

HURRICANE LEE: NOT A THREAT, BUT STILL MONITOR THE STORM

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The principals of Antigua Agronomics teamed up with the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's declared candidate for the St. Mary's South by-election, Senator Dwayne George, to donate tablets to students of two primary schools in the south. *Story on page 6.*

Hurricane Lee: Not a threat, but still monitor the storm

The Antigua and Barbuda Met Office is advising residents of Antigua and Barbuda that whilst Hurricane Lee is not forecasted to be a threat to the country, everyone should remain vigilant and continue to monitor the movement of the very powerful storm.

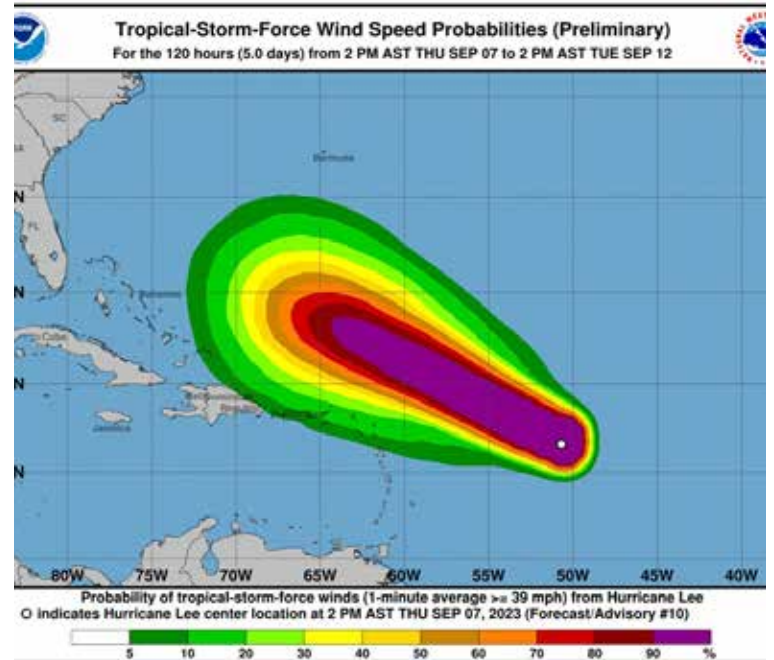
The Met Office said the 5:00 pm forecast on Thursday indicated that the storm was located at 16.9 degrees north and 51.3 degrees west or about 780 miles east of the Northern Leeward Islands. The storm was packing winds at 130 miles per hour with hurricane-force winds extending 30 miles from the centre and tropical storm winds extending up to 140 miles from the centre. The storm is moving west-north-

west at 15 miles per hour.

“We are anticipating that there will be swells from Friday night to Monday, or even longer, as a result of the storm. There will be no significant showers. However, there could be gusty winds associated with the passing showers,” a spokesman stated.

The Met Office forecast puts the storm passing closest to Antigua and Barbuda at approximately 2:00 pm on Sunday at an estimated 300 miles to the north. This would be well outside the reach of even tropical storm winds.

The spokesman said the Met Office is not likely to issue any watches or warnings associated with the storm. However, the spokesman



cautioned that the weather is dynamic, and all residents should continue to monitor the movement of the storm, in the unlikely event that there is any shift, it is a forward projection.

“As of the latest forecast, we appear to be in the clear, but we would still advise to continue paying close attention to the storm’s westward movement over the next few days,” he declared.



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National Security Minister underscores the importance of Interpol

National Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin, has been glowing in his praise for the International Criminal Police Organisation (Interpol) which is celebrating its 100th anniversary with Antigua and Barbuda, joining in celebrating this achievement.

Speaking at a special celebratory event on Thursday, Benjamin noted that today, Interpol has a membership of 195 countries including Antigua and Barbuda working together with police all over the world, to detect crime

and criminals and to collaborate when the crime extends beyond borders.

“The INTERPOL shares data on criminal activities and criminals, putting out notices when criminals are believed to be outside of the jurisdiction where the crime may have occurred.

“Drug trafficking and Cybercrimes are among two of the most threatening crimes which undermine the rule of law and the certainty which Caribbean civilization needs to flourish,” the National Se-



National Security Minister Steadroy Benjamin

curity Minister explained. He noted that the leaders of our country rely on Interpol to provide background checks and other profiles on persons of interest.

“Given the small size of our population and given the near-absence of anonymity within our borders, the INTERPOL resources which Antigua and Barbuda usually relies upon tend to seek certainty about new citizens from faraway places,” he added.

According to Benjamin the government is quite concerned about the rising rate of gun-related crimes and it intends to take decisive action to combat this scourge on the society.

“What causes the people of Antigua and Barbuda great alarm is the use of firearms to commit crimes and the presence of guns

that have come through our porous borders into the hands of criminals.

“On Wednesday, September 6, 2023, the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda summoned the top brass of both the Police and the Military to its meeting.

“The focus of that meeting was on an escalation of gun crimes and seeking to find solutions to this embryonic trend.

“Everything has to be done to make this issue go away.

“Finding the source of the firearms and plugging those holes is an objective that my government is vigorously pursuing,” he declared.

He also spoke of the government’s determination to fight cybercrimes similar to the one attempted against APUA a few weeks ago.

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Section 12 of the Act

REGISTRATION SECTION

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CANCELLATION OF OBSOLETE ENTRY

TAKE NOTICE that an Application for the cancellation of Instrument No. 2818/2002 Entry # 1 registered in the Incumbrances Section of the Land Register for the above- mentioned parcel was filed in the Land Registry on the 26th day of July, 2023 by Joy Dublin, Senior Counsel, Attorney General’s Chambers of Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive, St. John’s, Antigua on behalf of the Attorney General of Antigua and Barbuda of Attorney General’s Chambers of Government Office Complex, Parliament Drive, St. John’s Antigua.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you wish to object to the application for cancellation of Obsolete Entry you must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection to the said Application, the Registrar of Lands may proceed to grant the application without further notice.

Dated the 6th day of September, 2023

REGISTRAR OF LANDS

LAND REGISTRY

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Antigua and Barbuda

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
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Several current and former police officials honoured for work with Interpol

The current Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, and nine former commissioners were among twenty-five police officials honoured on Thursday, as part of the activities marking the 100th anniversary of Interpol - the International Criminal Police Organisation.

The event was a Recognition Ceremony held at the John E. St Luce Conference Centre, attended by rank and file of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and senior government officials, including National Security Minister, Steadroy Benjamin and Foreign



Sir Wright George

Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene.

In remarks in his capacity as Foreign Minister, Greene noted that as an in-

ternational law enforcement agency, Interpol is operating in an interconnected world, with an increasingly complex and digital environ-

ment, guided by a mission to prevent and fight crime through enhanced cooperation and innovation on police and security matters.

“Antigua and Barbuda as part of this global environment, is extremely grateful to be a member of this prestigious institution ensuring the overall safety, not only of our citizens but to also minimize the opportunity for Antigua and Barbuda to be used by professional criminal elements to endanger the name and security of our beloved country. Operating as a global police, Interpol is placed in

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a unique position to facilitate and coordinate international policing efforts to prevent and solve criminal activities," he noted.

