

FRIDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 193 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

LIGHTNING STRIKE BELIEVED TO HAVE CAUSED AYCM FIRE

Story on Page 2



The official launch of the inaugural Taste of Wadadli, Junior Chef Cook-Off Competition took place yesterday at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre, with competitors drawn from the nation's secondary schools. *Story on page 3.*

Local News



Lightning strike believed to have caused Antigua Yacht Club fire

All indications are that a bolt of lightning was the cause of the fire that destroyed the building that housed the Antigua Yacht Club Marina (AYCM) and several other businesses in Falmouth Harbour.

That is the word from the owner of AYCM, Carlo Falcone, who gave that report to Cabinet where he was invited to attend on Thursday for an update in the aftermath of the fire that happened early Tuesday morning during the passage of Tropical Storm, Philippe.

“The Estimate of the destruction has not yet been calculated but it will run into the millions of dollars. Falcone’s insurance company dispatched an investigator there to examine the damage and to make an assessment,” according to a



Cabinet spokesman.

Both the Cabinet and Falcone applauded the work of the fire department for the efforts of the firemen to

contain the fire.

“The fire department saved other neighbouring properties which were in danger of catching fire from combustion.

“The Cabinet expressed its thankfulness to the firefighters who were always in personal danger because of lightning strikes, high wind gusts, and the waves which threatened to suck them into the sea,” the spokesman noted.

The Cabinet also discussed the impact of Tropical Storm Philippe on the country. The storm dumped more than 8 inches of rain in parts of Antigua and caused many dams and reservoirs to fill up, Potworks Dam capable of holding 1.2 billion gallons of water is about

one-third (1/3) full and with daily extractions will last more than 3 months.

The Minister of Public Utilities noted that the Fort James Reverse Osmosis (R/O) Plant, The Crabbes R/O plant, The Ivan Rodriguez R/O plant, The Ffryes R/O plant, Pigeon R/O plant and Camp Blizzard R/O Plants, Big Creek and Potworks Dams will produce nearly 9 million gallons daily.

It is estimated that demand for APUA water will fall below 8 million gallons daily, APUA will not be rationing water after the soil in the run-off settles. More rain is expected from another tropical storm which is forming in the open Atlantic.

BAD COMPANY

PLATINUM FM 97.9

THURSDAYS - 2PM - 6PM
SATURDAYS - 12PM - 4PM
SUNDAYS - 1PM - 5PM

Tourism industry partners launch Junior Chef Competition

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association is a leading industry partner in organizing the inaugural Taste of Wadadli, Junior Chef Cook-Off Competition, with competitors drawn from the nation's secondary schools.

The official launch of the competition took place on Thursday at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre. It brought together the students and their home economics teachers participating in the competition, along with representatives from the participating entities and sponsors; the Ministry of Tourism, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, the Ministry of Education, and the GARD Centre with sponsors ECAB Bank and Digicel.

Executive Director of ABHTA,



Patrice Christian-Simon said the competition serves as an excellent gateway for participants into the hospitality industry. "The primary objective of this competition is to provide students with an invaluable glimpse into the hospi-

tility industry, as well as to recognize and nurture those students who exhibit a genuine talent and passion for culinary arts. Moreover, this competition serves as a gateway to future training
cont'd on pg 4



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

**STORM
READY**
2023 HURRICANE SEASON
JUNE 1 - NOVEMBER 30

COVERAGE FOR
HOME | BUSINESS | FAMILY | MOTOR

www.sicfinancial.com

Local News



cont'd from pg 3

and employment opportunities for the participants. Equally essential to this event is the emphasis on celebrating the rich taste and flavors of our islands," she stated.

Chairman of the ABHTA, Craig Marshall, said the association is quite excited at the response it received from the schools. "We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response from schools and colleges, with a total of 18 institutions registered and ready to compete. As we shift our focus to high schools, we are delighted to introduce a competition that we intend to include in our annual calendar of events at the ABHTA. Our primary goal is to identify students like yourselves who possess



a natural talent for culinary arts and provide them with a platform to nurture their passion. This is a key mission for the ABHTA.

Chief Executive Officer of the ABTA, Colin C. James hailed the competition as an excellent example of the partnership between private and public sector entities. "This is the epitome of corporate private and public partnership. I must commend the ABHTA,

Craig (Marshall) Patrice (Christian-Simon) and their team as well as the Ministry of Tourism with the involvement of ECAB Bank and Digicel coming together for a good cause," he observed.

He added that he was pleased to see young people being encouraged to get involved in one of the most sought-after sectors of the hospitality industry. He revealed that hotels and restaurants are constantly

seeking to fill the position of executive and other chefs in their establishments.

Representing the Ministry of Education was a member of the Home Economics Department, Iris-Mae Gumbs, who also welcomed the inauguration of the competition.

"This initiative is now considered a very important event on the Home Economics academic calendar. Any opportunity for students to acquire new skills and gain meaningful exposure is exactly what we look forward to in the execution of Home Economics education in our twin island nation's schools. So your partnership with the MOESCI is indeed timely and welcomed because many benefits for young

cont'd on pg 5

NEW **KFC** **Nuggets**

6 PIECES \$12⁷⁵

10 PIECES \$19⁷⁵

100% WHITE MEAT

ORIGINAL RECIPE

HAND MADE

6 PIECES FRIES BISCUIT MEDIUM DRINK \$24⁷⁵

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: KFC, Uber Eats, Deliveroo, Just Eat Takeaway.com, Takeaway.com, Google Play, App Store

KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN



Tourism Week 2023, dates and events announced

The dates for the annual Tourism Week and the events that form part of the celebrations have been announced by the Ministry of Tourism.

Under the theme, "Our tourism industry, Carving a path to sustainability through an empowered labour force."

The 2023 programme of events is as follows;

Sunday, December 3: Service at the Holy Family Cathedral starting at 7:00 a.m.

Monday, December 4: Taste of Wadadli Junior Cook-Off Finals at the ABHTI

Tuesday, December 5: College tour where the tourism minister will visit several schools to talk about careers in the tourism industry

Thursday, December 7: Tourism Labour Conference

Friday, December 8: Beach Fun-Day

Saturday, December 9: Tourism Award gala focusing on industry workers

cont'd from pg 4

chefs and teachers will be garnered from participating in this Competition," she added.

Eighteen schools are competing with two representatives each, a lead chef and an assistant. The home economics teachers will serve as their guides. The competition consists of two phases: a preliminary

cook-off in October; the 27 and 30, and the grand finale scheduled for December 4, 2023.

The top four teams will move on to the finals; the third and fourth-place teams will receive \$2,500.00 to upgrade their Home Ec. Departments, second place will receive \$5,000.00, and the overall winners, \$10,000.00 donated by ECAB Bank.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind





HURRICANE CLEAN UP

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIONAL SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, THE PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT, AND THE CEDAR VALLEY GOLF COURSE

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7TH
STARTING AT 7:00AM

TARGET COMMUNITIES

📍 CEDAR VALLEY 📍 NEW WINTHROPES
📍 BARNES HILL



PUT OUT YOUR BULK WASTE, TREE TRIMMINGS, ETC.

