

PM BROWNE TO VISIT BARBUDA

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The government has made a request to top officials of the Long Ping Agricultural Project, now in its second phase, to further expand the programme over the short to medium term. Prime Minister Gaston Browne, second left, and Agriculture Minister E.P. Chet Greene met with members of the company last week. *Story on page 8.*

Local News



PM Browne to visit Barbuda

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will pay a visit to Barbuda this week to personally assess the damage to the island caused by of Hurricane Tammy on Saturday evening.

The storm directly impacted Barbuda with winds up to 85 miles per hour.

While some damage occurred to property or infrastructure on the sister isle, it was not on the scale experienced with Hurricane Irma in September, 2017.

PM Browne confirmed that he wanted to visit the island on Sunday, immediately after the storm, but due to the continued inclement weather conditions that prevailed over both islands, he



was advised to postpone the visit until later in the week.

He said no definite date has been set, but he fully intends to visit Barbuda as soon as practicable.

The storm turned away from the mainland on Saturday after residents braced for hours for a direct hit.

It then shifted and took direct aim at Barbuda on

Saturday evening with high winds and heavy rains.

In 2017, Hurricane Irma left Barbuda with millions of dollars in damage in its wake after pounding the island relentlessly for many hours with Category 5 winds of more than 150 miles per hour.

Mere hours after the storm passed, PM Browne made an aerial tour of the island to assess the damage. What he saw moved him to tears, he reported afterwards.

For Hurricane Tammy, the reports are that between 2:00 pm on Saturday to 2:00 pm on Sunday, just over 4 inches of rain fell on Barbuda.

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No injuries from Hurricane Tammy's impact

The National Office of Disaster Services is reporting that there were no injuries reported following the passage of Hurricane Tammy Saturday evening and the rains that followed up into Sunday.

“There have been no reports of injuries so far from the effects of Hurricane Tammy on both Antigua and the sister-isle Barbuda,” a NODS report revealed late Sunday afternoon.

It disclosed that both islands had minor damage done to properties and there was some level of flooding. There were also reports of downed power lines and trees.

A hurricane warning was issued for both Antigua and Barbuda on Friday with Barbuda receiving category one hurricane conditions which was the more severe of the two.

During the eye's passage overnight, seven people were moved to shelter on Barbuda at the Fisheries Complex.

“About 300 persons moved to twenty-two (22) shelters on both Antigua and Barbuda. Most individuals have since returned home and the majority of the shelters has closed. District Disaster Coordinators (DDCs) were asked to remain on standby as a precautionary mea-

sure during the flash flood warning,” according to the report.

Power was restored on Barbuda sometime around

6:30PM on Sunday.

The National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) issued the all clear with regards to Hurricane

Tammy sometime around 9PM on Sunday, dropping all watches and warnings that were in place for Antigua and Barbuda.



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Barbuda drenched by Tammy... Antigua records two inches of rain



Barbuda took a direct hit by Hurricane Tammy Saturday evening as it traveled northward on its trek in the Northern Leeward.

The storm was first predicted to pass over Guadeloupe and Antigua with its storm force winds of up to 85 miles per hour.

However, it avoided both islands and shifted west as it neared Barbuda, resulting in the eye-wall passing directly over the island.

Fortunately, unlike the powerful Category 5 winds of Hurricane Irma of six years ago, Tammy carried a much lighter punch with 85 miles per hour Category 1 winds.

Reports of damage from the island indicate that this was minimal. The island received just over 4 inches of rain within a twenty-four hour period, with more expected today.

Areas of the island reported flooding, but with the rebuilding after Irma ensuring that the homes and other structures are stronger, damages were less severe.

For Antigua, Tammy brought less rain than was forecast. Actual amounts were less than half of what the island experienced from Tropical Storm Philippe earlier in the month. Orange Valley reported just over two inches, Sir Vivian Richards Stadium just over an inch and VC Bird International Airport recorded just over an inch during the twenty-four hour period ending at 2:00 pm on Sunday.

The Met Office is predicting that the rainfall and overcast conditions will continue Monday into Tuesday with sunny skies anticipated to return fully by Wednesday.

Clare Browne: Education system opening

The Ministry of Education has announced that schools in Barbuda are to remain closed today following the passage of Hurricane Tammy.

Director of Education, Clare Browne said the ministry wants to conduct its own assessment of the situation on the sister island and it will make a further announcement when this is done.

“A careful assessment of the functionality of the school plants there will be determined tomorrow (Monday) and a reopening announcement made thereafter,” a statement issued by Director Browne Sunday evening stated.

He noted that generally speaking, schools in Antigua, will attempt to

reopen Monday, once the all clear is given. However, the operation of individual schools will be determined based on the specific situation of each school.

“We are opening the education system here in Antigua and the few schools that are unable to function for one reason or the other will inform parents through their respective parents WhatsApp Chat Groups and the other usual means of reaching parents,” Director Clare Browne concluded.

Several private schools have announced closures for today, while their school plants are assessed, ahead of the resumption of classes on Tuesday.



Director of Education, Clare Browne



OFFICIAL 42nd

INDEPENDENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 23rd Oct 01st Nov 2023

23 OCT Independence Art Exhibition
V. C. Bird International Airport and John E. St. Luce Finance & Conference Center

24 OCT Barbuda Day Activities

25 OCT Golden Age Celebrations
Various communities throughout Antigua and Barbuda

26 OCT National Heroes Day Wreath Laying Ceremony
Heroes Park, Sir Sydney Walling Highway, 10:00 a.m.

27 OCT National Dress Day
All Day
National Youth Rally | 8:30 a.m.
Cheerleading Competition | 11:30 a.m.
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