Special awards were presented to former commissioners, Sir Wright George, Edric Potter, Alvin Goodwin, Truehart Smith (deceased), Elton Martin, Delano Christopher, Vere Browne, Wendel Robinson Alexander, and just for mention, Thomas Bennette and current Commissioner, Rodney.

Also sharing in the special awards were Deputy Commissioner Albert Wade, and former Deputy Commissioners, Henry Christian and Joseph Hughes. Members of the Police Service Commission, Cosmos Marcel, along with Inspector of Police Francis Dinard, and former Inspectors of Police, Ewen Cameron, Lennie Quashie, and Callward Nicholas.

Seven other officers from the ranks of corporal to senior sergeants, includ-



Police Commissioner Atlee Rodney

ing a retired senior sergeant, were also recognized.

Under the leadership of Father of the Nation, Sir Vere Cornwall Bird, Antigua and Barbuda applied for membership in Interpol in 1986. It was then Commissioner, Sir Wright George, who delivered the country's acceptance speech and became the first head

of the National Central Bureau (NCB). The Interpol NCB in St. John's serves as the national cooperation platform for sharing and collecting intelligence on the crime areas which most affect Antigua and Barbuda, particularly as it relates to wanted people and emerging crime trends linked to Caribbean organized crime.



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Two primary schools in the south benefit from donated tablets

The principals of Antigua Agronomics teamed up with the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party's declared candidate for the St. Mary's South by-election, Senator Dwayne George, to donate tablets to students of two primary schools in the south.

Benefiting from the presentation were students of the Urlings Primary School and the S.R Olivia David Primary School, formerly the Bolans Primary School.

At Urlings, fifteen tablets were presented to Teacher Jacqueline Bachelor, who accepted on behalf of the principal and the school. Sen. George said the tablets were to help with the setting up of a resource centre where the students will be able to go and use the tablets to carry out re-



search for school projects. "The youth are the future of our country and technology is the tool that is being used today. We are creating this technology centre where the students

can go to do their research.

This will help them in their growth and development and by extension, help the nation's own growth and development," Sen. George

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stated.

Following the presentation at Urlings, Sen. George and the Antigua Agronomics team travelled to Bolans where a similar presentation was made. Sen. George said he was particularly pleased to be making a presentation at the school, where he was once a student.

“I am pleased to be here giving back to the students and giving back to the community. We know that education is the key to success and investment in education will ensure a bright future for our youth and our country.

“The fifteen tablets being donated are to help extend the community learning centre that already exists at the school,” he stated.

Director of Antigua Agronomics, Dwight Ateba Henry, said he too was proud to be part of the presentation, as he was a former student of the school. He noted that the company sees itself as a responsible corporate citizen, pleased to be donating to the school. Earlier in the year, Anti-



gua Agronomics presented home and away sets of uniforms to the school’s football team. At the presentation, several of the players

were present, dressed in their uniforms.

Principal of the S.R. Olivia David Primary School, Joycelyn James,

expressed her appreciation to Sen. George and Antigua Agronomics for making the timely donation to the school.

Fernandez among Caribbean Tourism Ministers at ASTA convention

A record number of Ministers of Tourism, including two Deputy Prime Ministers, were present at Beaches Resort in Turks and Caicos, for the recent annual convention of the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA).

Antigua and Barbuda's Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez, who was among eight Caribbean tourism ministers in attendance, told the hundreds of travel advisors present, that no place can offer an experience quite like his home destination.

"I think that the most important aspect of Antigua and Barbuda is the friendliness of our people and the welcoming nature of our people, because if you go somewhere and you don't feel welcome no matter how great and beautiful the place is, you are not going to enjoy it. From our taxi operators up to the managers of our properties, everyone you come into contact with lets you understand that you are really welcome, and you are part of the tapestry of Antigua and Barbuda," he remarked.

Minister Fernandez also boasted that Antigua has the lowest crime rate in the region, saying he was grateful to be able to tell them a bit more about the island firsthand, "Then you put your heart into what you are selling because you know what



you are selling. So I think this (convention) has been a tremendous effort of Sandals and ASTA to actually bring all of these travel industry advisors to the Caribbean to understand and feel and realise what it is we have in the Caribbean."

Chief Executive Officer of ASTA Zane Kerby, expressed his confidence in the future of Antigua's hospitality sector and by extension the entire region, and pointed out that the Caribbean is now the second most important outbound market for the United States, "The Caribbean is the second largest outbound market from the United States and for the last two years it's been the top outbound market for overseas travelers from the United States. Western Europe has taken its crown back, but this is still a place where there is enormous demand. In fact, I'll go on record and say 2023 has seen the highest record of travel of Americans to the Carib-



bean in US history.

Kerby said this just underlines the importance of having so many tourism ministers at the meeting to the future development and growth of the region's tourism sector, "Travel Advisors are demand creators for places all across the Caribbean, that's why it was important for them to hear directly from the Ministers of Tourism from islands all across the Caribbean. The fact that they're here (the Ministers) and that they are talking to US-based travel advisors about all the great features, benefits, new hotel builds, and new features that are coming to their is-

lands is a testament to the relationship and the importance and the strength of it."

Stressing on the critical role travel advisors play in helping to direct visitors to the region, Kerby went on to declare that the Caribbean has no better partner than Sandals Resorts, "Sandals is the only Fortune 500 brand to come out of the Caribbean, they are a major player, not only as a brand but a major employer in the Caribbean. The brand is extremely strong in the United States, it has very positive associations and it's no wonder why so many of our travel advisors joined us here this week."



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of shareholders of The West Indies Oil Company Limited to be held at the John E St. Luce Financial Centre and virtually via live stream to all shareholders of record as of September 15th, 2023. The meeting will be held on Thursday September 28th, 2023, at 4:00 PM.

AGENDA

1. To receive the financial statements for the fiscal year ended December 31st, 2022.
2. To receive and consider the report of the directors on the financial statements.
3. To receive and consider the report of the auditors on the financial statements.
4. To elect directors.
5. To appoint BDO Chartered Accountants as auditors of the financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2023; and authorize the directors to fix their remuneration.
6. To discuss any other business that may be given consideration at an Annual General Meeting

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE	NAME AND TITLE	SIGNATURE
September 5 th , 2023	Carlton Bramble Corporate Secretary The West Indies Oil Company Limited	

The Caribbean should ban lethal autonomous weapons

By *Sir Ronald Sanders*

Autonomous weapons pose a clear and present danger to the Caribbean. Action to ban them should be seriously considered now.

This is one of four recommendation that I made in an address to a conference on September 5, organised by the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security on “The Human Impacts of Autonomous Weapons”. This article is a shortened version of my address to law enforcement officers, lawyers and diplomats.

Autonomous weapons are weapon systems that can identify, target, and eliminate a person, a group of persons or an area without human intervention. Unlike remotely piloted drones or other systems that require a human to make the final decision to engage a target, autonomous weapons can carry out these actions on their own once they are activated.

