

PM BROWNE DEFENDS STAGING CONCERT

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Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph (fifth from left) with CAF Media Consultant Jamilla Kirwan (to his right) pose for a photo with the trainees and trainers in this CAF-funded training. *Story on page 9.*

Local News

PM Browne defends staging “One Nation” concert

Amidst criticism from some sections of the public, Prime Minister Gaston Browne is justifying his government’s hosting of the ‘One Nation Concert’, an event that brings together local, regional, and international artistes on one stage, free of cost to the general public.

PM Browne made the announcement recently on his social media page and reaction was swift from those who criticized the planned staging of the event, at a time when his administration intends to announce an increase in the ABST.

But some welcomed the announcement and the opportunity that will be presented for them to witness their fa-

vourite artistes in concert on 13th January 2024.

On his radio programme on the weekend, PM Browne pointed to the spin-off benefits of hosting such events, particularly for businesses.

“When you look at the One Nation concert, with dozens of vendors looking forward to the event to make some money; even our local artistes, will be paid more money than the artistes that we are bringing in. Some artistes will be paid approximately \$5,000.00 but an artist such as Tian Wynter makes about \$10,000.00. This is a gain for the government as money is turned over in the economy; it benefits the country as a whole, as everyone benefits. Also,



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

we have stakeholders such as the nail shops, the barbers as well as the distributors who look forward to events such as these,” he emphasized.

Additionally, the prime minister maintains that the One Nation Concert seeks to celebrate diversity – the coming together of the various nationalities that make Antigua and Barbuda home.

“Antigua and Barbuda is a melting pot; we have over one hundred nationalities living here in this country. You almost have a fifty-fifty split between those who are native-born and those who are immigrants, and this is a potential powder keg. If you do not ensure that these people are properly integrated, then you will have individuals, especially the native-born taking issue with those who naturalized or those who are residents. We said we are one people with one common destiny and we wanted to bring these people together to continue the integration thereby avoiding any ethnic tension. So, the concert has its value,” he stated.

Prime Minister Browne has dismissed the critics and insisted that his
cont’d on pg 3



MOH warns against interference with COVID-19 Dashboard

The Ministry of Health is issuing a stern warning against the unauthorized editing and dissemination of COVID-19 dashboard data that creates the false impression that these changes originate from the ministry.

"It has come to our attention that certain individuals are modifying outdated COVID-19 dashboard sta-

tistics and circulating them among the public, misrepresenting these figures as official releases from the Ministry of Health. This unauthorized editing and distribution of crucial health data mislead the public," a ministry statement noted.

It said the Ministry emphasizes that the dissemination of accurate and veri-

fied health data is crucial in ensuring transparency and public trust. Any unauthorized manipulation of this information creates confusion.

"We are therefore urging all individuals and entities to refrain from altering or distributing any statistical data published by the Ministry of Health without approval.

Updates to the COVID-19 Dashboards have long been suspended, almost 2 years ago. The use of the outdated COVID-19 dashboard is a clear attempt to mislead the country," the release added.

The Ministry remains committed to providing the public with accurate and reliable information through official channels and platforms.

For authentic and updated information please refer only to official announcements from the Ministry of Health's authorized communication channels.

cont'd from pg 2

administration will ensure that events like the one that will be held on 13th January 2024 are held to promote unity among citizens and residents.

He said Antigua and Barbuda has at-

tracted residents from Jamaica in the north to Guyana in the south and it is credit that despite these differences, everyone lives in peace and security. Events such as the One Nation concert will only serve to deepen that bond.

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Local News



Antigua and Barbuda to collaborate with AOSIS as COP28 draws near

As Antigua and Barbuda prepares to attend the upcoming COP28 meeting in Dubai, the country announces its membership in the Alliance of Small Island Developing States (AOSIS).

AOSIS is a coalition of small island and low-lying coastal countries that advocate for sustainable development and climate action, particularly in the face of the disproportionately adverse impacts of climate change on their territories.

“The inclusion of Antigua and Barbuda in AOSIS marks a significant stride

in the nation’s commitment to addressing the pressing climate challenges faced by small island nations. By aligning with AOSIS, Antigua and Barbuda aims to amplify its voice on the global stage and advocate effectively for the concerns and interests of small island developing states in the upcoming COP28 discussions,” according to the Ministry of Health and the Environment.

As the world prepares for COP28, Antigua and Barbuda pledges to actively engage and collaborate with AOSIS and other member states to drive im-



pactful climate action, foster resilience, and ensure a sustainable future for all.

The twin-island nation

was represented by Ambassador, Diann Black-Layne, Ezra Christopher, and Zachary Phillips.

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Mill Academy formally opens offering new approaches to learning/teaching

A new educational institution that started classes in September this year, emphasizing new approaches to teaching and learning, held its formal opening exercises on Monday.

Mill Academy, located on All Saints Road, east of KFC, staged its grand opening with an audience that included the Governor General - Sir Rodney Williams, Senior Officials of the Ministry of Education, Opposition Leader - Jamale Pringle, its benefactors, Roger and Carolyne Penfold, parents, teachers, and well-wishers.

The school is the brainchild of its founder and principal, Kisma Panthier-Jn Pierre who said the academy came out of her experiences as a teacher, who started to provide after-school tutoring with one student, but whose eventual success led to a word-of-mouth campaign, that saw her numbers spike to over thirty, after just one year.

She continued the after-school tutoring but felt the need to do more, to answer to a greater calling. This came during the COVID-19 pandemic when she found someone to help her realize a dream. It is out of this that Mill Academy Ltd. was born.

“Our small, but dynamic class-



rooms of only fifteen students, allow for quality teaching and individual attention. Our integrated curriculum which covers Math, English, Science, Social Studies, Agriculture, Art, Craft, Information Technology, Coding, Robotics, Music, Pan, French, Spanish, Mandarin, Physical Education, Journaling, Yoga and Meditation, Environmental Awareness and Sustainability allows Mill Academy to satisfy at least three of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Goal #1: No poverty, Goal #4: Quality Education, and Goal #5: Gender Equality,” she told Monday's opening exercises.

