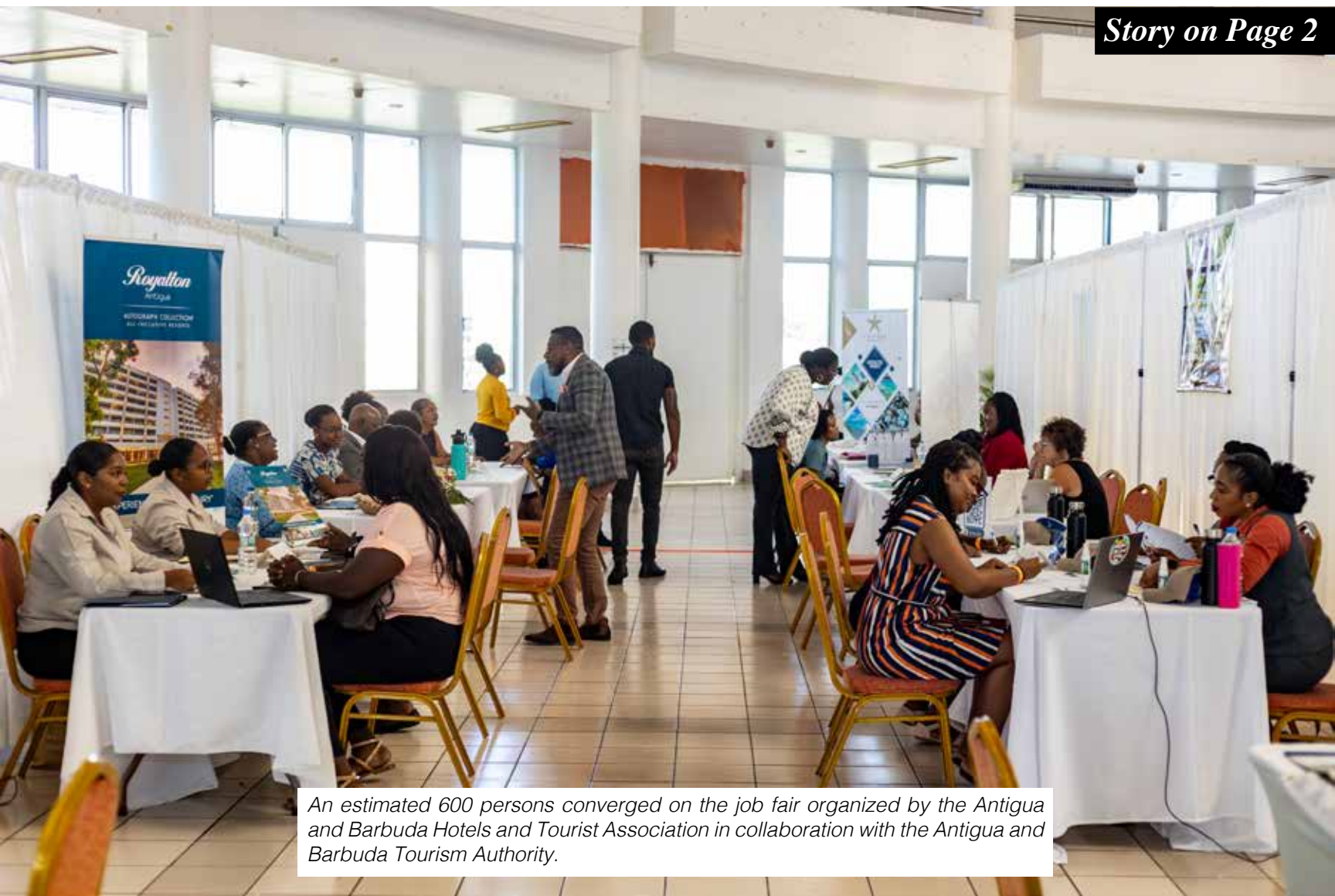


# JOB-SEEKERS CROWD JOB FAIR

*Story on Page 2*



*An estimated 600 persons converged on the job fair organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.*

## Job-seekers crowd tourism job fair

An estimated 600 persons converged on the job fair organized by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association in collaboration with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

Executive Director of the ABHTA, Patrice Simon, said the organizers were quite pleased with the turnout, as this signaled a desire by many in the society, to become a part of the country's main industry, hospitality and tourism.

"We decided to hold the job fair on September 27, World Tourism Day, and to use to opportunity to assist our members to prepare for the upcoming winter season. We therefore reached out to all our members and the response was really good.

"There were twenty-seven exhibitors including hotels, catering companies, and tour operators among others. We registered six hundred persons who applied for jobs in our industry," Simon reported.



The job fair ran from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. as the organizers wanted to ensure that everyone who came, had an opportunity to speak directly with the exhibitors.

Simon stated that one of the central themes of World Tourism Day

is 'Investing in People' and this was quite appropriate for them to hold the job fair on that day, as it marks an 'investment' in the people who were likely to be taking up future employment in this critical industry.

*cont'd on pg 3*

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## Booby Alley hold-outs finally accept offer

The longstanding refusal by the homeowners of a single property at Booby Alley that has delayed work on the social housing programme, has been amicably settled.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the parliamentary representative for the area who has viewed the project as a critical element of the development and transformation of the Point Area, reported to the Cabinet that there was no need to enforce the Eminent Domain authority approved by the House of Representatives just last week.

