

# GG SWEARS IN SEN DWAYNE GEORGE

*Story on Page 2*



*Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, right, shakes the hand of Senator Dwayne George at Thursday's swearing-in ceremony at Government House.*

## GG urges Senator Dwayne George to utilize his training in his new appointment

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has fulfilled a promise made to political newcomer, Dwayne George, that he will be appointed to a position in the government following the By-election held on Tuesday.

George was sworn in on Thursday as a Senator in the Upper House of Parliament as well as being appointed as a Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Corporate Governance, and Public/Private Partnerships.

In the presence of family and well-wishers, as well as Prime Minister Browne and other members of the Cabinet and the Senate, Senator George took the three oaths; the Oath as a Senator, the Oath as Minister of State, and the Oath of Secrecy in a ceremony presided over by the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams at Government House.

In brief remarks, Sir Rodney took time to highlight to Sen. George some of the significance of his appointment.

“I would like to take this opportunity to highlight the values and principles that are of paramount importance as we embark on this journey of governance.

“First and foremost, I want to stress the crucial role of prudent fiscal management. Our Ministry of Finance plays a pivotal role in the economic well-being of our nation. It is responsible for managing the resources that fuel the engine of our country’s growth.

“We must ensure that our fiscal decisions are guided by sound financial principles, safeguarding our financial stability for the benefit of future generations. Senator George, I encourage

*cont’d on pg 3*



Senator Dwayne George at Thursday's swearing-in ceremony at Government House

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## UWI FIC Life-Long Learning Unit graduates 252 students

At a graduation ceremony held at the UWI Five Islands Campus on Thursday, some two hundred and fifty-two persons graduated, after completing courses being offered through the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Life-Long Learning Unit (LLU).

Among the dignitaries in attendance were the Governor General, His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, and Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene, who sponsored courses for several of his constituents.

Head of the LLU, Paula Lee, said the ceremony marks a continuation of the learning revolution now taking place in Antigua and Barbuda with the advent of the UWI FIC.

“There is easier access to professional development training, a wider variety of courses that are ideal for current and emerging sec-



Head of the UWI FIC LLU, Paula Lee was herself a graduate of one of the courses.

tors and industries are being offered, access to studies through the Harvard Credential of readiness is available, customized courses are being created and more scholarships will become available,” she told the audience at the university’s auditorium.

She added that across the Caribbean LLU’s are making an impact. “We have stirred a yearning for knowledge, a desire for improved skills, and a heightened interest in gaining

credentials. In 2021, LLU’s were an idea, now they have become the reality,” she declared.

Among the graduates, was a group of students who are inmates of His Majesty’s Prison who pursued studies under the prison’s ‘Seeds of Hope’ programme initiated by the Prison Superintendent, Lt. Col. Trevor Pennyfeather. One member of this cohort, Omari Philip, was the group’s valedictorian. He scored an average of 93 percent in his courses

on Crisis and Risk Management. Another member of the cohort, Sylvester Lindsay scored 100 percent in the final exam for the course. The other participants in the programme averaged over 75 percent.

Philip said despite the hardships and challenges, the members of the cohort persevered, and they would welcome the opportunity to be able to put into practice the knowledge they gained on re-entry into society. According to Philip, the courses have taught him a valuable life lesson.

“The programme has taught me that no matter where you are from or what mistakes you may have made, we all have the potential to create positive change. I have also learned to stay away from crime and peer pressure,” he stated.

Meanwhile, registration for the LLU courses for 2024 begins on November 15.

### cont’d from pg 2

you to bring your expertise to bear in ensuring that our fiscal policies are transparent, sustainable, and ultimately in the best interests of our citizens,” he urged.

Adding his voice to the proceedings, Prime Minister Browne provided the rationale for the selection of Sen. George to contest the St. Mary’s South constituency seat on behalf of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

He said the party had been conducting tracking polls to determine its viability in winning the seat; two leading Caribbean pollsters conducted the polls – Peter Wick-

ham of Barbados and Don Anderson of Jamaica.

The then ABLP standard bearer was progressively losing the contest based on the numbers and that is when Sen. George was asked to join the party to become its candidate. He said whilst the UPP candidate, at one time led by sixteen points early in the campaign, that figure was narrowed to 10 percent by the time of the election.

PM Browne emphasized that he is confident that with more time and more work on the ground, Senator George can win the seat for the ABLP by the next general elections.

## National Youth Tourism Congress participants honoured

Participants in the National Youth Tourism Congress have been recognized for their outstanding performances in this year's national competition. The event, which took place in June 2023, brought together talented students from across Antigua and Barbuda to express their visions for the future of tourism in Antigua and Barbuda.

As a token of appreciation for their outstanding contributions, each participant received a tablet compliments the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, and Maliah Stuart, the competition's winner and the 2023/2024 Junior Minister of Tourism, received a laptop to support her educational pursuits.

During the event, the Manager of the Tourism Education Training and Awareness Unit, Tracey Browne, expressed her gratitude to all participants, highlighting their dedication and passion for the field of tourism. She commended

their innovative ideas, emphasizing that the exchange of knowledge would undoubtedly shape the future of the tourism industry in the country.

Minister of Tourism Charles Fernandez emphasized the importance of tourism and its impact on the country's economy. He stated that even though individuals pursue diverse career paths, a significant portion of every dollar entering the country comes from tourism. The Minister highlighted that the development of tourism not only benefits tourists but also the local population, and it is crucial to prioritize the well-being of residents. He stressed that every person in Antigua and Barbuda is an ambassador for the nation, promoting it to the world.

Minister Fernandez also acknowledged the efforts of individuals working in the tourism sector, comparing their importance to that of police, nurses, and

teachers. He praised the younger generation for their contributions and innovation, expressing confidence in the future of tourism in the country.

The National Tourism Youth Congress is an annual event organized by the Tourism Education, Training and Awareness Unit within the Ministry of Tourism and Investment and provides a forum for students between the ages of 14 to 17 to share their ideas about the future direction of Caribbean Tourism. The winner then goes on to represent Antigua and Barbuda at The Caribbean Tourism Youth Congress, an integral part of the Caribbean Tourism Organization's annual tourism conference.

Organizers of the 2023 Tourism Youth Congress would like to express profound appreciation to the membership of the Antigua Hotels and Tourist Association for contributing additional prizes for the winners and their coaches.