She also explained that the philosophy of the school is to include parents as much as possible in the process of learning.

Sir Rodney, who delivered congratulatory remarks, said his heart was filled with joy and pride ‘not just as the Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, but as someone who cherishes the profound impact of education, a sentiment deeply rooted in my own family history. My mother was an educator for more than fifty years.’

“Today, Mill Academy stands not merely as a conventional school but as a symbol of holistic education, seam-

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Local News



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cont'd from pg 5

lessly blending traditional methodologies with innovative approaches. Technology, far from being a mere tool, is a guiding star, illuminating the educational pathways in Math, English Language Arts, and Foreign Languages – French, Spanish, and Mandarin,” Sir Rodney remarked.

Comments were also made by two of the parents of children at the school. One Teacher, Brittney Patrick stated, “By coming together as an educational community of teachers, parents, and community members dedicated to investing in the success of our children, we can lay the foundation needed for innovation in a global landscape that is evolving faster than ever before.

“As parents, we need teachers who see kids as the unique beings with limitless potential that they are. They take their time getting to know them and curate an educational environment to support their unique needs. To paraphrase Brooke Hampton, we need teachers who speak to our children as if they are the wisest, kindest, most magical humans on the earth; for what they believe is what they become.”

Benefactor of the institution, Roger Penfold spoke briefly of his commitment to the school, noting that currently, the revenues generated by the school are not yet able to cover the operating costs, however, he is committed to meeting the shortfall as long as possible.

Drive on to expand the teaching of Mandarin in Antigua and Barbuda

A company that specializes in teaching Mandarin, the main language spoken by Chinese, has announced plans to expand the teaching of the language, by offering it to primary school children in the country.

The company, Wonton A Words, describing itself as ‘a leading Mandarin education company,’ says it is proud to announce its groundbreaking initiative to provide Mandarin language education to primary school students in Antigua and Barbuda in preparation for the Chinese Bridge Competition.

“Through in-person classes and an e-learning platform, students will have access to engaging lessons, cultural insights, and expert guidance from professional educators,” a company media release stated.

It said that as part of its commitment to educational excellence, Wonton A Words is prepared to offer partial scholarships to all participating students.

“Access to the e-learning platform is currently being offered as a full scholarship to all registered students in primary schools between the ages of 7-10.

“A select group of top students will have the extraordinary chance to receive personalized training from our team of experienced Mandarin educators, with partial and full scholarship options.

“This special training is in preparation for the National Chinese Bridge Competition earmarked for June 2024,” the release noted.

It explained that Mandarin provides students with a host of benefits, including potential job opportunities in translation, access to government scholarships to study in China, and developmental cognitive and memory

advantages. Wonton A Words believes in empowering students with the tools they need to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Wonton A Words revealed that it received acceptance from the Board of Education to initiate talks with the principals and administration of all lo-

cal primary schools. The goal is to integrate after-school sessions for Mandarin education, providing students with a comprehensive and immersive language learning experience. This initiative aligns with the recent collaboration between the government and the Confucius Institute in China.

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Cinematographer Shabier Kirchner receives a special award from Government House

Shabier Kirchner, an accomplished cinematographer who has worked on several acclaimed projects, is the latest recipient of the Governor General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Award.

Born and raised in Antigua and Barbuda, Shabier moved to New York City in 2011 to pursue a career in Filmmaking.

His most recent work, *PAST LIVES*, is Celine Song's debut feature for A24, starring John Magaro, Greta Lee and Teo Yoo. Shabier was named one of Variety's 10 Artisans to watch in

2023 due to his work on the film.

In 2020, he collaborated with Academy Award winner, Steve McQueen, lensing his anthology series, *SMALL AXE*, for which he was nominated for an Emmy award for Cinematography, and won the BAFTA (British Academy of Film and Television Award) for outstanding photography in a limited series.

In that same year, he went to Nigeria to shoot Akinola Davies' short *LIZARD* which was nominated for a BAFTA and won Best Short at the Sundance



Shabier Kirchner

Film Festival.

Before that, he shot *BULL*, a feature directed by Annie Silverstein for which Shabier was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award for Best Cinematography. *BULL* was also selected for several festivals including Cannes' Un Certain Regard.

Other credits include *ONLY YOU*, Harry Wooltiff's award-winning film starring Josh O'Connor and Laia Costa; and *SOLLIERS POINT* with Matthew Poerfield.

In 2018, Shabier worked on Benh Zeitlin's feature film *WENDY* where he served as 2nd unit and B Camera cinematographer. In the same year, he went on to shoot the feature film *SKATE KITCHEN* for Pulse Films with director Crystal Moselle which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival to critical acclaim, with whom he also shot the short film, *THAT*

ONE DAY.

Variety Magazine profiled Shabier as one of ten Cinematographers to watch.

At Monday's Investiture ceremony held at Government House, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, congratulated Shabier and his parents, Bert and Faye, for his outstanding achievements thus far, in his career.

"Shabier, your recognition to date is a testament to your exceptional talent and dedication to the craft of filmmaking. Your journey from our shores to the world stage serves as an inspiration to aspiring filmmakers, artists, and dreamers within our nation. Your achievements underscore the boundless possibilities that emerge when talent meets determination, and I am delighted, as Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda to recognize your Meritorious Service in the Fine Arts," Sir Rodney stated.

FORM P7	(Rule 15)
THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE	
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ANUHPB 2023/0320	
In the Estate of DAVID LAMBERT JOSEPH, late of Crabbe Hill, St. Mary's, Antigua, Deceased.	
<u>ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT</u>	
<u>FIRST PUBLICATION</u>	
<p>TAKE NOTICE that an Application <i>de bonis non administratus</i> has been filed by ULLA LEWIS, of 4978 Rockstone Way, Acworth, Georgia 30101-8854, United States of America, for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the lawful Attorney of one of the children of the deceased, VIRGINIA BEATRICE JOSEPH, the deceased having died intestate on the 18th day of February, 1983.</p> <p>Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.</p> <p>Dated the 22nd day of November, 2023</p> <p>TALIA N. DACOSTA STAPLETON CHAMBERS ATTORNEY-AT-LAW FOR THE APPLICANT</p>	
<small>Filed by STAPLETON CHAMBERS Attorneys-at-law whose address for service is STAPLETON CHAMBERS, STAPLETON HOUSE, SUITE #2, STAPLETON LANE, P.O. BOX 2891, ST. JOHN'S, ANTIGUA; craig.jacas@stapletonchambers.com; Tel: (268) 562-7185 Fax: (268) 562-7967 Applicant in Person whose address for service is the same as above.</small>	

Eight healthcare heroes certified as skilled recompression chamber operators

Eight technicians attached to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center have successfully completed a recompression chamber operation team training.