PM Browne reported that the owners have voluntarily stepped forward and consummated the offer that had been on the table before the Parliamentary action. "The cleared land will shortly be handed over to the Chinese engineers who will be assessing the site for various measurements required, before the start of construc-

tion. More than 100 households will be constructed on the land and those displaced will have the first opportunity to acquire new homes," according to a government spokesman.

This was the last hurdle standing in the way of the start-up of the project, which will likely serve as a model for further housing development in congested urban areas. The Antigua and Barbuda government is on record, promising to transform the housing stock in the country. Already more

than 1200 homes have been built and more have been promised to be completed over the next several years.

Meanwhile, next Tuesday the Cabinet will tour several housing projects completed by National Housing and CHAPA to give a first-hand view of more than 1000 new homes built by the Gaston Browne administration, since taking office. Hundreds of additional homes are to be constructed around the country, with keys handed over immediately upon completion.


*cont'd from pg 2*

A brief opening ceremony was held at the start of the job fair and remarks were made by the Director of Planning and Policy in the Ministry of Tourism, St. Clair Soleyn, representing Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez.

He said the ministry is happy to partner with any entity to achieve the key aim of expanding and developing the professionalism of local people, to take advantage of the opportunities that will arise in the industry.

"This will ultimately lead to the development of the nation's health and education sectors among others, as well as lead to the well-being of the citizens and residents of Antigua and Barbuda," he remarked.

Brief remarks were also made by ABHTA board member, Cathy-Ann Edwards-Joseph and City Manager for the St. John's Development Corporation, Carolyn Thomas-Parker.



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## Government presents a strategy to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030

The Ministry of Health wants to eliminate cervical cancer by 2030 and according to Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph, the ministry has a three-pronged approach to achieve this goal. Cervical cancer deaths rank only third behind colon cancer and breast cancer in women.

Speaking at a high-level engagement in Washington D.C., Sir Molwyn presented a paper Acceleration Actions for the Elimination of Cervical Cancer – the Antigua and Barbuda Experience, which details data on the status of the disease in the country, as well as a plan of action on how it may be eliminated, by the end of the decade.

“We are aware that cervical cancer is preventable and curable

through:

- HPV vaccination
- Cervical Screening
- Early identification and treatment of precancerous diseases and early-stage cervical cancer,” he stated.

Sir Molwyn said cervical cancer is the second most common cancer among women in Antigua and Barbuda and the government has decided to implement the World Health Organisation’s global strategy to eliminate cervical cancer as a public health problem.

“Antigua and Barbuda established the National Cervical Cancer Taskforce to oversee the implementation of the WHO strategy for the elimination of cervical cancer

through the achievement of the following 3 targets by 2030:

1. 90% of girls fully vaccinated with HPV vaccine by age 15 years
2. 70% of women are screened with a high-performance test, by 35 years of age and again by 45 years of age, and,
3. 90% of women identified with cervical disease receive treatment,” he announced.

There were, however, challenges as identified by the action plan presented by the minister. Among them was insufficient knowledge and awareness of vaccination as well as a noticeable rise in vaccine hesitancy observed since the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two ways in which this may be overcome are; scaling up an HPV screening program with special emphasis on high-risk groups, such as women living with HIV, and secondly, the development of programs geared towards increasing HPV vaccine uptake through community engagement and activities geared toward improving health literacy.

Sir Molwyn noted that Antigua and Barbuda has been a pioneer in this fight to eliminate cervical cancer and that it is committed to achieving the 2030 elimination goal.

“Antigua and Barbuda has led in the Caribbean region, by being the first country to be part of the training, based on the WHO’s Manual for the Implementation of HPV testing, as well as becoming the first country procuring HPV tests through PAHO’s Strategic Fund.

“These actions reflect the strong political will, commitment, and vision to lead the region toward the elimination of cervical cancer,” Sir Molwyn declared.



Prince G. Browne, right, was the top male student and second-place male in Zone IV for this year’s Grade 6 National Assessments.



## Reports of a dengue outbreak dismissed as 'fake news'

The Cabinet has joined the Ministry of Health in denouncing as 'fake news' reports that there has been a dengue outbreak in Antigua and Barbuda, as has been reported by a news outlet.

The Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, has confirmed that Antigua and Barbuda is Dengue-free as are all OECS countries.

Sir Molwyn reported that only one Caribbean country has recently declared that it is dengue-affected. "The Cabinet continues to urge parents to have their children vaccinated and to pay no attention to the anti-vaxers whose rheto-

ric, if believed, can adversely affect the children who may be denied vaccination," this week's Cabinet Notes indicated.

Meanwhile, the Health Minister has reminded that the country's vaccination rate for children exceeds 90%. According to the Cabinet Notes the prevalence of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) is a subject area that the Minister is currently addressing at the United Nations. Minister Joseph is seeking funding to enlarge the program which will result in lower NCDs in Antigua and Barbuda and the OECS.

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# Jamaican national fined for tampering with immigration documents

A Jamaican national - Crystal Shantal Hamilton – who arrived in Antigua in February last year, has been fined for breaching the Immigration laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

According to court records Hamilton applied for and received 2 extensions, the last one expiring on January 15 this year. She was advised upon the second extension that she would have to depart the state because she was not going to be granted a further extension.