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## Antigua and Barbuda shows interest in sargassum research

Antigua and Barbuda’s representative at the OECS Mission in Geneva, Switzerland, Ambassador Colin Murdoch, was part of a study tour that the mission mounted, to an institute where research is being conducted into sargassum.

Each year, the brown colour and fowl stench of the sargassum algae have periodically plagued beaches in the Caribbean in recent years, impacting sea life, tourism, and livelihoods of those who work in the blue economy.

In a media release, the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission said it is ded-

icated to promoting sustainable solutions for environmental and development challenges.

“Keeping to this commitment, representatives of the OECS participated in a recent study tour with the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland and AlgalTek, an algae production company.

“The OECS team comprised of representatives from the OECS Mission in Geneva, led by Ambassador Colin Murdoch, as well as colleagues from OECS headquarters in Saint Lucia,” according to the release.



(Left to right) OECS Ambassador in Geneva Colin Murdoch; St Lucia’s WTO ambassador Anthony Severin; WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala; Joy-Marie King AB’s Director of International Trade; Ambassador Stephen Fevrier, senior adviser to WTO DG; and Joel Richards, counselor in the OECS Geneva Mission

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# Local News



*cont'd from pg 5*

It described the Paul Sherrer Institute (PSI) as a leading research institute for natural and engineering science.

AlgalTek specializes in algae products, algae bioproducts, research, consulting, and development. AlgalTek aims to produce high-quality products from algae biomass in an environmentally friendly manner, including food, cosmetics, packaging, and other materials.

The main activity of the study tour was designed to identify a baseline for research and technology and help participants build capacity to support projects aimed at effective management and use of Sargassum



algae. Participants had the opportunity to see some of the innovations in algae production and studied various methods to process each component of Sargassum algae that can be adapted for different uses—pigments, proteins, lipids, minerals, microfibrillated cellulose,

biofuels and bioplastics, residue, etc. They were also able to explore modern methods to collect Sargassum algae and discussed possibilities for export for the OECS region.

Members of the OECS Mission in Geneva join other OECS delegates and

the WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala on the occasion of the deposit by St Lucia's WTO Ambassador, Anthony Severin, of the Instrument of Ratification to the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Agreement at a ceremony at the WTO HQ in Geneva this week.

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## Resignations from the DNA

Two persons associated with the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) have announced their resignations from the party effective immediately.

In separate letters to the party hierarchy, Chaniel Imhoff, the party's candidate in the January 18 General Elections for St. Peter, as well as Avoy Knight who ran in All Saints East and St. Luke on the party's ticket, have offered their resignations with immediate effect.

"This decision was not an easy one, as I have the utmost love and respect for all the incredible individuals I have had the privilege of working alongside during my time with the party. I am truly grateful for the experiences and friendships that have enriched my life through our shared endeavors."

"This was a difficult choice, but one that I believe is necessary for the next chapter of my life," Imhoff wrote in her letter.

For his part, Knight thanked the party for allowing him to offer himself as a representative of the youth.

"In life, we ought to make difficult decisions on a daily basis; Today is no different. I have dug deep within, and I have pondered for quite some time and after great consideration, I have decided to resign effective immediately from The Democratic National Alliance.

"The Democratic Na-

tional Alliance has allowed me to stamp my footprint in the history books of this nation and allowed me to truly stand to represent the people and youths of this country. I am forever indebted to the leader, members, and sup-

porters of this great organization," he wrote.

The DNA was founded back in 2017, when its leader, Joanne Massiah left the United Progressive Party with her supporters to form the party with the hope that it

would become a viable alternative to the two main political parties. But two general elections later, the DNA has failed to break the hold of the two main political parties, the ABLP and the UPP, have on the country's politics.



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## Environment Division launches competition inviting innovation among young people

The Department of Environment has initiated a project titled “Innovative Technologies for improved water availability to increase food security in Antigua and Barbuda” (AFSIG Project).

The project aims to improve food security in Antigua and Barbuda by facilitating the availability and use of ground or surface water for agricultural purposes via innovative technologies.

To foster the younger generation’s interest in education about climate change and the environment, as well as to empower youth to help the country achieve climate solutions, the DOE’s AFSIG project is hosting a Student Innovate Competition through which a Call for Proposals (CFP) has been

issued to students to pitch innovative technologies and approaches for the agricultural sector.

Individual students or groups of students (aged 12 - 21 and currently enrolled in a secondary or tertiary school in Antigua and Barbuda) are invited to submit a research essay to present an innovative technology or approach that has the potential to help the agricultural sector become more resilient to climate change by tackling one of four (4) water supply challenges facing farmers (see Competition Guidelines).

Suggestions for proposals include, but are not limited to:

1. Ecosystems-based adaptation
2. New inventions
3. Digital technologies

4. Best and successful practices outside of Antigua and Barbuda

Authors of shortlisted submissions will pitch their innovative technology or approach via a brief oral presentation to a panel of judges at the DOE’s annual Arbour Day event on November 30, 2023.

The competition will be divided into two categories: (1) tertiary and (2) secondary schools. The student(s) with the best pitch for each category will receive a cash prize for their respective school. The best overall submission between the two categories will be tested as a demo and students will be invited to participate in the demonstration.

Deadline for proposal submission: November 25, 2023



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The School of Business and Management at the Five Islands Campus is seeking exceptional candidates to fill two (2) vacancies of Senior Lecturer/Lecturer. As a leading academic institution, we are committed to fostering innovative research and providing the highest quality education to our students. We are looking for dynamic and experienced individuals who are passionate about teaching, research and service to join our distinguished faculty.

The available vacancies are as follows:

- **1 Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer in Human Resource Management and/or Marketing with the ability to teach in the areas of Human Resources Management, Organizational Development, Compensation Management, Marketing Communication and Management, International Marketing , Marketing Research.**
- **1 Senior Lecturer/ Lecturer in Accounting with the ability to teach Advanced Accounting Theory, Auditing, Advanced Financial Accounting, and Government Accounting**

#### **Essential Qualifications and Experience:**

- A doctoral degree (PhD) or DBA level qualification in relevant area of Business and Management
- Demonstrated ability to deliver content across multiple areas at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and a track record of conducting cutting-edge research that has resulted in publications in top-tier academic journals.
- Minimum of five (5) years' experience teaching related courses at the University level.
- Experience in academic administration, committee work, and service to the university or academic community.

#### **Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Demonstrated strong interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Ability to work effectively in a team, collaborating with other faculty members and contributing to the development of the department and the institution.
- Coordinate internships and other student programmes.