ANTIGUA
(268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA
(268) 727-7422

✉ info@siclfinancial.com

🌐 www.siclfinancial.com

📱 📺 📷

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda to mount Business Forum in London



Chantal Phillip

The third annual Antigua and Barbuda – United Kingdom Business Forum will be held from 21st November to 23rd November 2023.

The forum is one of the major events in the diplomatic calendar of the Antigua and Barbuda High Commission (London) and will allow Antiguan and Barbudan businesses to explore business prospects in the United Kingdom – one of the world's leading financial centers.

This year's Business Forum will include a visit to Dublin, Ireland, on Tuesday 21st November, where the companies can participate in the inaugural Latin America Caribbean Ireland Business and Economic Forum.

Here, they will learn about the opportunities for Irish investment in

the Caribbean as well as establish key business connections in informal networking opportunities with Irish companies and stakeholders.

On Wednesday 22nd November, the delegation will return to London for a welcome reception and official opening under the patronage of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene. High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, Karen-Mae Hill, will deliver the official welcome and there will be a keynote address delivered by Steve Elsom, Director of Number 4 Consulting Limited.

The evening will also include a high-level discussion panel moderated by Chris Bennett, CEO of the

cont'd on pg 7



ANTIGUA

A whole new dining experience awaits you.

Call us at 562-5724 | Whatsapp 736-7165



Ministry of Works installs guardrails at bridge

The Ministry of Works has completed the erection of guardrails on the Pump House Bridge on the approach to Radio Lighthouse near Bolans. This operation lasted less than 24 hours.

A ministry spokesman said teams from the ministry were deployed to begin work on the bridge around 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday. They worked throughout the night to complete the

project on Thursday.

The spokesman said the erection of the guardrails is for pedestrians and motorists alike. Following the heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm, Philippe, several bridges in Antigua were compromised.

The minister is undertaking a programme to repair and reinforce those bridges that sustained damage from the storm.



cont'd from pg 6

Caribbean Council, with introductory remarks by Antiguan property developer, Ian Fraser.

The discussion panel will focus on investment opportunities in Antigua and Barbuda.

Finally, on Thursday 23rd November, the Antiguan and Barbudan Businesses will visit the London Chamber of Commerce for a series of B2B meetings with several prominent UK companies.

There will also be a round table with the Caribbean Business Council and a networking opportunity with

the Black Business Association in London.

The Government's objective in facilitating this Business Forum is to increase trade and investment opportunities for Antigua and Barbuda and to raise the profile of Antigua and Barbuda as a place to do business.

Interested companies are welcome to contact the High Commission of Antigua and Barbuda for further information on how they can participate in this year's forum.

The key contact is Chantal Phillip, Minister-Counsellor and Business Coordinator within the High

Commission. She can be reached at chantal.phillip@antigua-barbuda.com.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda is grateful for the support of the various public and private sector partners who have made this Business Forum possible including the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Caribbean Council, the United Kingdom Department for International Trade, the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs and the British High Commission, St. John's.

Local News



CMO appointed Assistant Director of PAHO's Sanitary Bureau

The Ministry of Health has congratulated Dr. Rhonda Sealey-Thomas on her appointment as Assistant Director of the Pan American Health Organization's Sanitary Bureau.

An inauguration ceremony, organized by PAHO will be held on Saturday 12th October, 2023. Among the speakers scheduled for the ceremony are the Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph, and Dr. Jarbas Brabosa da Silva Jr., Director of the Pan American Health Organization.

The Pan American Sanitary Bureau (PASB) is the Secretariat of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and according to its website, is committed to providing technical support and leadership to the PAHO Member States, as they pursue their goal of Health for All and the values therein.

Its functions include urging each Republic to promptly and regularly transmit to the Bureau all data relative to the sanitary conditions of their respective ports and territories, obtaining all possible aid for a thorough, careful, and scientific study and investigation of any outbreaks of pestilential disease which may occur in any of the said Republics, to lend its best aid and experience toward the widest possible protection of the public health of each of the republics, so that disease may be eliminated and that commerce between the said Republics may be facilitated and to encourage and aid or enforce in all proper ways the sanitation of seaports, including sanitary improvements of harbors, sewage, drainage of the soil, paving, elimination of infection from buildings, and destruction of mosqui-

toes and other vermin.

Dr. Sealey-Thomas, a national of Antigua and Barbuda, received her Bachelor of Medicine, and Bachelor of Surgery degree from the University of the West Indies in 1998, a Master of Public Health in 2005, and a Doctorate in Public Health from the Mona Campus, Jamaica in 2020. She commenced her journey as a Medical Officer of Health for the Ministry of Health in Antigua and Barbuda, supervising a broad spectrum of health-care professionals from 2000 to 2004.

Ascending to a pivotal role, she served as the Chief Medical Officer from 2005 to 2023, where she acted as the primary advisor on paramount public health matters, chaired multiple national health committees, and represented the government on both regional and international platforms.

 Flash SALE UP TO 10% OFF On Selected Products! While Stocks Last!  Shell Lubricants Distributor TEL: +1 (268) 462-0805/6151	 Flash SALE UP TO 10% OFF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HELIX HX5 SN 10W30 GAL • HELIX HX5 SN 10W40 GAL • HELIX HX5 SN 20W50 GAL  Shell Lubricants Distributor TEL: +1 (268) 462-0805/6151	 Flash SALE UP TO 10% OFF  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAUTILUS LITRES  Shell Lubricants Distributor TEL: +1 (268) 462-0805/6151
 		
 Flash SALE UP TO 10% OFF  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GADUS S2 V220  Shell Lubricants Distributor TEL: +1 (268) 462-0805/6151	 Flash SALE UP TO 10% OFF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TELLUS S2 MX 32 PAIL • TELLUS S2 MX 46 DRUM • TELLUS S2MX 68 DRUM  Shell Lubricants Distributor TEL: +1 (268) 462-0805/6151	 Flash SALE UP TO 10% OFF <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RIMULA R4L 15W40 DRUMS • RIMULA R4X 15W40 PAIL • RIMULA R4X 15W40 DRUMS • RIMULA R2 40 GALLONS  Shell Lubricants Distributor TEL: +1 (268) 462-0805/6151

VACANCY

Auto Parts Clerk

An automotive dealership is seeking a hardworking, committed individual with experience in automotive parts sales and procurement. The individual should strive to perform the required daily duties with accuracy and precision and be able to effectively multi-task in a fast pace environment while doing so.