28 OCT A Night of Theatre
TBA, 8:00 p.m.

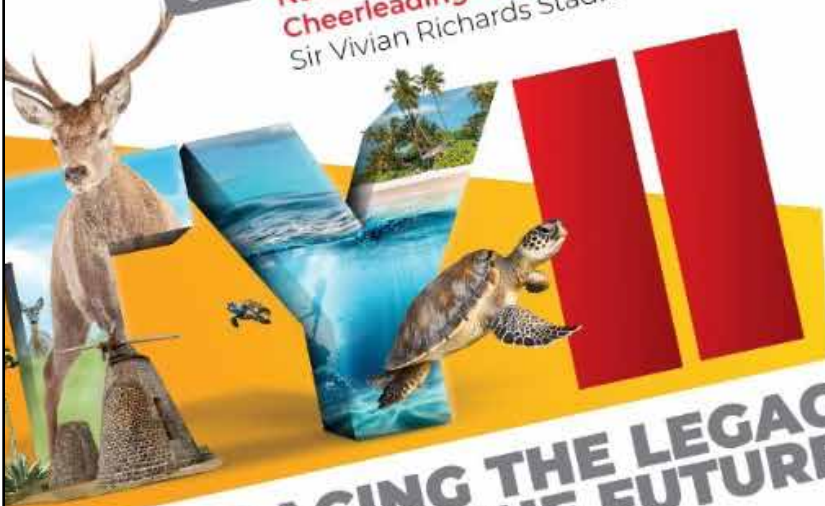
29 OCT Independence Church Service
Ebenezer Methodist Church, 4:00 p.m.

30 OCT Schools' Independence Programmes
National Schools' Panorama Competition
Antigua Recreation Grounds, 5:00 p.m.

31 OCT THE LEGACY
Independence Gospel Experience
Antigua Recreational Grounds, 7:00 p.m.
Ticket Cost: \$35.00
Gate: \$50.00

01 NOV Independence Flag Ceremony
Barbuda, 9:00 a.m.

Independence Food Fair
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, 11:00 a.m.
Independence Ceremonial Parade & National Awards
Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, 5:30 p.m.



EMBRACING THE LEGACY SHAPING THE FUTURE



Independence Art Exhibition delayed

Unfavourable weather conditions have forced the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission to postpone the official start of the 2023 Independence programme.

The schedule of activities was due to commence today with the opening of

an arts exhibition at two locations simultaneously; the Arrivals Lounge of the VC Bird International Airport and the John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre.

The opening ceremonies will now be held tomorrow and will continue

until Friday.

“The exhibition will serve as a platform to highlight the diversity and creativity of our local artists, featuring a wide range of artistic styles and mediums.

“Each of our artists has poured their heart and soul into their creations, offer-

ing spectators a unique and thought-provoking experience.

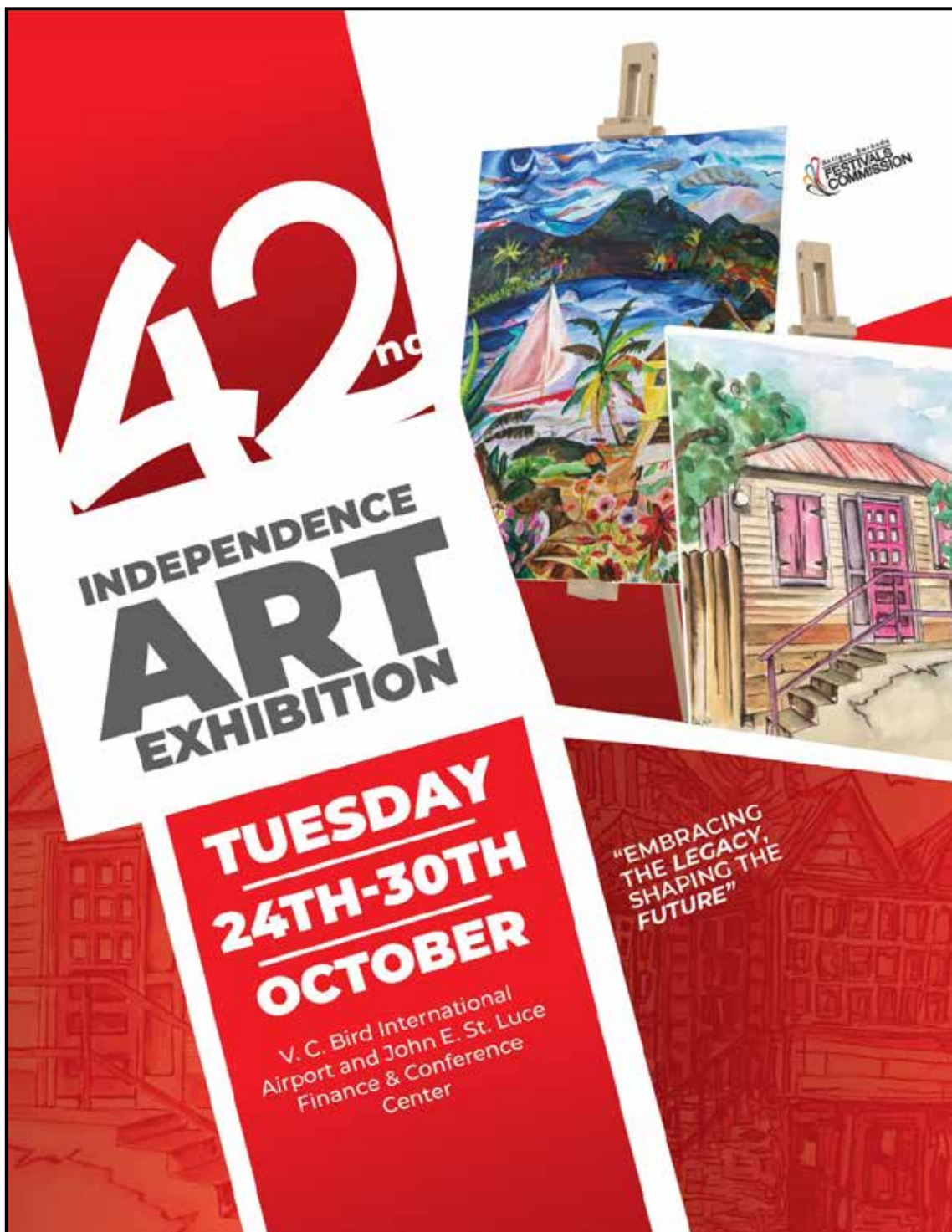
“From mesmerizing paintings to intricate sculptures, spectators can immerse themselves in the rich tapestry of artistic expression,” a media release from the Commission stated.