The court heard that Hamilton

failed to depart but presented herself to the Extension Unit at the Immigration Department last Friday.

At this point, it was discovered that not only had she remained in the state, but upon further examination of her passport, it was discovered that she tampered with the original stamp, issued by the Immigration Department to now reflect the expiry date to be September 15, 2023. Immigration officers noted that she had achieved this by changing January to September.

She was arrested by an Immigra-

tion officer on the spot and charged with uttering a falsified permit and falsifying a permit.

She was also charged for remaining in the state illegally.

Hamilton pleaded guilty to the charges and was ordered to pay \$10,000 within 14 days or serve 6 months in prison. On the charge of remaining illegally in the country, she was fined \$4000 to be paid within 14 days or serve 4 months in prison. The default sentences are to run concurrently



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## Efforts to record the story of nationals who fought in WW1 & WW2

There is a move afoot, to record for posterity, the contributions made by Antigua and Barbuda nationals in World War 1 and World War 2.

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Ex-Service Men Association, Philmore Mullin disclosed an address at the formal launch of the 2023 Poppy Appeal at Government House on Wednesday.

He said, there is a story to be told and it is important that this is done to honour the memories of those who left these shores to take part in the wars. "Our annual poppy

appeal serves two main functions; firstly, raise funds to support the widows of the men who took part in the war and who are still alive today, and, secondly, it provides a forum through which we can keep their memories alive. Some went off and never returned and their sacrifices ought to be acknowledged and remembered by us all," he remarked.

He disclosed that the organization has written to the UK War Museum seeking information of the nationals who went off for the war and that it has been told that the records are



Members of the ABESA at Government House on Wednesday being compiled and will soon be sent to the British Archives who the association must then contact. He further disclosed that the sacrifices went beyond fighting in the war

*cont'd on pg 8*

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# Local News



## ABAPD receives a refrigerator from local accounting firm

A local accounting firm is celebrating its fifth anniversary as a company by making a donation of a refrigerator to the Antigua and Barbuda Association of Persons with Disabilities (ABAPD).

At a brief handing over ceremony on Wednesday, Senior Accountant at Innovative Business and Accounting Services (EBAS), Ashanna Carty, said the company has decided that it wanted to have a charitable arm of its operations and established EBAS and Friends to achieve that goal.

She said on learning of the difficulties that the ABAPD had been experiencing because of the absence of a refrigerator to store their food and other items, EBAS and Friends readily jumped to their assistance by making the donation. Carty revealed that the company comprises mostly graduates of the Uni-



versity of the West Indies and as such, one of their aims has been to donate to educational concerns.

“Since our establishment, one of our sponsorships has been to a second-year student at the UWI Five Islands campus pursuing accounting or accounting-focused studies. Details of this are available on our website, EBAS and Friends and persons wishing to ap-

proved Student and the top academic student overall.

ABAPD President, Bernard Warner thanked EBAS for their generosity, by coming to the aid of the association at this critical moment.

“Over the last several months our organization has been struggling with storage and when I was told of the donation of a refrigerator I exclaimed, Yes! We stop buying ice,” he remarked.

According to Warner, the association does a daily feeding programme where it provides meals for members and the absence of a fridge has severely hampered the operation.

“This is a blessing from the organization and my hope is that on hearing of this act of kindness persons will patronize your organization,” he stated.

Also expressing appreciation was Wendy Valentine secretary of the association.

ply may seek out the information.

“Additionally, we also provide a scholarship for a student at the Antigua State College. It is our view that we should mold young minds and that’s part of the motivation for offering the scholarship,” she stated.

EBAS and Friends also make donations to the Trinity Academy Secondary School for the Most Im-

*cont’d from pg 7*

as those who remained behind also made worthwhile contributions as they sent money, clothing, and other items to the men and women who traveled to the UK.

Funds raised from the Poppy Appeal 2023 go towards four widows – one of whom is in Barbuda and the other three live in Antigua.

The Barbuda widow of an ex-serviceman is said to be age 102. Former members of the association who may have fallen on hard times are also assisted by the funds raised.





## ChatGPT can now access up to date information

OpenAI, the Microsoft-backed creator of ChatGPT, has confirmed the chatbot can now browse the internet to provide users with current information.

The artificial intelligence-powered system was previously trained only using data up to September 2021.

The move means some premium users will be able to ask the chatbot questions about current affairs, and access news.

OpenAI said the feature would open up to all users soon.

Earlier in the week, OpenAI also revealed the chatbot will soon be able to have voice conversations with users.

ChatGPT and other similar systems use huge amounts of data to create convincing human-like responses to user queries.

They are expected to dramatically change the way people search for information online.

But until now the viral chatbot's "knowledge" has been frozen in time. Its database has been drawn from the contents of the internet as it was in September 2021. It could not browse the net in real time.

So, for example, ask the free version when an earthquake last struck Turkey, or whether Donald Trump



is still alive and it replies "I'm sorry, but I cannot provide real-time information".

ChatGPT's inability to take recent events into account has been a turn-off for some potential users.

"If this functionality or capability weren't there, you would need to go to Google or to Twitter or to your preferred news outlet. Now, you can treat this as a source of the latest news, gossip and current events," says Tomas Chamorro-Premuzic, professor of business psychology at University College London.