So, why should the Caribbean region be alarmed at this phenomenon? There are several reasons. Our communities are already under stress due to increasing crime and violence. The illegal firearms that contribute to violent crime and homicides are a precursor to a more profound threat.

Can you imagine the impact of autonomous weapons being added to the arsenal of weapons that are now deployed in criminal activity? Consider a drone, meticulously programmed with facial recognition technology, set to target an individual. It scans, identifies, and eliminates its target all while operating undetected.

Potential Targets:

Autonomous weapons are diverse. They consist not only of drones but also of covert city devices and le-

thal robots. They can be precise, targeting key figures such as political leaders, judges, law enforcement officers -or anyone who opposes those who benefit from drug trafficking or other criminal activity.

Beyond individuals, our critical infrastructure is also at-risk including energy facilities that provide electricity to towns and cities, to ports, and to water supplies.

The Global Context:

There is an increasing chorus within the international community advocating for a robust treaty to govern these autonomous weapons. Prominent international figures, including the Pope, and the UN Secretary General António Guterres, have voiced their concerns.

Last October in the First Committee of the 77th United Nation General Assembly, a joint statement was issued, drawing grave concerns about lethal autonomous weapons systems.

The statement said, among other things: “... the introduction of new technological applications, such as those related to autonomy in weapon systems, also raise serious concerns from humanitarian, legal, security, technological and ethical perspectives. We therefore see an urgent need for the international community to further their understanding and address these risks and challenges by adopting appropriate rules and measures, such as principles, good practices, limitations and constraints”.

Also, on July 20 this year, under the theme of “A new Agenda for Peace”, the UN Secretary-General recommended that all countries should “conclude, by 2026, a legally binding instrument to prohibit lethal autonomous weapon systems that function without human control or oversight.” The government



Sir Ronald Sanders

of Costa Rica has also been proactive in galvanizing nations to address this worrisome issue.

The calls for international cooperation to curb autonomous weapons is a crucial step, but not all governments in the international community support this position. Indeed, some of them, which are already extensively using drones and other lethal machines in war torn areas and for targeting enemies, are resisting any binding treaties that limit their use of autonomous weapons. The Stop Killer Robots Movement has pointed out that this year’s meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts on autonomous weapons systems, from May 15 to 19, ended without substantive progress.

Big countries that see benefits in these weapons are resisting strict rules. These nations are investing heavily in military applications of autonomous weapons, weaving them into the fabric of their defence strategies. They argue that these weapons can reduce human casualties in conflict or be more precise in targeting.

Anyone who doubts the capacity of these weapons, need only look at television coverage of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine to see the death and destruction they inflict.

Small States vulnerability and
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Caribbean Unity

How long before these weapons find their way into the wrong hands, unchecked and unregulated? While international negotiations grind slowly forward, the Caribbean cannot afford the luxury of waiting. Caribbean vulnerabilities are immediate and tangible.

Caribbean borders are vast stretches of open sea, posing substantial challenges. Policing these expanses for inter-state trafficking, especially for high-tech, compact autonomous weaponry, is a daunting task. Moreover, Caribbean governments would be burdened with an unaffordable increase in costs.

For instance, law enforcement agencies would need to be revamped, counter-terrorism units established, and intelligence networks enhanced. Our vast maritime borders are conduits for trafficking, and the introduction of autonomous weapons into this mix is a nightmare scenario. Given the high stakes, Caribbean nations need not, and should not, wait for global consensus.

Their unity can be their strength.

A regional approach, where Caribbean nations come together to enact stringent legislation, can set a powerful precedent.

Proposed Regional Actions:

Here are four ideas for collective regional action:

First, an immediate step should be the introduction of laws strictly banning the importation of autonomous weapons. By ensuring they don't enter our shores, we minimize the immediate threat.

Second, those found breaching these laws should face severe repercussions. From heavy fines to lengthy prison sentences, the message must be clear: the Caribbean will not tolerate the proliferation of these weapons.

Third, beyond possession and trafficking, the actual use of such weapons should carry even more substantial penalties, potentially maximum terms. This deterrence will underscore the gravity of the act.

And fourth, with the United Nations General Assembly gathering in October 2023, Caribbean States have an opportunity to take leadership in pushing

for meaningful progress towards a new legally binding instrument. Every Caribbean leader at the General Assembly should include this call in their statements. Also, with the same vigour that small states at the UN fight against the existential threat of Climate Change, they should fight against the fatal threat of our police forces being overwhelmed by criminals armed with autonomous weapons.

Conclusion

To conclude, the Caribbean region, with its unique vulnerabilities, stands at a crossroads.

Our States can be proactive, adapting our laws and bolstering our defences, or we can risk being overpowered.

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



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Commentary



Guyana's oil and gas boom: Is it on the right track?

By **Anthony T Bryan**

Guyana's oil reserves, only discovered in 2015, are vast. They are estimated at 11 billion barrels of recoverable oil — one of the highest levels per capita worldwide.

The country's current daily production of 400,000 (b/d) is projected to be more than one million b/d of oil equivalent (boe) by 2027. Although Guyana only produced its first barrels of oil in December 2019, it recorded the globe's highest GDP growth rate of 2022, a remarkable 57.8 percent. Its annual earnings from the sector could be US\$10 billion by 2030. However, the global media hyperbole that is accompanying the boom is boisterous and overwhelming, and raising Guyanese public expectations to an un-

comfortable level. So perhaps it is time for retrospection, a reality check, and a cautionary note.

Dealing with this windfall is a new experience for the Guyanese government and its people. There is a race to provide the necessary legislation, to create the institutional structures, and to devise strategies to manage an oil economy.

Obviously, one danger is the onset of the dreaded ailment known variously as the 'resource curse,' the 'paradox of plenty,' or the "Dutch Disease," where destabilisation of traditional economic sectors occurs as the resource-rich country becomes overly dependent on exports of a single commodity and suffers drastic inflationary

consequences.

On August 27, 2023, Vice President, Dr Bharrat Jagdeo was reported in the energy publication OilNOW as saying "We are hell-bent on ensuring that we do not make the same mistakes that other oil-producing countries have made."

It will be avoided by Guyana's careful fiscal management of the energy sector, including its Local Content Act, and a "dedicated policy" towards diversification, he further stated.

But most energy analysts would still agree on some cautionary notes for Guyana.

First, it is the government's responsibility to ensure that the country has all the contractual provisions in place to earn and distribute its fair share of the windfall. The population can become frustrated by the lack of any immediate tangible benefits that they may have expected from oil revenues. Managing public expectations is critical. Also, in multi-ethnic Guyana, the possibility of political and ethnic strife is a constant threat if the benefits of the windfall are not distributed evenly among the various ethnic groups.


Second, although international credit agencies report that Guyana still has a low level of corruption, regulations must be developed to control that elephant in the room. Energy exploration

and production have a long supply chain, and many opportunities exist for the diversion of revenue and profits. Third, the impact of the oil and gas windfall on Guyana's economy can be convulsive. Guyana may become one of the world's richest nations per capita. However, attaining high-income status from natural resource wealth does not always translate into improved human development outcomes. Citizens must be shown that the wealth generated from oil and gas will be used prudently and transparently for the people's welfare.