The rigorous training, sponsored by the Calvin Ayre Foundation, was designed to enhance their abilities in managing recompression chambers and encompassed comprehensive theoretical knowledge and hands-on practical applications.

The Ministry of Health reports that the healthcare workers exhibited unparalleled dedication and expertise in mastering the intricate skills required for the efficient operation of

recompression chambers, essential in treating various diving-related injuries and conditions.

According to the ministry, the healthcare workers, including three doctors and a nurse from SLBMC, as well as a paramedic and three Advanced Emergency Medical Technicians from the Antigua Barbuda Emergency Medical Services, demonstrated unwavering commitment, ensuring that they are equipped with the necessary proficiency to handle critical situations and provide optimal care to patients requiring hyperbaric treatment.

The training which lasted 5 days; three virtual and



Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph thanks CAF for continued support for SLBMC.

two in-person, was carried out by Divers Alert Network with funding provided by Calvin Ayre Founda-

tion.

The healthcare workers stand ready to serve with unmatched proficiency and dedication, ensuring the provision of exceptional care to patients in need.

The Ministry of Health extends heartfelt appreciation to the Calvin Ayre Foundation for their generous donation of a state-of-the-art hyperbaric chamber to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center 2018 and also for facilitating training over the years.

As a result of this collaboration, Sir Lester Bird Medical Center is now better prepared than ever to handle complex medical cases, ensuring that the people of Antigua receive world-class healthcare services.



Technicians were very attentive during the training

Local News



Fire destroys abandoned building

The Fire Department in St. John's has reported that it responded to a fire call at 6:00 pm on Monday, indicating that a wooden building was on fire, on Church Street, in St. John's.

Inspector Lester Bagot

advised that an immediate response was made with the Number 15 fire tender.

On arrival at the scene, the fire crew met a wooden structure fully engulfed in flames.

Water was used from the

fire tender to control and extinguish the fire.

The St. John's fire-fighters also received assistance from the Coolidge and All Saints stations, which had fire tenders on the scene.

Additionally, Hugh

Christian also responded with his water delivery truck, as backup.

The abandoned building, frequented by vagrants, was destroyed by the fire. The fire brigade is investigating the origin of the fire.

ECCB to host creative youth competition

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has announced the staging of a student Information Session on Thursday for the 2024 Eastern Caribbean Central Bank/Regional Security System Asset Recovery Unit (ECCB/RSS-ARU) Creative Youth Competition.

The ECCB said in a release that the 2024 competition will feature songwriting, and is open to secondary school and community college students, aged 13-19.

The session is designed to assist the competition participants with their submissions and will be facilitated by singer and experienced songwriter, James Harrigan out of Anguilla, and calypsonian and songwriter Gael 'Trilla-G' Jno Baptiste from the Commonwealth of Dominica.

The presenters will address the following areas:

How to start writing a song

Musical inspiration

Composing catchy melodies and hooks

Developing interesting harmonies

Exploring a variety of styles for songs

Understanding common structures

Writing inspirational lyrics

The ECCB/RSS-ARU Creative Youth Competition, launched in September 2018, is geared towards



stimulating the minds of the region's youth on issues that impact the socio-economic landscape of the region.

The initiative is part of the Bank's Community Outreach Programme and is executed in collaboration with the RSS-ARU.

It also affords students the opportunity to express themselves through creative expressions such as: essay writing, poetry, songwriting, and art.

This year the students will com-

pose and perform songs on one of the following topics:

Food security for the Caribbean
My vision for the Eastern Caribbean Dollar

Mental Health of Teens and Young Adults

The Information Session will be held virtually and will be shared subsequently via the ECCB social media platforms and website, where students will be able to access the content for reference.

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Barbados claims top spot for salaries in the Caribbean

By Luke Douglas

A survey done this year with data collected from 117 companies in 15 Caribbean countries revealed that Barbados had the most significant percentage of companies paying salaries above market value. In contrast, St Vincent and the Grenadines had the most important rate of companies paying below market value.

The Caribbean Salary Survey Report: PayPulse 2023 conducted by the Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals (CSHRP) said 53.3 per cent of jobs surveyed in Barbados surpassed market value.

According to the PayPulse 2023 findings, Antigua and Barbuda claimed the second spot with 16.7 per cent of jobs paying above market value, while Jamaica placed third with 13.3 per cent.

At the bottom of the table is St Vincent and the Grenadines, with 73.3 per cent of salaries falling below the average market value across the region, according to the survey.

The survey, according to CSHRP, stands as the most comprehensive and current resource in the region, highlighting 30 distinct job titles across 26 diverse industries in 15 countries.

The 2023 report also builds upon insights gained from the 2022 report, which capture data from over 200 companies across 22 Caribbean countries.

Speaking at the launch of the survey on November 22, Rochelle James, CEO of CSHRP, highlighted the importance of having regional data.

"In the region, when officials speak, they often tell us about surveys conducted in the US or the UK, which has very little relevance to us; we need our own data to tell our stories effectively", James said at the launch held



Rochelle James, CEO of the Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals (right) in discussion with Kerin Scott, regional host (left) and Kim Isava, General Manager of Caribbean Jobs at the launch of PayPulse 2023, the second annual Caribbean salary report on November 22.

at the Exim Bank Conference Room in Kingston.

She further announced the commitment to conduct the survey annually for release every November.

