

NEW MANAGEMENT

at V.C. Bird International Airport

Story on Page 2



The Environment Division plans to raffle this electric vehicle as part of push to encourage switch to renewable energy sources as Arbor Month 2023 was officially launched. Also on display are a set of electric-powered landscaping tools. *Story on page 3.*

Government makes administrative moves following the departure of airport CEO

Several moves have been made to ensure the smooth operations of the country's main port of entry, the VC Bird International Airport, following the resignation of the Chief Executive Officer, Euleta Francis.

In a letter addressed to the Chairman of the Board of Directors, Rolston Polly Potter, Francis cited what she termed an attempt by Prime Minister Gaston Browne to "assassinate my personal character and

professional reputation, as well as to bully me, as a public servant."

This, she reported was done when the prime minister appeared on the weekly radio programme, the Browne and Browne Show, last Saturday.

She relayed her side of the argument about an incident that transpired on Friday when the prime minister called her on the telephone. Without naming her specifically, the prime minister said the senior of-

ficial of a government entity had raised her voice at him, and that he responded in kind.

He accused the individual of being disrespectful, especially in light of the fact that it was made clear that others were listening to the conversation.

Having tendered her resignation, the government lost no time in moving quickly to fill the vacancy her departure created. In a media posting, PM Browne stated that he is aware of

Francis's resignation.

"The government and the Board, having examined her resignation and given due consideration to her capacity to serve as the CEO of ABAA and to deliver the services at the required standard, agreed to accept her resignation."

"Mr. Avery Henry will act as the CEO in the interim and Mr. Rolston Polly Potter will serve as Executive Chairman of ABAA effective immediately," he stated.



CARIBBEAN
ALLIANCE
INSURANCE

WE'RE HIRING
JOIN OUR
TEAM



ANTIGUA
CLAIMS
HANDLER

Caribbean Alliance Insurance Company Limited is a regional general insurance company that operates in 15 territories across the Caribbean. We are rated an **A (Excellent) Stable by A.M. Best**; this is the highest rating given to any insurance company in the Caribbean. We are committed to sound underwriting principles and prompt claims settlement.

We are looking for an experienced insurance professional to join our team in Antigua as a Claims Handler.

The **CLAIMS HANDLER** investigates claims submitted in line with company procedures, determines loss coverage and compensation, and supports the processing of assigned claims within the limits of authority. A high level of flexibility, customer service, and communication are important to ensure all stakeholders involved in the claims process are updated to facilitate quick settlements.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Investigate claims and obtain relevant facts to determine coverage, loss, and liability by studying documentation and assembling additional information.
- Interview prospective claimants, and document and assemble claim file activities in an accurate and timely manner.
- Process new insurance claims notifications within the stipulated timeframe and monitor the progress of all claims to ensure settlement.
- Determine covered insurance losses by studying provisions of a policy or certificate and interpreting the policy wording and policy schedule to determine the extent of coverage.
- Manage claims within authority limits, calculate benefits due, and determine compensation settlement for claim payout.

- Visit sites, inspect damages, request police reports, and manage the sale of salvaged items.
- Read and understand loss adjusters, lawyers, and expert opinion reports and ensure they are complete, and their conclusions are logical for claim settlements.
- Maintain quality customer service by following best practices and responding to customer inquiries promptly including clients and third parties.
- Update and maintain comprehensive claim handling notation in insurance software and other related applications.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE:

- An Associate Degree in Business Administration or Associate in Insurance or years of progressive experience in claims settlement.
- Ability to work in a multicultural environment and build effective relationships with clients and colleagues.
- Ability to think quickly, exercise effective negotiation, and display great interpersonal skills.
- Possess the ability to work independently, use initiative, and be flexible to meet the needs of customers.

Address your application to

The Human Resource Manager, Caribbean Alliance Insurance Co. Ltd., and submit it by **EMAIL** to humanresources@caribbeanalliance.com no later than **November 20th, 2023**.

Arbor Month launch used to highlight achievements of Environment Division

Health and Environment Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, has officially launched Arbor Month, 2023 calling Antigua and Barbuda a trailblazer, regionally and internationally, when it comes to taking action that would lead to the protection of the environment.

Speaking at the launch ceremony at the Environment Division’s lawn on Monday, Sir Molwyn said one such area was the decision to eliminate the use of single-use plastics and Styrofoam.

“There was much controversy when we decided to ban single-use plastics. The critics said it could not be done, however, we

proceeded nonetheless and we succeeded. Now, these products have virtually been eliminated from the country.

“Who would have thought that the success of Antigua and Barbuda would have inspired other countries to the point that three years ago, I was invited to Kenya to share our experiences with the government and people of that African country? This has also started a process where there will be a United Nations Treaty for all nations to adopt programmes to eliminate single-use plastic bags, Sir Molwyn revealed.

He emphasized that this was highly inspired and influenced by Antigua and



Sir Molwyn Joseph speaking at the launch of Arbor Month on Monday

Barbuda. The Environment Minister said this achievement is one that the entire nation should applaud, as

it is not an achievement of the politicians, but an achievement by the people *cont'd on pg 4*

NEW Suzuki SUV's Fronx and 4-Door Jimny coming soon.....just in time for Christmas.....

Starting at \$78,000

Starting at \$95,900

for more details give us a call at 481-2500 HAHEED MOTORS LTD.

Local News



cont'd from pg 3

themselves. He added that an officer of the department is now in Kenya working on the final text of the document that will go before the UN for adoption.

Sir Molwyn said the successes with the elimination of single-use plastic bags go even further, as there are plans to set up a plant to recycle all plastics here, in Antigua and Barbuda.

“Next year, we hope to establish in Antigua and Barbuda a plastic recycling facility where the whole cycle of recycling will take place. Under that project, the plastics we now send to Mexico will be processed here in Antigua and Barbu-

cont'd on pg 5



The Environment Division plans to raffle this electric vehicle as part of push to encourage switch to renewable energy sources

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

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

COVERAGE FOR
HOME | BUSINESS | FAMILY | MOTOR

www.sicfinancial.com

A project to generate electricity from wind power makes progress

A project that will generate electricity by harnessing the energy from wind turbines has been launched in Antigua and is making steady progress.

Technical Officer of the SPAARE project, Pierre Briemel, said the project involves erecting fifteen wind turbines that will generate collectively 4 megawatts of power.