Now for a reality check. Guyana is not slowing down on its oil and gas exploration and production, nor should it do so. In fact, it is preparing to auction off 14 coveted oil blocks during 2023 in its first-ever government-regulated offshore licensing round. But even with the new PSA signed with Exxon which split the revenue 50-50 with a 2 percent royalty paid to the government, Exxon has a sweetheart deal---considering that the global average for a government's take in offshore projects is 75 percent.

The contract also includes a strange provision that permits Exxon to immediately recover costs for exploratory work within the lease area. Exxon effectively then pays itself back for those costs out of the oil revenue

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National Solid Waste Management Authority
Sir George Walter Highway
Tel: (268) 562-1347/8
Email: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag

September 7th, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Authority wishes to inform the general public that the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is the agency mandated by law to collect, transport, and dispose of solid waste in Antigua and Barbuda.

In an effort to improve our services and reliability we are updating the residents in the communities below of the delayed waste collection and we are working to resolve the issue promptly.

- Barnes Hill
- Armstrong Road

In today's schedule, an unavoidably late start will be in the following communities:

- Freeman's Village
- Seaview Farm

We thank the residents in those communities for their patience.

The National Solid Waste Management Authority wishes to advise private citizens that if there is a delay or missed collection of their residential waste services, to contact the Authority via the hotline number 562-1347.

cont'd from pg 12

that would otherwise go to the government. With an oil field lease this large (28,806 square kilometres), easy to drill, and highly productive, Guyana should have negotiated much better! Nevertheless, the country is going to realise tremendous revenue from oil and gas for a nation of 800,000+ inhabitants.

The windfall presents many challenges. Guyana can accrue more debt even with the surplus oil money. Both the IDB and the IMF are advising the government to save for a rainy day and to exercise caution in the way in which it goes about taking on new loans. The IMF notes that while surging oil output could help address development needs, buffer the economy, and retire expensive outstanding public debt, it also faces risks from volatile oil prices, a slowing global economy, and possible difficulties managing the resource.

Guyana's political leaders have emphasised that certain services should be reserved for Guyanese procurement.

The Local Content Act seeks to protect local Guyanese companies. While this is a commendable objective, just filling a percentage of the workforce with nationals in the name of 'local content' or giving preference to local companies that may not be up to the tasks, are mistakes to be avoided. This is not about numbers; it's about investing in the long-term benefits for the country and its people.

As Guyana moves forward there are very positive

signs that it is going in the right direction. Globally, investment is slowing down in new oil provinces, but Guyana's light sweet crude is an exception to the trend. Its energy resources are attracting a lot of investment, but there are lots of investment opportunities in the non-oil sectors as well. Large investment in agriculture for the benefit of Caricom members is a major objective and regional momentum is under way. From a business perspective, the investment opportunities in Guyana are as extensive as one's imagination or skill set, once there is a Guyanese mindset that is open to foreign investment and to regional cooperation.

But there are concerns as well. Despite withdrawals in 2022 and the first half of 2023, the National Resources Fund (NRF) had a market value of US\$1.72 billion as of June 30, 2023. It is expected to close 2023 with about US\$2.1 billion. So, while Guyana may be immune from any serious depletion of the NRF at this time, given the massive financial inflows, tapping into it to meet budget deficits, unforeseen production failures or shortfalls, substantial declines in the global prices and markets for oil, economy crippling pandemics, and serious debt incurred for rapid infrastructure development that does not produce revenue--can all impact on future drawdowns on the NRF.

When new provinces come into massive oil wealth, the resource is often con-

trolled and dominated at an early stage by foreign companies interested in developing oil and returning profit to their shareholders.

They are very rarely interested in general national economic development. So far, the international oil companies (IOCs) in Guyana, ExxonMobil, and its partners, appear to be investing in sub-sectors of the economy that advance their portfolios with some benefit to the Guyanese economy. Eventually, Guyana might find the T&T model--where the state chose to be an active participant and a leader in the first stage of the country's industrialisation by becoming an equity investor in most of the energy enterprises--to be a useful initiative. Guyana will have the money to do it!

Looking forward, Guyana has attributes that can make it a regional energy leader. Its forests have created environmental space for the

simultaneous development of its oil resources and its net carbon sink credentials.

While it may seem to be in a contradictory position as a current victim of climate change and an actor exacerbating the problem, Guyana can become a major supplier of fossil fuel that uses the money from its oil and gas resources to invest in renewable energy and facilitate its transition and that of the Caricom region to net-zero status.

Anthony T. Bryan, PhD, is a Co-Founder of the Caribbean Policy Consortium (cpccaribbean.org), Professor Emeritus at the University of Miami, and a former Director of the Institute of International Relations at UWI, St. Augustine. He has been a leading scholar and an independent consultant on Caribbean energy development, energy security, and energy diplomacy for the past 20 years.



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US talk show host Jimmy Fallon (second right) interviewed Sir Mick Jagger, Ronnie Wood and Keith Richards in Hackney.

The Rolling Stones confirm details of new album Hackney Diamonds

The Rolling Stones have unveiled their first album of original material since 2005, and the first since the death of drummer Charlie Watts.

Hackney Diamonds will feature 12 tracks and be released on 20 October, preceded by lead single Angry.

Keith Richards, Ronnie Wood and Sir Mick Jagger announced the album on Wednesday at an event in Hackney.

Richards said: "Ever since Charlie's gone, it's been different, he's number four. Of course he's missed."

But, he added, the new album will feature Steve Jordan in Watts' place, a drummer Richards said the band knew from "way back" and who filled Watts' seat on tour this summer.

"It would have been a lot harder without Charlie's blessing," Richards said, explaining that Watts had previously told the band Jordan should replace him if he ever was not around to record.

Watts died in 2021 aged 80, prior to the band's 60th anniversary tour, af-

ter suffering from throat cancer.

Sir Mick explained: "The album has 12 tracks. Most are with Steve, but two are tracks we recorded in 2019 with Charlie." The album is preceded by a new lead single, titled Angry, which also received its premiere at the event in Hackney.

Euphoria actress Sydney Sweeney, who was sitting in the audience at the launch event where she was briefly interviewed by host Jimmy Fallon, features in the music video for the song.

In a five-star review, the Telegraph's Neil McCormick called the song "an absolute blast," describing it as the band's best single in 40 years.

Discussing the recording of the album, Wood told Fallon: "We did it pretty quickly actually.

"There were lots of ideas floating around, we gathered them together just before Christmas last year and made a go of it."

The record will feature Lady Gaga, and other rumoured guest stars

include Sir Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder.

Asked about the gap since 2016's *Blue & Lonesome*, an album of blues covers, Sir Mick said: "We've been on the road most of the time, maybe we were a bit too lazy, but then we said, 'let's put a deadline'."

He said the band cut 23 tracks, which were mixed in February, before deciding on the final 12 to include on the album.

Sir Mick said the sound of the album was "angry", like the title of the lead single, but added there was an "eclectic" mixture of genres on the record, including love songs and ballads.