The PayPulse 2023 report is a collaborative effort involving 117 companies among 30 job titles in 26 industries across 15 countries.

Kim Isava, general manager of CaribbeanJobs.com, a partner with CSHRP, shared the impact of the survey on both employers and job seekers and the importance of salary information in the recruitment industry.

She said her company is inundated daily by job seekers asking why salaries are not disclosed in job ads.

"It's a highly competitive environment now. If you (the employer) want that top talent, job seekers are going to bypass your ad if they don't know what the compensation package is", Isava said.

Meanwhile, Kimberly Largie, lead researcher for the PayPulse 2023 report, noted that data was received from 81 disclosed companies, with 29

companies opting not to disclose their names.

She said 36 were regional companies operating in more than one Caribbean territory. The top three companies represented in the survey were Jamaica, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados.

Largie also identified financial analysts and middle-management positions as the most challenging roles for employers to fill outside of the C-suite.

"The survey offers valuable insights into salary trends, recruitment challenges and industry-specific nuances in the Caribbean. These findings not only empower organisations to make informed decisions, but to contribute to the ongoing transformation of the Caribbean professional landscape", Largie said.

The full report is available for purchase at CSHRP's website at a cost of US\$500.

CSHRP aims to address talent challenges in Jamaica and the wider Caribbean through research, education and collaboration.

Growing number of US children taking melatonin for sleep

By Chloe Kim

Melatonin use is becoming “exceedingly common” among American children, with nearly one in five under age 14 now consuming melatonin to aid sleep.

Parents are increasingly giving it to younger children. About 18% of children age five to nine are using it as a sleep aid, a new study suggests.

Last year, the American Academy of Sleep Medicine issued a health advisory about melatonin use for young people.

They said parents should consult a doctor before giving it to children.

Melatonin is a hormone produced in the brain that regulates a person’s sleep cycle. It is one of the most common supplements parents in the US give to their children, according to Harvard Health.

In the US, melatonin is considered a dietary supplement - unlike in many countries, where it is classified as a drug - and can be bought without a prescription.

Research in the journal *JAMA Pediatrics*, published this month, spoke to parents of 993 children, ages one to 14, and found a significant increase in the reported use of melatonin in recent years.

Though melatonin can



be a short-term solution to help promote sleep, the study indicated that parents were using melatonin regularly, with pre-schoolers taking the supplement for a median of 12 months, primary school aged children for 18 months and pre-teens for 21 months.

The authors caution that the study was relatively small and does not necessarily represent usage nationwide.

Still, melatonin use, across all ages, has been on the rise for the past couple decades.

An online survey earlier this year by the American Academy of Sleep Medicine suggested that about 46% of parents have given melatonin to children under the age of 13 to help them sleep. The survey also found that fathers are more likely to give kids

melatonin than mothers and younger parents are more likely to provide the sleep aid than older parents.

Poison control centres in the US saw a 530% spike in reports of melatonin ingestion in children between 2012-2021, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Most cases were accidental and the vast majority of children - over 84% - had no symptoms, though in 1% of the reported cases the children ended up in intensive care.

Previous research also suggests that the dose of melatonin in supplements often differed from the amount indicated on the packaging label - one study found melatonin ranged from less than half to more than four times the amount

stated on the label.

Mild side effects - like daytime sleepiness, headache, nausea, and dizziness - sometimes occur from taking melatonin but little is known about the long-term effects of melatonin consumption in children and adolescents.

The American Academy of Sleep Medicine advises that parents treat melatonin like any medication and keep it out of reach of children.

They also suggest parents consult a paediatric health worker beforehand and note that “sleep problems can be better managed with a change in schedules, habits, or behaviours rather than taking melatonin”.

If used, a medical professional should recommend “the melatonin dose and timing” to address a sleep problem.

Regional News



Alleged Bahamian national flag copyright violation needs full trial

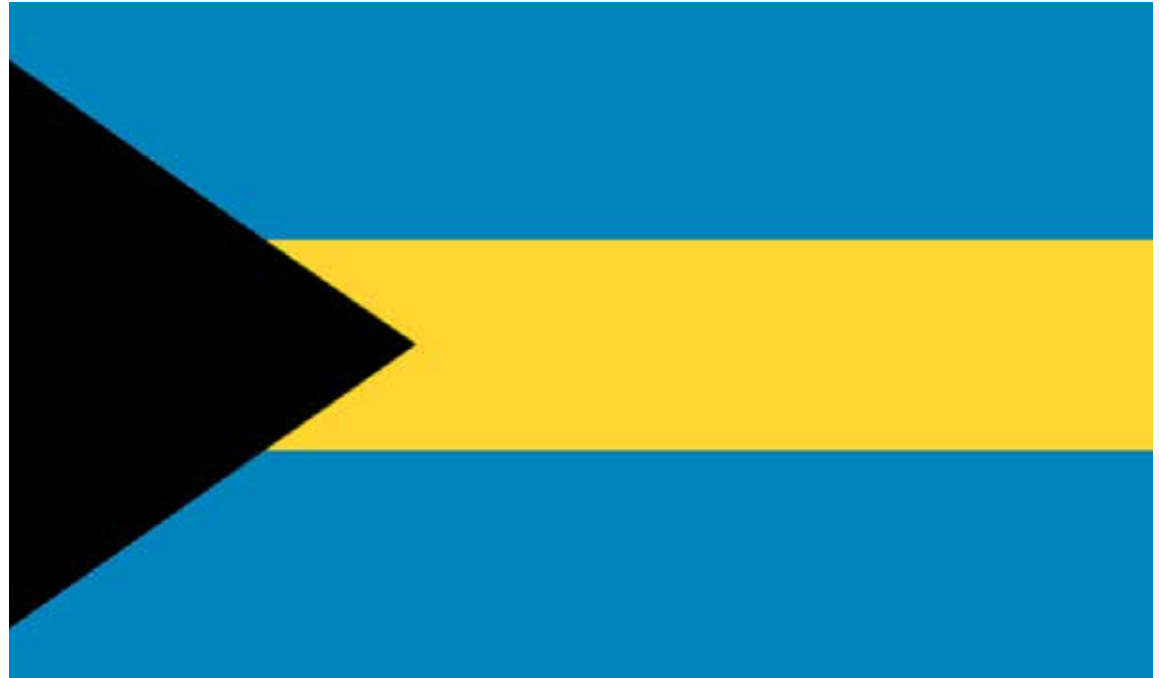
CMC – A High Court judge has dismissed a government bid to strike out a multi-million dollar claim over allegations that it pirated the design of the national flag, saying the claim by a copyright holder “contains a number of curious features” that need to be resolved by a full trial of the matter.