Already, two of the turbines are nearing the completion stage of erection at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, where they are expected to be able to generate enough electricity to power the stadium.

The other thirteen wind turbines will be erected near Parham.

Briemel explained that

the design of the wind turbines has been done in a manner that allows for the assembling and servicing to be done on the ground and would only need a hoist to mount it onto the concrete base.

Additionally, the proximity of the plant near Parham will allow for the electricity from the turbines to help power the nearby reverse osmosis water purification plant.

The project is being financed by the United Nations Environmental Programme, the Global Environment Fund, and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Development.

The programme is being coordinated through the Environment Division.

cont'd from pg 4

da and what we will do is that we will make chairs, tables, and other such items from the discarded plastics," he indicated.

Other achievements include getting Redonda declared a World Heritage Site, a drainage project in the McKinnons and Cashew Hill Areas, as well as the retrofitting of 10 churches, to make them better suited to serve as hurricane shelters in times of disasters.

On Arbor Day, November 24, the department will distribute over 10 thousand fruit trees to residents, but Sir Molwyn is urging the department to double the amount with a second distribution planned for some time in January.

He said the planting of trees is part of efforts to preserve the environment. The theme for Arbor Day, 2023, is: "Is Sustaining Our Roots, Cultivating Our Future, Let's Get Ready."



VACANCY PLANT MECHANIC 2

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **Plant Mechanic 2**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **Plant Mechanic 2** is expected to maintain and repair the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority's (ABAA's) plant equipment at the highest level in line with Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures.

The functions of the Plant Mechanic 2 will include but not limited to:

- Participate in the inspection, maintenance, repair, diagnosis, and location of mechanical difficulties on all ABAA vehicles and equipment.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all Passenger Loading Bridges.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all Conveyor and Baggage Handling Systems.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all ABAA generators both on site and off site.
- Assist with preventative maintenance on all electro/mechanical plant equipment, machinery, and related facilities.

Minimum Requirements:

- Antigua State College Diploma.
- Professional/Guild Certification or Vocational Qualifications in Mechanics.
- Plant Equipment Electrical Certification.
- Minimum three (3) years' working experience in a similar role.
- Minimum one (1) year experience in hydraulics, and diesel and gasoline engines.
- Mechanic experience in an aviation environment would be an asset
- Ability to competently use tools, equipment, vehicles and machinery to meet the role requirements.
- Ability to use computer diagnostic and testing equipment.
- Ability to remain calm when under pressure (resilience).
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective collaboration skills.
- Excellent customer service skills.

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

The Human Resources Manager
 Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
 P. O. Box 1051
 V. C. Bird International Airport
 Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.
 E-mail: hr@abairportauthority.com
 Website: www.vcbia.com

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17 November 2023**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.



VACANCY BUS DRIVER

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **Bus Driver**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **Bus Driver** will be responsible for the delivery of transportation services to the employees of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), in line with national road safety laws, Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures. This position will report to the Transportation Officer.

The functions of the Bus Driver will include but is not limited to the following:

- Drive the assigned Company vehicle to safely transport ABAA's employees to and from work.
- Complete the Daily Vehicles Checklist and conduct a comprehensive inspection of the assigned Company vehicle, reporting any conditions of concern to the Transportation Officer.
- Ensure that the assigned vehicles are properly cleaned, regularly serviced and sufficiently fueled prior to transporting employees.

Minimum Requirements:

- A School Leaving Certificate.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in a similar role
- Holder of a valid Class D or F Antigua and Barbuda Driver's License
- Excellent customer service skills
- Good verbal communication skills
- Have sound judgment and decision-making skills
- Ability to work independently, with minimal instructions

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
 P.O. Box 1051
 V. C. Bird International Airport
 Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.

E-mail: hr@abairportauthority.com; Website: www.vcbia.com

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17 November 2023**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.



Justin Brookes

Body pulled from the sea identified

The body of the man pulled from the waters of Point Wharf on Monday morning has been identified as Justin Brookes, who goes by the alias 'Shakimba', a resident of The Point.

Members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force Coast Guard retrieved the body of the 35-year-old man, who was discovered floating close to the dock. The discovery was made by the owner of the restaurant The Captain's Table, who was returning from a fishing expedition shortly before 9:00 am.

Residents who are familiar with the deceased man, say he lived on a boat at the Point Wharf and was once resident in Barbuda, before returning to the mainland. Another source recalled that he worked on a vessel that transported goods to Barbuda.

A friend of Brookes said they had not seen him, in roughly two days.

While an autopsy is expected to determine his cause of death, there is speculation that he may have had an epileptic seizure and fell off the boat, into the water, or he may have been intoxicated and suffered an accident.

The body was pronounced dead by a doctor at 10:20 a.m. on Monday.

Meanwhile, in a separate incident, the dead body of a 54-year-old man was found inside his home at Bay Street, Villa. The police arrived at the scene around 9:30 a.m. and found the deceased, lying motionless on his bed.

He was pronounced dead at 10:28 a.m. Foul play is not suspected in both incidents; however, further investigations are ongoing.

ABHTI Culinary Arts Department receives substantial donation

The Culinary Arts department at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) is getting substantial help from the Sandals Foundation to support its mandate.

The donation, valued at USD 10,000, includes a water heater, heavy-duty mixers, various restaurant equipment, and paint for the enhancement of the space. Sandals Foundation has partnered with the ABHTI to help with the training of people skilled in the culinary arts to be able to fill the slots caused by the demands of these specialized skills in the hotel sector.

The partnership is an extension of ABHTI's 'Adopt A Block Initiative', which aims to improve the aesthetics of the institute.

The Sandals Foundation wanted to make a more meaningful contribution beyond the aesthetics and chose to support the Culinary Arts department as it plays a vital role in training future chefs



Heidi Clarke and Raynel Carroll pictured with newly received water heater.

and hospitality professionals.

Acting Executive Director of ABHTI Raynel Carroll expressed gratitude for the Sandals Foundation's support.

She stated, "ABHTI is committed to providing all of its students with the best possible education and training, the donation will help to improve the Culinary Arts department and the institute's overall facilities."

Heidi Clarke, Executive Director of the Sandals Foundation, said, "Providing the tools and building the capacity of the training facility is key to ensuring students have a solid framework to practice and perfect their craft. I am pleased we have been able to help bolster the infrastructure at ABHTI and we look forward to continuing our partnership to support the institute's students and staff."