He continued: "I don't want to be big headed but we wouldn't have put this album out if we hadn't really liked it. We said we had to make a record we really love ourselves.

"We are quite pleased with it, we are not big headed about it, but we hope you all like it."



X Dwayne George
GEORGE WINS; YOU WIN



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China to fund construction of six schools in Dominica

CMC - Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit on Wednesday expressed his country's "profound gratitude to the People's Republic of China" after Beijing agreed to fund the construction of six schools here totalling US\$30 million.

Speaking at the "symbolic" groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of the schools, Skerrit said China is once again demonstrating in "a most tangible way the depth and sincerity of its friendship with Dominica.

"There is no denying that Dominica has benefitted from repeated expressions of true friendship from the People's Republic of China. In sports, in road infrastructure, agriculture and health we have witnessed, over the past 19 years, incredible generosity from the Chinese people and Government," Skerrit said, noting also the Chinese funding for the Dominica China Friendship Hospital.

"Today, as countries the world over experience shortfalls in revenue and economic uncertainty caused largely by the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine, China is keeping true to its word to fund these six new schools in Dominica.

"I want to stress that



this is a gift of significant proportion. The schools are valued at US\$30 million or EC\$81 million, a substantial investment in any currency; and certainly a major injection of funds into the development of Dominica's education infrastructure."

He said the investment underscores his administration's ongoing commitment to advancing human development as part of a long-term strategy for productivity and growth.

"Education, we know, is one of the most important factors in national development and the prosperity of a nation.

"This administration has, therefore, spared no effort to educate our children to the highest standards and create avenues for them to access lifelong learning."

He said when the Goodwill Secondary School is

completed, the government will take this focus on skills training to the next level.

"Dominican citizens will have access to a fully equipped Center of Excellence for TVET. Here, our young people will be able to select a trade, build on their competencies and prepare for high-paying, competitive jobs in Dominica and the region.

"Today's turning of the soil symbolizes our ongoing commitment as a Government to give the children of Dominica the best opportunities in education so that they may become productive global citizens; that they may excel in their chosen fields of endeavour; and that they may go on to lead successful, rewarding lives."

Skerrit, who is also chairman of the 15-member regional integration move-

ment, CARICOM, said that the education thrust is in line with his stated objectives to pursue education reform at the regional level.

"Our young people face a challenging future defined by rapidly evolving technology, which will require more and broader skills in the workplace. We must consider new and better ways to help our students, across the region, learn advanced skills; and redesign our school curriculum to ensure they are able to succeed in school, in the global workspace, and in their personal lives.

"I am focused on pushing this agenda with my CARICOM counterparts because I want to help create a future where every Dominican and Caribbean citizen has a fair shot at a successful life," he added.

cont'd on pg 17

CARICOM, Africa committed to strengthening ties

CMC - The Guyana based regional body, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has reiterated its commitment to the African continent, stating that the alliance has continued to deepen over the years.

In a message on Thursday to mark Africa/CARICOM Day, CARICOM Chairman, Dominican Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit acknowledged what he called a “watershed moment two years ago when the leaders of CARICOM and Africa agreed to designate a date to honour the fraternal and enduring bonds that unite our countries, and reflect on the significance of our emerging strategic partnership to our people.”

He noted that the relationship between the Caribbean Community and the African continent has immense potential to advance priority areas of mutual interest, such as climate change, development financing, public health, and reparations.

“Our alliance has made remarkable progress in recent times. Reciprocal official visits by leaders of CARICOM and Africa have further strengthened our relations.

“In this regard, my fellow CARICOM Heads of Government were delighted to receive His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda, as a Special Guest during the

cont'd from pg 16

In his address, China's ambassador to Dominica, Lin Xianjiang, said Beijing fully understands the importance of the schools project to Dominica to the point that a senior foreign government official, who visited here recently, had also pledged to ensure the project was a success.

He said also that a senior member



Forty-Fifth Regular Meeting of the Conference in Port-of-Spain, in July. That exchange allowed us to discuss matters, including health, digitisation, transport, telecommunications, and reform of the international financial architecture, strategically important issues for the people of our Regions.”

He also pointed to the recent opening of the AFREXIMBANK Caribbean Office in Barbados will advance efforts to develop and promote critical trade and economic relations between the Caribbean and Africa.

“It is that excellent spirit of cooperation that will continue to unite the Member States of CARICOM and African countries, as we seek to assist

of the construction firm “had come all the way from Beijing to attend the groundbreaking ceremony.

“What I can assure you is that the six schools will be the most advanced and modern in Dominica and even the Caribbean region,” he said, adding due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic the progress of the project had been delayed.

our sister nation, Haiti, to resolve its ongoing multi-dimensional crisis.”

Skerrit also said that the regional body fully understands the importance of solidifying cooperation and transforming proposals into initiatives that contribute to the sustainable development of countries on the continent and the “welfare of our peoples.”

“I, therefore, look forward to the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the CARICOM and the African Union Commission Secretariats.

“People-to-people contact remains a primary catalyst for our ambitions to advance collaboration between the Caribbean and African nations in trade, investment, health, connectivity and other priority areas.

“I am confident that our relationship will continue to flourish in the years ahead. Our Community is home to many citizens of the African Diaspora, designated as Africa's Sixth Region. Let us continue to work together to further solidify the ties of friendship and cooperation that have traditionally bonded us,” Skerrit noted.

Gabon coup leaders: Ousted President Ali Bongo now free

Gabon's military leaders say they have freed deposed President Ali Bongo from house arrest, where he has been since they seized power last week.

This includes permission to travel abroad for medical check-ups.

He suffered a stroke in 2018 and his health was a major source of concern for many in the build-up to the 2023 presidential election.

The army seized power shortly after he had been declared the winner of that election, disputed by the opposition.

The announcement to free Mr Bongo follows pressure from regional bloc Eccas and neighbouring countries.

In a communique read on state TV on Wednesday evening, military spokesperson Col Ulrich Manfoumbi said the decision to free Mr Bongo was due to "his state of health".

"He may, if he wishes, travel abroad for medical check-ups," he added.

Mr Bongo had been in power in the oil-rich country since 2009, when he succeeded his father who had ruled the country for 41 years.

The coup has been widely condemned in Africa and the West, including by France, the former colonial power which had close ties to the Bongo family. Gabon has been suspended from the African Union.

However, the removal of the Bongo family after almost 56 years in power was welcomed by many Gabonese.

Since the junta's announcement that it was freeing Mr Bongo, there have been calls for him to face justice over allegations of corruption.

A seven-year corruption investigation by French police into the Bongo



Ali Bongo managed to release a video from house arrest, calling for help.

family, which revealed assets including 39 properties in France and nine luxury cars, was dropped in 2017. The family strongly denied all the allegations.

"Ali Bongo must face justice," Bouloungui Mouanda Ulrich told the BBC in the capital, Libreville.

Another resident, Koumbi Anold, said he didn't have a problem that the ousted president was being freed but agreed he should face justice.

"We are waiting, we are now a free people, we want work," he said.