Justice Neil Brathwaite over the last weekend in his ruling did not specify the “curious features” but rejected arguments from the government that the US\$328.5 million claim by James Alexander Darling for copyright violation should be dismissed.

The judge said that the Crown Proceedings Act’s section five (2) did not give the government “blanket” protection for copyright and intellectual property rights violations.

The judge also dismissed Darling’s argument that the government’s defence to his action be struck out because it merely contained “bare denials and non-admissions”.

The Supreme Court, while finding that the government’s defence contained sufficient details demanding that Darling prove he is a copyright holder and that these rights have been breached, ruled that the government must within 21 days of the verdict “clarify” its opposition to the claim.



The Court said that the government specify which of the letters Darling purportedly received from an unnamed former prime minister and various agencies, allegedly affirming the copyright of his design, are “fraudulent” in the government’s eyes.

The late Reverend Dr Hervis Bain has always been regarded as the creator of the Bahamian national flag and coat of arms.

But Darling’s claim is based on events that took place almost 60 years ago when his elder sister, Carolyn Ann Esther Storr-Darling, allegedly wrote to the Attorney General’s Office and other government agencies on January 2, 1964, on her then 10-year-old brother’s behalf seeking protection for the board game he had designed, Fun in The Bahamas.

In his statement of claim, Darling alleges that the government confirmed receipt of his sister’s letter on February 3, 1964, and “granted permission.... to copyright the said design”.

Darling is also arguing that the Bahamian national flag “shares similarity” to his Fun in The Bahamas board game design, being “painted the exact colours” with the “same shape and/or layout of the said design”.

He alleges that the government used his design for the national flag without first obtaining his “license or permission” – thereby committing a breach of copyright.

He said in his claim that the government has acknowledged his copyright and ownership of the design on several occasions, dating back to March 3, 1989, when the government gave

written confirmation that “a search was conducted brought by James Alexander Darling and has found him to be the first inventor and designer of Fun in The Bahamas, the design for the flag of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas”.

Darling’s claim alleges that his copyright to the Fun in The Bahamas design was further affirmed by April 25, 2012, correspondence from the government, which on April 19, 2016, also confirmed it was holding his sister’s original January 2, 1964, letter.

“The plaintiff made numerous attempts to renew the copyright to the said design but was refused by the defendants [the Attorney General’s Office] and or their agents with no reason given.”

Darling took legal ac-
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tion after the government refused to meet or pay his November 5, 2019, demand for US\$42 million in damages “due to the illegal and unauthorised use” of his allegedly copyrighted design that is still in use as the Bahamian national flag.

He is now seeking US\$328.5 million in compensation, plus an injunction to block the government from using or reproducing his design without permission. He also wants to be named as the original designer, and wants an inquiry into potential damages.

But the government has refuted all the allegations made by Darling and in its amended October 27, 2021 response, said “it is the defendant’s position that the purported correspondence relied on by the plaintiff is not authored by the defendant and/or its agents and the same being falsely uttered to a government and/or judicial official knowing the same to be false”.

In its move to have the claim struck out, the government relied on the Crown Proceedings Act, but the judge said invoking the legislation now was “clearly an abuse of process” ruling also that section five (1) and (2) clauses do “not act as a blanket prohibition” against bringing legal actions against the government for copyright violations.

But he noted that “the defendant seems to simply be requiring the plaintiff to prove that the sister of the plaintiff sent in any letters in January 1964 seeking to register the designs of the subject game, and that the plaintiff is in fact the owner of a copyright to the game Fun in The Bahamas, as well as to prove the flag of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas does as a matter of fact infringe the copyright of the plaintiff, if such copyright is found to exist.

“These are matters which must be determined at trial following the usual

process of discovery, witness statements and cross-examination. I therefore do not accept that the defence consists solely of bare denials with no way of understanding the defence of the defendant.

“However, I do accept that some clarity could be brought to this matter by specifying which correspondence is alleged to be fraudulent, which would have the effect of clarifying whether the various pieces of correspondence from the plaintiff to the servants of the defendant were in fact received, but the effect of that correspondence is disputed or whether the defence says the correspondence was not received.”

Justice Brathwaite has given the government three weeks from November 24, 2023, to file an amended defence clarifying “which of the correspondence is alleged to be fraudulent and what exactly is being contended with respect to the remainder”.



STUDENT SAFETY POLICY



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Guyanese Vice President issues warning to Venezuelan leader

CMC - Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo has warned Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro not to "ever question" the resolve of Guyana reiterating that the population remains united in the face of claims by Caracas to the ownership of the mineral and forest-rich county of Essequibo.

"Don't ever question our resolve Maduro or don't ever question the unity of our people and the solidarity that we'll get from abroad on this matter. Do not ever question that. Don't miscalculate on this issue," Jagdeo told a public meeting in the town of Anna Regina on Sunday.

Jagdeo reminded that crowd that the, government, opposition and people are united and determined in their defence of Essequibo, a 160,000 square county of Guyana.

Jagdeo dismissed claims by Venezuela that the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country is in the "pockets" of the United States saying Guyana would take all necessary steps to repel any aggression.

"Let me make it clear: we have to defend, by all means, this country," he said, adding that the Guyana government and the US Department of Defence have been holding "intense discussion."

"We are not a war-mongering nation but we got to protect this territory and our country," he said, noting that Guyana could not trust Venezuela's assurances especially based on the rhetoric emanating from Caracas.

