 points to lead Richie's Shooterz to their 62-49 victory.

Takeem Martin sank 16 points, and Ralph Spooner converted 12 points for the Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew, who lost for the second time in as many outings.

Former champions the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board and Sandals recorded their second wins in as many encounters on Wednesday night.

Marlon "Buju" Charles scored 17 points, and Russell Daley sank 14 points to propel the Transport Board to their 62-49 victory against Trimmingham Trucking Enterprises.

Donte Trimmingham converted 14 points, and Javonte Daley had 11 points for Trimmingham Trucking Enterprises, who lost for the second time after winning

their opening encounter.

Keroi Lee produced 13 points as the Sandals snatched a 64-52 victory against the Sledge'O Ballers.

Coy Quinland converted 14 points, Zuri Nesbitt scored 13 points, and Shamari Basco contributed 11 points for

the Sledge'O Ballers, who were beaten for the second time in as many games.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex tomorrow (Saturday).

Sandals will face the Sir

Lester Bird Medical Center at 6:30 pm, Richie's Shooterz will take on the Board of Education at 7:30 pm, and the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will clash with defending league champions Eye Mobile Vision Care at 8:30 pm.

9 Teams

ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES

Antigua and Barbuda

Sep 29 - Oct 7
2023

The Netball action will take center stage at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Pay dispute between England women's players and FA appears to be resolved

LONDON (AP) - Players from the England women's team appear to have reached an agreement with the country's soccer federation regarding a dispute over bonuses and commercial structures.

England captain Millie Bright said at a news conference on Thursday that the players "feel really confident moving forward about the structure we now have in place" with the Football Association. Exact details of the agreement have yet to be officially announced.

In a statement released before the recent Women's World Cup in Australia, the England squad expressed disappointment at the dispute having not been resolved before the tournament and said the players had decided to pause talks with the intention



England's head coach Sarina Wiegman holds a trophy for the UEFA Women's Coach of the Year for 2022/23 after the 2023/24 UEFA Champions League group stage draw at the Grimaldi Forum in Monaco, Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023. (AP)

of revisiting them.

Players from teams at the World Cup were due to receive individual payments directly from FIFA for the first time, ranging from US\$30,000 to US\$270,00 depending on what stage of the tournament they reached.

England players didn't

receive any payments from the FA, reportedly because the governing body perceived payments coming from FIFA to be enough.

There is also believed to be frustration over a commercial strategy which players feel limits their ability to earn extra money from spon-

sorship.

"We've had a really good conversation with the FA," Bright said.

"We have come to an agreement, but I think it's bigger than just the bonus.

"For us it's about being world leaders on and off the pitch, and as we know the women's game is evolving very quickly and conversations like this need to happen in order to make sure in all areas we're at the top of our game."

England lost to Spain in the World Cup final, a year after the team coached by Sarina Wiegman won the European Championship for the first time.

England's first match since the World Cup is against Scotland today (Friday) in the inaugural Women's Nations League.

Walton powers TKR into 2023 CPL final

Chadwick Walton hit an unbeaten half century as the Trinbago Knight Riders (TKR) secured their place in the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) final with a seven-wicket win over Guyana Amazon Warriors in Qualifier 1 at Providence in Guyana on Wednesday night.

The Trinbago Knight Riders won the toss and chose to bowl first. Led by Waqar Salamkheil and Terrence Hinds, they produced a disciplined bowling performance to restrict Guyana Amazon Warriors to 166 for seven after 20 overs.

Despite another super innings from
cont'd on pg 23



Andre Russell, left, celebrate with Chadwick Walton after the Trinbago Knight Rider beat the Guyana Amazon Warriors in Qualifier 1 of the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League at Providence in Guyana on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

cont'd from pg 22

Saim Ayub, it was the Guyana Amazon Warriors lowest score this season when batting first.

The Knight Riders chase was headlined by Chadwick Walton, with the opener ensuring his side never fell below the run rate and eventually guiding them across the finish line, with a brilliant innings of 80 not out that ensured they progressed to the final on Sunday.

Ayub continued his brilliant maiden CPL season with a score of 49 as he once again opened with Odean Smith. Their 53-run partnership proved to be the foundation of the Amazon Warriors innings.

Despite losing leading run scorer Shai Hope for two in the ninth over, they managed to reach their total, thanks to the late runs scored by Romario Shepherd (16) and Gudakesh Motie (19).

