

NEW COHORT OF 81 STUDENTS BEGIN STUDIES AT ABHTI

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New students at ABHTI attend Orientation Week activities during Week One of their training.

A new cohort of 81 students begin studies at ABHTI

A new cohort comprising 81 students, this week started their journey of education and training at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI).

Newly appointed acting Executive Director Raynel Carroll said the students will pursue one or two-year programmes in several key subject areas.

“We offer two-year associate degrees in four subject areas: culinary arts, food and beverage, hospitality management and tourism management. For our one-year certificate programmes, the subject areas are basic cookery, front office and restaurant management,” she explained.

Carroll further explained that the ABHTI has fostered affiliations with several other institutions of higher learning to which its credits can be transferred to pursue degree programmes. These include Munroe College, the University of the West Indies (Cave Hill) and the Business and Hotel Management School (BHMS) located in Switzerland.

The new students are participating in a series of orientation exercises planned for this week with key industry partners attending. Among those in



attendance was, ABHTI’s Executive Director, Patrice Simon who delivered a presentation to the students on key lessons they should be guided by as they begin their journey at ABHTI. She also shared some of her hospitality experiences.

Simon remarked, “I do hope that after your time at ABHTI (whether you know this was the place for you



or that you have decided to give it a try), you will open up your mind to the possibilities that exist as a champion in the hospitality industry, with a reminder to understand that you matter, understand that relationships matter, that careers in the Industry are varied, be present with the right attitude and understand that you are the future of the Industry.

She wished all students the very best and noted that she is truly looking forward to seeing all the students succeed within the walls and advance to an exceptional career in the hospitality sector!”

Orientation Week continues on Wednesday with an industry trade show where the new students will be exposed to the various career paths that are available in the industry. On Thursday, they will participate in an island tour and on Friday there will be a closing cocktail party sponsored by industry partners.



Qatar invited to invest in Antigua and Barbuda

Antigua and Barbuda is making a pitch for investments from the Kingdom of Qatar, one of the wealthiest nations on earth.

The invitation was extended by Prime Minister Gaston Browne to the new Qatari Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda, Yaser Awad Al-Abdulla, who paid a courtesy call to the Prime Minister on Tuesday.

“One of the areas where we feel that there could be some collaboration is in the area of natural gas. We have just installed a natural gas plant here, with a US firm, Eagle, but in terms of the supply of natural gas, we could perhaps purchase from Qatar.

“There is an opportunity for us, from next year and onwards, because most of the cruise ships will be powered by LNG and there’s no

LNG terminal in the Caribbean. So, we are aspiring to establish an LNG terminal here, and we would like you to report to your capital about our offer, to see if the government of Qatar or the private sector would wish to invest in a joint venture with the government to establish an LNG terminal here,” PM Browne offered.

Prime Minister Browne also suggested to the Qatari ambassador that there could be student exchanges between universities in the Middle Eastern country and the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

During a similar courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, the minister used the opportunity to reach out to Qatar for assistance in Antigua and Barbuda’s hosting of the Small Islands Develop-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with Qatari Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda, Yaser Awad Al-Abdulla

ing States (SIDS) conference next year.

Greene noted that small island states are forced to deal with the consequences of natural disasters that are made more destructive, because of the effects of climate change. The meeting, he noted, will be an attempt by these states to arrive at common positions to deal with the issue.

Ambassador Al-Abdulla gave his country’s commitment to work along with Antigua and Barbuda in hosting the conference, even to the point of offering technical assistance, as Qatar has much experience in hosting major events.

Foreign Affairs Minister Greene expressed his appreciation for the offer from the

Qatari ambassador.

“We are grateful for the support of Qatar in hosting the conference. We also note Qatar’s global leadership in the area of climate change and so this meeting is very important for small island states.

“As we sit today, we are watching a weather system that may affect us by the weekend. When we have these weather systems affecting us they have a debilitating effect on our economy and disruptions to our lives,” he noted.

The Qatari ambassador invited the Antigua and Barbuda government to detail its several requests to his government in a formal request for which he promised a speedy response.



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, right, with Qatari Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda, Yaser Awad Al-Abdulla

Diplomatic Engagements

Over the past few days there have been quite a flurry of diplomatic activities as both Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene held discussions with visiting diplomats newly appointed to serve Antigua and Barbuda by their respective governments.

bassador for Sweden appointed to St. John's, Anders Bengtcén; the Ambassador for Chile, Jose Antonio Cabeno Espinosa and from Qatar, Ambassador Yaser Awad Al-Abdulla.

Point Express presents a photo gallery of these engagements with the foreign diplomats and senior government officials.

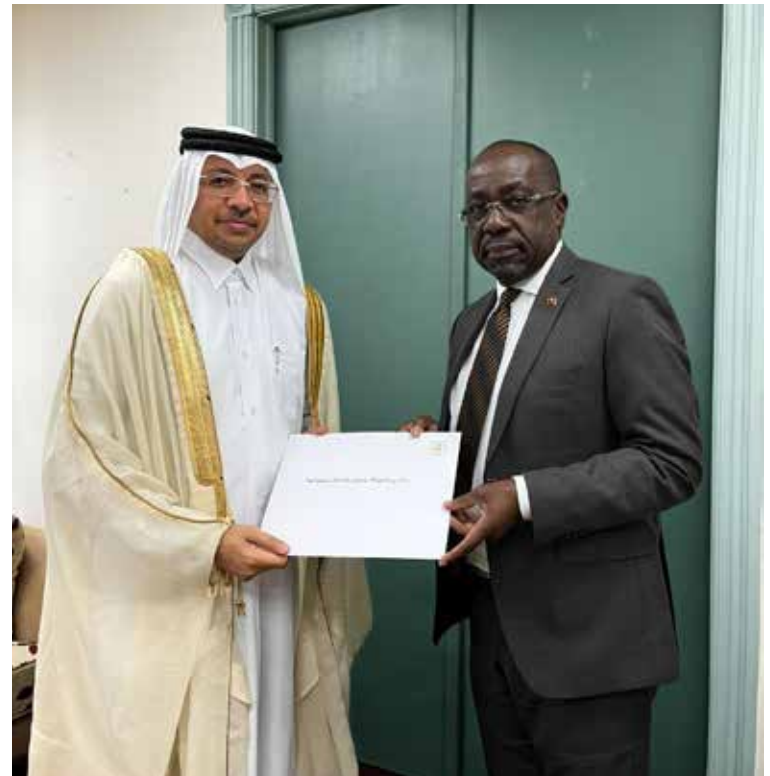
They include the Am-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with Ambassador for Sweden appointed to St. John's, Anders Bengtcén



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, right, with Ambassador for Sweden appointed to St. John's, Anders Bengtcén



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, right, with Qatari Ambassador for Antigua and Barbuda, Yaser Awad Al-Abdulla



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with Ambassador for Chile, Jose Antonio Cabeno Espinosa

Haitian situation a key factor in CARICOM Heads meeting

Leaders of the Caribbean Community, CARICOM, convened a tele-conference meeting on Tuesday, where the ongoing volatile situation in member state Haiti, featured prominently.