"We are not a trojan horse to invade other countries but we will have military cooperation, defence cooperation with all of our allies, including the United States of America, that we'd be prepared for any outcome," he added.

Venezuela is planning to stage a



Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo

referendum on December 3 on the Essequibo issue and has promised to provide identification cards to people residing in the area.

But Jagdeo said that the referendum is not more than an attempt by Caracas to leave the International Court of Justice (ICJ) where the border dispute is before it. Both countries are awaiting the latest ruling from the ICJ on the question of the referendum.

"We don't want their ID cards. It's useless," Jagdeo said, reminding Venezuelan Vice President, Delcy Rodriguez that "people are fleeing your country... Rodriguez, if you didn't notice it, and Maduro."

"They don't want your ID cards. We are happy to be Guyanese, we are happy to live in our own country... We don't want you ID cards, we don't want you anywhere near our country," Jagdeo added.

The Vice President described claims by Venezuela on Guyana's territory, as well the attempts by Caracas to invalidate the 1899 Arbitral Award as "bogus and invalid".

"We believe that this referendum came about because of the weakness

of their case, Venezuela twice sought to make a case that the ICJ did not have any jurisdiction to rule on this matter.

"Two times, the ICJ said they had the jurisdiction almost unilaterally. So today, they now have to present their case, but what are you going to present, if you have a weak case? They have no case absolutely to present before the ICJ," Jagdeo said.

Venezuela's rejection of the Arbitral Award is hinged on a posthumous memorandum purportedly written by a junior member of Venezuela's legal team at the 1899 arbitration, Severo Mallet-Provost, which claimed that there was corruption in the arbitration process, an allegation that has not been proven.

Jagdeo said that with Venezuela's general elections on the horizon, the Maduro government may be using this referendum as a political ploy to gain support.

"I believe the Venezuela government is faced with elections soon, and they have a hard time mobilising people to vote for the ruling party. So,

cont'd on pg 17

Vermont shooting: Victim jumped fence to escape attack after he was hit

By Sam Cabral

A Palestinian-American who was shot in Vermont told police he jumped a fence after he was hit and fled into a nearby house where he begged for help.

Kinnan Abdalhamid, 20, was attacked as he walked down a street in Burlington on Saturday with his friends Hisham Awartani and Tahseen Aliahmad.

A suspect, Jason J Eaton, 48, has pleaded not guilty to attempted murder.

Police have not identified a possible motive, but are investigating whether a hate crime was committed.

"We still do not know as much as we want to know," Burlington Police Chief Jon Murad said on Monday, before urging the public not to jump to conclusions.

The attack comes as the US deals with a surge in Islamophobic and antisemitic incidents, including violent assaults and online harassment, since the Israel-Hamas conflict began on 7 October.



Hisham Awartani, Kinnan Abdalhamid and Tahseen Aliahmad were spending Thanksgiving together in Burlington.

According to court documents, the men, who are all aged 20 and of Palestinian descent, were speaking in a mix of English and Arabic when they were attacked at around 18:30 (23:30 GMT).

Two of them were wearing keffiyehs, traditional Palestinian scarves. They were visiting the home of one of their relatives over the Thanksgiving holiday and were returning from a birthday party at the time of

the shooting.

A man, who they did not know, stared at them as they passed and stumbled down his porch towards them with a hand gun, Mr Abdalhamid told police.

He then shot at them at close range without saying a word and fled on foot.

According to police interviews with Mr Abdalhamid, he jumped a fence to escape the shooting after he had been shot and sheltered

for two minutes behind a house.

He then knocked on a nearby front door, but when no one answered, ran through a back garden and begged a woman in another house to call for help.

It was only after he sat down there that he realised he had been shot, feeling pain and noticing some blood on his right glute.

Police discovered Mr

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they are using this referendum as a distraction from their internal problems. People have fled hunger and hardship in Venezuela. The government there cannot campaign with the same sort of vigour they've been campaigning with this referendum," he said.

While reiterating government's remains commitment to maintaining a zone of peace, Jagdeo said greater defence cooperation will be explored with several countries, ensuring that no efforts are spared to protect Guyana's territorial integrity.

"This is a unifying issue for all

of our people. And we will overcome this. This is just another hurdle on our way to prosperity. And you can rest assured that every single day this government is hard at work to ensure that we minimise these threats, address these threats, and continue to work for upliftment of our country," he added.

Israel-Hamas truce in Gaza extended for two days, Qatar says

By David Gritten

Israel and Hamas have agreed to extend the four-day truce in Gaza for another two days, mediator Qatar says.

Hamas said the extension was “under the same conditions”, which were for 50 Israeli hostages to be released in exchange for 150 Palestinian prisoners.

Israel has yet to comment, but it had offered a day’s pause in the fighting for every 10 Israeli hostages freed.

It came as 11 hostages were released in the final exchange under the original deal that took effect on Friday.

Israeli officials said three-year-old twins and their mother were among them, along with six more



The pause in the fighting is also allowing a big increase in deliveries of aid to war-torn Gaza.

children, an 18-year-old and her mother.

The Israeli military said they had crossed into Israeli territory. However all of the released children’s fathers remained in Gaza.

Those freed included people who also held French, German and Argentine nationality, Qatar said.

Thirty-three Palestinian women and teenagers in Israeli jails were due to

be released under the truce deal.

Hamas - which is regarded as a terrorist organisation by Israel, the UK and other Western powers - has freed 39 Israelis over

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Abdalahamid’s friends lying on the pavement where they had been shot. They were treated at the scene.

All three are recovering from their injuries in an intensive care unit at hospital. Mr Awartani suffered the most severe injuries after he was shot in the spine and faces a long road to recovery, relatives said.

On Sunday, the day after the shooting, federal agents detained Mr Eaton as they were canvassing in the area. He lives in an apartment building opposite the site of the shooting, according to police.

“I’ve been waiting for you,” the suspect told the agents at his door, according to court documents, before twice asking for a lawyer and reveal-

ing he had a weapon inside.

Chief Murad said the suspect was shaking and appeared “very nervous” but had “very little reaction” as arresting officers told him he was being charged with attempted murder.