Auto Parts Clerk main daily duties include:

- Ordering and managing stock supplies
- Ordering vehicle parts in a timely manner
- Liaise with customers on special orders, providing them updates from purchase through to delivery or order
- Liaise within a timely manner daily with the service department on requests made
- Liaise with suppliers on all items ordered
- Ensure the parts ordered and received are accurate
- Provide customers with advice
- Assist with the yearend stock taking exercise
- Other parts related tasks

This role best suits an individual who is flexible, easily adaptable and works well as part of a team. Having knowledge of an automotive computerized system would be an asset.

Education

Minimum High School Education with passes in English Language and Math

Skills Required:

- Reliability and dependability
- Literacy & numeracy
- Ability to meet the physical demands of the job
- Self-motivated
- Upbeat and energized
- Flexible and willing to take on a variety of tasks
- Computer literacy

Deadline for submission of application is **October 13,2023**.

Please send applications to Accting.officer@gmail.com

Praedial larceny defined

What is Praedial Larceny? Simply put it is the “theft of Agricultural produce”. While this practice happens worldwide it is felt that it occurs more in the Caribbean region than elsewhere. It is perceived that praedial larceny negatively impacts development and it is the main contributor to the undergrowth of the Agricultural sector within the region.

Antigua and Barbuda is no exception to this crime and farmers through the years have been repeated victims of the loss of the fruits of their labour such as their produce and ruminants. Additionally, praedial larcenists have also illegally removed animal feeds, farm implements, and machinery, all of which is a tremendous loss of time, investment, market, and revenue.

In the earlier part of 2023, the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) held a series of Praedial Larceny Consultations that were not well attended by the farmers/producers in most districts. The main focuses of these consultations were to:

To engage the producers in discussions about their experiences.

To review the existing legislation about Praedial Larceny.

To make a list of sug-

gested changes to be recommended for the revision of the legislation:

To advise the producers on security measures and methods they could implement as a deterrent and

To develop a closer bond with the MOA and law enforcers in the quest on Praedial Larceny.

After the conclusion of the consultations, it was agreed and expected that the Praedial Larceny Subcommittee chaired by Mr. Martin Cave, would submit a list of proposed solutions/recommendations on financial recourses and penalties applicable for this crime. Moreover, It is anticipated that these recommendations would be considered for the revision of the existing legislation or newly created legislation which hopefully would replace the 1954 legislation which is currently in use.

It was discovered, that besides being very antiquated, there were quite a few omissions, making the legislation inadequate and not properly addressing many issues. The Ministry of Agriculture is cognizant of this and hopes very shortly, with the revised legislation enacted and enforced Praedial Larceny would be down-graded or be a thing of the past.

IN THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

CLAIM NO. ANUHCv: 2017/0372
BETWEEN:

BESTECH LTD
AND
KAREN PRINCE

Claimant
Defendant

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION
TO BE REMOVED AS COUNSEL**

TAKE NOTICE that an Application is **HEREBY MADE** for the Removal of Cumberbatch & Associates as counsel for the Claimant in the mentioned matter.

[A draft of the Order sought and An Affidavit is attached].

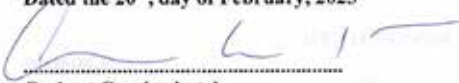
Grounds of Application

1. It has been impossible to locate or contact the Defendant, Karen Prince for several months.
2. All the emails, contact and telephone numbers given to counsel have been exhausted to no avail.
3. Staff from Counsel's office (Ms. Stashana Douglas) has gone to the residence where she knows the Defendant lives and found a male occupying the house. Upon enquiring if Karen Prince lives there she was told by the male occupying the said house that he does not know any such person and that he had only recently moved in a month ago.

AND the Applicant intends to rely on the Affidavit in Support sworn to by the

Applicant on day of 2023

Dated the 20th, day of February, 2023


Cosbert Cumberbatch
Cumberbatch & Associates
Attorneys-at-Law

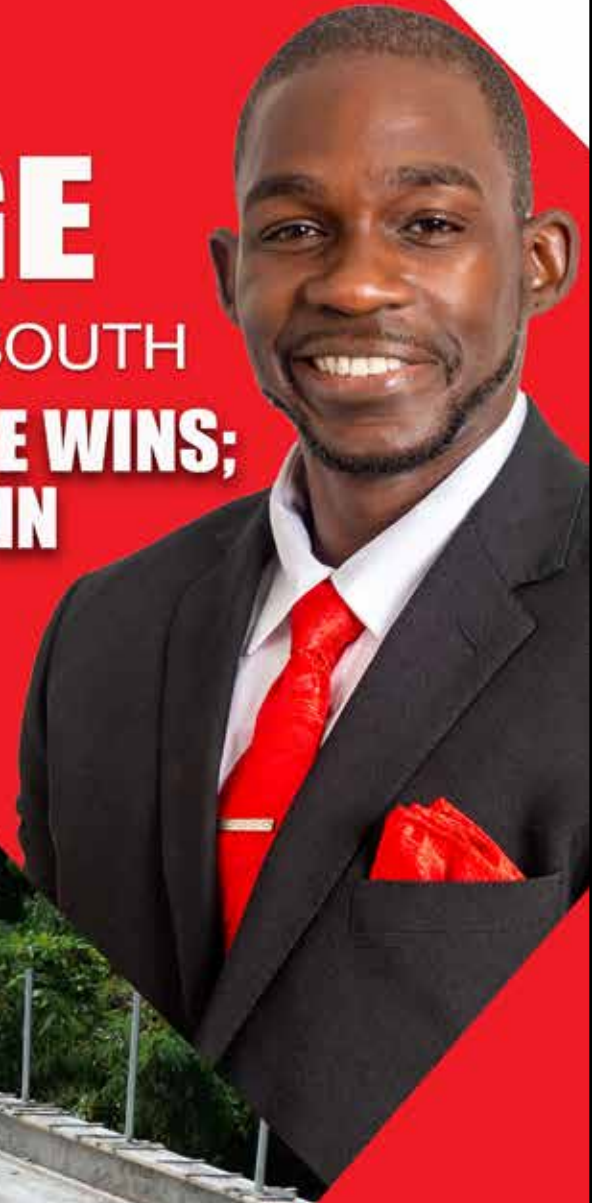
NOTICE:
This Application will be heard by [the judge in Chambers] Master]
On the day of 2023 at a.m at The High Court of Justice
If you do not attend this hearing an order may be made in your absence.
Or
The [Judge in Chambers] [Master] will deal with this application by
NB: This notice of application must be served as quickly as possible on the Respondent to the application.

This Notice of Application was filed by Cumberbatch & Associates, Attorneys-at-Law at Long Street, St. John's, Antigua. Telephone no. 1(268)562-5372 fax 1(268)-562-5462, Attorneys for the above named Applicant whose address for service is the same.