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne joined his other colleague heads at the 35th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the conference of the Heads of Government of CARICOM, where an update on Haiti was listed as a caucus item.

PM Browne has expressed his concerns over the situation in Haiti, noting that many people

there are starving as the country's social fabric is strained under the weight of the lawlessness that has gripped the country, ever since the assassination of the elected prime minister several years ago.

There has been talk of possibly sending a peace-keeping mission into Haiti to help restore the country's institutions and to pave the way for free elections to be held as soon as practicable thereafter.

The outcome of the discussions has not been disclosed. However, it is known that the entire community shares a concern for peace and stability to

return to Haiti, and for the the Haitian people may centuries-old suffering of too, soon, come to an end.

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Local News



Statement by Sir Ronald Sanders at a Meeting of the Permanent Council of the OAS on Tuesday, 5th September 2023 “In Remembrance of the 50th anniversary of the coup d’état in Chile”

We, the representatives of our Governments, on this Permanent Council of the Organization of American States, are custodians of democracy, peace, human rights, and development in our hemisphere.

It is a grave responsibility, and we must always recall the importance of our task and how much the peoples of our countries expect us to defend and uphold their rights and freedoms.

Today, we collectively remember - and reflect - upon a dark day in the history of the Americas—the coup d’état in Chile on September 11, 1973.

It led to the overthrow of the democratically elected government of President Salvador Allende.

This event shook not only Chile but the very founda-

tions of democracy and the rule of law in our hemisphere.

For a great many people all over the world, President Allende was a beacon for social justice, economic reform, and democratic values.

His life was abruptly and tragically cut short, and so, too, was freedom and justice in Chile.

I recall the words of President Allende spoken in his final radio address to the Chilean people on the day of the Coup.

He said: “I have faith in Chile and its destiny. Other men will overcome this dark and bitter moment when treason seeks to prevail. Keep in mind that, much sooner than later, the great avenues will again be opened, through which will



Sir Ronald Sanders

pass free men to construct a better society.”

But while the coup d’état prevailed, there were widespread human rights abuses, thousands of disappearances, and a regime that stood against the values we cherish today.

To ensure that such an event does not fade into the annals of history, unnoticed and unacknowledged, my delegation fully supports the

establishment of a permanent symbol in the OAS headquarters, recognizing President Allende.

We are aware that this will also be a remembrance of all those who lived in fear and suffered under the subsequent autocratic rule in Chile and a reminder to all our nations of the dire consequences of standing silent when democracy is assaulted.

Our Council should use this occasion to reaffirm our commitment to the enduring values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Let us honour President Allende and the countless others who have fallen in the struggle for these ideals, let us also resolve never to allow history to repeat itself.

Thank you.

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Shooting victim's recovery improves significantly

The 33-year-old Briggins man who was nursing gunshot wounds at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has been released.

Chet Lewis was shot multiple times outside his Briggins home on August 21.

A gunman opened fire after calling him outside the residence.

Lewis was transported to SLBMC where he underwent treatment.

He had emergency surgery, and at one point had to use a breathing tube, but as the days went by, his condition improved significantly, resulting in the tube being removed and his eventual release from the hospital.

While Lewis' family and friends

are elated about his quick recovery, several questions remain about why this matter took place and who is responsible.

Investigations have been ongoing into the matter where several persons of interest were questioned. However, no arrests have been made.

Police are still calling on persons in the public with information to come forward.

Meanwhile, a 58-year-old Bendals resident is nursing gunshot wounds at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC).

The Bendals man was shot in his shoulder in Yeptons at around 11 pm on Sunday.

He was in the company of a fe-

male when the incident occurred.

According to reports, an unidentified car pulled up alongside their vehicle, prompting the Bendals resident to start his car in an attempt to leave. However, the other vehicle reversed and blocked his path, leading to two gunshots being fired at the car.

The shooter fled the scene, and the victim was met by police and Emergency Medical Services on his way to the hospital.

He is now in stable condition.

Anyone with relevant information on either incident is being urged to contact the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) at 462-3913, or Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).



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Police force mourns death of Constable Robert Dyer Jr.

The Commissioner of Police and members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda are mourning the tragic death of Police Constable Robert Dyer Jr. Constable Dyer died following a traffic collision on Sir Sydney Walling Highway on Monday, 4th September.

It was reported that Constable Dyer was the driver of a motorcycle traveling from East to West on Sir Sydney Walling Highway when he collided with a motor jeep that was traveling in the opposite direction. The incident occurred around 11:20 a.m. He was pronounced dead by a medical doctor around 12:45 p.m.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney was on the scene and expressed sympathy to his wife, Monya Roberts-Dyer, also a Police Constable, and his immediate family. Commissioner Rodney said it is a very sad and painful moment for the police force; especially when a member dies under such tragic circumstances.

He also said, "Constable Dyer was a hard worker and one who was very passionate and committed to his work." The commissioner has also made arrangements for counseling and other support for his family and colleagues during this difficult period of mourning.

Meanwhile, the Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda - Sir Rodney Williams, Prime Minister - Gaston Browne, Minister of Public Safety - Steadroy Benjamin, Heads of Law Enforcement Agencies, and members of the public have all expressed words of condolences to the members of the police force for their loss.

Constable Robert Dyer Jr. was enlisted in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda on 12th April 2013. He was first posted to "B" Division-Parham. He later got transferred to the Traffic Department and was one of the motorcycle outriders.



Robert Dyer Jr.

He also worked at Government House as a motorcycle escort to the Governor-General, Sir Rodney Williams. He leaves to mourn his wife and children, family, colleagues, and close friends. Constable Dyer died at the age of 39 years.

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Summer camp participants visit Government House

Over one hundred participants from the National Public Library’s Annual Summer Camp embarked on a unique and educational journey to Government House. The visit, organized under the 2023 theme “All Together Now,” aimed to enhance children’s reading and life-long learning skills through immersive experiences such as tours, interviews, and role-playing.

During the visit to Government House, the students had the privilege of an audience with the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams. They were warmly received and engaged in an enriching conversation with Sir Rodney, gaining insights into the nation’s history and journey towards political independence, Government House, and the distinguished individuals who had served as Governors General.