Shortly after the coup, several allies of the ousted president were arrested, including Mr Bongo's 31-year-old son Nouredin Bongo Valentin, who has been accused of high treason and corruption. National TV has shown images of him and other close Bongo allies in front of suitcases of cash it said had been seized from their homes. They have not commented on the allegations.

It's unclear where Mr Bongo will go but a likely destination would be Morocco where he had previously re-

ceived treatment for his stroke.

He enjoys close ties with Morocco's King Mohammed VI and also reportedly owns a villa in the palm grove of Marrakesh.

Coup leader Gen Brice Oligui Nguema was sworn in as transitional president on Monday. He vowed to return the country to civilian rule after free and fair elections but did not give a timetable for the transfer of power.

Subsequently, Raymond Ndong Sima, a prominent opponent of the ousted president, was sworn in as the country's interim prime minister on Thursday.

Mr Ndong Sima, a 68-year-old economist, previously held the role under Mr Bongo from 2012 until 2014, before becoming a critic and standing against him in the country's 2016 and 2023 elections.

Prior to Mr Bongo's release, Gabon's junta had released other political prisoners earlier this week, including pro-democracy activist and leader of the most powerful trade union confederation, Jean Rémi Yama.

Austrian honeymooners missing after holiday home swept away

By Michael Ertl

An Austrian couple on honeymoon is missing in Greece after torrential rains swept away the house they were staying in.

Emergency services have told the BBC they are searching for the couple and several other missing people.

People in central Greece were trapped on the roofs of their houses after floods set whole villages under water.

More than a dozen people are now known to have died since Storm Daniel hit Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria this week.

The Austrian couple decided to shelter inside the bungalow they had rented for their honeymoon as heavy rainfall swept central Greece, the owner of the accommodation, Thanasis Samaras said.

But the house in the beach resort of Potistika, near Mount Pelion, was then washed into the sea by flash floods, he told the BBC.

He and other guests had left for higher ground and had advised the couple to do the same.

“The situation was very bad. It’s very difficult to decide what to do in a moment like that,” Mr Samaras said.

He added that the couple, from the Austrian city of Graz, had married shortly after arriving on their holiday.



Some Greek regions have received more rain than they do normally in a year.

The Greek fire brigade said it had a team in the area searching for missing people, including the newlyweds.

Some Greek regions received up to 800mm (31.5 inches) of rain in recent days - more than normally seen in a whole year.

The Karditsa plain in central Greece was described as having turned into a lake, with villages around Palamas drowned in water.

The mayor of Palamas, Giorgos Sakellariou, made a dramatic appeal for help on Greek TV, saying people were stranded in their homes and facing immediate danger.

“The situation in Palamas is tragic,” he was quoted as telling Skai TV. “People are trapped in their houses. We will have people

drowning.”

Rescue efforts have been hampered after several bridges in the region collapsed and roads were seriously damaged.

Footage shows fire brigade helicopters airlifting people stuck in the water and on rooftops - part of a huge operation by the emergency services and army to reach cut-off villages.

The extreme weather also hit Athens and the island of Skiathos, where thousands of tourists remain stranded, as well as coastal areas around Volos and Pelion.

The city of Volos has remained without power and running water for a third day. The local administration decided to transfer water from swimming pools to one of the city’s hospitals so that dialysis and chemother-

apy treatments could continue, ERT reported.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis cancelled a big government engagement planned for the weekend as the crisis escalated. He is now planning to visit the affected areas instead.

Storm Daniel has been hitting Greece, Turkey and Bulgaria since Monday, with more than a dozen people known to have died, at least four of them in Greece.

Climate scientists have warned that global warming means more water evaporating during the summer, leading to more intense storms.

Greece has battled devastating wildfires for most of the summer. This included the EU’s largest on record, in which at least 20 people were killed last month.

Otto Pérez Molina: Guatemalan ex-leader pleads guilty to corruption

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

A court in Guatemala has sentenced former president Otto Pérez Molina to eight years in jail.

Pérez Molina, who was forced from office in 2015 by anti-corruption protests, pleaded guilty to money laundering, fraud and corruption.

Prosecutors say he had received millions of dollars in bribes in exchange for awarding more than 70 contracts to various companies.

The 72-year-old has been in jail since his arrest the day after he resigned.

He and his vice-president, Roxana Baldetti, had already been found guilty last year of running a bribery scheme at the Guatemalan customs authorities.

Both corruption cases were uncovered with the help of the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), a body created by the United Nations in agreement with Guatemala to stamp out corruption in the Central American nation.

CICIG investigated allegations of corruption at the highest levels.

The UN-backed body



Otto Pérez Molina governed from 2012 to his resignation in 2015.

was kicked out of Guatemala in 2019 by Pérez Molina's successor in office, Jimmy Morales, when it started to investigate Mr Morales over alleged funding irregularities

during his election campaign.

The expulsion of CICIG drew heavy criticism from anti-corruption groups in Guatemala as well as those in the United States and the European Union.

The current administration of President Alejandro Giammattei has also been accused of obstructing corruption investigations.

Last year, the US state department accused Guatemala's Attorney General Consuelo Porras of obstructing investigations "to protect her political allies and gain undue political favour" after she ordered the arrest of a number of anti-corruption prosecutors.

Dozens of Guatemalan prosecutors and judges have since fled the country for fear of arrest.

Guatemalans told pollsters that widespread corruption was one of their main concerns which prompted them to vote for a political outsider who campaigned on a promise to root out graft.



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Shelton joins past champs in the US Open men's semifinals

NEW YORK (AP) - When it comes to Ben Shelton and the rest of the men who will be participating in the US Open semifinals today (Friday), it's quite obvious that one of these is not like the others.

First of all, Shelton is unseeded and ranked 47th. Carlos Alcaraz is seeded No. 1, Novak Djokovic is No. 2 and Daniil Medvedev is No. 3, the first time since 2011 that the top three players in the men's bracket made it to the final four in Flushing Meadows.

Shelton, a 20-year-old who was born in Georgia and won an NCAA singles title for the University of Florida in 2022, has yet to earn a Grand Slam trophy, let alone the US Open.

Djokovic owns 23 major championships overall, Alcaraz two and Medvedev one. Djokovic won titles in New York in 2011, 2015 and 2018 and was the runner-up on six other occasions; Medvedev left as champion in 2021 and was the runner-up in 2019; Alcaraz is the defending champion.

Shelton will be appearing in his first major semifinal. His opponent Friday, Djokovic? This is No. 47 for him, one more than Roger Federer for the most by a man in the Open era. Medvedev is in his seventh trip to the final four; his opponent, Alcaraz, has made it this far



Ben Shelton, of the United States, reacts during a match against Frances Tiafoe, of the United States, during the quarterfinals of the US Open tennis championships in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023. (AP)

for the fourth Slam in a row.

"I'm definitely going to try to bring some things to the table that are different and hopefully disruptive on Friday," Shelton said.

Here's how new all of this is to him: When Shelton finished off a physically demanding four-set victory against Frances Tiafoe in an all-American quarterfinal on Tuesday night, someone mentioned that he'd have some time to rest, recuperate and prepare to meet Djokovic. That was news to the kid.