DWAYNE GEORGE

ST. MARY'S SOUTH

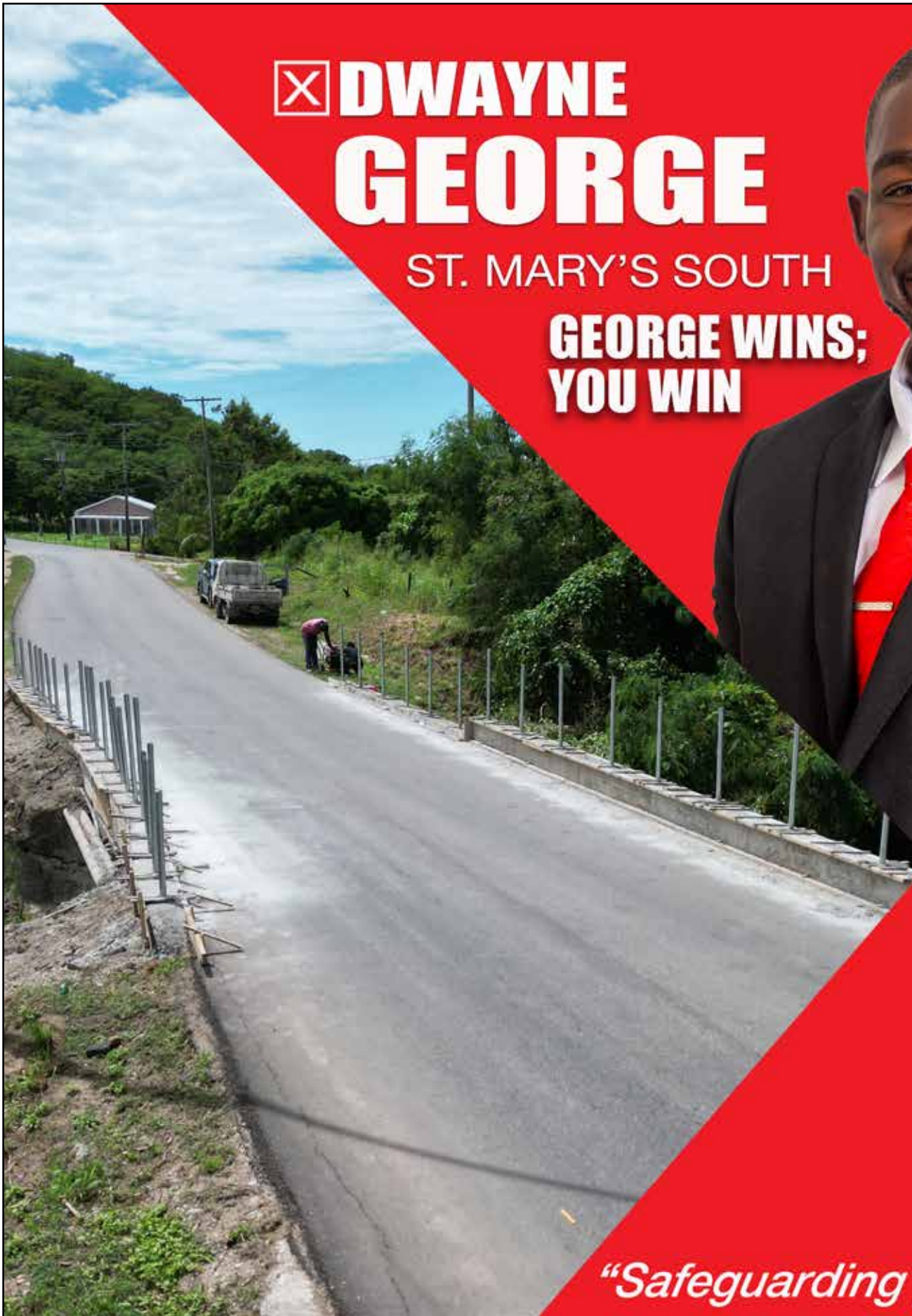
**GEORGE WINS;
YOU WIN**



*"Safeguarding you and
your family's future"*

Dwayne M. George

**INSTALLATION OF GUARDRAILS
AT PUMP HOUSE BRIDGE**



Opinion



Threats to Democracy: The Erosion of Judicial Independence

By Sir Ronald Sanders

From Canada in the North to Argentina in the South, including the nations in the Caribbean, the nature of threats to democracy is undergoing a significant transformation.

While traditional overthrow of governments has receded, other more sinister threats have arisen. In Latin America and even now in the United States of America (US), elected opposition parties are manipulating parliamentary procedures to throttle policies and programmes of elected governments, or they are mobilising their hard-core supporters to engage in unlawful activity to prevent elected representatives from assuming office.

The Co-opting of the Judiciary

Among these threats, is also the co-opting of the judiciary by governing bodies for partisan objectives. In several instances, there is visible collaboration between government and judicial officers, leading to the sacrifice of judicial independence for political gain.

This alliance not only jeopardizes the constitutional order but also erodes the bedrock principles upon which democracy itself is built.

Guatemala: A Case Study

The present situation in

Guatemala serves as a disturbing example. According to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), actions initiated by the Public Prosecutor's Office seriously jeopardize the constitutional order and the independence of the government's branches.

The Public Prosecutor, with assistance from judges in the lower courts, is making a concerted attempt to suspend the registration of the Semilla Movement. This political group, led by Bernardo Arévalo de León, has successfully secured the presidency with León scheduled to assume office on January 14, 2024.

In response to these actions, large public protests have erupted in Guatemala's streets. This widespread unrest sets the stage for potential conflict and highlights the nation's palpable tension.

This public outcry could escalate further if the Special Prosecutor is successful in his attempt to overturn the will of the majority of the Guatemalan electorate, who have chosen Arévalo and his Semilla Movement to represent them.

Amidst this turmoil, the judiciary in Guatemala has notably remained distant from the issue. An exception to this detachment is the Constitutional Court



Sir Ronald Sanders

and the Supreme Electoral Tribunal.

These bodies played crucial roles in ensuring Arévalo's participation in the presidential election's second round held on August 20, where he garnered more than 64 percent of the vote.

Judicial Collapse in Haiti

In the Caribbean, Haiti stands out as the country where the judiciary has been systematically weakened by successive governments, leading to a dearth of judicial autonomy and a failure to deliver justice to the Haitian people. In this environment, unconstitutional governmental actions go unchallenged, further eroding the democratic framework.

The Essential Role of an Independent Judiciary

Yet, throughout the Americas, including in the Caribbean, "the role of an independent judiciary in protecting people's right to vote in free and fair elections is essential" as declared in a recent publication by Tamara Taraciuk Broner and Rebecca Chavez of the Inter-American Dialogue.

Thus far, in the Caribbean, apart from Haiti, the judiciary has acted in accordance with their constitutional duties and the law in relation to democracy and elections, and governments have not sought to erode judicial independence and authority.

For example, the high standards to which the high court and Court of Appeal in Guyana adhered

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

in that country's 8-month elections impasse, contributed greatly to the peaceful acceptance of the results of the general and presidential elections in 2020.