Salamkheil with two for 28, and Hinds with two for 32 both proved to be vital for the Knight Riders, as they took wickets and contained the scoring.

The Trinbago Knight Riders raced away to 41 without loss after four overs, as Walton and Mark Deyal combined to give their side an ideal start to the chase.

Imran Tahir struck with his first ball, trapping Deyal lbw. Nicholas Pooran replaced Deyal and together with Walton, forged a 51-run partnership before Pooran was caught off the bowling of Dwaine Pretorius for 33.

However, Walton silenced the Providence crowd with his innings, which included nine boundaries. He was supported by Captain Kieron Pollard with 23 as TKR surged towards

their victory.

Qualifier 2 between Guyana Amazon Warriors and Jamaica Tallawahs will take place on Friday evening at Providence Stadium. Scores: Trinbago Knight

Riders 167-3 (Walton 80 not out, Pooran 33; Pretorius 2-36, Tahir 1-30) beat Guyana Amazon Warriors 166-7 (Ayub 49, Khan 36; Salamkheil 2-28, Hinds 2-32) by seven wickets.

 ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES					
September 29 – October 8, 2023 St. John's, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA					
EVENT SCHEDULE <i>2 netball courts for simultaneous matches</i>					
PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES					
1. Antigua and Barbuda		4. Dominica		7. St. Kitts and Nevis	
2. Barbados		5. Grenada		8. St. Lucia	
3. Cayman Islands		6. Montserrat		9. St. Vincent & the Grenadines	
Match #	DATE	TIME	TOURNAMENT FIXTURES		VENUE
	Thursday, September 28	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of CNA Officials, UAPs & UMPIRES		VC Bird International
		6:00pm	CNA & ABNA/LOC Meeting		Jolly Beach Resort
	Friday, September 29	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of COUNTRY DELEGATIONS		VC Bird International
		9:00am	Umpires' Seminar		Jolly Beach Resort
		7:30pm	WELCOME RECEPTION		
		8:30am	TECHNICAL MEETING		
		3:30pm	OPENING CEREMONY		YMCA
1	Saturday, September 30	5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS
2		5:45pm	MONTSERRAT	vs	ST. LUCIA
3		7:30pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	DOMINICA
4		7:45pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	GRENADA
5	Sunday, October 1	5:30pm	MONTSERRAT	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS
6		5:45pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	DOMINICA
7		7:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS
8		7:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	BARBADOS
9	Monday, October 2	7:00am	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ST. LUCIA
10		5:30pm	DOMINICA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS
11		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
12		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	MONTSERRAT
13		7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS
14	Tuesday, October 3	7:00am	DOMINICA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
15		5:30pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS
16		5:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	MONTSERRAT
17		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
18		7:45pm	DOMINICA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS
	Wednesday, October 4	8:30 – 11:30am	ECCB Personal Development Session		Jolly Beach Resort
19		5:30pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. LUCIA
20		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
21		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS
22		7:45pm	MONTSERRAT	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
23	Thursday, October 5	7:00am	BARBADOS	vs	GRENADA
24		5:30pm	MONTSERRAT	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
25		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. LUCIA
26		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS
27		7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	DOMINICA
28	Friday, October 6	7:00am	MONTSERRAT	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS
29		5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. LUCIA
30		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	DOMINICA
31		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	BARBADOS
32		7:45pm	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
33	Saturday, October 7	4:00pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. LUCIA
34		4:15pm	MONTSERRAT	vs	DOMINICA
35		6:00pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS
36		6:15pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES
			8:30pm	CLOSING CEREMONY	

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Antigua lose opener at ECVA Under-23 tournament

Antigua and Barbuda got off to a losing start in the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Women's Under-23 Tournament at the Massacre Indoor Facility in Roseau, Dominica, on Wednesday night.

Antigua and Barbuda went under 3-0 in straight sets to St. Lucia in the opening game of the nine-team sub-regional tournament. The St. Lucians won the Group A encounter 25-17, 25-9, 27-25.

Head Coach Rosemarie Simon said Antigua and Barbuda were unable to sustain a strong start to the game against the St. Lucians. She said the team also lost momentum in their attack after captain and outside hitter Jassania Joseph got hurt.