#### **At the senior level, the successful candidates must be able to:**

- Display a record of peer-reviewed publications in relevant field.
- Exhibit a record on innovative pedagogy in a face to face environment, as well as online.
- Develop innovative and attractive course syllabi in accordance with the school's strategy.
- Supervise adjunct lecturers, organising and delegating work, and providing training and guidance.
- Conduct substantive research into complex problems, ideas, concepts, or theories and applying appropriate methodologies.
- Engage with external institutions, organisations, and the wider community to support research, teaching and the campus' strategic objectives.
- Participate in relevant university committees and boards which, advising and mentoring students, and contributing to departmental or institutional initiatives.
- Provide leadership, as required in support of the overall strategy of the School.

Applicants are required to submit a completed **UWI employment application form, curriculum vitae, giving full particulars of qualifications and experience, the names and addresses of three (3) referees (one of whom should be from your present organisation), a statement on teaching and research interests and copies of academic qualifications.** These should be sent by electronic mail, with subject of the specific area of interest to [fiveislands.hrapplications@uwi.edu](mailto:fiveislands.hrapplications@uwi.edu) and addressed to **The Director of Administration, University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Five Islands, St. John's, Antigua.** The closing date for receipt of applications is **November 10, 2023.** Standard UWI application forms may be downloaded from <https://cutt.ly/UE6XLig>. Applicants are advised to ask their referees to send reports under confidential cover to the above Email address without waiting to be contacted. The successful candidate will be expected to assume duties in Antigua by **January 10, 2024.** An attractive salary package is offered.

**The University thanks all applicants; however, due to the volume of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

## Meet Franklyn Braithwaite, MBE, GOH, OLY: A passionate sailor and entrepreneur

In its ongoing series, Unveiling Hospitality Professions, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association turns this week's spotlight on Franklyn Braithwaite, a distinguished individual holding the titles of MBE (Member of the British Empire), GOH (Grand Officer of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage), and OLY (Olympian). He is the proud owner and proprietor of A & F Sails, serves as the President of ABYMA (Antigua & Barbuda Yachting and Marine Association), and holds the esteemed position of Commodore at the Antigua Yacht Club.

Braithwaite's remarkable journey in the world of yachting commenced at the tender age of 15. In his early years, he faced limited access to a formal high school education, compelling him to forgo further academic pursuits. Instead, he embarked on an apprenticeship with Antigua Sails. Fueled by an unwavering determination to succeed and a personal mantra that recognized no limits to his potential, he co-founded A & F Sails in

1982, at the age of 21, with the support of a Canadian company and a local partner.

Today, A & F Sails employs ten dedicated individuals and offers a range of services to yachts, including sail repairs, awnings, canopies, and anything made from fabric that vessels require for covering or repairs. With over four decades of experience, Braithwaite attributes his success to consistently delivering exceptional services characterized by a high level of quality and dependability. He firmly believes that trust and honesty are essential when conducting business, whether with local or international entities.

Beyond his entrepreneurial pursuits, Mr. Braithwaite's heart lies in the world of sailing, which he defines as not only his sport but also his lifelong passion and occupation. His love affair with sailing commenced at the age of nine, and his talent became evident early on, leading to an invitation to sail with the Antigua Yacht Club. Throughout his sailing

career, he proudly represented Antigua & Barbuda in numerous competitions across the Caribbean and around the world, culminating in his participation in the 1992 Olympics in Barcelona.

In 2014, his outstanding contributions to sailing and community development earned him the distinguished title of Grand Officer of the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GOH) as part of the Independence Honors list. Currently, Mr. Braithwaite holds the esteemed positions of President of the Antigua & Barbuda Marine Association and Commodore of the Antigua Yacht Club.

Mr. Braithwaite is a strong advocate for his fellow Antiguan and Barbudans to consider careers in the yachting sector, highlighting its potential as a lucrative industry with diverse job opportunities. He urges everyone to dispel the misconception that yachting is exclusive to the English Harbour community, emphasizing that the sector is open to all of Antigua and Barbuda.





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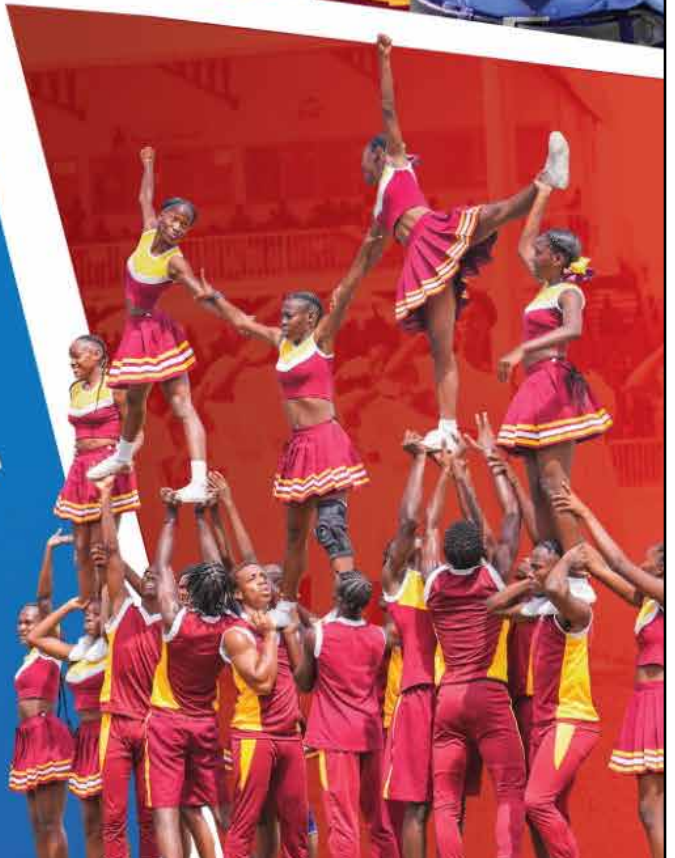


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## Venezuela's dangerous referendum: Threatening peace and international law

**By Sir Ronald Sanders**

For sixty years, from their entry into school, Venezuelans have been trained into believing that the Essequibo region of Guyana belongs to Venezuela. Consequently, regardless of the facts, this belief is ingrained in the Venezuelan psyche.

This is why, the only matter on which the contending political factions in Venezuela can agree is that Essequibo is Venezuelan.