All artworks that will be on display can be purchased, providing art enthusiasts and collectors with an extraordinary opportunity to own a unique piece of local art.

The proceeds from the sales will directly support the artists and contribute to the growth and development of the art community.

Minister of the Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, said “The Ministry is committed to nurturing and supporting emerging talent, and this exhibition is a testament to our dedication to promoting and preserving our nation’s artistic heritage. Through various initiatives, exhibitions, and events, the Ministry aims to foster a thriving arts community and provide opportunities for artists to showcase their talent.”

The Commission is extending an invitation for members of the public to view the exhibition, as Antigua and Barbuda celebrates its 42nd Anniversary of Independence under the theme: *“Embracing the Legacy, Shaping the Future”*.



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 - ✓ **CLEAN UP DRAINS AND BULK GARBAGE CAMPAIGNS**
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Local News



Government requests expansion of Chinese agricultural project



The government has made a request to top officials of the Long Ping Agricultural Project, now in its second phase, to further expand the programme over the short to medium term.

Two members of the company, its managing director and the executive director were in the country over the past week to meet with Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Foreign Affairs and Agriculture Minister, E.P Chet Greene.

“The officials were here to assess the progress of the project so far and to meet with senior government officials to get from them what are the directions that they wanted the programme to take into the future in terms of local interactions and helping the country to attain its goals of greater food security,” Chief Extension Officer, Owalabi



Elabanjo disclosed.

He reported that both PM Browne and Minister Greene gave positive reviews of the programme and they *cont'd on pg 10*

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MIN. WENDY FERRIS | VERITY DANCERS AND MORE

EMBRACING THE LEGACY, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Local News



cont'd from pg 8

provided suggestions/recommendations to the Long Ping officials of what they would wish the programme to achieve.

“Both the prime minister and the minister wanted to see an expansion of the programme and they gave commitments to provide more lands to the project to achieve this. They were particularly interested in seeing more production of broccoli and cauliflower from the project.

“In addition, they wanted to see more local farmers trained by the Chinese farmers in utilizing their technologies as well as to make available some of the seeds that they have developed and have used in their



production,” Elabanjo explained.

The agricultural official said the government is quite keen to see more local production and it is hopeful that through collaboration

between the Long Ping Agricultural Project and local farmers, Antigua and Barbuda would take a big leap to achieving the goals of food security.

The Long Ping Agricul-

tural Project is a joint agreement between the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the People’s Republic of China. Each phase will last for three years.

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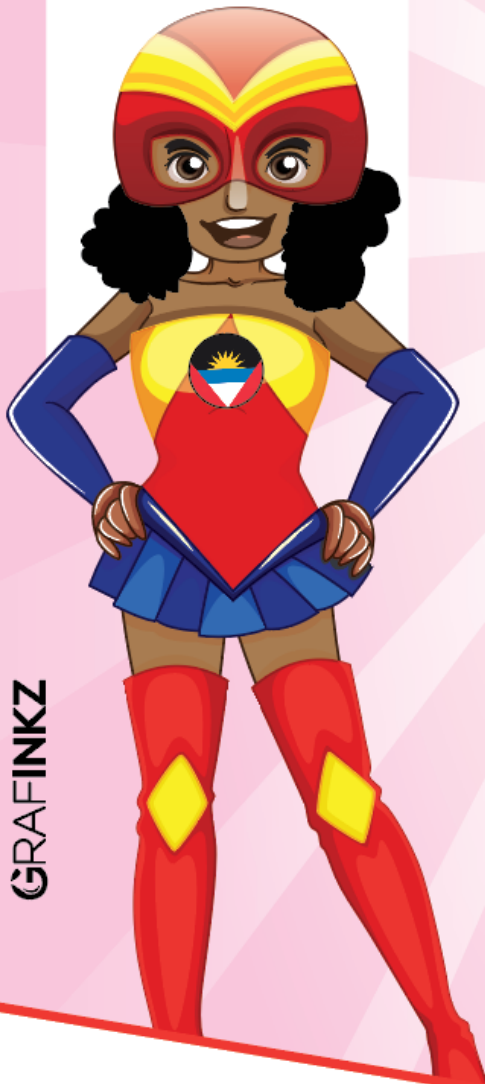
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Radiation safety framework to be upgraded

Antigua and Barbuda has embarked on a goal to establish the regulatory framework for radiation safety and for the security of radioactive materials.

This comes following a mission to the country by a team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Antigua and Barbuda became a member of the IAEA in 2015 and part of the responsibilities of being a member is to establish the legal infrastructure to oversee the handling of radiation equipment and the safe disposal of radioactive waste.

The advisory mission was headed by Margaret Cervera, who said the visit was to get an assessment of the legislation that is already in place and what steps are needed to bring the legislation in line with what is required

by the IAEA.

During the mission, the team held in-depth discussions with representatives from several government agencies, to include the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, the Customs Division, the Ministry of Health and the A&B Transport Board. The team also conducted visits to sites where radiation materials are already in use. One such site was the Cancer Centre Eastern Caribbean, where the government is in discussions to acquire and resume operations at the facility.

Included in the mission were discussions with a team from the Ministry of Legal Affairs, which will be responsible for drafting new legislation on the matter. One recommendation is for the establishment of a regulatory board that will function as a unit with-

in the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards.

“Following our discussions and interactions with the government representatives at our sessions, we came up with a series of recommendations and an action plan for implementation by the Antigua and Barbuda government,” Cervera outlined.

She said the country will have to fill in target dates on the action plan for when it hopes to implement the recommendations. “This is a process that will take some time before it is fully implemented and that is for the government to decide on when it hopes to achieve what,” she said.

Head of the Bureau of Standards, Dianne Lalla Rodrigues said there is a three-year plan to have the recommendations fully implemented.

The advertisement grid consists of six panels, each promoting a Shell Flash Sale with up to 10% off on selected products. The products featured are:

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- Top Middle:** Nautilus Litres.
- Top Right:** Gadus S2 V220.
- Bottom Left:** Tellus S2 MX 32 PAIL, TELLUS S2 MX 46 DRUM, and TELLUS S2MX 68 DRUM.
- Bottom Middle:** Rimula R4L 15W40 DRUMS, RIMULA R4X 15W40 PAIL, RIMULA R4X 15W40 DRUMS, and RIMULA R2 40 GALLONS.