"So the main implication is that it's going to ab-

sorb a lot of the incoming questions and inquiries that were going to search engines or going to news outlets," he said.

But, Mr Chamorro-Premuzic added that using the platform to search could be a double-edged sword.

"I think that's a good thing in terms of getting quick responses to your pressing, burning questions," he said, but warned that without sourcing, information provided through ChatGPT could be misleading.

"If it's not stating in a reliable way what the sources are, and it's simply doing a mix and a mish mash of

what exists out there... then the concerns are around accuracy and people just assume the information they get there is reliable when it's not."

Already, OpenAI has come under the scrutiny of US regulators over the risk of ChatGPT generating false information.

Earlier this year, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) sent a letter to the Microsoft-backed business requesting information on how it addresses risks to people's reputations.

In response, the OpenAI chief executive said the company would work with the FTC.

*cont'd on pg 10*

# Hollywood writers agree to end five-month strike after studio deal

By Mariko Oi

Hollywood writers ended their strike at midnight Pacific time (07:00 GMT) on Wednesday, after nearly five months.

The Writers Guild of America (WGA) said in a statement that union leaders “voted unanimously to lift the restraining order and end the strike”.

Its 11,500 members will then vote on whether to approve a three-year deal that offers pay raises and protections around use of artificial intelligence.

A separate dispute involves actors, who are also on strike.

The writers’ walkout began on 2 May, which members of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG) joined on 13 July, making it the longest strike to affect Hollywood in decades. They were striking in a row over pay and



the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the industry.

It has cost the US economy around \$5bn (£4.08bn), according to an estimate from Milken Institute economist Kevin Klowden.

The dispute has shut down many of America’s top shows, including *Billions*, *The Handmaid’s*

*Tale*, *Hacks*, *Severance*, *Yellowjackets*, *The Last of Us*, *Stranger Things*, *Abbott Elementary* and several daytime and late-night talk shows.

Some of them can now return to the air with Bill Maher, host of HBO’s “*Real Time*,” posting on social media that he would

be back with fresh episodes starting Friday.

Earlier this week, screenwriters said they had reached a tentative deal with studio bosses, although no details were given.

However, the end of the WGA strike does not return Hollywood to normal as the actors’ union which walked off the job in July remains on strike.

Just like writers, actors are looking to improve wages, working conditions, and health and pension benefits.

They are also keen to establish guardrails for the use of artificial intelligence in future television and film productions. The WGA breakthrough could act as a template for SAG-AFTRA to draft its own deal with Hollywood studios.

*cont’d from pg 9*

There were a number of reasons why ChatGPT did not search the internet until now: computing cost for one thing. It is often said that every single query costs OpenAI a few cents.

More significantly though, the limited data provided a valuable safety net.

ChatGPT could not start regurgitating harmful or illegal material it happened to find newly uploaded to the net in response to a query.

It could not spout misinformation planted by bad actors about politics or healthcare decisions because it didn’t have access to it.

Asked why it had taken so long to al-

low users to search up to date information, the chatbot itself provided three answers.

It said developing language models took a long time and was resource-intensive, that using real-time data had the potential to introduce inaccuracies, and that there were some privacy and ethical concerns about accessing real-time information - particularly copyrighted content without permission.

ChatGPT’s new functionalities perfectly highlight the enormous dilemma facing the AI sector. In order to be truly useful, the guardrails have to come off, or at least loosen - but doing that makes the tech potentially more dangerous and open to misuse.



## Guyana rejects Maduro's call for direct talks to settle border dispute

Guyana has rejected attempts by Venezuela to bypass the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to settle their border dispute.

Guyana's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett delivered the rejection yesterday after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro called for him and Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali to have face-to-face talks to settle the border dispute.

"I am ready to meet with you very quickly, at the location of our choice in the Caribbean... to resume peace negotiations and put an end to these threats," Maduro said in his weekly broadcast last weekend.

Venezuelans have long argued that 160,000 square kilometres of Guyana's internationally recognised territory is theirs.

Rodrigues-Birkett said Guyana believes the only way to settle the conflict is through mechanisms provided by the 1966 Geneva Agreement

"Guyana will not agree to any procedure that contradicts the express provisions of the Geneva Agreement and bypasses the Court, which is the only means of settlement that is now authorised by Article IV of that Agreement," she said.

The ambassador also criticised Venezuela's Minister of Foreign Affairs Yvan Gil Pinto for spreading "falsehoods" during his presentation in the United Nations General Assembly Debate last Saturday.

Gil Pinto accused Guyana of engaging in "illegal conduct" when it granted oil concessions in the disputed waters.

The minister said Guyana was becoming a puppet of the United States and he said Venezuela is concerned that the US Southern Command will



set up a military base in the contested territory.

Rodrigues-Birkett countered saying: "The intelligence of the international community should not be insulted by Venezuela's allegations that Guyana is allowing its territory to be used as a platform for military aggression against any State including the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela."

She urged Venezuela to adhere to the judicial process that is currently before the ICJ.

Rodrigues-Birkett maintained that Guyana has followed the process outlined in the 1966 Geneva Agreement to settle the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award and the land boundary between Guyana and Venezuela.