It has long been a political tactic that, when there is domestic discord, a common enemy should be created, in an attempt to gain political support generally. Hence, the periodic but persistent proclamations from Venezuela, claiming Essequibo.

The latest attempt to validate the acquisition of the Essequibo region is evident in the questions posed to the Venezuelan electorate in a forthcoming referendum with a predetermined outcome.

The contrived referendum, prejudicially titled, “in defence of Guayana Essequiba”, will be held on 3rd December 2023. Among its deliberately leading questions, designed to get a desired positive answer, is the following: “Do you agree with the creation of the Guayana Essequiba state and the development of an accelerated plan for the comprehensive care of

the current and future population of that territory that includes, among others, the granting of citizenship and Venezuelan identity card in accordance with the Geneva Agreement and international law, consequently incorporating said state on the map of Venezuelan territory?”.

Given that for over 60 years, successive governments of Venezuela have carried out a propaganda policy of brainwashing their people to adopt the claim that Essequibo belongs to Venezuela in defiance of an 1899 International Arbitral Award, the question is framed to secure the electorate’s support as validation of the annexation of Essequibo.

Significantly, the questions for the referendum ignore entirely that there is an existing arbitral award since 1899 that establishes the boundaries between Venezuela and Guyana. Similarly, the questions ignore the historical evidence that Venezuela proclaimed the arbitral award and ratified it in their congress.

The referendum also makes no mention of the fact that, since 2018, there is a case before the highest legal court in the world, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), to settle the validity of the 1899 award. The only reference to these proceedings is contained in



*Sir Ronald Sanders*

question 3 of the referendum, which, prejudicially, poses the loaded question: “Do you agree with the historic position of Venezuela not to recognise the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice to resolve the controversy over the territory of Guayana Essequiba?”.

The Venezuelan authorities neglect to advise their electorate of Articles 92 and 93 of the Charter of the United Nations. Article 92 states, “The International Court of Justice shall be the principal judicial organ of the United Nations” and Article 93 declares, “All Members of the United Nations are ipso facto parties to the Statute of the International Court of Justice.” Not to recognise the jurisdiction of the ICJ is tantamount to a repudiation of the UN Charter.

Moreover, the ICJ has already twice decided that it has jurisdiction to de-

termine the validity of the 1899 award and the related land boundary between Venezuela and Guyana. The placing of the question in the referendum, in the manner in which it is framed, is a flagrant disregard for international law, the UN Charter and the ICJ.

It is clear that this contrived referendum is designed to lead the Venezuelan electorate into giving cover for the government decision to ignore the ICJ proceedings and, instead, to take unilateral action to “incorporate” Essequibo into “the territory of Venezuela”.

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) rightly responded to this situation by noting that “two of the questions approved to be posed in the Referendum, if answered in the affirmative, would authorise the government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to embark on the annexation

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of territory, which constitutes part of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, and to create a state within Venezuela known as Guyana Essequibo". Further, CARICOM reaffirmed that "international law strictly prohibits the government of one State from unilaterally seizing, annexing or incorporating the territory of another state.

An affirmative vote as aforesaid opens the door to the possible violation of this fundamental tenet of international law."

Against this background, it seems that the Venezuelan government is convinced that its chances of a favourable decision from the ICJ of its claims are very slim. Therefore, it is moving to annexation, a blatant violation of the Charters of the UN and the Organization of American States.

Venezuela has reached this point after many efforts to scuttle the ICJ process, by asserting that the controversy with Guyana could be settled by dialogue and negotiation between the two states. In making this assertion, Venezuela ignores the 50 years of joint commissions, direct negotiations, and UN good offices mediation which all failed. It also ignores that the present ICJ process, which flowed directly from the 1966 Geneva Agreement in which both Venezuela and Guyana agreed, under Article IV (1), that the UN Secretary-General shall make the deci-

sion concerning "one of the means of settlement provided in Article 33 of the Charter of the United Nations". The Secretary-General decided on the ICJ.

And, Venezuela had every opportunity to participate actively in the proceedings even after it lost its legal arguments objecting to the Court's jurisdiction. Therefore, Venezuela's call

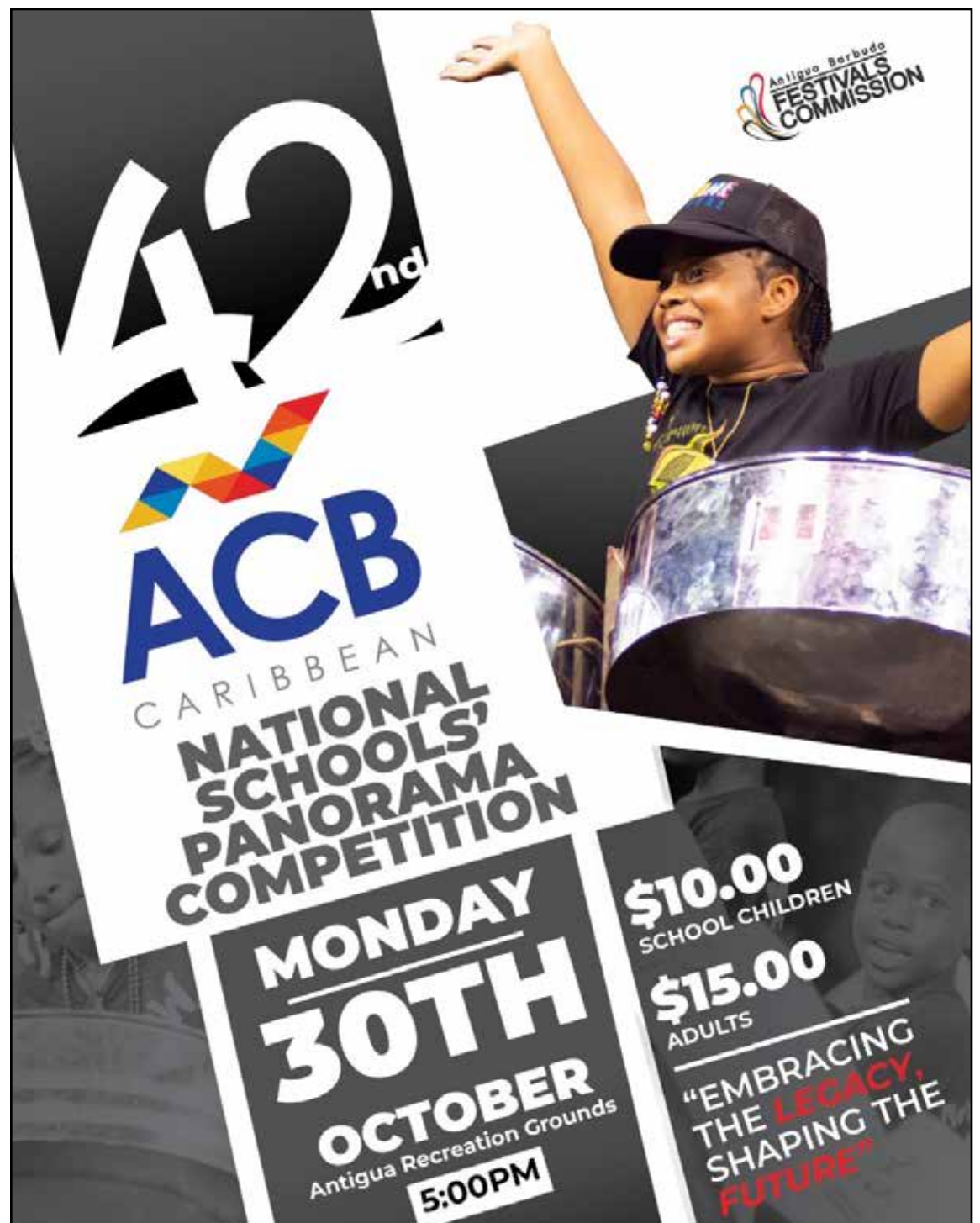
for dialogue and negotiation is another gambit to avoid the judicial means of settlement.