Students of ABHTI have already begun to benefit from the Sandals Foundation's donation. The new equipment will allow them to learn and enhance their skills in a more professional and efficient environment.

The Sandals Foundation and ABHTI are also planning future collaborations, including training programs for lecturers, students, and staff members. The partnership is expected to have a significant impact on the quality of hospitality education and training in Antigua and Barbuda.

NEW **KFC** **Nuggets**

6 PIECES \$12⁷⁵

10 PIECES \$19⁷⁵

6 PIECES FRIES BISCUIT MEDIUM DRINK \$24⁷⁵

100% WHITE MEAT

ORIGINAL RECIPE

HAND MADE

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY: KFC, AllMart, Google Play, App Store

KEEP AMERICA CLEAN

Tourism officials welcome increased AA flights into the country next summer

Antigua and Barbuda is among the destinations that will benefit from increased flights next summer, as American Airlines releases its schedule for the upcoming year.

The new schedule calls for increased airlift to several Caribbean destinations next summer, with Antigua and Barbuda among those listed.

Starting June 5, 2024, the airline will extend its double daily nonstop service into Antigua and Barbuda with the addition of a second flight from Miami, which will run until September 3, 2024.

“We are thrilled with this announcement of additional service by



American Airlines”, said Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez.

“There has been a growing demand by consumers for flights into

Antigua and Barbuda during the summer months. The launch of the second flight comes at the most opportune

cont'd on pg 9

STUDENT SAFETY POLICY

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

Live in a better State of mind

www.sicantigua.com
info@sicantigua.com
1 (268) 481-7800\04

f @ t

Hells Gate Steelband alerts the public of a possible scam

The Caribbean Union Bank Hells Gate Steel Orchestra (CUB HGSO) is urging the public to be aware of a possible scam where a person or persons are claiming to be raising funds in the band's name to assist someone who lost their home in a fire.

In a media release, CUB HGSO said it is not undertaking any fundraising activities currently. The Management of the band is asking those individuals engaged in the purported 'fundraiser' to desist from using the band's name.

"If you, or someone you know, has been approached by these individuals, please do not give them any money and do not hesitate to call the authorities to report the matter," the release urged.

cont'd from pg 8

time, as we work towards boosting airlift into the destination to sustain business during the traditional slower season," said the tourism minister.

The US Market remains a strong market for the destination, with visitor arrivals from the region, reflecting growth for the year, as of September 2023.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority's US Office has completed an unprecedented 38-plus cities roadshow, this Fall/Winter season alongside resort, cruise, tour operator, and airline partners, geared towards marketing the destination and promoting airlift increases.

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Colin C. James noted that "Our US travel trade roadshows and consumer shows this year, have been quite successful in generating a desire for travel to our

twin-island paradise. We are optimistic that the additional airlift we are set to receive over the summer of 2024 will be vital to meeting that demand and ensuring next year's 2024 arrivals surpass those of benchmark year 2019."

"The extra service with American Airlines will provide us with that added boost, as our consumers will benefit from greater travel options allowing them to connect easily to the destination," James added.

The US Carrier has also announced plans to operate a daily service to Antigua from JFK International Airport in New York, into Spring 2024.

Antigua and Barbuda's strong summer 2023 performance within the US Market has also prompted discussions by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority with other major US carriers, about increased service for Summer 2024



VACANCY AC TECHNICIAN

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **AC Technician**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **AC Technician** is expected to participate in the installation, repairing and servicing of all of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority's (ABAA's) Air Condition Units. He/she will respond to all service requests to repair and maintain ABAA's Air Condition Units in line with Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures.

The functions of the AC Technician will include but not limited to:

- Participate in the inspection, repair, diagnosis, and location of technical difficulties relating to all ABAA air condition units.
- Service all air condition equipment as part of the ABAA's Preventative Maintenance Programme.
- Inspect and test equipment repairs to monitor proper functioning and to ensure customer satisfaction.
- Test refrigeration equipment for refrigerant leaks.
- Provide prompt and effective responses to complaints from customers, airport users and Management and ensure that all situations/incidents are accurately recorded and reported to the Supervisor in a timely manner.

Minimum Requirements:

- Antigua State College Diploma.
- An Associate's degree in HVAC-R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) or Professional/Guild certification or vocational qualifications in air conditioning and/or refrigeration
- Minimum five (5) years' practical air condition and/or refrigeration experience.
- Air Condition and/or refrigeration experience in an aviation environment would be an asset.
- Knowledge of chilled water system is an asset.
- Detailed knowledge of the technical operation and repair of air condition and/or refrigeration equipment.
- Ability to competently use tools and equipment to meet the role requirements.
- Ability to use computer diagnostic and testing equipment.
- Ability to remain calm when under pressure (resilience).
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective collaboration skills.
- Excellent customer service skills

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

The Human Resources Manager
 Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
 P. O. Box 1051
 V. C. Bird International Airport
 Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.
 E-mail: hr@abairportauthority.com
 Website: www.vcbia.com

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17 November 2023**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.

Dominica launches world's first marine protected area for sperm whales

CMC - Dominica on Monday expressed its commitment to establishing the world's first ever marine protected Sperm Whale Reserve on the western side of the island that will help sequester carbon and generate tourism income while also protecting a species under increased threat from human activity.

"I hereby declare the official launch this programme for the establishment of the first Sperm Whale Reserve in the World, as we encourage all of our citizens and all nations, everywhere that have the honour and privilege to include whales as bona fide citizens, to join us in our commitment to protect our living marine resources, before it's too late," said Acting Prime Minister, Roland Roy.

Roy, who is also the Fisheries, Blue and Green Economy, told the ceremony that the reserve will be developed to support the island's traditional fishing activities and deep sea fishing that does not require the reduction or dismantling of the sustainable use of Fish Aggregating Devices (FADs) to catch fish to support livelihoods, families and visitors.

"It is our hope that through the Sperm Whale Reserve we are able to create a new model of eco-tourism that provides multiple benefits, both tangible and intangible to a wide range of stakeholders particularly in the tourism, transportation, and fisheries sectors.

"Recognising that we are a small island developing state with limited resources, we have the opportunity through this humble act of protecting the Sperm Whales that call Dominica home, to have a profound regional and international impact, and to be able to now promote our image as a large ocean developing state," he added.