Accompanied by the dedicated team from the National Public Library, including Director Ryllis Mannix and staff members Hyacinth Joshua, Jessica Gilpin, Staria Attwood, and Olivette Hillhouse, the children were taken on a tour of Government House.

The attached photo (provided by

Photogenesis), captured one set of children from the Library’s Summer Camp interacting with His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams and library personnel. These photographs serve as lasting memories of an educational adventure that will undoubtedly leave a positive impact on the young participants.



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ACB Caribbean names scholarship recipients

ACB Caribbean Group has announced their 2023 Scholarship Recipients.

In a media release, the Group named Elanya Tanner, as the ACB Mortgage and Trust Secondary School Scholarship, while Karen-Ann Mari Carter, is the awardee of the ACB Caribbean Louis H. Lockhart Scholarship.

The statement said the young scholars embody the spirit of excellence, dedication, and ambition, inspiring many with their bright futures ahead.

“These scholarships represent the commitment of the ACB Caribbean Group to education, community development, and national advancement.

“We look forward to the incredible paths our scholars will pave with their hard work and determination,” the statement concluded.



Mrs Rhodette Paige Legal Counsel and Corporate Secretary- Left and Ms Elanya Tanner -Right



Mrs Helen Loo-by Manager of Operations and Accounting -Right and Ms Karen-Ann Mari Carter- right

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Sean 'Diddy' Combs returns lucrative music rights to Bad Boy Records artists

By Mark Savage

In a rare move, Sean "Diddy" Combs has returned some music rights to artists and songwriters who were signed to his label, instead of cashing in on them.

Bad Boy Records was one of the biggest rap labels of the 1990s, home to artists like Ma\$e, Faith Evans, 112, The Lox and Notorious B.I.G.

Those acts have now been given back control of their songwriting rights.

A source with knowledge of the deal said Combs had previously been offered millions of dollars to sell the rights.

The value of music publishing rights has increased dramatically in recent years, with artists like Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Debbie Harry, Bruce Springsteen, Stevie Nicks and Shakira foregoing future royalties in exchange



Sean Combs' Bad Boy Records was at one time valued at \$100m. for nine-figure sums.

Combs declined those offers in favour of "giving back to the people who helped build his company", the BBC has been told. Billboard and Rolling Stone have also reported the deal.

The star, who scored his own hits with tracks like I'll Be Missing You, Can't No-

body Hold Me Down and Bad Boy For Life, made the move on the 30th anniversary of his label.

However, the process of reaching out to the artists and writers began in May 2021. While most of the parties have agreed to the deal and signed contracts, others are still to be tracked down.

Established in 1993 as a joint venture between Combs and Arista Records, Bad Boy was responsible for iconic hip-tracks including Juice and Mo' Money, Mo' Problems, both by Notorious B.I.G.; Flava In Ya Ear by Craig Mack; and Feel So Good by Ma\$e.

At the time, it was not uncommon for labels to secure a percentage of an artist's publishing rights when they signed deals - but the practice has been a bone of contention for many.

When Combs used a speech at a 2020 Pre-Grammy Gala to say that hip-hop and black music had "never been respected by the Grammys", Ma\$e took his former label boss to task, saying he was equally guilty.

In a since-deleted Instagram post, the rapper said he had offered Combs \$2m (£1.59m) to buy back his publishing rights but the offer was turned down.

"Your past business practices knowingly has continued purposely starved your artist," he alleged in the post. "For example, u still got my publishing from 24 years ago in which u gave me \$20k. Which makes me never want to work [with you], as any artist wouldn't... This is not Black excellence at all."

Combs later claimed Ma\$e actually owned him

cont'd on pg 13



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Sand dredging devastating ocean floor, UN warns

By George Wright

Around six billion tonnes of sand is dredged from the world's oceans every year, endangering marine life and coastal communities, the UN says.

Sand is the most exploited natural resource in the world after water and is used to produce concrete and glass.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said some vessels were acting as vacuum cleaners, dredging both sand and micro-organisms that fish feed on.

This means that life may never recover in some areas.

The new data coincides with the launch of a new analysis tool called Marine Sand Watch that monitors dredging activities using marine tracking and arti-



A dredger pumps sand to reclaim land in Sri Lanka.

cial intelligence.

“The scale of environmental impacts of shallow sea mining activities and dredging is alarming,” said Pascal Peduzzi, who heads UNEP’s analytics centre GRID-Geneva.

The new platform estimates that out of some 50bn tonnes of sand and grav-

el used by humanity each year, an average of six billion tonnes come from the world’s oceans and seas.

This is the equivalent of “more than one million dump trucks every day”, Mr Peduzzi said.

The marine environment must be given time to recover, he said, adding that

“it’s not sustainable”.

Large vessels were “basically sterilising the bottom of the sea by extracting sand and crunching all the micro-organisms that are feeding fish”, Mr Peduzzi said.

Sometimes the sand is dredged to the bedrock, meaning marine life may never recover, he added.

The UNEP recommended that sand dredging should also be banned from beaches to protect coastal resilience and economies.

Sand is essential for constructing buildings, roads, hydroelectric dams and solar panels. It can also play an important environmental role, protecting communities from rising sea levels.

The South China Sea, the North Sea and the US east coast are among the areas where the most dredging has occurred, the report states.

cont'd from pg 12

\$3m (£2.4m) for an album he had failed to deliver, an allegation that the rapper vigorously denied.

However, it was Ma\$e’s longtime friend and collaborator, Cam’ron, who first leaked the news of Combs’ decision to return publishing rights to his artists.

In an Instagram post about his forthcoming mixtape *The Lost Files*, he explained that Ma\$e had had to “sit this one out” because he’d been hammering out the deal.

“He just got his publishing back from Puff. Just finished the paper work for that yesterday. Congrats @rsvpmase.”

Combs reportedly sees the move as “part of a larger conversation” about fur-

thering “the economic empowerment of black artists and culture” in the hope that other labels will follow suit.

The rapper, producer and music mogul also has new music on the horizon. The *L.O.V.E. Album: Off the Grid* is due out next week, with guest appearances from Justin Bieber, Burna Boy, The Weeknd, Mary J Blige, Busta Rhymes, Tayana Taylor and H.E.R.

Combs will also receive the Global Icon Award at next week’s MTV Awards in New Jersey, where he is due to perform live.

Recent Bad Boy Records releases have included Machine Gun Kelly’s *Mainstream Sellout* and Janelle Monae’s *The Age of Pleasure*.

TikTok opens Dublin data centre to ease China spying fears

By *Shiona McCallum*

TikTok has opened its first European data centre to alleviate fears over Chinese state surveillance.