International law and the ICJ process are the legitimate and peaceful pathways to a definitive settlement of the land boundary.

Any attempt to unilaterally incorporate Essequibo into Venezuela as is promoted by the planned

referendum, or any subsequent military action in furtherance of such a contrived referendum, will rightly be met by international odium, condemnation and action.

*Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com) (The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are his own)*



## Vogue editor Edward Enninful named UK's most powerful black person

By Adina Campbell

The editor-in-chief of British Vogue, Edward Enninful OBE, has been named the UK's most influential black person by the Powerlist 2024.

Powerful Media's annual list celebrates people of African, African Caribbean and African American heritage.

Now in its 18th year, it highlights black role models to young people.

Other names to make the list for 2024 include Afua Kyei, Bank of England chief financial officer, and Dragon's Den star and podcaster Steven Bartlett.

Enninful is the first black man to hold the top job at the British fashion magazine but earlier this year he announced he would be stepping down to help grow the brand globally and focus on other projects.

He is also the European editorial director of Condé Nast.



*Edward Enninful said it was an honour to be featured at the top of 2024's list.*

The 51-year-old described it as an honour to be number one on the list, which he said "shines a light on black people really breaking boundaries, who are unafraid and champion what it means to be truly diverse in their own industries".

Born in Ghana, Enninful moved to London at a young age with his parents and six siblings. As a teenager, he was scouted on a train and briefly spent some time modelling.

He started his editorial career as fashion director of British youth culture magazine i-D at the age of 18, making him the youngest person to be named an editor at a major international fashion title.

The Powerlist recognises men and women across a wide range of industries including business, science, technology and the arts.

Other names for 2024 include Lord Woolley of Woodford, co-founder of Operation Black Vote and principal at Cambridge University's Homerton College, as well as model and activist Munroe Bergdorf.

Comedian Mo Gilligan and entrepreneur Patricia Bright also make an appearance.

Previous people to make the number one spot include Jacky Wright, former chief digital officer and corporate vice-president at Microsoft US, seven-time Formula One champion Sir Lewis Hamilton and former Children's Laureate Malorie Blackman.

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## Media association condemns gunshots fired at radio station: Suriname

CMC -The Surinamese Association of Journalists (SVJ) has “strongly condemned” the attack on a radio station here as police continue their investigations into the circumstances that led to bullets being fired upon the private radio station on Tuesday.

Police said that unknown persons fired shots at the Radio LIM FM in the capital during the early hours where the manager and owner, Clifton Limburg, resides with his family.

Limburg said that he had no idea where the attack came from, but that he will not be “intimidated” nor deterred by the action that damaged the vehicle belonging to his wife.

Limburg served as the spokesperson for former president Desi Bouterse during the previous government, and his radio programme “Bakana Tori” is critical of the current Santokhi administration.

In a statement, the SVJ said while the “motive for this shooting is still unknown” it “strongly expresses its rejection of what happened and condemns this shooting.

“If it turns out that this is an intimidating attack on the media house and the presenter, it would constitute



undermining and violating the freedom of the press and freedom of expression, which are guaranteed in the constitution and international treaties and declarations to which Suriname is a party.

“Shooting and other attacks on democratic foundations, institutions, persons, and organisations create an unsafe and burdensome feeling in society,” it said, calling on the judicial authorities and the government, and in particular the Ministry of Justice and Police, to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.

Justice Minister Kenneth Amoksi, who condemned the attack, told re-

porters on Wednesday that every effort is being made to solve the case and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Meanwhile, the ruling Progressive Reform Party (VHP) has also condemned the attack saying it “does not fit in with our democratic system at all.

“This is not only an attack on the rule of law and democracy, but also on our hardworking entrepreneurs. If this cowardly act is directed against the medium of LIM FM, it goes against fundamental rights such as freedom of association, freedom of expression, and freedom of life,” the ruling party said in its statement.

The ruling party noted that regardless of the mo-

tive for this “cowardly act”, there is no room for anarchy and lawlessness in the Surinamese system.

“We must always walk the path of democracy. No one has the right to take matters into their own hands,” the VHP said.

The extra-parliamentary party, Democratie en Ontwikkeling in Eenheid (DOE) said in a statement that “such events” against anyone or any agency have no place in a democracy and the rule of law.

“It creates an imbalance and a heavy feeling of insecurity. The party would like to see that the facts of this unsavoury event are quickly exposed by the authorities,” DOE said.



## Turks and Caicos Islands: Unidentified body of man found

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) is investigating a murder following the discovery of a body.

The victim was found on the side of the road on Robinson Street, Five Cays, Providenciales this morning.

A report states the unidentified male is approximately 5' 08" ft tall, slim built, about 150 to 160 pounds, and appears between 30 and 40 years old.

The body was clad only in a white long-sleeve jersey and long khaki pants. The male victim wore multi-coloured sneakers (purple, green, and white).