The US-based National Geographic said scientists involved in the planning and establishment of the reserve said that protection of almost 800 square kilometres will deliver benefits from the local to the global.

It said sperm whales have the largest brains on earth, matrilineal societies, and a complex language.

"They are the largest-toothed predator on our planet, with males on average 16 meters (52 ft) long – bigger than a school bus. Sperm whales are found in waters worldwide – from Iceland to New Zealand.

"But Dominica is one of the few countries in the world where sperm whales can be seen consistently throughout the year. Dominica offers a unique habitat where a resident population of sperm whales finds food and shelter, making the west coast of the island critical feeding and nursing grounds."

Roy said Dominica is privileged to have over 50 Sperm Whale families living in the calm waters off the island's west coast "living in matrilineal societies led by grandmothers and mothers, these enormous creatures spend time in our waters diving deep for squid, giving birth and raising their young.

"Through our partnership in marine research with National Geographic, Pristine Seas, we have learnt that our sperm whale families speak their own language, a series of clicks that is passed on by the elders as they teach their young, but most important to us is that as nomadic marine mammals the Sperm Whales have found a safe home and are considered permanent residents of Dominica.

"Unfortunately, across the oceans, from the busy US West Pacific Coast to a remote island in Western Austra-



Acting Prime Minister, Roland Roy.

lia, the world's largest mammals are showing signs of distress. Records of mass die-offs, mysterious illnesses and puzzling changes in behaviour make it clear that whales need a lifeline," Roy noted.

The authorities here say that once the 788 square-kilometre reserve is established, a "Senior Whale Officer" and observers stationed to tourism and research vessels will oversee and reinforce the expanded whale tourism regulations.

"Sustainable artisanal fishing, which does not interfere with the sperm whales' behaviour or compete with them for food, will be permitted. Visitors to Dominica will have the opportunity to swim with these whales or view them from a boat, but they will do so in more sustainable numbers and under new strict regulations, to ensure that the sperm whales and other species of whales and dolphins aren't disturbed."

The founder of Pristine Seas and an Explorer in Residence at National Geographic, Enric Sala, said "protecting these whales offers an incredible,

cont'd on pg 12

GERM BUSTER

HABITS

HELP KEEP YOUR HOME AND ENVIRONMENT CLEAN



Put your toys and school supplies away neatly.

Clean up after you eat.

Make sure garbage goes in the trash bin.

Make sure to recycle.

Wash your hands frequently.

 **BE HEALTHY**
 **BE SAFE**
 **BE KIND**

GRAFINKZ



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



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

For more information or assistance:
Call (268) 462-6522
or visit us on Lower High Street,
St. Johns, Antigua.

unicef 
for every child

Environment



cont'd from pg 10

cost-effective climate solution that has been overlooked by policymakers.

“By protecting sperm whales, Dominica is bolstering its climate resilience. The more sperm whales in Dominica’s waters, the more carbon sequestered in the deep sea, thus helping to mitigate global warming,” said Sala, who has been advising the Dominica government on the establishment of the reserve.

National Geographic said that whale faeces are particularly climate-friendly. Sperm whales dive between 650-1000 meters deep to hunt squid.

“When they are at the surface between dives, they breathe, rest and defecate. Their nutrient-rich faeces – with iron concentrations 10 million times greater than the surrounding water at the surface – foster plankton blooms which capture carbon dioxide from seawater.

“When the plankton dies, it sinks to the deep sea with the carbon in it,

thus becoming a carbon sink and helping to mitigate the impacts of global warming.

Based on a study of carbon sequestration by sperm whales elsewhere, and assuming 250 sperm whales currently in Dominica’s waters, Sala estimates that these whales could sequester 4200 metric tonnes of carbon every year – equivalent to the carbon sequestered by 18,000 acres of US forests in one year.

“The community of sperm whales which use the waters off Dominica are at risk,” said Dr Shane Gero, National Geographic Explorer, Founder of The Dominica Sperm Whale Project and also lead biologist for Project CETI, who was a scientific advisor on the establishment of the reserve.

“These ‘island whales’ live alongside humans, preferring this island over others, making our actions in their ocean home their biggest threat.

“These whales are entangled in fishing gear, ingest our plastic trash that washes into the sea, engulfed in

our noise which radiates deep into the ocean where they hunt for squid, and are hit by ships, a particularly heightened threat in the Caribbean, where everything is imported and many vessels transit between islands. All of this comes together to paint a distressing picture for the future of sperm whales.”

Between 2005 and 2015, the numbers of sperm whales in the 12 most-studied families off Dominica have shown a steady decline, seemingly caused by a substantial drop in survival starting in about 2008. If overall trends continue, by 2030 there will be very few animals left.

Roy said that as part of the island’s development agenda, Dominica is seeking to pursue “a well-planned, highly productive, competitive, and innovative Blue Economy that promotes full and productive employment and equal access to economic resources and opportunities for meeting our target for the agricultural sector to contribute EC\$700 million to GDP (gross development product) by 2030 and a target of 132,000 stay-over tourists per annum.

“As the ‘Nature Isle of Dominica’ we have in the past successfully protected our land resources with 22 per cent of our forested area reserved to include the Morne Trois Piton National Park World Heritage Site – as such, a critical component of our national economic development agenda must include the holistic development of a sustainable ocean-based economy – the Blue Economy.

“By promoting the sustainable use of our marine resources particularly its unique ecosystems and rich biodiversity, we will position Dominica as a country known for adopting healthy lifestyles in harmony with nature, promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns and building resilience that reduces disaster risks and adapts to or mitigates climate change impacts,” Roy told the ceremony.



NO CASH? NO WORRIES!

WE ACCEPT CARDS AND CHEQUES!




YOU MAY BE REQUIRED TO PRESENT ID FOR CARD PURCHASES

 DEWS
  dewspro
  info@dewspro.com

 729-3397/ 729-1210

DP World: Australia sites back online after cyber-attack

By Annabelle Liang

One of Australia's major port operators is back online after a cyber-attack crippled its facilities.

Operations at DP World Australia container terminals in Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth were disrupted from Friday to Monday morning.

The firm manages around 40% of goods entering and leaving the country.

The outage has not affected the supply of goods to major Australian supermarkets, the BBC understands.

DP World Australia, a unit of the Dubai state-owned DP World, said its ports resumed operations at 09:00 local time "following successful tests of key systems overnight".