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**OCT
31ST
2023**

START TIME
7PM

ARG

ANTIGUA
RECREATION
GROUND



THE GOVERNMENT OF
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
PRESENTS

LEGACY

THE INDEPENDENCE
GOSPEL EXPERIENCE

TICKETS	\$35.00 (IN ADVANCE)	GATES (\$50.00)
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TODD DULANEY

EMBRACING THE LEGACY , SHAPING THE FUTURE

Opinion



A hole day's work

By **Tony Deyal**

Many years ago, I saw the former Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) Prime Minister (PM), Mr Basdeo Panday, with his wife on the fairway of the golf course on which I lived (Petrotrin Oil Company, Trinidad). I knew that even though they were a fair way away from me, I should hide my children and watch out. Because they were, at best, indifferent golfers, and normally I am totally indifferent to golf, I knew I could not be indifferent to their being close to my house. I stood in my yard expecting the worst. It nearly happened. It took a lot of balls, but they finally missed my two children and new SUV (sports utility vehicle) by inches. A neighbour who had seen what happened, told me a golf joke to cheer me up. The wife of a politician suffered a terrible bee sting and complained to her doctor about it. "What happened?" asked the doctor. "I got stung between the first and second hole," replied the lady golfer. The doctor replied, "You must have an awfully wide stance!" I suppose that while the highwaymen of old demanded your money by pointing a single barrel gun at you and saying, "Stand and deliver", today's freeway men go with clubs and tell you flat, "Stance and deliver."

What I find interesting is the language of golf. While

I think of an "Albatross" as a bird linked to everlasting love or as the bird in Samuel Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, in golf it is a score given for a hole that has been completed three strokes under par, (and that is not what you call your father or older friend) but is sometimes known as a "double eagle." "Birdie" is also another name for the great calypsonian "The Mighty Sparrow" who, fortunately, is not a golfer otherwise his favourite music would be swing. More interesting, especially for those of us who try to understand the game and its possibilities, golf has "pitch", "putt", "sand wedge" and, even more interesting to many Caribbean folks, "rough", "sweet spot", and "wood". Perhaps because of these last three, "languages" comedian, and actor Andrew Perry (a.k.a. Stepin Fetchit) joked that there are three roads to ruin: women, gambling, and golf. The most pleasant is with women, the quickest is with gambling, but the surest is with golf.

ESCHEW GAMBLING

Of course, there are people who eschew gambling and find pleasure and sport in a combination of golf and women. In fact, some find similarity in dealing with them simultaneously. One even got lucky in more ways than one. Frank, a golfer, always looked on the bright



Tony Deyal

side. He would constantly irritate his friends with his eternal optimism. No matter how horrible the circumstance, if he missed a put or ended in the river, he would always reply, "Well, it could have been worse." To cure him of his annoying habit, his friends decided to invent a situation so completely bad, so terrible, that even Frank could find no hope in it. On the golf course one day, one of them said, "Frank, did you hear about Tom? He came home last night, found his wife in bed with another man, shot them both and then turned the gun on himself!" "That's awful," said Frank, "But it could have been worse." "How in hell," asked his bewildered friend, "could it have been worse?" "Well," replied

Frank, "if it had happened the night before, I'd be dead now!"

Fortunately, one of the politicians in the region is not only a golfer, but a very good speaker. In addition to being able to joke about the link between golf and women, as prime minister, he continues to be at the top of the heap. He told the T&T parliament in 2018 (five years ago), "... a golf course is like a woman. You have to groom her every day otherwise it turns into a pasture." He was heavily criticised for that but demonstrated that he had a lot of balls to stick with it. Even more than the Best Man who gave this speech at a wedding, "Like all best mates, Paul and I often talked about the type of girl we'd like to

cont'd from pg 14

marry. I remember Paul had two very important criteria. The first being, she would have to tolerate his golf obsession - which is fair enough, Paul loves golf. He sleeps, eats and breathes golf. The second being, she wouldn't be a hooker - which if you ask me, is being a little fussy. I've been out with plenty of hookers and it's not a problem. You take their wrists, get them to hold their left hand just a little higher than the right, with their thumb down here... it doesn't take long to sort out."

SORT ITSELF OUT

It might even sort itself out. Two golfers were having an awfully slow round of golf because the two ladies in front of them managed to get into every sand trap, lake, and rough on the course. They didn't bother to wave the men on through, which is proper golf etiquette. After two hours of waiting

and waiting, one man said, "I think I'll walk up there and ask those gals to let us play through." He walked out the fairway, got halfway to the ladies, stopped, turned around, and came back, explaining, "I can't do it. One of those women is my wife, and the other is my mistress! Maybe you'd better go talk to them." The second man walked toward the ladies, got halfway there, and just as his partner had done, stopped, turned around and walked back and said: "Small world."

Fortunately for golfers and their clubs, what they play with and where they drink, an international team of researchers from the University of Eastern Finland found that playing a single 18-hole round of golf may significantly improve immediate cognitive function in older individuals. Some of them knew that long before the university found out. A rich old man went

for his regular round of golf with his friends, but this time, he brought along a gorgeous young lady. Full of pride, he introduced them to his new fiancée. For the rest of the afternoon his friends can't take their eyes off the stunning beauty. After the round of golf, the rich man took his friend to the bar to celebrate. One of his friends asked him, "How on earth did you manage to hook up with such a beautiful young lady? You're seventy. She must be at least forty years younger than you!" The old rich guy said, "I lied about my age." His friend asked, "And she believed you? How old did you say you were?" "I told her I was ninety."

Tony Deyal was last seen remembering Chris Rock's observation in the days when Tiger Woods was king, "The world's coming to an end. The world's best golfer is black and the world's best rapper is white."



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China could outstrip USA in trade with Caribbean, Latin America

By Alina Doodnath

China's trade with Caribbean and Latin America could surpass that of the United States within the coming years, according to some experts.