The RTCIPF is seeking the public's assistance in positively identifying the male victim.

Based on preliminary information, a call was placed to the Police Control Room around 6:37 am indicating that



Crime scene in the Turks and Caicos. (Photo via Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force)

the lifeless body of a male was lying on the roadside.

RTCIPF officers arrived at the location and found the bleeding victim with

what appeared to be gunshot wounds.

An autopsy is expected to be performed today to determine the cause of death.

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David Hall, who was in Acapulco when the hurricane hit, took photos of flooded streets littered with uprooted palm trees.

## Hurricane Otis: Dozens killed in Mexico's Guerrero state

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

At least 27 people were killed by Hurricane Otis, which made landfall on Mexico's Pacific coast on Wednesday, officials say.

Four more people have been reported missing, the security secretary said.

Acapulco was among the areas worst hit with 80% of the resort's hotels damaged and streets flooded.

The Mexican President travelled to the city by land and at one point had to get out of his car and walk as debris from a mudslide blocked the highway.

"The army is bringing machinery and we're going to try to reopen [the highway] as soon as possible," President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said.

With landlines and mobile phone coverage disrupted for more than 24 hours, it took officials until Thursday morning to release the death toll.

"Unfortunately, we have received word from the state and city governments that 27 people are dead and four are missing," Secretary of State for Security Rosa Icela Rodríguez said.

She did not give any details about where or how they had died.

The ministry of defence said 8,000 soldiers had been deployed to Acapulco and towns along the coast to help with the clear-up and provide residents with food and water.

Hurricane Otis made landfall at 00:25 local time (06:25 GMT) on Wednesday. It had intensified from a tropical storm into a category five

hurricane - the most severe category - in just 12 hours.

It brought winds of 165 miles per hour (265km/h) to the coastal areas before easing in strength.

Citlali Portillo, who works in the tourism sector in Acapulco, described to Televisa TV how "the building shook as if there was an earthquake".

Videos showed guests sheltering in bathrooms and other areas without windows so they would not be injured by flying glass as windows were blown in by the wind.

The facade of a shopping centre in Acapulco was also ripped off.

More than 30% of the homes in the state of Guerrero lost power, plunging entire towns into darkness.

*cont'd on pg 19*



# MP Crispin Blunt arrested on suspicion of rape

By **Sam Francis**

Ex-minister Crispin Blunt has confirmed he was arrested on Wednesday on suspicion of rape and the possession of controlled substances.

In a statement, the Reigate MP said he had twice been interviewed by police in connection with this incident.

Mr Blunt said he originally raised the incident with police three weeks ago, concerned about “extortion”.

He said he was cooperating with Surrey Police’s investigation and was confident he would not be charged.

The police were unable to say if the controlled substances were drugs, as tests are being carried out, according to PA Media.

The Conservative Party withdrew the whip, meaning Mr Blunt will sit as an independent MP, after he confirmed he had been arrested. He has been asked to stay away from Parliament.

Mr Blunt was elected as Conservative MP for Reigate, in Surrey, in the 1997 general election, defeating the incumbent Sir George Gardiner, who had switched from the Tories to the Referendum Party.

He served as a justice minister from 2010 to 2012, in the whips office when the Conservatives were in opposition and chaired the influential Foreign Affairs Committee.

In April, he apologised for defending former MP Imran Ahmad Khan, following his conviction for sexually



assaulting a teenage boy. Mr Blunt had called the verdict a “dreadful miscarriage of justice” in a statement, but retracted his comments.

A month later Mr Blunt announced he will be standing down as an MP at the next election.

In a statement Mr Blunt, he said: “It has been reported that an MP was arrested yesterday [25 October] in connection with an allegation of rape. I am confirming that MP was me.

“The fact of the arrest requires a formal notification of the Speaker and then my chief whip.

“I have now been interviewed twice in connection with this incident, the first time three weeks ago, when I initially reported my concern over extortion.

“The second time was earlier this morning under caution following arrest. The arrest was unnecessary as I remain ready to cooperate fully with the investigation that I am confident will end without charge.

“I do not intend to say anything further on this matter until the police have completed their inquiries.”

A police spokesman said: “We can confirm a man in his 60s was arrested yesterday morning (25 October) in Horley, on suspicion of rape and possession of controlled substances.

“He has been released on conditional police bail pending further inquiries.”

The Conservative Party has declined to comment.

This is the latest sexual misconduct allegation to hit the party.

A separate Conservative MP, in his 50s, was arrested in May 2022 on suspicion of rape, sexual assault, abuse of position of trust and misconduct in a public office.

The MP is currently on bail until mid-February 2024.

*cont’d from pg 18*

And although the strength of the wind subsided relatively quickly as Otis moved inland, Mexico’s meteorological service warned that torrential downpours were likely to drench Guerrero, while Michoacán,

Mexico state, Morelos and Oaxaca should expect very heavy rain.

The US National Hurricane Center said that the rainfall could “produce flash and urban flooding, along with mudslides in areas of higher terrain”.



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2023**

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ROXY | PSALMIST ROBYN | MIN. DORNELL CARTY  
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**EMBRACING THE LEGACY, SHAPING THE FUTURE**



## Legendary basketball player 'Doc' Harris has died

The basketball fraternity is now mourning the loss of one of Antigua and Barbuda's basketball legends, Wayne "Doc" Harris, who passed away on Wednesday.

Harris, who was born on North Street in the Point before moving to Crosbies, was a key member of Antigua and Barbuda's senior national basketball team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, which dominated the sport in the sub-region during the 1980s and 1990s by winning multiple OECS and LIBA championships.

Harris also served the nation of Antigua and Barbuda as a basketball coach in the now-defunct Community Development Sports and Games Department (CDS&GD) under the guidance of its late Director Fitzroy Brann in the 1980s.

Harris also served as Coordinator of the Schools Basketball Programme within the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Youth Affairs

from the late 1980s until 1997, when his Wadadli Bulldogs teammate and friend Carl "Bowlie" Knight took over the role, which he still currently holds.

Knight, who developed into Antigua and Barbuda's best ever point guard, describes Harris as the finest all-round basketball player the twin island nation has ever produced.

"Wayne 'Doc' Harris was the finest all-round player Antigua and Barbuda have ever produced. He could do it all when it comes to a game of basketball. When I played in my rookie year with the Wadadli Bulldogs, 'Doc' was the starting point guard at the time. He also played the shooting guard position, and he was an outstanding low post player as well," Knight stated.