The firm says European users' data is now migrating to servers in Dublin, as part of its ongoing response to data privacy concerns around the video-sharing app's links to China.

TikTok, which is owned by Chinese firm ByteDance, says it has never given data to Beijing.

Critics fear that the Chinese state could request access anytime.

The video-sharing giant is also allowing a European security company access to audit cyber-security and data protection controls.

TikTok has called this "Project Clover", nodding to the pivotal role that Ireland is playing. It is running in parallel with "Project Texas", which involved promising similar measures to US lawmakers in 2020.

Earlier this year TikTok faced a number of government restrictions on its use on cyber-security and privacy grounds.

A spate of institutions decided to ban the app from officials' devices, including the UK government, the European Parliament, the European Commission, and the EU Council.

A key concern of Eu-



ropean security officials is the risk that the data that TikTok holds on its users would be accessed by the Chinese state.

Authorities imposing bans have warned that emails, contacts and other communication could be accessed by Beijing as a result of having the app on devices.

As part of its effort to ease these concerns, TikTok will now be storing European user data locally.

One data centre in Dublin is now up and running with plans for another in Ireland and one in the Hamar region of Norway.

The data of TikTok's more than 150 million European users will be moved

through one of these three centres.

In an update on the project and alongside the announcement of the first data centre coming online, TikTok vice president for public policy in Europe, Theo Bertram, said a third-party security company would also be used to independently audit TikTok's work at the data centre.

Project Clover has tasked NCC Group, a global cyber-security company with offices across Europe, to scrutinise TikTok's data controls and report any incidents.

Stephen Bailey, global director of privacy at NCC Group, said he was proud TikTok had chosen NCC to

be the third-party security provider on the project.

"Our objective scrutiny, monitoring and assurance means platform users in Europe and the UK can have confidence in the enhanced data security standards that TikTok is setting, which go above and beyond European regulatory requirements," he said.

TikTok said that NCC Group would identify and respond to any "suspicious or anomalous access attempts" and would work on enhancing security.

In the coming months, TikTok and NCC Group will engage with policy-makers across Europe to explain how this system will work in practice.

Grenada: Minister breaks silence on collision involving teen on bike

Minister of State with responsibility for Youth, Sports and Culture, Ron Redhead, who was involved in a vehicular collision with a teenager on a bicycle says the young man is out of hospital recovering and thankfully did not require surgery.

The incident occurred on Saturday around 5:30 pm in the community of Willis. A statement said that while no serious injuries were reported, as a precautionary measure the young man was taken to the general hospital for assessment and observation.



Minister of State with responsibility for Youth, Sports and Culture, Ron Redhead.

The minister came under heavy criticism when news began spreading about the incident. A video which captured the col-

lision has since been released online with social media users exchanging views on who was in the right and who was in the

wrong.

On Monday, Minister Redhead stated the following about the incident on Facebook:

“Hey guys as you are aware over the weekend I was involved in a collision with a young man riding his bike at Willis. He is now out of the hospital recovering and thankfully did not require surgery. It was my pleasure to drop him home. One love to his mom, his sister and Grandfather I give thanks as it could have been much worse and I am grateful that he lived!”

Cost of dialysis treatment slashed by 50 per cent on St Kitts & Nevis

Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew announced yesterday that he is cutting the price of dialysis care on St Kitts and Nevis.

Drew, who is also the Minister of Health, said kidney failure patients utilising the Haemodialysis Unit at the JNF General Hospital would now pay EC\$200 instead of EC\$400.

The prime minister’s announcement comes as the unit is preparing to celebrate its 10th anniversary.

“This reduction of costs will bring much-needed financial relief to patients who rely on these vital services”, stated Drew while reiterating his government’s commitment to providing accessible and affordable healthcare on St Kitts and Nevis.

“We understand the challenges faced by individuals and families dealing with renal issues. By reducing



the cost of dialysis services, we aim to alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with chronic kidney disease. Our primary concern is the well-being of our people.”

Drew is hoping to continue to build

on the legacy of Governor General Dame Marcella Liburd, who established the Haemodialysis Unit when she was health minister.

Moving forward, the prime minister *cont'd on pg 16*

Guyanese VP loses appeal in multi-million dollar court judgement

CMC - Two years after he was ordered pay GUY\$20 million in a default judgment, Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo has lost his latest appeal to evade paying the award to former government minister, Annette Ferguson, whom he had defamed in 2019.

The Court of Appeal has dismissed a notice for special leave filed by Jagdeo to challenge the Full Court's decision which upheld a High Court ruling that Ferguson, be awarded a default judgment.

Further, the Court of Appeal has ordered that the matter be remitted to Justice Sandra Kurtzious to award damages for libel. A date is now to be fixed for the case to be called again before Justice Kurtzious.

Jagdeo had through a series of applications sought to challenge Justice Kurtzious ruling in favour of Ferguson, who had filed the lawsuit against him and the Guyana Times newspaper, while he was opposition leader and she was a government minister.

Justice Kurtzious made the orders of judgement



File- Guyana Court of Appeal. Photo: Dillon De Shong

after it was found that Jagdeo failed to file a defence within the required time provided for under the Civil procedure rules of the Supreme Court.

Jagdeo's application to the Court of Appeal followed a decision by Chief Justice Roxane George and Justice Priya Sewnarine-Beharry who in the Full Court were unable to reach a unanimous decision on the case resulting in the original judgment against Jagdeo being upheld.

Among other things,

Jagdeo through his attorney, Devindra Kissoon, was seeking to appeal the Court's refusal to consider and grant an application to have the matter remitted to new judges in the Full Court.

He argued that the Justice George and Sewnarine-Beharry erred in law by failing to issue directions, recall their divided judgment, and reassign the matter to a bench of the Full Court consisting of an odd number of judges, in light of the dissenting nature of the judg-

ment which has resulted in an automatic reversion to Justice Kurtzious's decision.

The lawsuit stemmed from statements Jagdeo made in the media in December 2019 about Ferguson's acquisition of land and construction of her house.

Ferguson maintained the statements were slanderous, untrue and caused irreparable damage to her character and reputation.

The former minister said in court papers that the statements and publications suggested that she acquired unexplained wealth by dishonest means. Ferguson had called on Jagdeo and Guyana Times to provide evidence to the court to support their claims.

cont'd from pg 15

ter is hoping to introduce more renal services at the island's premier public health institution.

"The introduction of renal transplant services is a significant step forward in our

efforts to improve healthcare infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for our citizens. Patients will no longer need to seek these services abroad, reducing the emotional and financial burdens associated with overseas treatment," he said.

Wagner to be declared a terrorist organisation by UK

Wagner, the Russian mercenary group, is set to be proscribed as a terrorist group by the UK government - meaning it will be illegal to be a member or support the organisation.