Authorities then searched his home and discovered a pistol which is being examined by investigators.

The suspect, who appeared in court via video link on Monday and pleaded not guilty, is being held without bail. If convicted on the three felony counts against him he faces life in prison.

“Although we do not yet have evidence to support a hate crime enhancement, I do want to be clear that there is no question, this was a hateful act,” State Attorney Sarah George said

at the news conference on Monday.

“Anybody who steps out from a porch and attacks three random passers-by for any reason is expressing some form of hate,” Chief Murad said.

Rich Price, Mr Awartani’s uncle, said the shooting took place after the trio had left a birthday party for his eight-year-old twin boys.

“I’m blown away by their resilience, their good humour in the face of these difficult times,” he said.

Radi Tamimi, Mr Abdalahamid’s uncle, said his nephew had grown up in the occupied West Bank.

“We always thought that could be more of a risk in terms of his safety and sending him here would be the right decision. We feel somehow betrayed in that decision,” he said.

cont'd from pg 18

the previous three days. In exchange, Israel has freed 117 Palestinian prisoners.

Nineteen foreign nationals, one of whom has Israeli citizenship, have also been handed over by Hamas under separate agreements.

The pause in the fighting is also allowing a big increase in deliveries of aid to Gaza, where there is a deepening humanitarian crisis.

Israel launched a military campaign in Gaza and imposed a siege in response to an unprecedented cross-border attack by Hamas gunmen on 7 October, in which at least 1,200 people were killed and about 240 others taken hostage.

Gaza's Hamas-run government says more than 14,800 people have been killed in the territory since the war began.

Qatari foreign ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari announced on Monday afternoon on X, formerly known as Twitter, that "as part of the ongoing mediation, an agreement has been reached to extend the humanitarian pause for an additional two days in the Gaza Strip".

White House national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters the US welcomed the extension.

"This humanitarian pause has already brought a halt to the fighting together with a surge of humanitarian assistance.

Now, in order to extend the pause Hamas has committed to releasing another 20 women and children over the next two days," he said.

"We would of course hope to see the pause extended further and that will depend upon Hamas continuing to release hostages."

Before the start of Monday's exchange, an Israeli official said that 184 people remained in captivity in Gaza, including 14 foreign nationals and 80 Israelis with dual citizenship.

On Sunday, a Palestinian official told the BBC that Hamas was prepared to release up to 40 addition-

al hostages, which would mean a four-day extension under the terms offered by Israel.

Israel was reported to be leaning towards a more gradual, day-by-day approach. And it has made it clear that it is preparing to resume the war in Gaza at the end of the process.

"At the end of the outline, we will go to realising our goals with full force: eliminating Hamas, ensuring that Gaza will not go back to being what it was and, of course, releasing all of our hostages," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a video statement on Sunday eve-

ning.

Earlier, Qatar's Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani told the BBC's US partner CBS News that the agreement would be extended if Hamas was "able to prove, to locate, and secure some of the hostages that are within the criteria of the first group, which is women and children".

But he warned that Hamas's "very complicated structure" presented a challenge for Qatari mediators, with the group's political leaders in Doha having to relay information to and from military commanders in Gaza.



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Sports News



Gill to lead Gujarat after Pandya returns to Mumbai

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Gujarat Titans said on Monday opener Shubman Gill would captain the side in next year's Indian Premier League after they allowed Hardik Pandya to return to Mumbai Indians, his first IPL team.

Pandya, who helped Mumbai to four IPL titles between 2015-2021, led Gujarat to the IPL title in their debut season in 2022 and was also captain of the squad that finished runners-up to Chennai Super Kings.

Mumbai also sent Australia all-rounder Cameron Green, who they bought for 175 million Indian rupees (US\$2.10 million) last year, to Royal Challengers Bangalore.

Pandya's move to Mumbai puts an additional 150

million rupees in Gujarat's coffers, which could come in handy at the player auction in Dubai on Dec. 19.

"He has expressed a desire to return to his original team Mumbai Indians," Vikram Solanki, Gujarat's director of cricket, said in a statement.

"We respect his decision and wish him all the very best in his future endeavours."

Pandya's departure sees his India team mate Gill take the captain's arm-band at Gujarat and Solanki said the opener had shown "growth in stature and standing over the last two years."

"We've seen him mature not only as a batter but also as a leader in cricket," he added. "His contribution on the field has helped Gujarat Titans emerge as a formidable



Shubman Gill

ble force.

"His maturity and skill is evident in his on-field performance and we are ex-

tremely excited to embark on a new journey with a young leader like Shubman at the helm."

Jennings Secondary win in Under-16 Girls Division

Jennings Secondary School secured victory in the latest round of matches in the Under-16 Girls Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football League.

Latoya Williams scored twice to lead Jennings Secondary to a 3-0 victory against All Saints Secondary at the King George V Recreation Grounds.

Williams had conversions in the 21st and 44th minutes, and Shamequa Benjamin scored in the 31st minute

for Jennings Secondary School.

The Antigua Girls High School and Clare Hall Secondary fought to a 1-1 draw in another Under-16 Girls Division encounter at King George V Recreation Grounds.

Nafisa Quashie gave Antigua Girls High School the lead with a 38th-minute conversion, and Sanique Levy scored in the 50th minute to snatch the equalizer for Clare Hall Secondary.

The Secondary Schools' Football

League will continue with matches in the Under-16 Boys Division today.

In a double-header at King George V Recreation Grounds, defending champion Antigua Grammar School will take on Clare Hall Secondary at 2:15 pm, and Jennings Secondary School will meet Irene B. Williams Secondary at 3:15 pm.

The Ottos Comprehensive School and St. Anthony's Secondary School will clash at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos at 2:15 pm.

Goals galore in Premier Division

There were goals galore on the second day of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League.

Debutant John Hughes, last season's second-place finishers All Saints United and former champions SAP all launched their 2023-23 Premier League campaigns with victories in a triple-header at the ABFA's Technical Center on Sunday.