"I'm pretty glad I have two days off from singles. I didn't know until a couple minutes ago," Shelton said with his trademark big smile. "They're like, 'You

know you don't play 'til Friday, right?' That was nice to hear."

But he did not sound overwhelmed by the prospect of trying to test his intimidating left-handed serves - he leads the tournament with 76 aces and a top speed of 149 mph (240 kph) - against Djokovic, who is widely considered the top returner in the game and has won 44 percent of his opponent's service games in the tournament (Medvedev leads that category at 49 percent).

"Whenever you play somebody for the first time, and someone who has been in this situation so many times and come out victori-

ous so many times, that's in the back of your head.

"You just know how rock-solid the guy is and how mentally tough, how physically tough. So that's definitely something that I have to game plan for," said Shelton, who had never traveled outside the United States until the beginning of this year and reached the quarterfinals at the Australian Open in January.

"I also think that it's an advantage with my game style playing someone who's never played me before," he said.

"I think that I can bring some things to the table that maybe you don't see in your normal match."

Sports News



Haynes-Dover says GRCA aims to win all matches in BPL

Opening batsman Michael Haynes-Dover said the Grass Roots Cricket Academy (GRCA) of Antigua and Barbuda will be seeking to win all of their matches in the Bermuda Premier League (BPL).

Haynes-Dover struck an unbeaten 57 as the Grass Roots Academy made a winning start to the Bermuda Premier League by cruising to a comfortable six-wicket win over the Bermuda Select XI in the opening match of the four-team tournament on Wednesday.

The 27-year-old Haynes-Dover struck three fours and five sixes in his 37-ball innings, which took the Antigua academy to victory at 75 for four in 13.3 overs after the Antiguan bowling attack had done an excellent job in dismissing the Select XI for just 74 in 14.3 overs.

“We definitely wanted to make a statement and there was a lot happening coming to this tour,” said Haynes-Dover, who was voted the player of the match.

“The guys were anxious to get playing and we put our best foot forward to take the game by the scruff of the neck. As a team we stood there and we came out victorious.

“They could have scored 100 but the brilliance of our bowlers pegged them back



Opening batsman Michael Haynes-Dover

and we got the best of them. We’ll definitely try to push the team to the max, but right through all the games and try to win them all.”

Clay Smith, the coach of the Select XI, said his team failed to apply themselves during their encounter against the Grass Roots Academy.

“We just didn’t bat well as a unit and there are a lot of lessons to take from today. We wanted to go hard in the power-play today but the wicket wasn’t conducive to playing a lot of shots.

“Defending such a low score, we just wanted to show some character, go out there and fight to see how many wickets we can possibly pick.

“They are a good team

and to bowl out a team for 70 was always going to be difficult, but we wanted to make sure we gave a good account of ourselves.

“When you score 74 against an international team, you know your back is against the wall. I thought we showed some character from the bowling aspect, but we just didn’t bat well. It’s simple as that.”

The Bermuda Select XI’s innings was characterized by a pedestrian approach from most of the batsmen after the team was asked to take first strike. Allan Douglas Jr. top scored with a rapid 28 before he was clean bowled by pacer Miandre James.

It was James who did most of the damage to finish

with three wickets, while Jediah Martin and skipper Kadeem Henry had two apiece.

Meanwhile, Kamau Leverock’s impressive all-round display was in vain as the Bermuda senior national team suffered a 40-run defeat against an experimental Barbados side in their Bermuda Premier League opener at White Hill Field.

The experienced all-rounder claimed three wickets and stroked a brisk 34 runs, but it was not enough as the Bajans came away with a comfortable victory.

Barbados posted 162 for eight after electing to take first strike with Yvan Grant (53) and Jonathan Drakes (47) providing the bulk of the runs.

The top-order pair added 78 for the third wicket in a whirlwind partnership.

Grant, whose innings included six fours and two sixes, reached the only fifty of the match off 40 balls, while Demetrius Richards (19) and Amari Goodridge (14) also made useful contributions for Barbados lower down the order.

Seamer Leverock was the pick of the Bermuda bowling with three for 27 while fellow all-rounder Malachi Jones took two for 38. With an asking rate of 8.1, Bermuda blasted 11

cont’d on pg 23

CWI pays tribute to former West Indies players

Cricket West Indies (CWI) today paid tribute to Patrick “Peter” Lashley and Anthony “Tony” White, former West Indies and Barbados players who passed away recently.

Lashley, a stylish left-handed batsman made his Test debut in the famous Tied Test against Australia at the Gabba in Brisbane in December 1960.

He played four Test matches with his final one against England at Headingley in 1966. His first-class career spanned almost 20 years where he played 85 matches, scoring 4932 runs including a top score of 204.

Following his retirement from the game, Lashley served in many roles as an administrator in Barbados. He was a national selector, coach, and member of the board of management of the Barbados Cricket Association.

White was an attacking middle-order batsman and bowled medium-pace as well as off-spin.

He toured England in 1963 and later played two Test matches against Australia in 1965.

He top-scored with 57 not out on debut at Sabina Park to help West Indies to victory. His first-class record includes 31 appearances with just under 1000 runs and 95 wickets.

Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of CWI said, “Peter Lashley will



Patrick Lashley

forever be remembered in West Indies cricket as a member of that great team that played in the most famous Test match, one of the most memorable moments in our rich history.

“He had a wealth of knowledge of the game and played a major role in the development of several players in Barbados, many of whom went on to represent the West Indies at the highest level.”

Dr. Shallow added, “Tony White was part of a generation of superb players who helped to lay the foundation for the growth of West Indies



Anthony White

cricket. Despite his limited opportunities at the international level, he was a consistent performer at the first-class level.

“He was highly regarded and respected by his teammates and opponents. On behalf of CWI, I want to extend condolences to the family and friends of Peter and Tony.”

cont'd from pg 22

runs off the first over to get the chase off to a promising start.

However, a disciplined Barbados attack kept their line and length and reaped the reward after continuing to build pressure. Bermuda were up against it at 65 for four midway through their innings with Leverock

and captain Delray Rawlins (7) among the dismissals.

Jones (10), Charles Trott (11) and Zeko Burgess (26) offered some resistance down the order but the damage had already been done, with seamer Shaquille Cumberbatch leading the Barbados attack with three for 25.



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Pooran's century propels Knight Riders past Royals

Trinbago Knight Riders improved their playoff hopes, as they secured a valuable 42-run win over Barbados Royals in the 2023 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at Queen's Park Oval on Wednesday night.

After Rovman Powell again won the toss and opted to field first, the Royals bowlers were fairly steady up front, but later found Nicholas Pooran in defiant mode, as the left-hander literally batted them out of the game with a superb unbeaten century.

Pooran's 53-ball 102, which included 10 sixes and five fours, propelled Knight Riders to a daunting 208-6 from their allotment, before skilled bowling from Waqar Salamkheil (2-18) and Akeal Hosein (2-21), coupled with some poor shot selections from Royals batsmen at times, sealed the deal.

Despite a well-played 45-ball 70 by Kyle Mayers, his best score so far this season, the Royals were restricted to 166. Mayers hammered four sixes and seven fours in his knock.