A draft order to be laid in Parliament will allow its assets to be categorised as terrorist property and seized.

The home secretary said Wagner was “violent and destructive... a military tool of Vladimir Putin’s Russia”.

She said its work in Ukraine and Africa was a “threat to global security”.

Suella Braverman added: “Wagner’s continuing destabilising activities only continue to serve the Kremlin’s political goals.”

“They are terrorists, plain and simple - and this proscription order makes that clear in UK law.”

Wagner had played a key role in Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, as well as operating in Syria and countries in Africa including Libya and Mali.

Its fighters have been accused of a number of crimes including killing and torturing Ukrainian citizens.

In 2020, the US said Wagner soldiers had planted landmines around the Libyan capital, Tripoli.

And in July, the UK said the group had carried



A Wagner fighter mourns Yevgeny Prigozhin in St Petersburg.

out “executions and torture in Mali and the Central African Republic”.

The group’s future was thrown into uncertainty earlier this year when its leader Yevgeny Prigozhin led a failed mutiny against Russia’s military leaders.

Prigozhin, who founded the group in 2014, died in a suspicious plane crash along with other Wagner figures on 23 August and was buried in St Petersburg.

The group’s name will now be added alongside that of other proscribed organisations in the UK such as Hamas and Boko Haram.

The Terrorism Act 2000 gives the home secretary the power to proscribe an organisation if they believe it is concerned in terrorism.

Before the act, it was only possible to proscribe organisations connected to terrorism in Northern Ireland.

The proscription order

will make it a criminal offence to support the group - including by arranging a meetings aimed at furthering the organisation’s activities, expressing support for its aims or displaying its flag or logo.

Committing a proscription offence could lead to 14 years in prison or a fine of up to £5,000.

The government had come under pressure from MPs for some months to proscribe the group.

Earlier this year, Labour’s shadow foreign secretary David Lammy urged the government to proscribe Wagner saying it was “responsible for the appalling atrocities in Ukraine and across the world”.

Welcoming the draft order on Tuesday, Mr Lammy said on social media: “This is long overdue, but it’s welcome the government has finally acted. Now the government should press

for a Special Tribunal to prosecute Putin for his crime of aggression.”

The Foreign Office had imposed sanctions on the group, including freezing the assets of Prigozhin and several top commanders.

However, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Conservative MP Alicia Kearns said in July: “Sanctions are not enough - the UK needs to proscribe the Wagner group for what it is: a terrorist organisation.”

Her committee also produced a report which said the government had been “remarkably complacent” and criticised its “dismal lack of understanding of Wagner’s hold beyond Europe, in particular their grip on African states”.

The Wagner Group has been seriously weakened by its failed mutiny in June against Russia’s generals, as well as the recent death in the plane crash of its top leadership, BBC Security Correspondent Frank Gardner writes.

But proscribing it in law will make it harder for members to move money around, our correspondent adds. It will also provide a legal basis for Ukrainians and others to sue Wagner for potentially billions of pounds in compensation through the British courts.

Ex-Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío jailed for 22 years for Capitol riot

By Mike Wendling

The Proud Boys' former leader has been jailed for 22 years for orchestrating the US Capitol riot, the longest sentence so far for a ringleader of the raid on the seat of American democracy.

Henry "Enrique" Tarrío was convicted of seditious conspiracy, a US Civil War-era charge, and other counts in May.

Tarrío, 39, was not in Washington during the riot, but helped organise the far-right group's involvement.

More than 1,100 people have been arrested on Capitol riot charges.

Before he learned his fate on Tuesday, an emotional Tarrío apologised to police and residents of Washington DC for his role in the 6 January 2021 riot, when supporters of then-US President Donald Trump stormed the congressional building as lawmakers met to certify Joe Biden's election victory.

"I am extremely ashamed and disappointed that they were caused grief and suffering," he told Washington's federal courthouse. "I will have to live with that shame for the rest of my life."

Tarrío, wearing an orange jail uniform, added: "I was my own worst enemy.

"My hubris convinced me that I was a victim and targeted unfairly."

Acknowledging that Mr



Ex-Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrío.

Trump had lost the November 2020 presidential election, Tarrío said: "I am not a political zealot. Inflicting harm or changing the results of the election was not my goal.

"I didn't think it was even possible to change the results of the election."

Tarrío was national chairman of the Proud Boys. Founded in New York City in 2016, members of the far-right group have described themselves as an all-male drinking club.

They regarded themselves as Mr Trump's foot soldiers and were often involved in street clashes with far-left anti-fascist activists.

Tarrío's lawyer argued in court on Tuesday that his client was a "keyboard ninja" who tended to "talk trash", but had no intention of overthrowing the government.

"My client is no terrorist," said his attorney, Sabino Jauregui. "My client is a misguided patriot."

But US District Judge Timothy Kelly, a Trump nominee, noted that Tarrío had on many previous occasions expressed no remorse for his actions.

"Seditious conspiracy is a serious offence," said Judge Kelly. "Mr Tarrío was the ultimate leader of that conspiracy."

Tarrío was also found guilty in May of obstruction and conspiracy charges, civil disorder and destruction of government property.

Prosecutors had called his actions "a calculated act of terrorism", meriting a sentence of 33 years in prison. The defence wanted no more than 15 years.

Tarrío stood silently as the judge handed down the penalty. As he left court, Tarrío waved to his family members in the public gallery and flashed a peace sign.

His lawyers said he plans to appeal.

In the aftermath of the 2020 election, Tarrío and

other Proud Boys had posted threatening messages online, warning of violence and unrest if Mr Trump left office.

He was stopped by police two days before the US Capitol riot as he entered Washington DC.

Tarrío, who has described himself as Afro-Cuban, was arrested on a warrant charging him with burning a Black Lives Matter banner that had been taken from an African-American church in the city about three weeks earlier.

He was also found with a high-capacity ammunition magazine, which is illegal under the city's gun laws. He was released on bail and ordered to leave the national capital.

On the day of the riot, he was in Baltimore.

As Trump supporters laid siege to the congressional complex, Tarrío posted online that he was "enjoying the show".

"Do what must be done," he wrote, urging on the rioters.

Tuesday's was the last in a series of sentencing hearings for the ringleaders of the US Capitol riot.

Until now, the longest sentences were the 18-year terms handed down last week to another Proud Boy, Ethan Nordean, and in May to Stewart Rhodes, founder of the Oath Keepers, a far-

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Pennsylvania schools close as manhunt for convicted murderer expands

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

Authorities in Pennsylvania have closed two school districts as a manhunt for a convicted murderer who escaped from prison on 31 August enters its sixth day.