The ambassador said when negotiations failed Guyana and Venezuela agreed to refer the controversy to the United Nations Secretary General to choose the means of final settlement in accordance with Article IV of the Agreement.

"The Secretary General chose, in the first instance, the use of his good offices to bring about a settlement satisfactory to both parties. The good offices process took place with the participation of Guyana and Venezuela over a period of more than 20 years, without success or any progress to-

ward success," she said.

"In January 2018, acting in accordance with Article IV of the Geneva Agreement, the Secretary General determined that the good offices process had failed, and he chose a new means of dispute settlement: litigation before the International Court of Justice (ICJ)."

She continued: "Under Article IV, his decision was binding on Guyana and Venezuela. Guyana then filed an Application with the Court seeking its final and binding Judgment on the validity of the 1899 Arbitral Award and the boundary between the two States, in accordance with Article IV of the 1966 Geneva Agreement and the Secretary General's decision of January 2018."

"Venezuela twice appeared before the Court to object to its exercise of jurisdiction in the matter, and the Court rejected Venezuela's objections both times. The Court ruled that the basis of its jurisdiction was precisely Article IV of the Geneva Agreement and the Secretary General's decision that the dispute should be resolved by the Court."

Rodrigues-Birkett added Guyana is committed to having peaceful relations with its Spanish speaking neighbour.

## Dominica elects first woman head of state

CMC - Dominica Wednesday elected its first ever woman head of state overshadowed by opposition attempts to scuttle the “historic moment” and raising the possibility of the matter ending up before the courts here.

By a margin of 20-5, Dominican lawmakers, – six government ministers and one opposition legislator were absent for various reasons – voted in support of 58-year-old Sylvanie Burton, the government’s nominee, who had faced a challenge from Anette Sanford.

She will be sworn in on October 2.

Ironically both women are from the Kaliangoo Territory, where the descendants of the country’s indigenous people, the Caribs, still reside.

But the victory was overshadowed by an attempt by opposition legislator, Sean Douglas, who questioned wheth-

er Burton, had in fact met the requirements under the Dominica Constitution to be nominated, claiming that she was still employed as a senior public servant.

“The nominee has engaged in certain acts which offend the Public Service Act , in which if she is President warrant her removal from office and as such the House should not proceed on the election of the President as Sylvanie Burton being a candidate or nominee,” he said.

But Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, who lamented the fact that there had not been consensus in the nomination for the position of the island’s 12th head of state since independence in 1978, questioned the facts being presented by Douglas.

“All of what the Senator would have said in his arguments to the House to indicate that the candidate Sylvanie



President elect Sylvanie Burton.

Burton is not qualified cannot stand,” he said, telling legislators that she had retired from the public service on September 11 this year.

“What I would say to the Senator and I would ask him to research the very same arguments he is making in respect to Mrs Sylvanie Burton...is to ask him whether he has also investigated the qualification or disqualification of the Leader of the Opposition’s candidate and whether he is aware... that the arguments he is using against Mrs Sylvanie Burton that his candidate is in violation of that section of the Constitution”.

Skerrit moved for a five minute adjournment of the Parliament to allow Douglas to research the answer, but when it resumed, he was unable to answer the question, with Opposition Leader Jesma Paul Victor supporting the decision to continue with the balloting process.

However, Speaker Joseph Isaac, informed legislators that the matter could reach the Court of Appeal, say-

*cont’d on pg 13*

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*cont'd from pg 12*

ing that prior to the sitting of the Parliament today he had sought guidance on the question raised by the opposition legislator.

“I said this morning we were a little late because... we were dealing with the same qualification issue,” he said, adding “first I would say, the jurisdiction with regards to qualification has to be at the High Court, the Court of Appeal.

“So the House is not going to deal with the issue of qualification, we are going to proceed with the voting for the President,” Isaac said.

Following the vote, Skerrit praised the outgoing head of state for providing “a service of distinction, a service of commitment, a service of love of nation and a service to a country so vast, so profound, so sincere”.

But Skerrit said he was disappointed that the election of Burton was not an opportunity “for us to rally around one candidate and to show the world that on some things there can be unity of purpose.

“There really should not have been any reason for there not to have been one candidate. But, be as it may, that’s the democratic process and everybody has a right to determine how they do things and when they do things.”

Skerrit said it has not robbed Dominica of creating history and “it has not robbed women of an oppor-

tunity to be grateful and that a woman for the first time in the history of our country, has been recognised and elevated to this high office”.

He said, most importantly, it would not rob the Kalinago people, “the first people of our country of an opportunity that was lost in terms of the process, not the outcome, of having the first Kalinago person elected to the highest office in our country.

“I will say that history will not recognise those who did not support the Kalinago people in this effort to recognise them. It will not recognise them kindly and

so we will not focus on the negative side of this, but we would rather focus on the positive side of this,” said Skerrit, describing today’s election as “a red letter day for the Kalinago people.

“I think that every woman in Dominica and indeed the world should be celebrating today...this historic occasion of a women being elected and not only a woman of any pedigree as we would say, but someone who has come from very, very challenging and humble beginnings.

“I believe by this act, the Parliament we have shattered all semblance

of remembrance of classism in Dominica,” said an “emotional” Prime Minister Skerrit.