Loop News attended a plenary session for the third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation in Beijing on October 17, where Evandro Menezes de Carvalho, Head of the Center for Brazil-China Studies at Getulio Vargas Foundation (FGV), said it's possible that China could outstrip the US as the main trading partner of the Caribbean and Latin America by 2035.

"Chinese trade investments with...Latin American and Caribbean states, CELAC countries, are a very concrete reality.

"It's no coincidence that any one of the 33 CELAC countries can sign declarations of participation with the Belt and Road Initiative. Thus, the BRI extends to Latin America and the Caribbean."

He said Chinese trade with Latin America jumped from \$180 billion in 2010 to \$450 billion in 2021 with China maintaining a \$7 billion surplus.

"Analysts predict that China, Latin America and the Caribbean trade could surpass \$700 billion by 2035, and China could surpass the United States as the region's top trading part-



ner."

De Carvalho said the BRI provides an avenue for countries to develop while maintaining their autonomy.

"21st century China is a major investment provider to the world and most importantly, a country that offers the BRI as an initiative to promote development and stability to the world through a diplomacy that respects the cultural diversity and the sovereignty of these states."

"The new Silk Road is a project under which the Chinese government views its foreign policy as a new sign of openness with Chinese colours while provid-

ing...diplomacy with Chinese features."

De Carvalho said the BRI needs to be better known in Latin America to be able to access these opportunities.

"Investing in research projects and disseminating knowledge about the Initiative is also necessary."

Trinidad And Tobago will be the first Caribbean country to launch a project under the BRI, the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate, later this year.

Some clients have already begun production such as China Summit Luggage, which produces world-famous luggage

brands such as Samsonite.

The state-of-the-art 5G facility offers competitively priced factory shells and land lots to manufacturing and logistics businesses, and promises to give clients unique access to global consumer markets due to its strategic location near an international and containerised port served by global shipping lines.

The Park spans 144 acres in Point Lisas and tenants will also have access to the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) and North American Ports.

China's BRI has generated nearly US\$1 trillion in

cont'd on pg 17

Guyana to benefit from Cuban agricultural expertise

CMC - The agricultural industry in Guyana will soon be receiving technical assistance from their counterparts in Cuba following the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The MoU, which was signed by Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Madanlall Ramraj, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Delma Nedd, and Cuban Ambassador to Guyana, Jorge Francisco Soberón Luis at the Arthur Chung Conference Centre, Saturday morning, provides a framework for cooperation in the areas of agriculture and vegetable products, livestock and animal products, beekeeping, forestry, and other areas.

Ramraj said Guyana has several hectares of undeveloped which offers enormous potential for beekeeping and the apiculture sector, which he says will help Guyana meet the 25 by 2025 initiative, by increasing its honey



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry, Delma Nedd, and Cuban Ambassador to Guyana, Jorge Francisco Soberón Luis.

production for Guyana to become an exporter of honey in CARICOM.

“Guyana’s forest has a great potential for apiculture, if exploited, it can create employment and sustainable income for the population residing in the hinterland areas...I look forward to the fruitful collaboration between our countries as we actively develop our agriculture sector to greater food security,” Ramraj noted.

Guyana is forging ahead

with the transformation of the region’s agricultural food systems towards full commercialisation, and is forming partnerships with nations that possess some of the greatest agricultural methods.

Ramraj said the country will soon sign a technical assistance agreement with the Cuban Company, CATEC-Labiofam, to boost the honey industry in Guyana.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Luis said the signing of the MoU is an import-

ant step towards advancing food security and food production in the region.

“As both leaders of Cuba and Guyana have stated, we should join efforts and forces to make our capabilities come together to strengthen our production and our technical assistance,” he said.

Ambassador Luis stressed that Guyana has a leading role to play in food security and production in within the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

“Cuba is making that contribution in that area... We are certain that we are going to achieve higher results by working together to make our technical and production capacities achieve bigger and better results,” Luis added.

Ramraj and Luis both said Guyana and Cuba have enjoyed cordial relations for a long time.

cont'd from pg 16

investment and formed more than 3,000 cooperation projects since its inception in 2013. The participating countries include almost 75 per cent of the world’s population and account for more than half of the world’s GD

China’s trade in goods with BRI countries doubled from 1.04 trillion US dollars in 2013 to US\$2.07 trillion in 2022, with an average annual growth rate of 8 per

cent.

Overall, eight of 13 CARICOM countries - Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago - are members of the BRI.

Trinidad and Tobago was the first Caribbean country to sign onto the BRI in 2018 - T&T became the first CARICOM country whose trade with China exceeded US\$1 billion.

Hiker rescued from volcano crater

A man who was reported missing after going on a hike to The Quill on the island of St Eustatius (Statia) was rescued on Thursday during a search and rescue operation.

However, the operation took an unfortunate turn when a swarm of bees attacked the rescuers.

According to a report, the man had been missing since Wednesday when he and his wife went hiking the Quill.

The emergency services and a number of volunteers commenced a search Wednesday night after receiving a report that the couple, who are visitors to the island, were lost.

The woman was located safe and uninjured, yet exhausted, at about 11:30 on Wednesday night, but she told the rescue team that she was unable to contact her



The Quill.

husband.

A large-scale operation was launched Thursday morning to try to rescue the man. He was later found on a rather difficult incline. He

was being carefully taken up to the rim of the crater when bees attacked the team.

Several members of the rescue team were stung and affected to varying degrees.

The Quill's summit elevation is 601 metres (1,972 ft). It is a high dormant volcano, which is also the second-highest mountain in the Netherlands.



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Mohamed Muizzu: The Maldives' new president wants India out

By Anbarasan Ethirajan

“We don’t want any foreign military boots on Maldivian soil... I promised this to the people of the Maldives and I will live up to my promise from day one.”

Dr Mohamed Muizzu, who won the Maldives presidential election last month, is wasting no time in asking India to get its troops out of the country.

The president-elect, who is due to be sworn in later in November, told the BBC in an exclusive interview that he met the Indian ambassador a few days after his victory and “told him very clearly that every single Indian military personnel here should be removed”.