Danelo Cavalcante, 34, was spotted twice overnight on Monday, police said.

The Brazilian national was sentenced to life in prison just last month for stabbing an ex-girlfriend to death.

Officials are also broadcasting messages from his mother pleading for his surrender.

The US Marshals service is offering a \$10,000 (£7,955) reward for information leading to his capture.

Police had previously focused their search on a heavily forested area within a two-mile (3.2km) radius of the Chester County Prison in West Chester. By Tuesday, the search area had been expanded after Cavalcante was spotted on surveillance cameras in nearby Longwood Gardens twice on Monday night.

The CCTV images show Cavalcante walking

through dense foliage with an over-the-shoulder bag. In some of the footage, he is also seen wearing a dark-hooded sweatshirt.

Robert Clark, the supervisor of the US Marshal task force for eastern Pennsylvania, told CBS, the BBC's US partner, that Cavalcante is "desperate and dangerous and probably exhausted".

He is believed to be moving at night and hiding during the day in an area with thick underbrush that officers have sometimes had to hack through by hand. The area also includes numerous possible hiding places - such as sheds - that have complicated the search.

"We are trying to stress him out, keep him on the move, squeeze him," Mr Clark said. "This is what we do. His desperation will not outlast our dedication."

Officials are using thermal imaging technology, as well as drones and dogs, in the hunt for Cavalcante. A federal arrest warrant has also been obtained in case he attempts to flee across state lines into Delaware or Maryland.



Escaped convict Danelo Cavalcante was spotted by surveillance cameras twice on Monday night.

Two school districts in the expanded search area cancelled classes as a precautionary measure on Tuesday.

On Monday, authorities began using helicopters and patrol cars to blast an audio message recorded by Cavalcante's mother in Brazil in which she calls on him to surrender.

"As desperate as he is, maybe he has a change of thought and hears his mother telling him to surrender, and his family cares about him," Mr Clark said on Monday. "Perhaps this is what puts him over the edge where we can get a peaceful surrender."

Cavalcante was sen-

tenced to life in prison after being found guilty of stabbing ex-girlfriend Deborah Brandao to death in April 2021 in front of her two small children. He was taken into custody just hours after the murder after fleeing to Virginia.

The Chester County district attorney's office believes that Brandao had "threatened to expose him to the police" after learning that Cavalcante had an open warrant for a 2017 murder that took place in Brazil.

Investigators are still looking into how Cavalcante escaped from the prison and whether he had any help from other suspects.

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right militia.

Three other Proud Boys received prison sentences last week for their roles in the Capitol riot.

Former US Marines Dominic Pezola and Zachary Rehl received 10 and 15 years, respectively.

Joe Biggs, a US Army veteran, got 17 years.

Mr Trump has promised to pardon most or all of the rioters if he's re-elected president in 2024.

The charges against US Capitol rioters have varied - from relatively minor crimes like entering a restrict-

ed area, to destruction of government property, assault and conspiracy. Around 200 have pleaded guilty to felony charges.

The investigation is still ongoing - the FBI is still trying to locate 14 rioters captured on video assaulting police officers or members of the media.

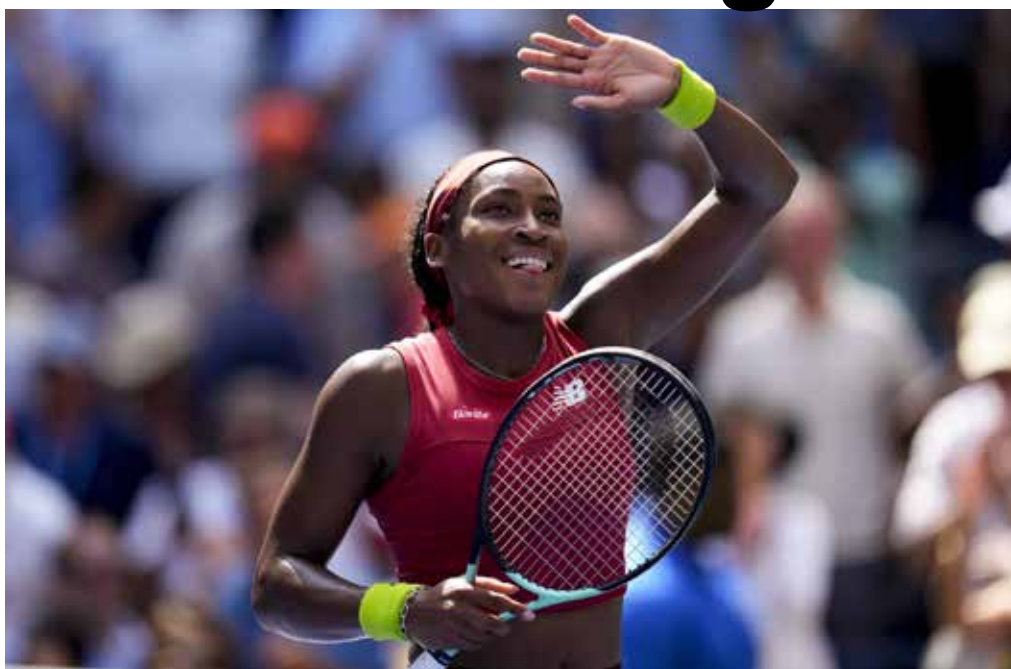
Coco Gauff reaches her first US Open semifinal at age 19

NEW YORK (AP) - Coco Gauff dealt just fine with the heat, the humidity, her big-hitting opponent and the task of trying to reach the US Open semifinals for the first time, defeating 2017 French Open champion Jelena Ostapenko 6-0, 6-2, on Tuesday.

Gauff, a 19-year-old from Florida, is the first American teenager to reach the final four at Flushing Meadows since Serena Williams was the runner-up to her older sister, Venus, in 2001.

"Last year, I lost in the quarter-final stage, and I wanted to do better this year," Gauff said. "Still have a long way to go, but I'm happy and I'm ready to get back to work for the next one."

This was the 16th victory in her past 17 matches for Gauff - a first-



Coco Gauff, of the United States, reacts to the crowd after defeating Jelena Ostapenko of Latvia during the quarterfinals of the US Open tennis championships in New York, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, in New York. (AP)

round exit at Wimbledon in July sure feels like ages ago. Her best Grand

Slam showing so far was making it to the final at Roland Garros last year.

Gauff lost that title match to Iga Swiatek and those two could have met again in the US Open quarterfinals. But Swiatek didn't make it, instead losing to Ostapenko in the fourth round.

That defeat not only ended Swiatek's title defense but also meant she will relinquish her spot at No. 1 in the WTA rankings to Aryna Sabalenka next week.