Mrs Burton has been a senior public servant since 2014 and when she retired was the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of the Environment, Rural Modernisation, Kalinago Upliftment and Constituency Empowerment.

She has been a Justice of the Peace for 25 years and holds Masters Degree in Project Management and a Bachelor’s Degree in Rural Development.

She is married and has two children.



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## Travis King in US custody after North Korea expulsion

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

US soldier Travis King, who fled from South to North Korea in July, is in American custody after being expelled by Pyongyang, officials say.

Pvt King was transferred into US custody in China before being flown to a US military installation.

The 23-year-old reconnaissance specialist illegally crossed into North Korea in July.

North Korean media said he had fled because of “inhuman treatment” and racism within the US military.

A senior administration official said on Wednesday that after months of “intense diplomacy” Pvt King had been returned to US hands and had spoken to his family.

“We can confirm Pvt King is very happy to be on his way home, and he is very much looking forward to reuniting with his family,” the official said.

“We are going to guide him through a re-integration process that will address any medical and emotional concerns and ensure we get him in a good place to reunite with his family.”

The official added that the US made no concessions to secure his release.

After being met by US officials in the Chinese border city of Dandong, Pvt King was taken by a state department aircraft to a US airbase in South Korea.

He was expected to return to US soil on Wednesday afternoon, according to state department spokesperson Matthew Miller.

Earlier on Wednesday, North Korea’s state-run news agency said the country had decided to remove Pvt King, without offering further details.

“The relevant body in the Demo-



*Travis King has not been seen or heard of since he left South Korea in July.*

cratic People’s Republic of Korea has decided to deport US soldier Travis King, who illegally entered the territory of the republic, in accordance with the laws of the republic,” it said.

Pvt King has been in the army since January 2021 and was in South Korea as part of a unit rotation.

Before entering North Korea, he had served two months in detention in South Korea on charges that he assaulted two people and kicked a police car. He was released from custody on 10 July.

He had been due to return to the US for disciplinary proceedings, but managed to leave the airport and join a guided tour of the border village of Panmunjom on the heavily guarded Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) between the two countries. Pvt King crossed into North Korea while on the tour.

The senior administration official said that the immediate focus will be on getting him medically evaluated before any potential disciplinary and administrative actions.

According to the senior administration official, the US learned earlier this month that North Korea intended to release Pvt King.

Swedish officials travelled to

North Korea and brought Pvt King to its border with China, where he was met by US ambassador Nicholas Burns. China played a “constructive role” but “did not mediate”, the official added.

“All these pieces had to come together quickly,” the US official said.

As the US and North Korea have no diplomatic relations, Sweden’s embassy in Pyongyang has traditionally negotiated on behalf of the US.

A Swedish embassy spokesman confirmed that the country had acted “within its role as a protective power” for the US in North Korea during the King case.

Jonathan Franks, a spokesman for Pvt King’s mother, Claudine Gates, said in a statement that she will “forever be grateful” to the US Army and its partners “for a job well done”.

The statement added that Pvt King’s family does not intend to give any interviews “for the foreseeable future”.

His relatives have previously told US media that he had experienced discrimination while serving in the US military.

They have said his mental health suffered during his time in South Korean custody.

In an interview with the Associated Press news agency last month, Ms Gates said her son had “so many reasons to come home”.

“I just can’t see him ever wanting to just stay in Korea when he has family in America,” she said.

Frank Aum, a North Korea expert at the Washington DC-based US Institute of Peace, said that Pvt King’s 71-day detention was “fairly typical” in cases of US citizens held in the coun-

*cont’d on pg 15*



## Monterrey gangs: Bodies dumped in Mexico's business capital

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

The mutilated remains of up to a dozen people were found strewn across the northern Mexican city of Monterrey on Tuesday.

Messages left with the remains suggest the victims were killed as part of a purge within a gang.

Monterrey is the industrial and business capital of Mexico and the seat of many large companies.

Earlier this year, Tesla announced it would open a huge car factory in the city in 2024.

The discovery of the dismembered bodies at seven separate sites across Monterrey came after a drop in the level of violence in recent years.

In the early 2010s, a number of drug cartels fought for control of the city.

In their attempts to scare their rivals, the cartels would hang bodies from bridges or leave body parts next to signs



Forensic experts were called to seven sites where human remains had been dumped.

warning off their enemies.

Local media said that next to the remains found on Tuesday there were signs referring to attempts to infiltrate a cartel.

The messages were signed by the Cartel del Nordeste (Northeast Cartel).

Police did not confirm the veracity of the messages but said that a cartel from neighbouring Tamaulipas state was

behind the grisly dumping of the bodies.

The Northeast Cartel, which is based in Tamaulipas, is thought to have emerged from the Zetas crime syndicate.

Its leader, Juan Gerardo Treviño Chávez, was arrested by the Mexican security forces in March 2022 and deported to the United States.

It appears that since then,

rival gangs have tried to infiltrate the cartel he led.

As well as drug trafficking, the Northeast Cartel terrorises migrants in its powerbase of Nuevo Laredo and Tamaulipas state.

It kidnaps migrants heading through Mexico to the United States and demands thousands of dollars from their families to release them alive.

*cont'd from pg 14*

try who "are not perceived to have committed a major crime".

Some analysts had speculated Pyongyang might have opted to use the US soldier as a diplomatic bargaining chip.