The Maldives has long been under India’s sphere of influence and Mr Muizzu’s demand is likely to trigger diplomatic tensions between Malé and Delhi.

In fact, when Mr Muizzu won the Maldives presidential poll, that was seen as a setback for India - especially as his opponent, the incumbent Ibrahim Mohamed Solih - had drawn his country closer to Delhi since taking over in 2018.

The alliance backing Mr Muizzu portrayed this relationship - strengthened by Mr Solih’s India-first policy - as a threat to the Maldives’ sovereignty and security.



Mohamed Muizzu won the Maldives presidential election last month.

Mr Muizzu’s alliance favours closer ties with China, which has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the Maldives in the form of loans and grants for infrastructure and development projects.

But India, which wants a foothold in the strategically located islands to monitor a key part of the Indian Ocean, has also provided about \$2bn in development assistance to the country.

If its troops are forced to leave, it will be a blow for Delhi.

But a furore over “gifts” that Delhi gave the Maldives - two helicopters received in 2010 and 2013 and a small aircraft in 2020 - has given the “India out” campaign a huge boost.

Delhi said the craft were to be used for search and rescue missions and medical evacuations.

But in 2021, the Maldivian defence force said about 75 Indian military personnel were based in the country to operate and maintain the Indian aircrafts. This fuelled suspicion and anger as many felt the reconnaissance aircraft were being used as an excuse to put Indian boots on the ground.

Mr Muizzu also says that the presence of these troops could put the Maldives at risk - especially as tensions between India and China escalate along their Himalayan border.

“Maldives is too small to get entangled with this global power struggle. We

will not get entangled into this,” he said.

Speaking to the BBC before the presidential poll, the outgoing president Mr Solih said fears about the presence of Indian troops were exaggerated.

“There are no militarily active overseas personnel stationed in the Maldives. Indian personnel currently present in the country are under the operational command of the Maldives National Defence Force,” he said.

But it’s not just the aircrafts. Mr Muizzu said he wanted to review all the agreements the Maldives has signed with India in recent years.

“We don’t know what’s
cont’d on pg 20

International

AROUND THE WORLD



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in there. Even in Parliament, some of the MPs during the debates said that they didn't know what's in there. I am sure we will find it out," he said.

Soon after his victory, observers noted that the Chinese ambassador in Malé was quick to congratulate Mr Muizzu.

Chinese President Xi Jinping also weighed in, saying he attached "great importance to the development of bilateral relations and stands ready to work with President-elect Muizzu to carry forward the traditional friendship, deepen practical cooperation".

Mr Muizzu has also spoken highly of Chinese infrastructure projects in the Maldives, saying the investments had transformed Malé city and brought benefits to its residents.

However, he has denied being a "pro-China" candidate as opposed to

the "pro-India" Mr Solih.

"I am a pro-Maldives person. For me, Maldives comes first, our independence comes first" he said. "I am not pro or against any country."

Despite this, however, his opposition alliance includes the party of former president Abdulla Yameen who was instrumental in moving the Maldives closer to China.

When India and Western lenders were not willing to offer loans to Yameen's administration due to allegations of human rights violations, Yameen - who is currently serving a 11-year prison sentence for corruption - turned to Beijing who offered him the money without any conditions.

He then joined President Xi's Belt and Road Initiative - which aims to build road, rail and sea links between China and the rest of the world.

Mr Muizzu was seen as a proxy of

Yameen - who was barred from contesting the election.

Soon after he won the election Mr Muizzu asked the current administration to move Yameen from a high-security prison to house arrest in the capital Male.

But given Yameen's uneasy and tense relationship with Delhi, it could well be a struggle for Mr Muizzu's new alliance to balance ties with India.

Mr Muizzu sounds keen to emerge out of the shadows of Yameen and is all set to charter a new path both domestically and in the country's foreign affairs.

Given his decisive victory he may not face much resistance internally, at least in the initial stages.

He sounds determined to take the Maldives out of India's orbit but convincing Delhi to withdraw its troops may be his first big challenge.

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Dead and wounded strain Gaza hospitals as air strikes intensify

At the Al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital in central Gaza, they are running out of material to cover the dead with.

The bodies are stacked in a courtyard outside, prayers are said, and relatives collapse to the floor wailing in grief.

Inside the hospital, doctors battle to patch up the walking wounded and save the gravely injured - but stores of medicine and supplies are dwindling by the day.

A BBC Arabic reporter witnessed a facility overwhelmed with casualties where doctors were racing to finish procedures before moving on to the next patient.

Some of the images which have emerged from the hospital on Sunday are too graphic to share. Children - including at least two babies - are among the dead.

Officials from the Hamas-controlled health ministry say more than 100 people were killed as Israel carried out air strikes overnight.

In response the Israeli military told the BBC that it had targeted nearby areas "based on intelligence information confirming the presence of a Hamas leader in the area adjacent to the hospital, who gave orders to fire towards Israel from that area".

On Sunday morning a



A stream of dead and wounded arrived at al-Aqsa Martyrs hospital on Sunday.

stream of vehicles was seen carrying wounded people to the hospital.

"We've been here since the crack of dawn and the bodies have completely filled the hospital yard, on top of the bodies which are in refrigerators which are full, inside the hospital building and outside," a member of staff said.

"We don't have enough shrouds for the bodies because the numbers are huge. All bodies are arriving in parts, unattached and in pieces. We can't identify them because the bodies have been disfigured and crushed."

He described the situation as "unbearable", adding: "Despite everything we've witnessed before, these are scenes we've never seen."

Similar scenes are being played out at hospitals across the territory as the Israel-Gaza war stretches into its third week.

At the al-Quds hospital

in Gaza City's Tel al-Hawa area, bombs struck nearby buildings as a team of 23 doctors and nurses treated more than 500 people, according to a message from a doctor in the hospital sent to the BBC.

Patients and civilians sheltering in the hospital were living in "a state of terror", the doctor, who did not want to be identified for his own safety, said in a voice message.

And amid a health situation he described as "catastrophic", doctors had to decide who to treat first. The rest join the queue.

"Many of the wounded have been waiting several days for surgery," the doctor said. His voice message was passed on by Norwegian doctor and activist Mads Gilbert, of the Norwegian Aid Committee's emergency team.