When she is on the mark, as she was Sunday night against Swiatek, Ostapenko can be as challenging an opponent as there is, because she goes for broke on nearly every stroke.

If the balls land in, she is in business. When they don't, she is in trouble. She finished with 36 unforced errors Tuesday; Gauff had 14.

"I didn't feel comfortable at all the whole match, even on match

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KL Rahul named in India's Cricket World Cup squad

NEW DELHI (AP) - KL Rahul was named in India's Cricket World Cup squad on Tuesday despite the wicketkeeper-batter not playing in an international game since May.

Rahul is scheduled to play in the Super 4 stage of the Asia Cup after he was declared fit at the National Cricket Academy in Bangalore on Monday.

Ishan Kishan has filled the void of Rahul when he scored an 82 against Pakistan in a group game in Pallekele last Sunday, the left-hander's fourth consecutive half century in the ODIs. Kishan was retained in the World Cup squad, which starts Oct. 5 in India.

The selectors preferred Suryakumar Yadav, a T20 specialist middle-order power-hitter, while leaving out Tilak Varma and Sanju Samson from the World Cup squad. Fast bowler Prasad Krishna, who is currently in the Asia Cup squad, also missed out the World Cup squad.

Rahul had been sidelined since he tore a tendon



Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) Chairman of the selection committee Ajit Agarkar, right, and Indian cricket captain Rohit Sharma speak to the media as they announce the Indian squad for the upcoming cricket World Cup in Pallekele, Sri Lanka, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. (AP)

in his right thigh during the IPL and was forced to undergo surgery. He was tapped for the Asia Cup but was ruled out of the two group games after he picked up a small injury. He was closely monitored at the NCA over the last few days before passing a fitness test.

Bumrah, who missed out on India's last group

game against Nepal on Monday to be at home for the birth of his first child, will lead India's pace attack with Mohammed Siraj, Mohammed Shami and Shardul Thakur.

Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja are the three left-arm spinners as the squad will be without any specialist off-spinner.

Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj. Squad: Rohit Sharma (captain), Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, KL Rahul, Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar Yadav, Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, and Mohammed Siraj.

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point. I know the game she plays.

"She has the ability to come back, no matter the scoreline," said Gauff, who lost to Ostapenko at the Australian Open in January, "so I was just really trying to get every point, trying to play every

ball."

Ostapenko was the first woman in 44 years to get to the US Open quarterfinals by winning all four matches in three sets, and Gauff went the distance in three of four last week. But this one was never headed that way.

Antigua finish second in ECVA female beach tournament

Antigua and Barbuda's Jassania Joseph and Jaya Carr captured the runners-up spot in the female division of the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Under-19 Beach Tournament at the Marriott Beach in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts, over the weekend.

The Antiguan duo lost in straight sets, 21-18, 21-15, to the Dominican pair of Edmund and Bully in the final of the competition.

The victory for the Dominicans was achieved in a workmanlike manner. The pair of Edmund and Bully were the smallest physically in the entire tournament, but they were able to wear down the opponents with their tenacity.

Dominica's coach, Yahn Joseph Florent, said, "I am over the moon right now; I am just super happy with



The Antigua and Barbuda beach volleyball team of Jassania Joseph, left, and Jaya Carr at the ECVA Under-19 Beach Tournament at the Marriott Beach in St. Kitts.



The top three teams that won medals in the female division of the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association Under-19 Beach Tournament at the Marriott Beach in Frigate Bay, St. Kitts, on September 2-3, 2023. From left: Third place finishers Anguilla, champions Dominica, and Antigua and Barbuda. (Photos courtesy SKNAVA)

my girls right now. They are the shortest in the competition, and everyone doubted them, but it goes to show that height does not win volleyball. It was down to our serving, passing, and communicating with one another and being able to trust one another."

Antigua and Barbuda's coach Olsen "Karrot" Joseph said, "My girls fell into the trap of playing to match the style of the opponents, and what is worse, they became annoyed and frustrated with themselves, and as a result, their game fell apart. I trust that this motivates them to come and work harder for the next event coming up."

Anguilla took the third spot in a come-from-behind victory over Grenada by prevailing 19-21, 21-18, and 15-8.

The Antigua and Barbuda duo was one of eight female teams, divided into two zones, that contested the event.

Joseph and Carr won one of their two matches in Group B in the pre-

liminary rounds, which also included teams from St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Bermuda, and Anguilla.

The Antiguan duo were beaten 21-18, 21-5, by the team of Fleming and Richardson of Anguilla, but Joseph and Carr rebounded to beat the team of Trott and Weikl of Bermuda 2-1, prevailing 18-21, 21-6, 15-0.

The Antiguan duo then ousted the St. Lucian pair of Jules and Phillip, 21-19, 23-21, in the quarterfinals. Joseph and Carr then got revenge against Fleming and Richardson, ousting the Anguillan duo in straight sets in the semi-final, 21-17, 21-14, to set up their meeting with the Dominicans in the final.

Grenada finished fourth, St. Lucia fifth, St. Vincent and the Grenadines sixth, the British Virgin Islands (BVI) seventh, and Bermuda in the cellar.

However, Antigua and Barbuda's male representatives, Khaliq Joseph and Miguel Pena Lugo, only managed to finish second from bottom in

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Coach of Spain's World Cup-winning women's soccer team is fired

MADRID (AP) - The coach of Spain's World Cup-winning women's soccer team was fired Tuesday, less than three weeks after the victory celebration that led to the suspension of the country's soccer federation president for kissing a player.

The Spanish soccer federation offered no immediate explanation for the dismissal, saying only that Jorge Vilda was "key to the notable growth of women's soccer" and thanking him for leading the national team to the World Cup title and to No. 2 in the FIFA rankings - its highest ever position.

Vilda was among those who at first applauded federation president Luis Rubiales when he refused to resign despite facing widespread criticism for kissing player Jenni Hermoso on the lips without her consent during the title celebrations last month in Sydney.

One of Vilda's assistant coaches, Montse Tomé, was appointed to replace him. She will be the first woman to hold the job.

Rubiales, who also



Spain's head coach Jorge Vilda celebrates with the gold medal after the final of Women's World Cup soccer between Spain and England at Stadium Australia in Sydney, Australia, Sunday, Aug. 20, 2023. The Spanish soccer federation has fired women's national team coach Jorge Vilda less than three weeks after Spain won the Women's World Cup title and amid the controversy involving suspended federation president Luis Rubiales. (AP)

grabbed his crotch in a lewd victory gesture after the final game, has been provisionally suspended by FIFA and faces a Spanish government case against him for the conduct that prompted a storm of criticism and led to widespread calls for his resignation.