"The ladies came out playing strong from the start and were neck and neck with St. Lucia, but lost momentum towards the end of the first set. We struggled with service and passing at first, but we were able to fix the service in



The Antigua and Barbuda team (red and black uniform) warm-up before the start of their opening game during the ECVA Women's Under-23 Tournament at the Massacre Indoor Facility in Roseau, Dominica, on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. (Photo courtesy ABAVA)

the third set," Simon stated.

"However, one of our main hitters got hurt, so we didn't have our full firepower to combat St. Lucia. Nevertheless, it was our first game, and we congratulate St. Lucia on their win. We look forward to our second game, where we will battle against St. Vincent & the Grenadines."

Following their encounter against St. Vincent and the

Grenadines last night, Antigua and Barbuda will face St. Maarten today (Friday) at 1 pm. The Antiguan will tackle Saba in their last Group A preliminary game on Saturday at 9 am.

Host Dominica made a winning start to their campaign with a 3-1 victory against the British Virgin Islands in the opening affair in Group B on Wednesday

night.

Dominica won the opening set 25-19, but the BVI drew level by taking the second set 25-22. However, Dominica regained the lead by winning the third set 25-14 and then closed out the match by prevailing 25-19 in the fourth set.

Anguilla and Grenada are the other two teams in Group B.

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right side of the field into the far net to give Suriname a 2-0 lead.

Katoucha Patra made it a three-goal lead with a header in the 56th minute as Suriname made use of a corner kick opportunity.

Orthea Riley joined the scoring in the 73rd minute with a brilliant individual play to secure the three points for Suriname.

Honduras won 2-0 against Martinique at the Pierre-Aliker Stadium in

Fort-de-France, Martinique.

Lesbia Puerto attempted a spectacular play of her own and scored from long range in the 7th minute to give Honduras a 1-0 halftime lead. Puerto scored her second goal in the 52nd minute to wrap up her team's victory.

El Salvador earned a 3-0 win against Nicaragua at the National Football Stadium in Managua, Nicaragua.

The opening goal came from a

penalty after Danielle Fuentes was brought down in the box prior to the 20th minute mark. Brenda Ceren converted the penalty in the 21st minute with a strike to the bottom left corner to give El Salvador the lead.

Danya Gutierrez doubled the lead with an individual moment where she outpaced the goalkeeper in the 32nd minute.

Samaria Gomez scored El Salvador's third and final goal in the 66th minute with a left-footed shot.

Benna Girls beat Guyana in Gold Cup qualifier

Antigua and Barbuda's senior Benna Girls have made a successful start to their qualifying campaign in the inaugural 2024 Concacaf Women Gold Cup football competition.

Forward Gabrielle De Suza scored twice as the Benna Girls kicked off their campaign in Group A of League B by claiming a 2-1 victory at home against Guyana at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Wednesday.

De Suza scored in the 13th minute to put Antigua and Barbuda ahead. She pounced on a turnover, and her firm shot from the edge of the penalty arc slipped through the hands of the Guyanese goalkeeper into the back of the net.

De Suza capitalized on another defensive lapse by the Guyanese women to convert her second goal in the 51st minute to give Antigua and Barbuda a two-nil lead.

Brianne Desa reduced the deficit for Guyana with a conversion from the penalty spot in the 62nd minute



The Antigua and Barbuda Benna Girls team that started their Concacaf Women's Gold Cup League B Qualifier against Guyana at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Wednesday, September 20, 2023. (Photos courtesy ABFA)

after Jalade Trim was tripped inside the box, but Antigua and Barbuda hung on for the win.

Antigua and Barbuda stood as the lone team that successfully defended its home field in the four League B

encounters that started the Women's Gold Cup qualifiers on Wednesday.

Suriname, Honduras, and El Salvador earned important results on the road. Suriname joined Antigua and Barbuda in making a winning start to their campaign in Group A, while El Salvador and Honduras made successful starts in Group B.

Suriname were victorious away from home with a 4-0 victory over Dominica at the Windsor Park Sport Stadium in Roseau, Dominica.

Stekkinger Shamaira scored the first goal of the Women's Gold Cup tournament with a seven-minute conversion.

Andaya Lantveld scored in the 50th minute with a rocket from the



Antigua and Barbuda's forward Gabrielle De Suza (#7) attempts to dribble past a Guyanese defender during their Concacaf Women's Gold Cup League B Qualifier at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters on Wednesday, September 20, 2023.

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