"We played for a number of years on the senior national team at Caricom championships and also won several



Wayne 'Doc' Harris presents an award to Jahlieshia Knowles of All Saints Secondary for winning the Senior Girls Individual Speed Dribble title at the 2018 Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools Basketball All Stars event at the JSC Sports Complex on March 15, 2018. (Photos courtesy schools' basketball unit)

OECS and Leeward Islands basketball titles together as members of the Wadadli Bulldogs. I think we last played together in 1987, the year 'Doc' would have retired from playing with the senior national team."

Over the years, Knight and Harris developed a great bond and lasting friendship. Knight said he was one of the nicest people he had ever met.

"We grew up playing a lot of basketball together. Doc was a player for Heads, and I played for Skillville, and we had a big rivalry back in the day. By the time I made my debut on the senior national team in 1981, Doc was already a star on the Wadadli Bulldogs."

However, Knight said he isn't totally surprised by Harris' passing. He said Harris battled with serious health

challenges during the latter stages of his life, which led to the amputation of his legs.

Knight expressed his condolences to Harris' family, especially to his wife, Beverly Samuel Harris.

Former national netball and basketball player Candace Jones, who has been one of Harris' closest friends, is also extending condolences to the family of the fallen Antiguan basketball legend.

Jones, who worked for 40 years with Harris at the CDS&GD and the Ministry of Sports, described him as just a fine person.

"Doc and I were like peas in a pod. He is someone who loves life. He was always jovial and extremely kind-hearted, and he just doesn't seem to know how to say no whenever he is asked to help another person," Jones said.



Coach Wayne 'Doc' Harris with 2018 Schools' All-Star MVP Reyanne Regis of All Saints Secondary School at the JSC Sports Complex.

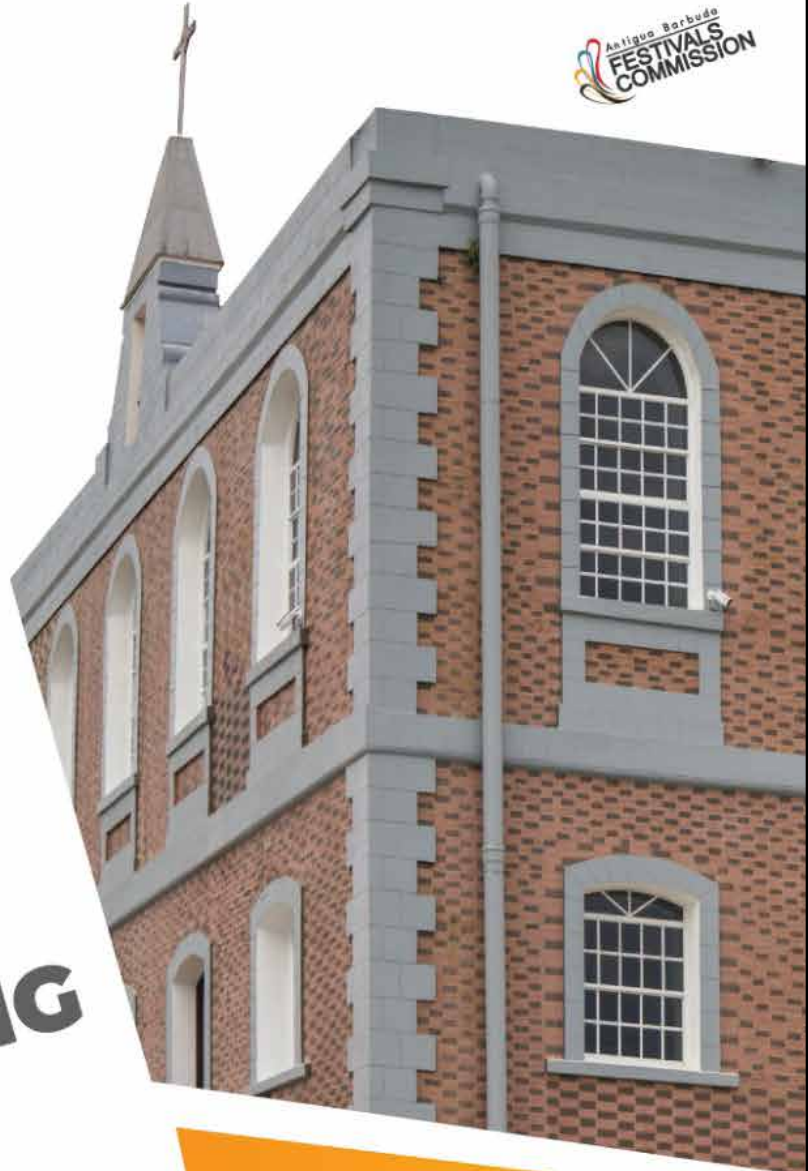
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## Willock leads Masters Division in national draughts tournament

Bernard “Premier” Willock has overtaken Marvin “Bruce” Gray as the new leader of the Masters Division in the Antigua and Barbuda Draughts Association’s (ABDA) Spectacular Prime Minister National Independence Draughts tournament at the Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Centre.

Willock won his three matches on Wednesday’s penultimate day of the competition to move to the top of the Masters Division with a total of 34 points from five encounters.

Willock crushed Vanus “J” Hector 9-0, prevailed



5-2 against Gray, and was held to a 4-4 draw by Elvis Cordice.

Gray rebounded to beat St. Clair Josiah 5-2 but slipped into second place with 33 points from six

matches.

Anthony “Tony” Gomes pulled off a 9-0 win against Hector to remain in second place, advancing to 31 points from five matches.

Josiah prevailed 7-1 against Cordice in the other Masters Division affair on Wednesday.

Amakusa Jeremiah beat Theodore “Freddy” Jervier 7-1 to maintain his lead in the Seniors’ divisions by advancing to a total of 28 points from five matches.

Stevenson “Smooth-dee” Vital won his two matches to overtake Tian Grant into second place.

Vital defeated Jervier 5-2 and beat Eustace “Zocio” Samuel 6-3 to advance to 24 points from five matches. Grant slipped into third place on 19 points from four encounters.

## Anjo Wholesale go joint-third in business basketball league

Anjo Wholesale moved into joint third place in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association’s (ABBA) Business League Wednesday night.