Similarly, there are nations within the Americas where the judiciary has steadfastly upheld its constitutional duties, acting as a bulwark against attempts to subvert democracy.

Countries like Brazil, Mexico, and Ecuador and the countries of CARICOM (Haiti excepted) offer examples of judicial robustness, with their courts playing pivotal roles in ensuring free and fair elections despite political pressures and challenges. In these cases, the judiciary serves as the ultimate safeguard of people's rights and freedoms, acting independently of transient political powers or majority pressures.

Persistent Challenges to Judicial Independence

However, when the judiciary succumbs to political pressure, failing to uphold the constitution and the law, democracy is endangered.

Broner and Chavez regard El Salvador as a place where an extreme case of political interference with the judiciary has taken place.

They state that the "Nayib Bukele administration arbitrarily dismissed independent Supreme Court justices and the attorney general in 2021 and packed the court with allies", thus allowing Bukele to run again in February 2024 despite a constitutional prohibition on re-election.

Other blatant cases of the erosion of judicial independence and impartiality exist in Nicaragua and Venezuela according to the UN Commission for Human Rights.

Conclusion: A Call to Preserve Judicial Independence

As democracy delicately balances on the principles of majority rule and the protection of individual

and minority rights, an unyielding, independent judiciary stands as its steadfast guardian. It is incumbent upon judicial members, and society at large, to relentlessly uphold and defend the rule of law against encroachment.

The unsettling developments unfolding in the Americas are not merely isolated incidents but are alarm bells, ringing loudly to warn of democracy under siege.

It is an alarm that must not be ignored, for the preservation of judicial independence is not just a legal

imperative but a covenant of peace, freedom, and democracy that we hold with each other now and for generations to come.

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



SUZUKI

FRONX

Coming Soon

VIBE DIFFERENT

- SHVS MILD HYBRID
- HEAD-UP DISPLAY
- 360 VIEW CAMERA
- 9-INCH HD DISPLAY AUDIO
- WIRELESS CHARGER

HADEKO MOTORS LTD.

Call 481-2500 for more details

Technology

Amazon and Microsoft to face cloud computing competition probe

The UK's cloud computing market is to face a competition probe over concerns it is being dominated by Amazon and Microsoft.

Media watchdog Ofcom said the two make up 70-80% of the sector in the UK, while closest rival Google has 5-10%.

Ofcom had said in April it was worried a lack of competition made it difficult for businesses to switch providers.

It has referred the sector to the UK's Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) to look into the issue.

Amazon and Microsoft both told the BBC they would work with the CMA as it conducts its investigation. However, Amazon said it felt Ofcom's concerns were "based on a fundamental misconception" of the sector.



Cloud computing broadly refers to the storage of data online that can be accessed anywhere at any time.

It has become an essential bit of infrastructure for both businesses and individuals, and is how millions of people store large amounts of data, use software remotely, stream music

and videos and play games.

It is sometimes described as using "other people's computers", vast networks of powerful machines stored in massive data centres around the world, and many of those belong to either Amazon or Microsoft.

cont'd on pg 15



**POINTE
ON DE
STREETZ**

**HOSTED BY
VERNON A. SPRINGER**

PBN
POINTE BROADCASTING NETWORK

TUE - FRI

2PM - 3PM

CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991

f POINT FM99.1

cont'd from pg 14

The services are used by businesses across the UK, and Ofcom estimated that in 2022 the cloud services market in the UK was worth up to £7.5bn.

"Many businesses now completely rely on cloud services, making effective competition in this market essential," said CMA chief executive Sarah Cardell.

"Strong competition ensures a level playing field so that market power doesn't end up in the hands of a few players - unlocking the full potential of these rapidly evolving digital markets so that people, businesses, and the UK economy can get the maximum benefits.

"The CMA's independent inquiry group will now carry out an investigation to determine whether competition in this market is working well and if not, what action should be taken to address any issues it finds."

The CMA said it would conclude its investigation by April 2025. The body has the power to force companies to change practices, block purchases or even sell off parts of their businesses if it feels there is a legitimate threat to the market.

"All credit to Ofcom for addressing the anti-competitive issues such as data egress fees, technical and commercial lock-ins that have damaged and distorted the UK's growing cloud infrastructure market for too long," said Nicky Stewart, former head of ICT at the Cabinet Office.

"It's imperative that the CMA thoroughly investigates all the deep-seated issues in this critical market which underpins so much of our nation's digital infrastructure - and that includes anti-competitive licensing."

Fergal Farragher, Ofcom's consumer protection director, told the BBC's Today programme that cloud computing was "the hidden plumbing that underpins many of the digital services that businesses and consumers use every day".

However, he said that Ofcom had concerns that competition was not working as well as it should be in the cloud computing market.

"Some UK businesses have told us they find it difficult to switch, and mix and match the best services from different cloud providers," he said.

Ofcom is concerned that there are obstacles to switching, including the fees providers charge for moving data to a rival, which can put off people from using different services.

Mr Farragher said perhaps those fees should be limited, or removed entirely.

Ofcom's referral of the cloud services market to the CMA was to make sure the market "is working well for UK consumers and businesses in the future," he added. Rivals such as IBM and Oracle should be able to challenge the more dominant players, he said.

A Microsoft spokesperson said: "We are com-

mitted to ensuring the UK cloud industry remains innovative, highly competitive and an accelerator for growth across the economy.

"We will engage constructively with the CMA as they conduct their Cloud Services Market Investigation."

Amazon said it believed Ofcom's findings were "based on a fundamental misconception" of the sector.

"Only a small percentage of IT spend is in the

cloud, and customers can meet their IT needs from any combination of on-premises hardware and software, managed or co-location services, and cloud services," a spokesperson for the company said.

"Customers make hundreds of millions of data transfers each day in the ordinary course of business, and over 90% of our customers pay nothing for data transfer because we provide them with 100 gigabytes per month for free."

Nanny or Domestic Helper Needed



A family of 4 living in Cassada Gardens, St John's Antigua seeking an experienced Nanny &/Domestic Helper. Both parents are young professionals who have two young children.

Job requirements:

- Has previous job experience as a domestic helper &/Nanny
 - Mature (at least 45 years old), responsible and trustworthy woman , with caring heart and love for children
 - Able to follows instructions well
 - Has a valid drivers license
 - Has a valid passport
 - Has reliable means of transportation
 - Fluent in English (fluency in Spanish/ French would be an asset)
- Job duties/ responsibilities includes:
- Flexible work hours to be agreed upon
 - Cleaning the house , doing laundry ; ironing cloth for the family, cooking

• Making sure the children's hygienic and nutritional needs are met i.e. bath, cloth and feed the children etc.

- Age appropriate play with the children
- Keeping children safe while in your care

Job Benefits:

- Statutory benefits
- Annual vacation
- Sick leave
- Vacation with the family

Interested candidates please e-mail your resume to : wadadli-hospitalsupplies@yahoo.com and or call 1-268-464-7319 Monday to Saturday 8am to 8 pm. Deadline for application / interested candidates is October 31,2023.