It added: "The company expects that approximately 5,000 containers will move out of the four Australian terminals today."

Earlier on Monday, Darren Goldie, the government's cyber-security co-ordinator, said the operator was making "good progress" at bringing its sites back online.

He added that the government had not yet identified the perpetrators of the cyber-attack, which caused the firm to disconnect its ports from the internet.

DP World said it halted internet connectivity at its



Operations at DP World sites in Australia had been disrupted.

ports on Friday to prevent "any ongoing unauthorised access" to its network.

Going offline meant trucks had been unable to transport containers in and out of the affected sites.

The resumption of service on Monday is the first step towards tackling the attack on its network. DP World said it was still in the process of investigating the disruption and guarding its systems against cyber-attacks.

"The resumption of port operations does not mean that this incident has concluded. DP World Australia's investigation and ongoing remediation work are likely to continue for some time," the company added.

DP World has also been

affected by industrial action, which has caused a delay in customer deliveries.

Since it began in October, workers have engaged in 24-hour strikes and refused to unload trucks.

The Maritime Union of Australia, which is negotiating pay increases for workers, announced last week that the industrial action would be extended to 20 November.

The cyber-attack added to fears that the supply of everything from medical equipment to Christmas toys could be disrupted.

However, a spokesperson from supermarket chain Woolworths said it was monitoring the situation and does not "anticipate any immediate im-

pacts at this time".

The BBC understands that Woolworths' range of Christmas products has already arrived in Australia.

The disruption is also not expected to affect rival chain Coles, which is similarly monitoring developments at DP World.

Australia has seen a rise in cyber-attacks since late-2022.

Earlier this year, the Albanese government announced plans to overhaul its cyber-security laws, and set up an agency to co-ordinate responses to intrusions.

The government is expected to release details on its proposed rules next week, which will likely tighten reporting requirements for companies.

Guyana refuses to meet US delegation on “fact finding mission”

The Guyanese Government said it will not engage members of a US delegation that will be in the country on a “fact finding mission” into claims that the state is discriminating against citizens of African ancestry.

In a statement on Sunday, the government said it would not meet with the US delegation since its members are “acting in their private capacities” and their trip “is a clear interference in Guyana’s domestic politics with a bias towards the political Opposition in Guyana.”

The delegation, which is led by Georgia Assemblywoman Dee Dawkins-Haigler and South Carolina Representative John King, is due to arrive in Guyana today and will leave on November 19.

In a statement prior to their departure, it was noted that the delegation is “is concerned about allegations of discrimination towards certain ethnic groups in Guyana as well as Guyanese-American citizens currently residing in and out of Guyana.”

Guyana said the delegation is visiting after a “one-sided engagement” called the “Conference on Guyana” in Washington, DC that was organised by Guyanese-American activist Rickford Burke.

“This one-sided en-

gagement presented the platform for Opposition Politicians to spew concocted and fabricated narratives about the Government of Guyana, including their usual diatribe about racial discrimination and extra judicial killings, without any fact-checking mechanism and without

cont’d on pg 15



Sea Glans Willikies News
PRESENT

Come **EEN** **CHRISTMAS**

NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023
TIME: 6PM
FREE ENTRY

PERFORMERS INCLUDE:

PEETRON THOMAS | THE EAST SIDE MELODIOUS SINGERS |
RANKING CEPHUS | HALCYON STEEL ORCHESTRA | THE MINOTT
FAMILY | MR & MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT 2023 and many more....

Food & Drinks will be on sale

Come and enjoy the night
with us!

At Glanvilles Poly Clinic

USVI seeks emergency declaration for St Croix water crisis

US Virgin Islands Governor Albert Bryan has formally asked President Joe Biden to issue an emergency declaration on the territory as it battles a water contamination crisis on St Croix.

In a statement this afternoon, Government House said the declaration, once approved by Biden, will cover a 90-day period from November 15, 2023.

It will also clear an additional US\$5 million in resources for the territory.

“Governor Bryan’s request to President Biden for an emergency declaration is crucial to garner federal support to effectively manage this unprecedented situation.

“This support is vital for implementing long-term solutions to ensure clean and safe water for all St Croix residents and restore normalcy in the wake of this environmental challenge,” Government House stated.

The Governor has al-



US President Joe Biden. (AP Photo)

ready issued a State of Emergency (SoE) on St Croix.

During the SoE, there is a cap on bottled water and water truck haulers to prevent price gouging during this crisis.

The Virgin Islands National Guard has also been activated to assist local

agencies with their operations.

Hazardous levels of lead and copper in the water supply of St Croix was reported by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on October 14, 2023 from samples collected on September 28 and 29, 2023.

The VI Department of Health is currently testing children on St Croix to determine levels of lead exposure.

One suspected case was detected among a sample of Pre-K, First and Second Grade children tested at the Lew Muckle Elementary School.

cont'd from pg 14

the Government being afforded a hearing or the facility of a response. It is obvious that these jaundiced, baseless and unfounded narratives of these Opposition Politicians, unsupported by any evidence whatsoever, have influenced this delegation,” the government said.

“Burke is wanted by law enforcement agencies in Guyana for a number of criminal offences for which

he is charged, including, extortion of Guyanese businessmen. These charges are pending before Magistrates’ Courts in Guyana. Burke is publicly known for his daily diet of racist rants on social media with the intent of exciting racial hostilities, strife and ethnic violence among the different ethnic groups of Guyana. His inane rantings are invariably directed at the People’s Progressive Party Civic (PPP/C) Government.”

The government stated that any foreign delegation interested in learning about the problems Guyana has faced historically should look at matters such as the fraudulent elections of 1968, 1973, 1980 and 1985; human rights violations that took place from 1968 to 1992 and the abuse, violence and killing of persons opposed to the then Government, which is now the opposition party.

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Donald Trump Jr praises 'genius' father in New York fraud trial

Returning to the stand in his family's civil fraud trial in New York, Donald Trump Jr described his father as "an artist with real estate".

The younger Mr Trump made the case for the Trump Organization that the ex-president was a "genius" with the ability to create luxury from nothing.

Prosecutors say the company inflated valuations to secure favourable loans.

A loss in court threatens the Trump real estate empire, which could be banned from doing business in New York.

Testifying on Monday morning, Mr Trump Jr continued the charm offensive seen in his first appearance two weeks ago, appearing relaxed, cheerful and confident.