The medical staff has been depleted as some have been killed and others can't reach the site. The remain-

ing staff now share their building with 1,200 displaced people who are sheltering there.

"There are 120 wounded people with various injuries here, 10 patients are in ICU on ventilators, and we have about 400 chronic patients," the doctor said.

"There are about 1,200 displaced citizens here - it is not easy to move such a large number of people so we decided not to evacuate."

The Israeli military has repeated its warning to everyone in the northern Gaza Strip to head south of Wadi Gaza, a strip of wetlands that winds across the territory, for their own safety. Gaza City is to the north of Wadi Gaza, while Deir al-Balah is to the south.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled to southern parts of Gaza, but thousands more remain in their homes in northern Gaza.

Hospitals across Gaza are desperate for supplies, even after the first 20 aid trucks were able to enter from Egypt on Saturday.

Despite some food and medical supplies making it through, no fuel has entered Gaza since the conflict began. Hospitals are relying on fuel-powered generators for their electricity.

On Sunday Unicef warned that 120 babies in

cont'd on pg 22

Sports News



All Saints Secondary get second win in Under-20 Boys Division

All Saints Secondary secured their second win in the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League in the latest round of matches.

A Devonta Byrne 27th-minute conversion gave All Saints Secondary a 1-0 win against Irene B. Williams Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

All Saints Secondary, which finished as runners-up behind last year's champion, the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE), had prevailed 4-3 against

St. Joseph's Academy in their first game of this year's competition.

It was the second loss for Irene B. Williams, who lost 3-4 against ABI-CE in their opening encounter.

Eroy Gonsalves scored twice as St. Joseph's Academy recorded their first win with a 4-1 victory against Pares Secondary School at the Pares playing field.

Gonsalves scored in the 17th and 25th minutes, while Terroy Ponde had a conversion in the 37th minute.

Pares player Agieano Williams scored an own goal for St. Joseph's Academy in the 24th minute. Their Thomas scored a consolation goal for Pares Secondary.

But the other match between ABI-CE and Clare Hall Secondary was not played due to a water-logged playing field at Potters.

If possible, the Secondary Schools Football League will continue with matches in the Under-16 Boys Division on Tuesday.

cont'd from pg 21

incubators - including 70 premature newborns also on ventilators - are dependent on machines linked up to backup generators which were deployed when Gaza's electricity supply from Israel was switched off.

"We have currently 120 neonates who are in incubators, out of which we have 70 neonates with mechanical ventilation, and of course this is where we are extremely concerned," said Unicef spokesman Jonathan Crickx.

Fikr Shalltoot, Gaza director for charity Medical Aid for Palestinians, said some of the premature babies had been born amid the latest round of fighting.

"On that ward there is a 32-week-old baby who doctors managed to save after its mother was killed in an air strike," she told the BBC. "The mother and whole family died but the baby was saved."

She says death is certain for the child, and others on the same ward, if the generators stop running.

The fuel to keep them switched on is in short supply.



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Kohli leads India past New Zealand despite Mitchell's ton

DHARAMSALA, India (Reuters) - Virat Kohli's crafty 95 trumped Daryl Mitchell's rapid 130 as hosts India beat New Zealand by four wickets in a top-of-the-table clash in the 50-overs World Cup on Sunday.

Kohli could not complete the chase, but was instrumental again as India reached a victory target of 274 with two overs to spare to maintain their unbeaten run in the tournament.

Their fifth successive win put the two-time champions at the top of the table followed by 2019 runners-up New Zealand, who tasted their first defeat at this year's tournament.

Mitchell smashed a rapid hundred, but New Zealand did not get the late flourish and were all out for 273 in exactly 50 overs.

Mitchell forged a 159-run partnership with Rachin Ravindra (75) before the Indian bowlers applied the brake.

Mohammed Shami led India's spirited bowling effort, claiming five for 54 in his first match of the tournament, which earned him the

player-of-the-match award.

Skipper Rohit Sharma (46) led India's rollicking start, but it was Kohli's fourth 50-plus score in five innings that helped to inflict on New Zealand their first defeat of the tournament.

Electing to field, India dominated the powerplay segment, reducing New Zealand to 34 for two, but subsequently dropped three catches to let their opponents off the hook.

Ravindra's was an eventful knock as he survived two lbw reviews and even had a caught-behind decision against him overturned.

A genuine reprieve came when Ravindra Jadeja, a safe catcher otherwise, dropped a sitter at backward point. Mitchell also had his share of good fortune.

KL Rahul dropped him behind the stumps when on 59 and later Jasprit Bumrah floored a regulation catch in the deep.

Once Shami had dismissed Ravindra, New Zealand, cruising at 205 for three in the 37th over, collapsed in a heap, managing 54 runs in the last 10 overs and losing six wickets.



India's Virat Kohli plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between India and New Zealand in Dharamshala, India, Sunday, Oct. 22, 2023. (AP)

Trimingham Trucking Enterprises stay top of business league

Trimingham Trucking Enterprises and Sandals secured wins to retain the top two positions in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition in the latest round of matches.

Trimingham Trucking Enterprises snatched

a narrow 53-52 victory against the Callan Shooters at the JSC Sports Complex.

T-Shawn Lewis sank 19 points, and Donte Trimingham scored 13 points for Trimingham Trucking Enterprises to record their ninth win in 12 games to remain as leaders of the 13-

team round-robin league.

Warren Bogle converted 16 points, and Leroy Percival had 12 points for the Callan Shooters, who slumped to their fifth loss in 11 games.

Sandal crushed Police 75-50 to claim their eighth win in nine games and remain in second place.

Keroi Lee produced 19 points, and Keady Martin chipped in with 16 points for the Sandals.

Javon Simon scored 18 points, and Jair Benta sank 16 points for the Police, who lost their ninth game in as many games to remain winless at the bottom of the league.



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Cariah lifts Red Force above Harpy Eagles in Super50 Cup

Yannic Cariah produced a stellar all-round display, which handed Trinidad and Tobago Red Force their second win of the CG United Super50 Cup campaign, as they bettered Guyana Harpy Eagles by 114 runs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Saturday.