Regional News



12 rescued as cargo ship runs aground near St Thomas, USVI

The Bonnie G, a 195-foot Vanuatu-flagged “ro-ro” cargo vessel, ran aground Wednesday morning, approximately half a mile south of the Cyril E. King airport in St Thomas.

The US Coast Guard says all 12 persons aboard the vessel were rescued, and no injuries were reported.

A statement says the Bonnie G is reported to have approximately 13,000 gallons of fuel and approx-

imately 700 gallons of lube oil onboard.

Additionally, the vessel was carrying six cars, a bucket truck, a semi-truck rig, a trailer and container, two forklifts, a general-purpose lift as well as two pallets of cargo.

The Coast Guard has since established an Incident Command at Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment St Thomas and at Coast Guards Base San Juan, Thursday, to oversee



Bonnie G (Photo credit: @USCGSoutheast)

vessel grounding response efforts in St Thomas, US Virgin Islands.

Following an aerial as-


essment of the grounding site with embarked Coast Guard pollution response personnel on Wednesday afternoon, and a surface assessment by a Coast Guard Boat Forces Detachment St Thomas on Thursday morning, the Bonnie G appears to be stable, and no signs of oil pollution were visible in the water.

Coast Guard responders will continue to monitor the situation.

Additional response efforts planned for Thursday include Playland Marine personnel conducting further assessments, including depth soundings of the grounding site, and identifying risk and safety measures that may need to be put in place.

A preliminary staging area has been identified and plans are underway for a dive team to conduct an underwater assessment to evaluate the sub-surface area surrounding the vessel and identify any damage to

cont'd on pg 17



Walk for the Cure






Saturday, 14 October, 2023

Assembly Point: Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Assembly Time: 3:00pm
Move Off Time: 3:30pm
Registration fee: Adults \$50.00 & Children \$25.00

Lots of prizes will be given away for categories such as largest group, 1st person to complete the walk and so much more.

Route:
 Start from Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, turning left to Paynter's Court on to Piggotts Main Road, turning left to pass the Sunny Side School, on to Factory Road and end at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

All proceeds to be donated to Breast Friends and The Oncology Department at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre.

The CIBC logo is a trademark of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, used by FirstCaribbean International Bank under license.

Building collapse in Havana leaves three dead, two injured

A building in the historic centre of Havana that housed 13 families partially collapsed, leaving three people dead and at least two injured, Cuban authorities said Wednesday.

Authorities in Havana said that among the three fatalities were one resident and two firefighters who got trapped in the building when they were helping evacuate people.

A part of the three-story building collapsed Tuesday's night, and other sections crumbled early Wednesday.

While the reason for the collapse was not immediately known, the area has several aging buildings that lack maintenance and deteriorate in tropical rains, like those currently hitting the island.

Alexis Acosta Silva, mayor of Old Havana, told local media there were 54 people in the building at the time of the collapse. Families were evacuated to a nearby school, and no damage was reported to surrounding buildings.

Poor maintenance of existing residential buildings and the slow rate of build-

ing new ones have been top complaints among Cuba's citizens.

Cuba's Director of Housing Vivian Rodríguez said this week that the island has a housing deficit of 800 homes, especially in the provinces of Havana, Holguín, Santiago de Cuba and Camagüey.

Government figures from 2020 showed Cuba had 3.9 million homes. Of these, nearly 40% were in fair and poor condition.



Firefighters clear debris from a building that partially collapsed in Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, October 4, 2023. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)



WE'RE ON WHATSAPP!

CONTACT US!

729-3397 / 729-1210

SEND US YOUR ESTIMATES!



cont'd from pg 16

the vessel's hull.

Trained responders are being activated as needed, while the Coast Guard is investigating the cause of the incident.



DEWS



dewspro



info@dewspro.com



729-3397 / 729-1210

New York subway gunman sentenced to life in prison

By Nadine Yousif

A man who set off smoke bombs in a crowded New York subway carriage before shooting 10 people has been sentenced to 10 concurrent life terms in prison.

Frank James, 64, had pleaded guilty in January to 10 counts of terrorism, one for each person shot, in the 12 April 2022 attack.

Prosecutors said he planned the attack for years to inflict maximum damage.

All the victims survived but “were left with long-lasting physical and psychological damage”.

According to reporters inside the courtroom on Thursday, one of the victims addressed James and said: “You did something terribly evil. Your mother would be ashamed.”

The gunman was given 10 life sentences for each person that was shot and wounded, plus 10 additional years on a weapons charge, by US District Court Judge William Kuntz.

The gunman set off a smoke bomb on the crowded subway and fired his handgun 32 times during the morning rush hour on a Manhattan-bound N train in April. 2022. He only stopped when the gun jammed.

Ten people were wounded in the gun attack and 13 others were injured from smoke-related injuries, according to police.



Frank James pleaded guilty to terrorism and weapons charges in January.

Following the sentencing, Breon Peace, the US Attorney for the Eastern District of New York said “justice has been served”.

“The daily life blood of NYC is in its transit systems” where commuters often “feel a sense of safety,” Mr Peace said.

“Frank James attempted to take that sense of safety away and inject fear and chaos into the heart of the city.”

Following the shooting, nearby schools were sent into lockdown amid widespread fear as police initiated a manhunt to catch James.

Nearly 30 hours after the shooting, James called in a tip on himself to police, saying he was at a McDonalds on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

He was eventually arrested without incident.

Lawyers for James had

asked for an 18-year prison sentence, arguing that he suffered from a serious mental illness and that he did not intend to kill anyone.

“In a society where, sadly, we learn nearly every day that mass shooters who intend to kill readily achieve their goals, it is far more likely that James lacked that specific intent than that he simply failed in his mission,” his lawyer, Mia Eisner-Grynberg, wrote in a memo to court.

In court, James said the attacks he carried out were “cowardly acts of senseless violence”.

He also described his struggles with mental illness, and said the discrimination and prejudice he has faced had influenced his actions.

But Judge Kuntz dismissed his justifications.

“Yes, we have issues

with guns and mental illness and racism,” the judge said, “but only one man took it upon himself to get on that subway car.”

Prosecutors said James had carefully planned the attack and scouted out the location weeks before and did practice runs. He also purchased smoke bombs and disguises ahead of time.

On the day of the attack, James disguised himself as a construction worker and launched the attack while the train was in between stations.

Mr Peace said the victims “had nowhere to run”.

“We can only imagine the terror that the passengers in that car experienced that morning,” he said.

While there were no fatalities, the attack was one of the most violent ever seen on New York’s subway system.

Russian airstrike kills 51 at a funeral in Ukraine

By Antoinette Radford

A Russian attack on the village of Hroza, south-east of Kharkiv, has killed at least 51 people, including an eight-year-old boy, Ukraine says.