Soon after being sworn in, he drew laughs by saying New York Attorney General Letitia James - the prosecutor bringing the case - might sue him for perjury if he said "it's good to be here".

And, nodding to his past complaints about the courtroom sketch art, he said he "already had a talk" with the artist depicting the day's proceedings and joked that he wanted the AI version of himself - with a strong jawline and broad shoulders - to be drawn.

He even made Judge Arthur Engoron laugh when he said: "I'm, like, the non-golfer of the family, which



Donald Trump Jr called his father 'an artist with real estate' who 'sees the things that other people don't see'.

has relegated me to the children's table in perpetuity."

Dressed in a dark suit and light lavender tie, the Ivy League graduate spoke of going from bartending in Colorado to starting as a project manager at the Trump Organization, and then ultimately becoming an executive.

The company dealt with "world class assets" but was like a "mom and pop" business, he said, adding that it operated as a "meritocracy".

Defence lawyers put on a lengthy presentation to introduce evidence of "the Trump story" and recount the company's history.

When prosecutors objected that the lawyers were practically giving him a "script", Mr Trump Jr quipped: "Your honour, I promise I'll keep it under six weeks."

It was a light jab at the state, which took six weeks to present their case.

As lawyers flicked

through various Trump properties, Mr Trump Jr expounded on each one, from 40 Wall Street to Seven Springs.

Trump Tower was the breakthrough project that launched his father's career and "the first time he changed the skyline".

"It would be one of the first great examples of ultra-luxury real estate emerging in Manhattan - the project by which all future high-end residential condominiums would have been judged," he said.

The Mar-a-Lago resort in West Palm Beach, Florida, was "one of the few sort of American castles", with a "virtually unheard of" location that placed it by the lake and also by the ocean.

"You couldn't build that atrium for \$18m today," he said, challenging appraisers' assessments of the property's worth.

"You need to understand it and see it to actually fully

grasp the spectacular nature of this property."

He described his father, who was not present in court, as someone who was on the leading edge of creating value in properties and could turn "eyesores" into "jewels".

"He see the things that other people don't see," Mr Trump Jr said. "He sees the thing that other people would never envision. He plays the long game."

Much of the testimony was largely unrelated to the claims at the heart of the case.

Judge Engoron has already ruled Mr Trump significantly inflated the value of his properties. The trial focuses on charges of falsification of business records, insurance fraud and conspiracy.

But the judge indicated he was willing to listen to how the defence's case plays out. The Trump lawyers have already floated filing for a mistrial, accusing the judge and his clerk of bias.

As prosecutors tried to object at various points that the presentation was irrelevant, he said: "There's no jury - I don't see any prejudice to this."

Later, after an objection to a document offered by defence lawyers, he asked prosecutors: "Do you want to risk a reversal over this

cont'd on pg 17

Colombian rebels try to justify kidnapping of Luis Díaz's father

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Colombians have reacted with outrage after the leader of the Colombian rebels, which held the father of Liverpool footballer Luis Díaz hostage, tried to justify his kidnapping.

The National Liberation Army (ELN) said it had to resort to kidnapping for ransom because it was “poor”.

The group has been engaged in peace talks for almost a year.

The kidnapping of Luis Díaz's father, an amateur football coach, has cast doubts on its commitment to the talks.

The footballer's parents, Luis Manuel Díaz and Cilenis Marulanda, were seized at gunpoint on 28 October in his hometown of Barrancas, in the northern La Guajira province.

The kidnapers abandoned Ms Marulanda in a car hours later as Colombia's security forces, members of the military and police, closed in on the kidnapers.

But the rebels held 58-year-old Luis Manuel Díaz for 12 days before releasing him to a delegation composed of officials from the United Nations and the Catholic Church.



Luis Manuel Díaz (third from left) was released on 9 November to a delegation of the UN and the Catholic Church.

ELN rebel commander Antonio García has stood firm on the ELN's position on kidnappings since Luis Manuel Díaz's release.

The rebel commander insisted that kidnappings for ransom were not a breach of the ceasefire his group had signed up to, which came into force in August. Mr García has previously asserted that the targeting of the popular footballer's father was an “error”.

“There is no agreement in which the ELN has committed to abstaining from financial operations, including depriving someone of their freedom for economic reasons,” he wrote in a statement published on social

media.

ELN is a “poor organisation” and does not resort to drug smuggling to finance itself, Mr García claims.

He adds that in order to finance its operations all of the rebel group's units are under orders to “carry out military operations to raise funds”.

The rebel commander then blames the Colombian government for not providing “a solution” for the ELN's financing and accuses it of trying to “strangle the ELN financially”.

The government has not commented publicly on the statement, but it has caused outrage across the country, where it has been described

as “cynical” and “infamous”.

Commenters on social media took particular offence at Mr García's claim that his rebel group was “poor like the majority of Colombians, and we're not ashamed of that”.

Some called on the rebels to “do an honest day's work” instead of extorting and kidnapping hardworking Colombians.

Others demanded that the peace talks be halted until the group agrees to stop abducting people.

Five days passed before the ELN rebel group admitted that it had abducted the local football coach, stating on 4 November that one of its units held him.

Though the guerrilla group's leadership ordered his immediate release, Mr Díaz was not freed until 9 November.

cont'd from pg 16

one stupid document?”

The state had focused heavily on financial statements and spreadsheets, but Mr Trump Jr's encore set the tone for a defence

case that may last into mid-December.

After two damaging weeks of testimony already from the Trump family, however, legal experts told the BBC the case may be beyond salvaging at this point.

LICB to host second Gold Jacket Award Ceremony in Antigua

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) will host the second edition of its annual Gold Jacket Award Ceremony in the courtyard at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds (CCG) in Antigua on Saturday, December 2.

This follows the inaugural introduction of the new initiative that was hosted in Tortola in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in December 2022.

In the initial ceremony, the Leeward Island Cricket Board awarded LICB-branded gold-colored Jackets to two outstanding servants of Leeward Islands Cricket.

They are Nevisian Elquemedo Tonito Willett, MBE, the first Leeward



Jim Allen

Islands player to play Test cricket for the West Indies, and the legendary fast bowler Dr. Sir Anderson Montgomery Everton Roberts, who was the second player from the territory and the first Antiguan to achieve the feat.