Vilda later said Rubiales' behavior was improper. Men's soccer coach Luis de la Fuente also initially ap-

plauded Rubiales for a diatribe against what he called "false feminists." De la Fuente later apologized and said his applause was an "inexcusable" human error.

Vilda, who was also relieved of his job as sporting director, had been at the helm of the women's team since 2015. Less than a year ago, some players rebelled against him in a crisis that put his job in jeopardy.

Fifteen players stepped away from the national team, citing their mental health, and demanded a more professional environment. Only three returned to the squad that won the World Cup.

The players who left the team signed a letter complaining about Vilda and the conditions for the national team. Vilda was heavily backed by Rubiales throughout the process.

In a statement announcing the firing, the soccer federation expressed its gratitude to Vilda "for the services provided, for his professionalism and his dedication during all these years."

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the nine-team men's division of the beach tournament, which was won by St. Lucia.

The St. Lucian duo of Peter and Rio produced a sterling performance to win the final against Vikash and Bristol of St. Kitts. The St. Lucians beat the Kittitians in straight set, 21-10, 21-14.

Dominica was able to take bronze over Grenada in straight sets, thereby relegating Grenada to fourth place.

Anguilla finished in fifth place, Bermuda in sixth, St. Vincent and the Grenadines in seventh, Antigua and Barbuda in eighth, and the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in the cellar.

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Sri Lanka beats Afghanistan to reach Super 4 at Asia Cup

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) - Sri Lanka escaped with a two-run victory and qualified for the Super 4 in the Asia Cup after Afghanistan somewhat miscalculated its chase of a tough target in the last group game on Tuesday.

Afghanistan was poised to knock Sri Lanka out of the tournament on net run-rate as it needed to achieve a 292-run target in 37.1 to advance from Group B with Bangladesh.

Mohammad Nabi increased Afghan hopes with a blistering 65 off 32 balls as he raised his country's fastest half-century off 24 balls before he fell in the 27th over when Dhananjaya de Silva made a brilliant running catch in the outfield.

Karim Jannat (22), Najibullah Zadran (23) and Rashid Khan (27 not out) kept pushing on Sri Lanka pace and spin with little cameos before Mujeeb Ur Rahman holed out at long-on as Afghanistan slumped to 289 for nine in 37.1 overs.

Afghanistan apparently was unaware of the calculation that it could still make it to the Super 4 had they reached 295 over the next three balls.

No. 11 batter Fazalhaq Farooqi defended the next two balls of part-time spinner de Silva before getting trapped lbw off the next ball



Sri Lanka's Matheesha Pathirana, third left, celebrates with teammates after the dismissal of Afghanistan's Hashmatullah Shahidi during the Asia Cup cricket match between Afghanistan and Sri Lanka in Lahore, Pakistan, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023. (AP)

that left Rashid stranded at the non-striker's end and Afghanistan was bowled out for 289 in 37.4 overs.

Nabi showed plenty of aggression against the pace of Matheesha Pathirana and Maheesh Theekshana by hitting five sixes and six boundaries in his knock before he finally holed out with Afghanistan still needing 91 runs for victory.

Fast bowler Kasun Rajitha picked up four for 79, that included two early wickets, but the fast bowler went for plenty against the Afghan batters, who kept Sri Lanka bowlers under pressure with aggressive shots.

"Very disappointed about it," said Hashmatullah Shahidi, who also scored 59 off 66 balls.

"We fought well (and

we gave our 100 percent. I am proud of the team, the way they played and fought till the last ball."

Earlier, Kusal Mendis missed out on a century but his 92 off 84 balls and a half-century stand between Dunith Wellalage (33 not out) and Maheesh Theekshana (28) farmed Sri Lanka's total of 291 for eight after captain Dasun Shanaka won the toss and elected to bat.

Pathum Nissanka (41) and Dimuth Karunaratne (32) provided a solid start of 63 before Gulbadin Naib, who finished with four for 60, produced a triple strike during his seven-over spell in hot and humid weather of Lahore to reduce Sri Lanka to 86 for three.

But Mendis rebuild the innings in a 102-run stand

with Charith Asalanka (36) before Rashid had the latter caught off his own bowling and de Silva was clean bowled by Mujeeb.

Mendis was unfortunate to miss out on the century when he was run out after Rashid dropped Shanaka off his own bowling, but the ball rolled back onto the stumps at the non striker's end with Mendis well short of his crease.

Wellalage and Theekshana then combined in a 54-run eighth wicket stand and edged closer to the 300-run mark.

Pakistan will take on Bangladesh in the first Super 4 game at Lahore on Wednesday before the tournament moves to Sri Lanka for the remaining five Super 4 games and the final scheduled for Sept. 17.

ABFA postpones start of women's league

The Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) has postponed the start of its Women's Invitational League until the end of this month.

The competition was slated to kick off at the ABFA's Technical Center last Sunday, but according to the Technical Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association, Sowerby Gomes, the start of the league has been pushed back to September 30.

Gomes said the postponement is due to work being done at the ABFA's Technical Center in preparation to host the Concacaf Nations League (CNL) League B Group D encounter between Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys and Guyana on Saturday, September 9.

The Benna Boys were slated to open their CNL campaign against Guyana at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, but Gomes said the game was switched to the venue at the ABFA Technical Center, which has been fully certified to host international matches.

"There is a new development that has happened right here at our technical center. Our turf has been fully certified for playing international games. As a result of that, the Nations League game between Antigua and Barbuda and Guyana will be played here at the technical center on Saturday, September 9th," Gomes stated.

"As a result of that, there is some heavy-duty work that we have to un-



A Fort Road player (blue uniform) fends off a challenge from a Wadadli United's player during their encounter in the women's knockout competition at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday, July 15, 2023. (ABFA)

dertake around the playing field at the technical center so as to make the game possible on Saturday."

Gomes said the ABFA's Technical Committee also met and made a decision to postpone the start of the women's league.

The start of the league will come over two months after the completion of the women's knockout competition, which commenced on July 1 and concluded on July 20, with Cutting Edge crowned champions.

Six teams will be battling for supremacy in the ABFA Women's Invitational League.

Among them will be knockout champions Cutting Edge and eventual

finalists Wadadli United.

The other four teams that contested the female knockout contest will also participate in the league competition.

They are the third-place finishers, Fort Road Players; the fourth-place finishers, All Saints United; Ottos Tigris; and the Empire Trendsetters.

Meanwhile, the ABFA will open registration for all teams and players for the new 2023-24 domestic season today. The registration period will run from Wednesday, September 6, to Friday, October 13, 2023.

The new ABFA domestic season has been earmarked to commence during the latter part of October.