Villagers were attending a wake for a local resident when a missile struck at 15:15 local time (13:15 BST).

Ukraine's defence ministry said there were no military targets in the area - only civilians.

Kharkiv regional head Oleh Synyehubov described the attack as one of the region's "bloodiest crimes".

He confirmed that everyone who died were residents of the village, and that today's attack killed 20% of its population.

"One-fifth of this village has died in a single terrorist attack," he said on national television.

Ukrainian Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said every household was affected in the village: "From every family, from every household, there were people present".

Interfax Ukraine reported that the funeral was for a Ukrainian soldier. His widow, son - also a soldier - and daughter-in-law were among those killed, the outlet quoted local prosecutor Dmytro Chubenko as



saying.

The soldier had previously been buried in Dnipro, but his relatives said they wanted to rebury him in his home village.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the act "couldn't even be called a beastly act - because it would be an insult to beasts".

He accused Russia of deliberately targeting the village while people gathered for the memorial service, and said it "was not a blind strike".

"Who could launch a missile at them? Who? Only absolute evil", he said.

The Kupyansk district - which the village is part of

- has been on the front line of clashes between Russian and Ukrainian armies since Vladimir Putin launched his full scale invasion in February last year.

It was a major supply hub for Russian forces at the start of the war, but Kyiv recaptured it in September 2022 after months of fighting.

The interior minister said an Iskander missile was used in the attack, but the BBC has been unable to independently verify this claim.

Russia bombed the village as Mr Zelensky attended the European leaders' summit in Granada, Spain.

There, the European Union's foreign affairs

chief, Josep Borrell, warned that political infighting was threatening the US's ability to fund the Ukrainian military.

A recent budget deal in the US Congress did not include funding for Ukraine.

Mr Borrell said no European countries would be able to make up the gap left by any loss of American support.

"Can Europe fill the gap left by the US? Well, certainly Europe cannot replace the US," he said.

On Thursday, Mr Zelensky asked European leaders for more air defence missiles and said other countries could thank Ukraine for protecting them from Russian aggression.

Sports News



The nation's top cyclists will be returning to action on the domestic calendar when the ABCF stage the Robert Peters two-stage race on Sunday, October 8. (File photo)

ABCF to stage Robert Peters two-stage race this weekend

Domestic racing will resume on the 2023 Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation's (ABCF) calendar with the staging of the Robert Peters two-stage race on Sunday, October 8.

Sunday's two-stage race will comprise an individual time trial and a criterium or circuit race.

The individual time trial will commence at 7 am at Hideout, which is located at the junction at the top of the hill leading to the St. James' Club & Villas at Mamora Bay in St. Paul's.

The Criterium race will take place around the Pan Am Base, starting at 3 pm, on Sunday.

The nation's cyclists and participants from the various cycling clubs are expected to contest the event. Participants must complete both races to be eligible to win the event.

Cyclists in the Elite Men's Class and the Junior Male Division in the Criterium race will be required to complete 20 laps around the Pan Am Base to be in contention to win the title.

Those in the Masters Class must complete 20 laps, while cyclists in the Elite Female, Sports Class, and Cadets 14-16 Division are required to complete 15 laps.

The cyclists who will compete in the Cadets 11-13 category must complete six laps of the circuit.

Patrick Peters won the overall title in last year's Robert Peters 2-Stage Race. Peters also won the Masters Class ahead of his only opponent, Richard Lam.

More success for Sandals in business league basketball

Sandals were among the winners in the latest round of games in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition on Monday night.

The Sandals notched up

their fifth win in six outings by coasting to a 51-42 victory against the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLB-MC) in the first game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 24 points for the San-

dals, while Delornje Jules scored nine points and Christopher Henry had eight points for the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center, which lost for the fifth time in as many games.

H. Wright Promotions and Anjo Wholesale also

recorded wins in the other matches on Wednesday night.

H. Wright Promotions secured their second win in five games by romping to an emphatic 83-59 victory against the Police.

cont'd on pg 21

Antigua suffer third loss in ECCB netball series

Antigua and Barbuda suffered their third loss in the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

With all teams, except Dominica, playing twice on Wednesday, Antigua and Barbuda, who snatched a 36-29 victory over St. Lucia in the morning session, was unable to sustain their winning form in the evening.

The Antiguan players were beaten 53-34 by Grenada in the last of four matches on Wednesday night.

Goal Shoot Rayana Regis sank 27 of her 32 attempts for Antigua and Barbuda, who lost for the third time in five games. Goal Shoot Carlene Alexander converted 48 of her 53 shots for Grenada.

The Grenadians kept their unbeaten record intact by recording their fifth win in as many games with a 57-



Antigua and Barbuda's players (black and red uniform) compete against their opponents from Grenada during the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank International Netball Series at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday, October 4, 2023.

41 victory against their guest team, the Cayman Islands, on Thursday morning.

Defending champions St. Vincent and the Grenadines continued their resurgence on Thursday after suffering their first loss of the tournament against Grenada on Wednesday morning.

The Vincentians claimed their fifth win in six outings

on Thursday by surging to an emphatic 78-11 victory against Montserrat, who remain winless after suffering their sixth loss.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines also prevailed 53-43 against Dominica on Wednesday night.

Goal Attack Shelli-sa Davis sank 27 of her 47 attempts, and Goal Shoot

Joseann Antoine scored 25 of her 32 shots for the Vincentians, who suffered a narrow 32-34 loss against Grenada earlier on Wednesday.

Goal Attack Seraphin Gordon converted 31 of her 36 attempts, and Goal Shoot Anna Mar Panthier scored 12 of her 19 shots for Dominica, who lost for the third time in four encounters.

Guest team, Barbados, kept their unbeaten record intact by coasting to a comfortable 54-25 victory over St. Lucia to claim their fourth win in as many games. It was the second loss in four outings for the St. Lucians.

St. Kitts and Nevis got their first win in five games by trouncing Montserrat 72-11.

cont'd from pg 20

Adrian Carnegie produced 25 points, and Anthony Greer scored 21 points for H. Wright Promotions.

Javon Simon shot a game-high 26 points, and Kashawn Gomes chipped in with 12 points for the Police, who remain winless.

Anjo Wholesale recorded their fourth win in five outings by pulling off a 53-43 victory against the Callan Shooters.

Steven Matthews converted 12 points, while Jaheem James and Felix Hamilton each scored 10 points for Anjo Whole-

sale.

Akeem James scored nine points, and Kwame Payne had eight points for the Callan Shooters, who lost for the second time in six outings.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

The Police will take on the Sledge O'Ballers at 6:30 pm, Richie's Shooters will clash with Anjo Wholesale at 7:30 pm, and the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center will tackle Trimmingham Trucking Enterprises at 8:30 pm.