In previous instances, North Korea has insisted a senior US representative travel to the country to negotiate any American detainee's release, though there is so far no indication that happened in this case.

"They [North Korea] have believed that may be some way to help re-start talks," said Mr Aum, who was

previously a senior adviser on North Korea at the office of the US secretary of defence.

"But it didn't seem like North Korea was interested in doing that this time. That may be a reflection of the fact that North Korea is not interested in engaging with the US at the moment."

Mr Aum added that North Korean officials were also no doubt keen to avoid "reinforcing an international perception" that they are a major human rights violator making arbitrary detentions.

State Department spokesman Mat-

thew Miller said on Wednesday that while the US "is open to diplomacy" with North Korea, the country's government has repeatedly "rejected" the possibility.

Mick Mulroy, a former deputy assistant secretary of defence and CIA paramilitary officer, told the BBC it is a "good thing" that Pvt King was being returned to US custody, although he "is a young man that made some mistakes".

"He is a US soldier and it was important that we did everything we could to bring him home," Mr Mulroy added.

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## Richie's Shooterz maintain perfect run in business basketball league

Reigning playoff champions, Richie's Shooterz, extended their unbeaten run in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League competition on Tuesday night.

They notched up their fifth win in as many encounters by outshooting the Callan Shooters by a 20-point margin in the second game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high

21 points to lead Richie's Shooterz to their emphatic 70-50 victory.

Point guard Tavarus Benta added 16 points, while Olivee Morris and Sean Nicholas each chipped in with 10 points for the victors. N'Kenge Drew converted 13 points for the Callan Shooters.

Trimmingham Trucking Enterprise cruised to a comfortable 72-35 victory against Police in the other game on Tuesday.

Donte Trimmingham produced a

game-high 28 points, and Amare Browne contributed 11 points for the Trimmingham Trucking Enterprise. Javon Simon scored 12 points for the Police.

The business league basketball competition will continue with another double-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Thursday).

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Center will take on the Board of Education at 6:45 pm, and the Callan Shooters will face Sandals at 7:45 pm.



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# Sports News



## CWI President congratulates Bassarath and Badree on prestigious National Award

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) President, Dr. Kishore Shallow has extended his warmest congratulations to Vice President Azim Bassarath and former West Indies spinner and double T20 World Cup winner Samuel Badree on their remarkable achievement of receiving the prestigious Hummingbird Medal (HBM) Gold Award at the 2023 National Awards of Trinidad & Tobago.

The awards ceremony took place on Sunday, September 24, at the historic President's House in St Ann's, Port-of-Spain.

The Hummingbird Medal Gold Award is one of Trinidad & Tobago's highest honours, recognizing excep-

tional contributions and achievements in various fields.

Vice President Bassarath's and Badree's outstanding dedication and contributions to the sport of cricket have earned them this well-deserved recognition in the highest grade of the HBM.

President Shallow expressed his pride in Vice President Bassarath's accomplishments, saying, "I am delighted to congratulate Vice President Azim Bassarath on receiving the Hummingbird Medal Gold award.

"His commitment to cricket and his tireless efforts in promoting the sport have been instrumental in our pursuit of excellence at CWI. This



Former West Indies spinner Samuel Badree. (CWI Media)

recognition is a testament to his unwavering passion and dedication to the game not only in Trinidad & Tobago but at a regional level.

"Since his election in March 2023, Vice President Azim Bassarath has been an integral part of the CWI leadership team, playing a pivotal role in the development of cricket.

"Over the years, he has been a champion of Women's cricket, ensuring a robust development programme exists in Trinidad and Tobago."

President Shallow further add-  
*cont'd on pg 19*

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## Mack wins in ABNDA four-hand pullarama

Lucille Mack of Dominatrixx is the champion of the first ever Spanish-style Four-Hand Pullarama competition, which was hosted recently by the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA).

Mack won the competition, which was held at the ABNDA headquarters in Ottos Newtown.

She prevailed after eight rounds of matches in the competition, which was conducted via the 100 chalk accumulated points format.

Dale Henry of Everyday Double Six came in second, and Devon Graham of Willikies Super Stars captured third place in the competition, which was contested by 32 players.

It is the second top-place finish for Henry, who was among a group of three players who were declared joint winners of the three-hand pullarama, which was hosted by the ABNDA the previous week.

Dale Henry, Desiree Parker, and Irwin Richard were declared joint win-



Head of the ABNDA Tournament Committee Michael Roach, right, presents Lucille Mack with her prize for winning the first ever Spanish-style Four-Hand Pullarama competition. (Photo courtesy the ABNDA)

ners after the competition ended prematurely due to a power outage at the association's headquarters in Ottos.

All three players had advanced to the final, which was cancelled due to the power failure.

The organizers decided to declare the trio joint winners and share the prize money.

The two pullorama competitions marked the

resumption of domestic competition by the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association following a break to allow the national team, the Wadalli Warriors, to participate in the 19th World Council of Domino Federation (WCDF) Championship in Guyana last month.

The ABNDA will continue its domestic competition by staging the 2023 King and Queen of Domi-

no contest at its headquarters in Ottos Newtown tonight (Thursday).

Players from all clubs affiliated with the ABNDA will contest this week's competition.