The 31-year-old left-hand batsman stamped his authority on the Harpy Eagles bowlers with a solid unbeaten 48-ball 71, which included seven fours and two sixes.

And almost like rubbing salt in the opponent's wounds, Cariah returned to grab five wickets for a mere 34 runs in five overs to dismiss the Harpy Eagles for 176 in 34 overs in reply to Red Force's 290 for eight off their 50 overs.

Captain Darren Bravo continued his good form with another half-century knock of 51 off 60 balls, while Kjorn Ottley, stroked 52 of 57 deliveries in the Red Force's daunting total.

Sent in to bat, Red Force relished the conditions. Though they lost Evin Lewis (16) in the fifth over with the score at 27-1, wicketkeeper/batsman Joshua Da Silva (27) and Ottley, who had six boundaries and one six in his knock, added 64 for the second wicket.

Ottley was the first to go, caught by Gudakesh



Yannic Cariah holds the match ball after leading Trinidad and Tobago Red Force to victory against the Guyana Harpy Eagles in their CG United Super50 Cup one-day match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Saturday, October 21, 2023. (CWI Media)

Motie off Veerasammy Permaul and Da Silva followed soon after, leaving Bravo and Jason Mohammed (26) to post another 58 runs for the fourth wicket.

Bravo, who had six fours in his innings, went caught off Sherfane Rutherford and Mohammed stuck with Cariah in a 45-run fifth-wicket stand before Mohammed was undone by Motie.

Still, Cariah remained aggressive and with small

contributions from those in the lower order, saw Red Force to their match-winning total.

Romario Shepherd with two for 43 and Sherfane Rutherford with two for 55, were the pick of the Harpy Eagles bowling.

Guyana's response started positively, but was never allowed to bear fruit, as Jayden Seales, Akeal Hosein, Sunil Narine and Terrance Hinds combined to remove Tagenarine

Chanderpaul (19), Chandrapaul Hemraj (21), Tevin Imlach (26) and Shimron Hetmyer (24), with an even 100 runs on the board in the 17th over.

From there, it was left for Cariah, bowling his leg spin, to mop up the remaining batsmen of which only Rutherford (30) and Kevin Sinclair (20) offered any real resistance to the onslaught. Narine had the next best Red Force bowling figures of two for 18.



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Treasury claim second win in business volleyball league

Treasury recorded their second win in as many games in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League competition in the latest round of matches.

After beating MEDSO Fusion 2-1 in their opening encounter, Treasury made it two wins by pulling off another 2-1 win over 77 Bus at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Treasury lost the opening set 21-25 but hit back to win the other two sets and the match, 25-20 and 16-14.

Nate's Photography claimed their first win of the competition by securing a 25-8, 25-18 victory against

MEDSO Fusion.

Last year's second-place finishers, the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), also made it two wins in as many games by snatching a 2-1 victory against last year's third-place finishers, the ICONS.

ECAB prevailed 25-23, 22-25, and 15-12 in the keenly contested affair.

The Sandals recorded their second win in as many games by snatching a 2-1 victory against newcomer Royalton. In the battle of the hoteliers, it was Sandals who prevailed 23-25, 25-12, and 15-8.

cont'd from pg 28

Bishop led the Academy bowlers with four wickets for 27 runs from his 10 overs, while Nedd had two wickets for 43 runs from his 10 overs, and Matthew Forde snared two wickets for 45 runs from 5.5 overs.

The West Indies Academy's chase started positively, with Kimani Melius (37) and Matthew Nandu (29), posting a 64-run opening stand, but when both fell,

things quickly took turn in favour of the Hurricanes.

The West Indies Academy lost wickets at regular intervals, with Teddy Bishop (27), Nyeem Young (25) and Ackeem Aguste (21), the only other batsmen to offer any resistance to Walsh Jr.'s leg spin.

Another slow bowler, Daniel Doram, who picked up seven wickets against the Scorpions with his left-arm spin, took three wickets for 33 runs on this occasion.

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Hayden Walsh Jr. holds the match ball after leading the Leeward Islands Hurricanes to victory against the West Indies Academy in their CG United Super50 Cup one-day match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Saturday, October 21, 2023. (CWI Media)



Kieran Powell and Keacy Carty, right, played supporting roles in the Leeward Islands Hurricanes' batting recovery against the West Indies Academy in their CG United Super50 Cup one-day match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Saturday, October 21, 2023.

Walsh Jr. leads LIH to second win in Super50

A polished all-round performance by Antiguan all-rounder Hayden Walsh Jr. propelled the Leeward Islands Hurricanes (LIH) to a second-consecutive victory in this year's CG United Super50 Cup as they defeated West Indies Academy by 66 runs at Queen's Park Oval on Saturday.

Walsh Jr., who first hammered three fours and three sixes in an unbeaten 60 off 55 balls to guide the Hurricanes to a competitive 239 all out in 48.5 overs, returned to snare five wickets for 48 runs in nine overs, which restricted West Indies Academy to a paltry 173 all out in 40 overs

and, in the process, handed them their first defeat of the tournament.

Asked to take first strike, the Hurricanes, unlike the brisk start in their opening eight-wicket win over reigning champions the Jamaica Scorpions, were slow into stride as they lost Kofi James for three with six runs on the board.

However, first-match hero, Kieran Powell (33), and Keacy Carty (37), balanced things out before Powell's 36-ball knock, which included five boundaries, was brought to an end by Ashmead Nedd.

Carty pushed on in his 55-ball innings, which had four boundaries, but

when Joshua Bishop accounted for his and Karima Gore's (nine) scalps, the Hurricanes were left reeling at 101 for four in the 21st over.

Jahmar Hamilton (27) and Rahkeem Cornwall (14) had good starts but couldn't click on, as they too succumbed to Bishop's spin, with the score at 157 for six.

But Justin Greaves, who had a solitary boundary in a patient 34 off 59 balls, stood with Walsh Jr. to add 66 valuable runs for the seventh wicket, especially as the remaining batsmen, including captain Alzarri Joseph, fell cheaply.

cont'd on pg 27