DWAYNE GEORGE
INVITES YOU TO TAKE PART IN A

BULK GARBAGE DISPOSAL CLEAN-UP DRIVE

7TH OF OCTOBER 2023
URLINGS COMMUNITY
FROM 6AM

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE OUR COMMUNITY CLEAN

Australia win series against West Indies Women

BRISBANE, Australia - In a riveting display of T20 cricket, Australia's women emerged triumphant in the third T20 International (T20I) against the West Indies, clinching the series 2-1 with a commendable 47-run win at the Allan Border Field in Brisbane on Thursday.

The star of the show was, undeniably, Hayley Matthews. Matthews continued her scintillating form, bagging her record eighth consecutive player of the match title and ultimately being named the player of the series.

Displaying her batting prowess, she played a blistering innings, smashing 79 off just 40 balls.

Her all-around capabilities were evident as she also contributed with the ball, taking a crucial wicket while conceding 34 runs in her four-over spell.

Sent into bat first, Tahlia McGrath led the scoring for Australia with a brisk 34-ball 65, which included 11 fours and two sixes. Ellyse Perry added 40 from 30 balls as Australia posted 190 for nine off their 20 overs.

Shamilia Connell was the pick of the West Indies bowlers by taking three wickets for 25 runs.

Matthews continued her blistering form with the bat, smashing a 40-ball 79,



West Indies Women captain Hayley Matthews with her record 8th consecutive player of the match and the player of the series awards. (CWI Media)

which included 11 fours and four sixes. Aaliyah added 26 as the West Indies Women finished on 143 all out in 19.5 overs.

Over the course of the series, Matthews accumulated a staggering total of 310 runs, alongside picking up five wickets, setting a new benchmark in women's T20 cricket.

With this feat, she etched her name into the record books by becoming the first woman to score more than 300 runs across

three consecutive innings.

Moreover, Matthews reached another milestone as she became the second youngest woman to amass 2000 T20I runs, further establishing her place among the cricketing elite.

Speaking at the post-match press conference, Matthews said, "I knew we had a shot and that's what I was gunning for. I was trying to be aggressive, but unfortunately, Darcie Brown outsmarted me with a slower delivery and noth-

ing went to plan after that."

Despite the loss, the West Indies team exhibited moments of brilliance with Matthews' record-breaking feats being the cherry on top. They will surely use this series as a learning experience for future encounters.

The focus will now shift focus to the longer format of fifty-overs cricket. The first One-Day International will bowl off at the same venue in Brisbane on Sunday, October 9.

BECOME A

GERM BUSTER

GERMS ARE EVERYWHERE!
**WASH YOUR
HANDS
REGULARLY
WITH SOAP.**



GRAFINKZ



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS
& THE ENVIRONMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

For more information
or assistance:
Call (268) 462-5522
or visit us on Lower High Street,
St. Johns, Antigua.

unicef 
for every child

Ravindra and Conway ace the chase as New Zealand spank England

AHMEDABAD, India (Reuters) - New Zealand steamrolled defending champions England by nine wickets in the opening match of the 50-over World Cup on Thursday, demonstrating again their knack of punching above their weight in showpiece events.

Devon Conway and Rachin Ravindra smashed rapid unbeaten centuries to set up New Zealand's successful pursuit of a 283-run victory target, which came with 13.4 overs to spare.

It was a rematch of the heart-stopping 2019 final at Lord's in which England were declared winners via a now-scrapped boundary countback rule after the contest had ended in a tie.

Electing to field on Thursday, New Zealand's bowlers restricted their op-



New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway, left, run between the wickets during the ICC Cricket World Cup opening match between England and New Zealand in Ahmedabad, India, Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023. (AP)

ponents to 282 for nine, a modest total considering the firepower in England's usually formidable batting lineup.

England's batters did not really fire, but Joe Root (77), Jos Buttler (43) and Jonny Bairstow (33) provided some resistance.

However, England could not string together enough partnerships and kept losing wickets at regular intervals.

Matt Henry claimed three for 48 for New Zealand, while their three spinners shared five wickets on a hot afternoon at the Narendra Modi Stadium.

All 11 England batters made double figures – the first time any side have managed that in ODIs -- but it was a patchy batting display overall.

New Zealand lost Will Young for nought in the first over but Conway, who made a career-best 152 not out,

and Ravindra immediately turned the heat back on England with their free scoring.

The left-handers appeared to be competing with each other to reach the 50-mark -- both getting there in 36 balls in the end. Conway brought up his hundred in 83 balls.

Ravindra, who collaborated in an epic unbroken 273-run partnership with Conway, took one delivery fewer to notch up his maiden ODI hundred in his memorable World Cup debut.

New Zealand rested regular captain Kane Williamson (knee) and fast bowler Tim Southee (thumb) to give them more time to recover from surgery. England rested Ben Stokes, who is nursing a minor hip injury.



2023 Schools Football League kicks off today

The 2023 Secondary Schools Football League is set to commence with matches in the Under-20 or Senior Boys Division today, Friday, October 6.

The eagerly anticipated schools' competition will kick off at 3 pm with three matches, featuring all six teams in the West Zone.

The Ottos Comprehensive School will face newcomers Trinity Academy at Radio Range in Ottos. The Antigua Grammar School will meet Princess Margaret School (PMS) at the PMS playing field, and Jennings Secondary will clash with the Antigua State College at the Golden Grove playing field.

According to Coordinator of the Schools Football Programme, Rohan "Porridge" Benjamin, the competition was originally slated to commence yesterday (Thursday) with matches in the east zone of the Under-20 Boys division.

However, he said the organizers were forced to delay the start of the competition with those matches because the playing fields were not in a state of readiness that was conducive to



Coach Rohan 'Porridge' Benjamin, right standing, and the ABICE team celebrate with their Under-20 Boys Division trophy after winning last year's league title by beating All Saints Secondary in the final at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Friday, January 13, 2023. (File photo)

Twelve teams, equally divided into the west and east zones, will be contesting this year's senior boys' division.

The east zone of the Under-20 Boys division will comprise the defending league champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE); last year's second-place finishers, the All Saints Secondary; and St. Joseph's Academy, which is making a return after missing last year's competition.

The other teams are

Pares Secondary, Clare Hall Secondary, and Irene B. Williams Secondary. Glanvilles Secondary, which participated in last year's competition, will not be taking part this year.

This year's Secondary Schools Football League will also feature competitions in the Under-16 and Under-20 Girls divisions, Under-16 Boys, and Under-14 Boys categories.

Six teams will battle in both girls' divisions, while 10 teams will compete in both the under-14 and under-16 boys' categories.

Benjamin said the orga-

nizers are exploring the possibilities of playing matches in either the Under-14 or Under-16 boys divisions on Saturday mornings.

The Princess Margaret School's Under-20 girls' division team played unbeaten to win both knockout and league titles last year. PMS also won the Under-14 Boys Division League title.

The Antigua Grammar School claimed the Under-16 Boys Division league crown, while the Ottos Comprehensive School captured the Boys Knock-out title.