Sir Vivian Richards

This event, which was initiated to recognize stakeholders who would have given distinguished service to Leeward Islands cricket, on and off the field, will recognize two more out-

cont'd on pg 19

Ticket Outlets Antigua: Landing Strip, Roti King, Eighteen Plus 1 Restaurant

Ticket Outlets Montserrat: Beni's Jewelry, Summer Breeze Restaurant

The poster features the LICB logo on the left and the ABCA logo on the right. The central text reads "GOLD JACKET Award Ceremony 2023" in large, golden letters. Below the title, there are four portraits of the award winners: Mr. Charles "Jim" Allen MBE, Sir Vivian A Richards KNH OBE OOC, and two other unnamed winners. A golden trophy is positioned in the center. At the bottom, the event details are listed: "SATURDAY 2ND DECEMBER 2023", "7PM - 10PM", and "VENUE: COURTYARD COOLIDGE CRICKET GROUND, ANTIGUA". A yellow ticket icon on the left indicates "TICKETS \$100 US". The background is a dark, starry field with a cricket pitch and stumps visible at the bottom right.

History making EPL official visits ABFA

In a recent trip to Antigua and Barbuda, Akil Howson took the opportunity to meet with officials from the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association during a break from a family event.

Howson, who made history as the first Black referee to be promoted to the English Premier League in 15 years since Uriah Rennie, achieved this prestigious milestone earlier in the year.

Having previously officiated games in the



Championship last season, secured him a place in the Premier League not only Howson's transition to the top-flight of English football but also earned him a

spot in the league's history books as only the second Black official to do so.

During his visit to Antigua and Barbuda, Howson had the opportunity to meet with the President of the ABFA and local representatives from the referees' association.

Everton Gonsalves, President of the ABFA, expressed his gratitude to Mr. Howson for taking the time to visit and share his valuable knowledge with the local referees' association.

cont'd from pg 18

standing former players during its second edition in December.

Events Manager Vernon Springer said the second Gold Jacket Award will recognize Montserrat's Charles "Jim" Allen, MBE, and Antiguan Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, KNH, OBE, OOC.

"The Gold Jacket Award came about under the leadership of the current President of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board, Enoch Lewis, and his board of directors. This started in 2022 in the British Virgin Islands.

"Fast tracking to 2023, the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) will be the host of the second event on behalf of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board.

"This is an award for cricket legends, and so this year we will be honoring Sir Viv Richards of Antigua and Barbuda and Jim Allen of Montserrat. Allen first played for the Montserrat senior team at the age of 17, and he went on to become a household name in his homeland," Springer said during an interview with Twin Island Media.

Jim Allen starred in Montserrat cricket from a young age, making his

debut for the Montserrat cricket team in the 1969 Leeward Islands Tournament. He scored his first century for Montserrat against St. Kitts at Sturge Park in Montserrat in 1971.

Allen made his first-class debut on January 15, 1972, for the Leeward Islands against the Windward Islands in Dominica. He represented the Leewards from 1972 to 1983 in 55 first-class matches, scoring five centuries and 19 half centuries. In 1978, Allen was awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for his services to cricket.

In 1999, Sir Viv was made a Knight Commander of the Order of the Nation (KCN) by his native country, Antigua and Barbuda. In 2006, he was upgraded to Antigua and Barbuda's highest award, Knight of the Order of the National Hero (KNH). The Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, is named in his honour.

Sir Viv represented the Combined Islands from 1972 to 1981 and the Leeward Islands from 1981 to 1991, when he officially retired from international cricket after scoring 8,540 runs in 121 Tests for the West Indies from 1974 to 1991.

Springer also encouraged all stakeholders to support the event, as it will double as a fund-raiser, with the funds raised to be invested in the further development of cricket in the Leeward Islands. Tickets cost US \$100.

"This is a Leeward Islands Cricket Board fund-raising event. This is used to raise funds for all of our youth development programmes such as under-15s, under-17s, and under 19s boys and girls," Springer said.

"The LICB is made up of eight territories, and so if you want to have a camp in Antigua and you have players from all the islands, you will have to fly everybody from their respective islands into Antigua. Since the advent of COVID-19, the cost of air travel has increased, so running a camp will cost the LICB in the region of EC\$600,000.

"This is an important event to raise some funds for the next generation of our young cricketers. Our development programmes will help us identify our future top players. Tickets for the event cost US\$100, all inclusive."

The LICB plans to host the event annually on a rotation basis in each of the eight territories that comprise the LI Cricket Board.



Chief organizer of the Cool and Smooth Mandy Premier League's Sherma Jackson Business League Mandy Weatherhead (center in orange shirt and yellow cap) and players of the Board of Education and PEL Boys look on while MPL member Marion Smith cuts the ribbon, which is held by umpires Candis Butler and Shermina Austri, to mark the start of the competition at Powells on Sunday, November 12, 2023. (Photo courtesy MPL)

MPL Business softball league commences at Powells

Following a delayed start due to inclement weather across Antigua and Barbuda for the past three weeks, the annual Cool and Smooth Mandy Premier League's (MPL) Sherma Jackson Business League softball competition finally got on the way at Powells on Sunday.

The Board of Education, Polished Concrete Floors and Countertops (PCF&C), Hanse On Security, and TG Welding all recorded wins in the opening round of matches.

The Board of Education claimed an eight-wicket win against PEL Boys, who batted first and scored 75 for five off eight overs in the opening games,

which was reduced from 10 overs due to wet conditions.

Clarence Francis made 22, and Justin Perriera got 14. Rayn John picked up two wickets for 22 runs. The Board of Education achieved victory at 77 for two with two balls to spare.

Player of the match D'ahri Francis struck 23, Ziani Da Silva hit an unbeaten 19, and Kadeem Henry made 18 not out. Perreira claimed one wicket for 16 runs.

Polished Concrete Floors and Countertops trounced Grill Box by 55 runs. PCF&C amassed 153 for one off their allotted 10 overs. Malinga Bruney slammed an unbeaten 83, Shamar Per-

reira cracked 50, and Shaquan Reifer made 15 not out. Nigel "Icko" Ferguson had one wicket for 27 runs.

In reply, Grill Box was restricted to 98 for five off their 10 overs. Ferguson hit 51, and Randino Turner scored 24. Bruney snapped up three wickets for nine runs to claim the player of the match award.