The clubs affiliated with the ABNDA include the AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers, the Everyday Service Station Double Six Diamonds, the Willikies Super Stars, Dominatrixx, and Moise Eagle Warriors.

The others are Rising Stars, Legacy, Ramplers, Parham Strikers, Triple Dynamite, Bravo, and Unstoppables.

### cont'd from pg 18

ed, "Samuel Badree has etched his name on the pages of history as a member of the victorious T20 World Cup squads in 2012 and 2016.

"No doubt, he continues to make an invaluable contribution to the sport through his academy, coaching, and commentary, inspiring a new generation of players."



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Antiguan and West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, center, celebrates with his St. Lucia Kings teammates after taking a wicket during the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League. (CWI Media)

## Joseph pleased to earn spot in CPL Team of the Tournament

Antiguan fast bowler Alzarri Joseph is among the best players in the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) to have earned spots in the Team of the Tournament.

Home team Guyana Amazon Warriors beat the Trinbago Knight Riders in the grand finals at the Guyana National Stadium, much to the delight of their fan base, who celebrated their first title.

The Antiguan pacer, who represented the St. Lucia Kings, was named in the “best XI”, which was announced by the organizers following the conclusion of the event at Providence in Guyana on Sunday night.

Joseph is one of several current West Indies players who were selected for the squad.

The other West Indies players are Brandon King of the Jamaica Tallawahs, Shai Hope and Romario Shepherd of the Guyana Amazon Warriors, Nicholas Pooran and Kieron Pollard of

the Trinbago Knight Riders, and Jason Holder of the Barbados Royals.

The other members of the team are overseas players: Saim Ayub, Dwaine Pretorius and Imran Tahir of the Guyana Amazon Warriors, as well as Imad Wasim of the Jamaica Tallawahs.

Joseph said he was quite pleased to secure a spot in the Team of the Tournament, which was selected by the television commentary panel, which comprised Ian Bishop, Daren Ganga, Samuel Badree, Carlos Brathwaite, Danny Morrison, and Nikhil Uttamchandani.

Joseph took 12 wickets in 10 matches for the Kings. He was the fastest bowler in the tournament and topped 150+kph on a few deliveries.

The leading batsman was Hope, who scored 481 runs in 12 innings, with a top score of 106. He was named the Player of the Tournament.

Pretorius was the leading wicket-taker with 20 scalps in 13 matches.

His best figures were four for 26 in the final when he won the Player of the Match award.

Joseph said, “It’s a good feeling to be part of that team for the second year in a row it means that I am doing something right consistently in this tournament.

“I think my development has been going well so far and I got a bit more experience in different scenarios to take with me into the future.”

**FULL TEAM:** Saim Ayub (Guyana Amazon Warriors), Brandon King (Jamaica Tallawahs), Shai Hope (Guyana Amazon Warriors), Nicholas Pooran (Trinbago Knight Riders), Kieron Pollard (Trinbago Knight Riders), Imad Wasim (Jamaica Tallawahs), Romario Shepherd (Guyana Amazon Warriors), Jason Holder (Barbados Royals), Alzarri Joseph (Saint Lucia Kings), Dwaine Pretorius (Guyana Amazon Warriors), and Imran Tahir (Guyana Amazon Warriors).



The Sea View Farm football team. (File photo)

## SVF and Wings record wins in Warriors Cup

Sea View Farm (SVF) and CPTSA Wings claimed emphatic wins in the Warriors Cup Football Tournament at the Radio Range playing field on Tuesday night.

Sea View Farm notched up their second win in the three matches by romping to a 3-1 victory against Master Ballerz.

Akeem Warrick scored twice, and Rhezal Gomes converted once for Sea View Farm. Gomes gave Sea View Farm the lead with a 3rd-minute conversion, but Master Ballerz equalized in the 10th minute via a penalty, which was converted by Arandon Satchell.

Gomez then scored in the 14th minute and the second minute of added time (80+2 minutes) to secure the victory for Sea View Farm.

The win lifted Sea View Farm to six points in the five-team round-robin

tournament, while Master Ballerz ended their campaign with six points, having recorded two losses and two wins from their quota of four matches.

Manuel Arias and Mark Portsmouth both scored twice to propel the Wings to a comfortable 5-2 victory against the host Young Warriors.

But it was Jose "Naymar" Arias who gave the Young Warriors a 1-0 lead by scoring his first of the team's two goals in the fifth minute. Manuel Arias had his first conversion in the sixth minute to equalize for the Wings.

Denya Looby scored in the 25th minute to give the Wings a 2-1 lead, but the Young Warriors equalized when Jose Arias scored his second goal of the match in the 28th minute.

The Wings then scored three goals without reply to seize control of the match and secure their victory. Ports-

mouth scored his two goals in the 34th and 49th minutes, and Manuel Arias had his second conversion in the 51st minute to complete the scoring.

It was the second win for the Wings, which ended their campaign with six points, while the Young Warriors will finish in the cellar position without a point, having lost all four matches.

Sea View Farm will clash with unbeaten Garden Stars in the final match of this year's competition at the Radio Range playing field today (Thursday) at 6 pm.

Garden Stars are leading the competition with nine points from their three previous matches.

The annual tournament, in its 17th edition this year, will conclude with an awards ceremony at the same venue after Thursday's match.