Jamaican forward Deno Bryan recorded the competition's first hat-trick this season by scoring all four goals to lead newly promoted John Hughes to an impressive 4-1 drubbing of Swetes in their first Premier Division League encounter.

Bryan opened the scoring by converting his first of two penalties in the 14th minute. He had a 20th-minute conversion and scored his second penalty of the match in the 32nd minute. Bryan scored his final goal in the 40th minute to give John Hughes a 4-0 lead.

Shackwon Simon scored a consolation goal for Swetes in the 89th minute, and John Hughes finished the match with 10 men after Hanel Burrell received a red card for violent conduct.

Nazir Mc Burnette scored twice as All Saints United hammered former champions Empire 8-1 in Sunday's feature match.

Shemar Scott scored the



John Hughes forward Deno Bryan.

only goal for Empire in the 45th minute, and Leroy Graham scored in the second minute of first-half added time to give All Saints United a 5-1 halftime lead.

SAP prevailed 2-1 against another promoted Premier League debutant, Green City, in the second game on Sun-

day.

Emerson Henry put SAP ahead with a 35th-minute conversion, and veteran forward Peter Byers scored in the 41st minute to give his team a 2-0 halftime advantage. Gary Barnes scored for Green City in the second minute of added time (90+2).




Sports News

Former captains battle on golf course

It was a wonderful day at the Cedar Valley golf course as four former captains of the West Indies cricket team were swinging for supremacy during the weekly 10:00 competition on Sunday.

Among the quartet were Darren Sammy of St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda's only living national hero, Sir Vivian Richards, and his compatriots, Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph and Sir Richie Richardson.

In the end, Joseph had the better of the skippers with an 18-hole tally of 82, followed by Sir Viv with 83 and Sammy with 84, while Sir Richie was just eight runs short of a hundred.

Two other West Indies players from Antigua and Barbuda were in attendance as well. They are former all-rounder Eldine "Soca" Baptiste and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr.



From left to right: Former West Indies cricket team captains Darren Sammy, Sir Vivian Richards, and Sylvester Joseph at the Cedar Valley Golf Course in Antigua on Sunday, November 26, 2023. (Photo courtesy Jermaine Kentish)

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West Indies Academy beat Emerging Irelands inside three days

The West Indies Academy wrapped up an innings and 134-run victory well before lunch on the third day of their opening four-day match against the visiting Emerging Ireland team at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua on Monday.

The visitors, who started the penultimate day precariously placed in their second innings on 29 for three, still needing a further 167 runs to make the West Indies Academy bats again, crashed to 62 all out in 33.4 overs.

Only opener Stephen Doheny with 17 and Morgan Topping with 11 managed to reach double figures as fast bowler Isai Thorne grabbed four wickets for eight runs.

Joshua Bishop, who hit a century in the West Indies Academy first innings, completed a fine all-round performance by snapping up two wickets for five runs to claim the player of the match award.

Captain Nyeem Young captured two wickets for 15 runs, while pacer Johann Layne took one for 12 and spinner Ashmead Nedd picked up one for 22.

The victory was set up by a bold maiden first-class century by Bishop, which propelled the West Indies Academy to 409 all out on the second day of the encounter.



Joshua Bishop, left, accepts his player of the match award from Junie Mitchum of Cricket West Indies at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds in Antigua on Monday, November 27, 2023. (CWI Media)

Joshua Bishop, better known for his left-arm spin bowling, entered at Number 8 and took to the Irish bowling with some aplomb.

He smacked nine fours and eight sixes to finish unbeaten on 102 - the top score as West Indies Academy amassed 409.

This gave them a first innings lead of 196 after dismissing Emerging Ireland for 213 in their first innings on Saturday's opening day.

On a pitch that the West Indies Academy call home and are familiar with, Teddy Bishop agonizingly fell

10 runs short of a maiden first-class century, while Kevlon Anderson made 79 and Johann Layne added his first first-class half-century, scoring 56 runs.

Mike Frost was the pick of the Irish bowlers, finishing with figures of four for 89, followed by Matthew Foster with three for 81.

With a big lead, skipper Nyeem Young took control of the new ball and dealt a severe dent in the Emerging Ireland batting in their second innings.

He removed James McCollum and Cade Carmichael, trapping them

LBW for eight and two respectively, while Ashmead Nedd spun a web in the fading light to have the first innings lead scorer Murray Commins caught for two to leave the visitors reeling on 29 for three at the close of the second day.

The youngsters from the Caribbean then returned on Monday morning to finish off the Irish and take a deserving 1-0 lead in the two-match series.

The second four-day match between the two sides will be played at the same venue from December 2 to 5.

ABCA to host retreat for match referees

The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association (ABCA) is on a recruitment drive to get more people to become match referees.

The ABCA is utilizing the services of Vanroy Burns and Clancy Mack to facilitate a two-day cricket match referee retreat at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on November 29 and 30 from 6:30 pm to 9 pm.

Burns is a certified Cricket West Indies (CWI) match referee, while Mack has gleaned a wealth of knowledge on the subject while working as a cricket umpire during a 15-year period.

“Vanroy, for sure, has been certified by Cricket West Indies. My experience is from having to work with a number of match referees during a 15-year period,” Mack stated.

“Back in the 1980s, when Antigua first started hosting Test match cricket, I was usually the third or fourth umpire during games at the Antigua Recreation Ground.

“So I was able to get quite a bit of experience from working with the international match referees who were assigned to those Test matches in Antigua.

“I would often engage these match referees by asking a lot of questions about how you go about this.”

According to Mack, anyone who is interested in becoming a cricket match referee is eligible and is being invited to attend the two-day session.



Clancy Mack

Mack is advising that although anyone is eligible to attend, people who are willing to serve might be best suited to fulfill the role of a match referee.

“The individuals must have a desire to serve in that capacity because doing a job as a match referee will require working for long hours. The match referee’s job is performed be-

fore, during, and after the cricket match because the official is really the match manager,” Mack stated.

The ABCA is in great need of more match referees. There are currently six match referees working in the ABCA’s domestic programme. Five match referees are utilized during a full round of ABCA’s domestic matches.