But PCF&C lost by 13 runs to TG Welding, which made 96 for seven off their 10 overs. Player of the match Richie Thomas cracked 34, Deran Benta struck 24, and Charanlall Ramjohn got 20.

Malinga Bruney grabbed three

cont'd on pg 21

West Indies name Academy squad to face Ireland in Antigua

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the West Indies Men's Academy squad for the upcoming home series against Ireland Academy in Antigua.

The two teams will play three List A matches (50 overs) and two four-day first-class matches from November 17 to December 5. These matches will be played at the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) and the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS) in Antigua.

The West Indies squad is made up mainly of the players in the West Indies Academy programme, who have just played in the CG United Super50 Cup as well as the Headley-Weekes Tri-Series earlier this year.

The CWI Selection Panel has included four new players. Two of these are teenagers – Jordan Johnson, a left-handed middle-order batter and fast bowler Isai Thorne. The others are Junior Sinclair, a right-handed spin bowling allrounder and Kadeem Alleyne, a batting allrounder.

Johnson was the stand-out player in the West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under 19s tour to Sri Lanka in September when he made three centuries.

Sinclair was impressive in the Caribbean Premier League (CPL) and was a member of the Guyana Amazon Warriors, which won their first CPL title on home soil in September.

Alleyne, who will play the white ball series, was impressive batting



West Indies Academy captain Nyeem Young. (CWI Media)

at the top of the order for Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) in the CG United Super50 Cup. Thorne, who will play the red ball fixtures, bowled with pace and penetration on the Rising Stars Under-19 tour to Sri Lanka.

Graeme West, CWI's High Performance Manager said, "The Ireland series has great significance to the CWI High Performance Pathway as it will be the first bilateral Series since the Academy programme was introduced in July 2022.

"Playing both 50 over and red-ball four-day series will provide the

Academy squad with further opportunities to progress their skills following promising showings in the Headley-Weekes Series and more recently in the CG United Super50 Cup."

FULL SQUAD: Nyeem Young (captain), Ackeem Auguste, Joshua Bishop, Teddy Bishop, Carlon Bowen-Tuckett, McKenny Clarke, Jordan Johnson, Leonardo Julien, Johann Layne, Matthew Nandu, Ashmead Nedd, Kelvin Pitman, Junior Sinclair, Kevin Wickham, Kadeem Alleyne (white ball matches only), and Isai Thorne (red ball matches only).

cont'd from pg 20

wickets for 23 runs, and Kirt Douglas took two for 14.

PCF&C were then restricted to 83 for seven off their 10 overs. Steve Martin scored 41, and Shamar Pereira hit 23. Hughon Tonge

snatched three wickets for nine runs, and Owen Graham took two for 15.

TG Welding also won by default against Time of Victory, and Hanse On Security beat the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force by

40 runs.

Hanse On Security made 82 for nine off their 10 overs. Player of the match Kerry Mentore hit 22, Adrian Abbott struck 19, and Andra Samuel scored 15. Mary Browne claimed two

wickets for nine runs.

In reply, Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force were restricted to 42 for five off their 10 overs. Almajie Webster made 14, and Samuel captured two wickets for eight runs.



PLATINUM Fm
We Entertain You **97.9**

MON - FRI
10AM - 12PM

HOSTED BY CARLENA KNIGHT

PLATINUM
SPORTS CENTER

CALL: 562 - 9790
FACEBOOK LIVE @ PLATINUM FM 97.9

India face New Zealand hurdle in World Cup semis

BENGALURU (Reuters) - A seemingly unstoppable India stand on the verge of their first World Cup final since the triumphant 2011 campaign on home soil, but must face their bogey team in major events to get there, as they take on New Zealand in Wednesday's semi-final in Mumbai.

Rohit Sharma's side have been in incredible form so far, winning all nine of their group matches, including a four-wicket victory over the Black Caps in Dharamsala.

However, India were also heavily fancied to beat New Zealand at the same stage of the 2019 edition, only to lose by 18 runs at Old Trafford, while Kane Williamson's team also came out on top in the inaugural World Test Championship final two years ago.

Head coach Rahul Dravid said his team would be under pressure in their fourth consecutive World Cup semi-final.

"It's a knockout game. We have to accept the fact that there's going to be a certain amount of pressure," Dravid said after India thumped the Netherlands by 160 runs on Sunday to maintain their 100 percent record.

New Zealand, runners-up in 2015 and 2019, had won four straight games and were top of the table when the teams met last month.

But injuries took their toll and they only reached the semis after snapping a four-game losing run with a victory over Sri Lanka, a result which all but ended Pakistan's chances.



India's Virat Kohli plays a shot during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between Bangladesh and India in Pune, India, Thursday, Oct. 19, 2023. (AP)



PLATINUM FM
97.9

EPILUS KEVIN

TOUCHLINE

MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7AM-9AM

All the best in sports
and more



Antigua and Barbuda retained the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States Swimming Championships in St. Lucia over the weekend. (ABSF)

Antigua and Barbuda retain OECS swim title

Antigua and Barbuda retained the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Swimming Championships in St. Lucia over the weekend.

However, Antigua and Barbuda had to share the championship with Grenada.

Both teams finished tied with 1,347.5 points at the end of the 128 events that took place during the 31st OECS Swimming Championships that were held at the Rodney Heights Aquatic Center in St. Lucia from November 10-12.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines captured third place with 1,239.5

points, and host St. Lucia finished in fourth place with 1,086.5 points.

St. Kitts and Nevis claimed fifth place with 144 points, and St. Maarten finished in sixth place.

A 34-member Antigua and Barbuda squad returned home yesterday (Monday).

The 2022 Junior Sportswoman of the Year, Ellie Shaw, male 100-meter butterfly national record holder Tivon Benjamin, and national female 100-meter backstroke record holder Madison MacMillian were all members of the squad, which successfully defended its OECS swimming title.

The team was accompanied by

head coach Wayne Mitchell, coaches Nelson Molina and Elizabeth Watkins, and manager Kem Warner.

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation negotiated a chartered flight to facilitate the team's travel to and from St. Lucia following last week's announcement by the regional air carrier LIAT of unscheduled maintenance issues.

The financial support of platinum sponsors A.S. Bryden & Sons and gold sponsors Caribbean Alliance Insurance helps facilitate Antigua and Barbuda's participation at the 31st OECS Swimming Championships.