They joined Trimmingham Trucking Enterprises in joint third place with identical records of nine wins and three losses by pulling off a 64-53 victory against H. Wright Promotions in the first game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Steven Matthew sank 25 points, and Jaheem James had 14 points for Anjo Wholesale. Shaquille Kelly scored 14 points, and Humroy Wright chipped in with 12 points for H. Wright Promotions, which slumped to their sixth loss in nine outings.

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Cen-

ter claimed their second successive win after losing their previous nine encounters by crushing Police 87-55 in the second game on Wednesday.

Bernard Andrew produced 23 points, Baldwin Anthony Jr. had 18 points, Delornje Jules sank 17 points, and Javon Francis and Regillio Cisse each chipped in with 10 points for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

Javon Simon converted 23 points, and Kerrie Walker scored 16 points for the Police, who remained winless and at the bottom of the league after losing all 11 games.

Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew recorded their fourth win in 10 games by prevailing 57-52 against the Sledge O’Ballers in the last game on Wednesday night.

Takeem Martin produced 18 points, and Michael Barton scored 10 points for the Fearless Crew. Kareem Edwards converted 21 points, Tristan Jacobs had 12 points, and Lenroy McFarlene chipped in with 11 points for the Sledge O’Ballers, who lost for the 10th time in 11 outings.

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

Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew will take on the Board of Education at 6:30 pm, Richie’s Shooterz will tackle the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 7:30 pm, and H. Wright Promotions will clash with Sandals at 8:30 pm.

# GERM BUSTER

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1

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- After using the bathroom
- After touching pets or animals
- After handling rubbish

2

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- Then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer

3

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Cyclists compete in a domestic road race in Antigua. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

## ABCF to stage season-ending circuit race on Sunday

The 2023 Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) season will conclude with the staging of the Annual Jenel Warner Circuit Race on Sunday.

The event will commence at 3 pm at the Pan Am Base Circuit in Coolidge.

The race is sponsored by Warner, who is a former cyclist, with the support of Anjo Wholesale Distributors, Frank B. Armstrong Antigua Limited, Team Viper, Lucozade Energy, and Chef Steve.

President of the ABCF, St. Clair Williams, said the season-ending race is Warner's way of giving something back to cycling, a sport that she loves.

"Warner had approached the cycling federation a few years ago wanting to make a contribution to the development of the sport because she used to compete locally a few years ago. She is no longer an active cyclist, but she wanted to give back and still be a part of the cycling fraternity.

"Hence, she decided to help spon-

sor a race, and so the cycling federation facilitated her, and we now have the Jenel Warner Circuit Race, which we use as the last race of our season.

"Most of the cyclists will come out for this season-ending race to have some fun since we have already completed all of our other domestic and regional races."

Cyclists will compete in the usual seven classes in Sunday's circuit race. As usual, cyclists in the elite male and junior male divisions will have the toughest challenge in the race.

The cyclists in those two categories will be required to complete 15 laps of the Pan Am Base Circuit to win their divisions and become the overall champion.

Cyclists in the masters' class will be required to complete 13 laps, while those competing in the elite female, sports class, and the cadets in the 14 to 17 categories will ride for 10 laps.

The cyclists competing in the Cadets 11-13 division will have to complete six laps of the circuit to win their

category.

A new addition in the form of a children's race will be part of Sunday's event. It will start at 1 pm at the same venue.

Williams said the ABCF is also planning to revert to incorporating more races for children with BMX bikes starting next season.

He said the main objective is to attract young children with BMX bicycles to racing, which could be a catalyst for more youngsters gravitating to the sport of cycling and becoming a part of the national cycling federation.

"What we plan to do in 2024 is try to mobilize children with BMX bicycles to become part of an introductory cycling race programme," Williams said.

"We have quite a lot of children in Antigua with BMX bikes that could start to do a little competitive racing at that level. This will be an opportunity to get them interested in cycling races, and as they grow older, they can make a transition into road race cycling."

## Antigua & Barbuda Benna Girls draw with Dominica

Antigua and Barbuda's senior Benna Girls maintained their third-place position in Group A of League B of the inaugural 2024 Concacaf Women's Gold Cup Qualifying competition on Wednesday.

Antigua and Barbuda played to a scoreless draw with Dominica in their third-round group match at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St. Lucia.

The visiting Antiguans were nearly off to a dream start in the 5th minute as a cross by Kevoncia James into the box was on its way into goal, when it was grasped by Dominica's goalkeeper, Celia Gregoire, to deny the Benna Girls scoring opportunity.

James set up another dangerous opportunity in the 12th minute, but Donsha Samuel did not capitalize on the chance to give the Benna Girls the lead.

Antigua and Barbuda's goalkeeper Anik Jarvis came up with a crucial save in the 27th minute to halt a one-on-one opportunity from Le-Myah Forde. One minute later, Jarvis deliv-



Ten players of the Antigua and Barbuda starting XI against Dominica in their Group A of League B encounter of the inaugural 2024 Concacaf Women's Gold Cup Qualifying competition at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, on Wednesday, October 25, 2023. (ABFA)

ered back-to-back saves to stop Dominica from taking the lead.

Ajahna Martin then tested Gregoire from a distance in the 54th minute, but Dominica's goalkeeper stood firm and made another comfortable save.

Gregoire ended the day with six saves and a clean sheet to help the Dominicans earn their first point of the tournament. Jarvis registered 10 saves to help Antigua and Barbuda gain an away point and stay within striking distance of first place with four points from three matches.

Guyana moved to the top of Group A on goal dif-

ference by snatching a 1-0 victory over Suriname at the Dr. Ir. Franklin Essed Stadium in Paramaribo, Suriname.

Both goalkeepers were asked to make timely saves early on. Suriname's goalkeeper, Mayra Tjin A. Koenig, made one of her three critical saves in the 18th minute, as Stefanie Kouzas looked primed to score from a through ball.

On the other end, Guyana's goalkeeper, Chante Sandiford, got her hands to divert a dangerous attempt in the 29th minute in what was one of her four saves on the night.

Shanice Alferd broke

through for the only goal of the night in the 41st minute by connecting with a cross into the box from Jalade Trim.

Suriname's attacking front tried to turn up the heat in the second half, as Andaya Lantveld had one of her team's best opportunities in the 55th minute, but Sandiford provided little room to work with, and the woodwork did the rest.

The encounter was decided by the minimal difference as Guyana overtook Suriname, on goal difference, for first place in the group with both teams tied on six points from three matches.