Sent to bat in front a pack stadium bursting at its seams with a sea of red, the vociferous Knight Riders crowd faced early disappointment when Roelof van der Merwe took a brilliant catch on the boundary ropes



Nicholas Pooran celebrates his century against the Barbados Royals at the Queen's Park Oval on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

to remove Mark Deyal (six) off Mayers bowling.

From 20 for one, Pooran and Martin Guptill added 56 for the second wicket, which was inevitably gifted to the Royals, as the New Zealander advanced but failed to get bat on an arm ball from Rahkeem Cornwall and was stumped for 37.

It quickly became 78 for three as a mix-up between Pooran and captain Kieron Pollard resulted in the latter being run out by Mayers.

However, Pooran soldiered on and took the score past the 100-run mark with Lorcan Tucker (eight), before being joined by Andre Russell for an 82-run fifth-wicket partnership.

The two frustrated the Royals bowling with Rus-

sell smashing four sixes and two fours in his 22-ball knock, which unfortunately came to an end when he was given out on review for a faint edge.

Pooran eventually pushed past the century milestone, his second in this format, and with it, placed the Knight Riders in the driver's seat for the two points.

In response, Barbados Royals lost their previous match winner Cornwall (four) cheaply on this occasion, as he went caught by Sunil Narine off Hosein in the third over.

Mayers and Laurie Evans (20) gradually restored the innings, as they added 41 for the second wicket and when the latter fell, it brought Captain Powell to

the middle.

But Powell's stay was brief, as he went for nine and Mayers and Alick Athanaze (seven) followed soon after, and from there, the Royals never recovered.

Jason Holder, who was given a reprieve off a Narine no-ball, failed to capitalise on the second chance and only mustered 19, while Van der Merwe's quick-fire unbeaten 20 off nine balls, including a massive six and two fours, was not enough.

The win means Trinbago Knight Riders inched up to second on nine points, same as leaders Guyana Amazon Warriors, but the four-time champions have played two games more.

The St. Lucia Kings (eight points), the Barbados *cont'd on pg 27*

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Trinbago Knight Riders defeat Barbados Royals for first win of WCPL season

The Trinbago Knight Riders recorded their first win of the 2023 Massy Women's Premier League (WCPL) to keep their final hopes alive at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday.

The Knight Riders beat Hayley Matthews' previously unbeaten Barbados Royals by 13 runs, meaning the winner of the final group match between the Knight Riders and the Guyana Amazon Warriors on Saturday will play the Royals in Sunday's final.

The Knight Riders kept the theme going by winning the toss and opting to bat first. Deandra Dottin's side applied pressure early with a strong Power-Play setting up for a big score, keeping wickets in hand, eventually finishing on 155 for three.

Gaby Lewis put up a good fight with a half-century in reply after a good start with Matthews but tight bowling eventually made 156 look too far away late on.

Knight Riders scored 33 runs inside two overs in the Power-Play courtesy of



Players of the Trinbago Knight Riders women celebrate a dismissal during their match against the Barbados Royals in the 2023 Massy Women's Premier League at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Wednesday, September 6, 2023. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

quick-fire starts from Marie Kelly and Kycia Knight. At 58 for one from six overs, the hosts continued to put on partnerships with low risk through the experience of captain Deandra Dottin and Mignon du Preez keeping the steady innings ticking over to reach 155 for three despite just one six in the innings.

Amanda-Jade Wellington prevented a higher score with very economical figures of none for 11 in the middle overs, while Matthews

picked up a pair of wickets, one at each end of the innings to finish with two for 23.

The Royals had chased a score higher than this total already in this year's competition, but it wasn't to be on this occasion despite causing threat throughout.

Matthews came out firing, reaching her highest score of the WCPL this year with 45 before she was dismissed by 15-year-old Samara Ramnath on her T20 debut.

After a more supportive

role initially, Irish international, Lewis kicked on to 62, bringing up her 50 off 43 balls, another substantial knock for the Royals after her 47 in match one.

With other overseas player Erin Burns and Laura Harris failing to get out of single figures, the wickets continued to fall for the Royals and Lewis' dismissal in the 18th over needing to up the run rate to 12-an-over, the innings fizzled out at the hands of 18 overs of spin from the Knight Riders.

Scores: Trinbago Knight Riders 155-3 (Dottin 47, Du Preez 36; Matthews 2-23, Claxton 1-21) beat Barbados Royals 142-7 (Lewis 62, Matthews 45; James 2-34, Ramnath 1-13) by 13 runs.

cont'd from pg 25

Royals (seven points), the Jamaica Tallawahs (five points) and the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots (two points), complete the table.

The battle for the playoff spots will be

intensified when action resumes on Saturday. At that time, Patriots will oppose Kings and Knight Riders against Tallawahs, with a contest between Guyana Amazon Warriors women and Trinbago Knight Riders women, smacked in between.

Cyclists to battle in King of the Hill road race

Weather permitting, the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) will stage the East Side Raiders Cycling Club's King of the Hill Road Race on Sunday, September 10.

However, the ABCF said it will cancel Sunday's race if Antigua and Barbuda is affected by any adverse weather conditions during this weekend.

The race was originally slated to take place Sunday, 11th June, but it was postponed by the ABCF in honour of national cyclists Andre Simon, who had passed away in the USA on June 8.

The event, which is being supported by Roberts Construction and Engineering Ltd., Square One Ltd., APUA's Inet, Gatorade, and Paradiso Water, is slated to commence at the block house at Shirley Heights on Sunday at 8 am.

The cyclists will travel from Shirley Heights into English Harbour, then pass through the villages of Falmouth, Liberta, and All Saints, then onto Jonas Road.

They will then make their way over to the service station at Mount Joy and take a right turn onto the Pares Village Road.

The cyclist will then make a right turn onto Lyon Hill Road, then into Newfield and into St. Phillips Villages.

They will continue into Freetown Village and onto the Irene Carlos Highway, then make a left turn onto Addari Road and travel up to the entrance at Nonsuch Bay Resort.



Veteran national cyclist Robert 'Ochie' Marsh captured the overall title of the East Side Raiders King of the Hill Road Race last year. (File photo)

The riders will then turn around at the entrance of Nonsuch Bay Resort and travel back along the Addari Road to the Irene Carlos Highway, then make a left turn back into Freetown Village.

The cyclists will travel along the Freetown main road, then onto the St. Phillips main road, continue into St. Phillips Village, and then into Newfield Village.

They will then make a left turn back onto Lyon Hill Road, make a left onto Potworks Dam Drive, and continue into Bethesda Village and Christian Hill.

The riders will then make a right

back onto Potworks Dam Drive and a left into English Harbour before finishing back at the block house at Shirley Heights.

Cyclists from all the clubs affiliated with the ABCF are expected to participate in Sunday's race in several categories in the male, female, and junior divisions.

Veteran national cyclist Robert "Ochie" Marsh captured the overall title of the East Side Raiders King of the Hill Road Race last year.

Marsh won the Men Elite Class on his way to securing the overall title in the race by clocking a time of one hour, 47 minutes, and 27.14 seconds.