

SIR STEADROY BENJAMIN: “I AM HUMBLLED!”

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Sir Steadroy Cutie Benjamin, left, received the honour of Knight Grand Cross (KGCN), while Sir Robert "Rob" Barrett received the Knight Commander Award (KCN) during the presentation of National Awards at the Independence Ceremonial Parade on Wednesday.

Local News



Sir Steadroy Benjamin: “I am humbled!”

“I am very humbled for receiving this honour because it’s an honour that was recommended by my constituents, the fine people of St. John’s City South,” remarked Sir Steadroy Cutie Benjamin, moments after he received the honour of Knight Grand Cross (KGCN) during the presentation of National Awards at the Independence Ceremonial Parade

on Wednesday.

Sir Steadroy, was one of two persons presented with Knighthood, one of the country’s highest awards during the ceremony.

The other was hotelier, Sir Robert “Rob” Barrett, who received the Knight Commander Award (KCN). Sir Steadroy’s KGCN is the second-highest National Award, to be conferred

upon deserving citizens. Only National Hero ranks higher.

In an exclusive interview with Point Express newspaper, Sir Steadroy said in working on behalf of the people with their interests uppermost in your actions, good things will follow.

“I have served the people of the constituency for over forty years, and it

shows that once you love people and people love you and you have their interests at heart, they will give you the rewards that you deserve,” he stated.

Sir Steadroy is also committing himself to continuing to serve the people of St. John’s City South and by extension, the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

“I will continue to serve them to the best of my abilities; I will continue to work in my community to develop the Ovals area, the rest of the constituency and all of Antigua and Barbuda generally, and in particular the institutions in the country,” he asserted.

As Attorney General over the past nine years, Sir Steadroy has been responsible for the updating of many of the laws on the books of Antigua and Barbuda. Additionally, he has been able to usher in a series of social legislations that have benefited society.

Among his achievements has been the setting up of the Family Court system which has been fully endorsed by the Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Dame Janice Pereira, which has used Antigua and Barbuda as a model for the introduction of the Family Court system through the OECS.

Sir Steadroy says there will be no letting up, as he plans to continue the work on behalf of the people.



12 individuals, one business, and two organizations receive National Awards

The annual presentation of National Awards took place on Wednesday, (Independence Day) during the Ceremonial Parade held at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The parade took place late afternoon on Wednesday, a departure from having it on the morning of Independence Day. Thousands of people were on hand for the parade as it dovetailed from the Food Fair, which was at the same venue, earlier in the day.

This year's awardees represented a wide cross-section of interests, from politics to business,

education, sports, community service, and the arts. Also included was the Antigua Distillery Limited, one of the oldest companies operating in the country, The Rotary Club of Antigua, and Breast Friends.

During the parade, a drone light show illuminated the night sky displaying the colours of the flag, national symbols, and the names and logos of Antiguan businesses. However, the announcement of the National Awards recipients was interrupted when the lights were dimmed for the show.


As the light show pro-

ceeded, the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, and the Military officials who flanked him, all briefly returned to the official's stand and returned when

the show ended to complete the presentation of awards.


The following is the list of awardees for this year's national Awards.

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On the occasion of the Forty-second (42nd) Anniversary of the Antigua and Barbuda Independence, His Excellency the Governor-General after consultation with the Honourable Prime Minister has been graciously pleased to give Orders to the following appointments:

To be a Knight Grand Cross of The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KGCN)
Honourable Steadroy Cutie Olivero Benjamin

To be a Knight Commander of The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (KCN)
Mr. Robert A Barrett CN

To be a Commander of The Most Distinguished Order of the Nation (CN)
Dr. Reginald Murphy GOH

To be a Grand Cross of The Most Illustrious Order of Merit (GCM)
Mr. Hiram Kelly Forde

To be a Grand Cross of The Most Illustrious Order of Merit (GCM)
Mrs Cicely Helen Dorsett

To be a Grand Cross of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GCH)
Miss Christophine Agatha Eugenie Charles

To be a Grand Cross of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GCH)
Ms. Hyacinth Vanessa Reiffer

To be a Grand Cross of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GCH)
Mrs. Millicent Octavia David

To be a Grand Officer of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GOH)
Mr. Howard Allen

To be an Officer of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (OH)
Mrs. Georgette Agatha Welsh

To be an Officer of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (OH)
Mr. Carl Knight

To be a Member of The Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (MH)
Mr. Hilson Glanville Joseph

To be awarded an Institutional National Honour in the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (GOLD)
Antigua Distillery Ltd

To be awarded an Institutional National Honour in the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (SILVER)
Breast Friends Foundation Inc.

To be awarded an Institutional National Honour in the Most Precious Order of Princely Heritage (BRONZE)
Rotary Club of Antigua

Local News



Curtains close on Independence Anniversary 2023

The activities marking the 42nd anniversary of Independence for Antigua and Barbuda effectively came to an end with the Ceremonial Parade on Wednesday night.

Organizers say despite the challenges brought on by the persistent rains during most of the week leading up to the actual Independence Day, they are satisfied that the events were well attended.

“The people of Antigua and Barbuda came out in their numbers to events such as the School’s Panorama Competition, the National Church

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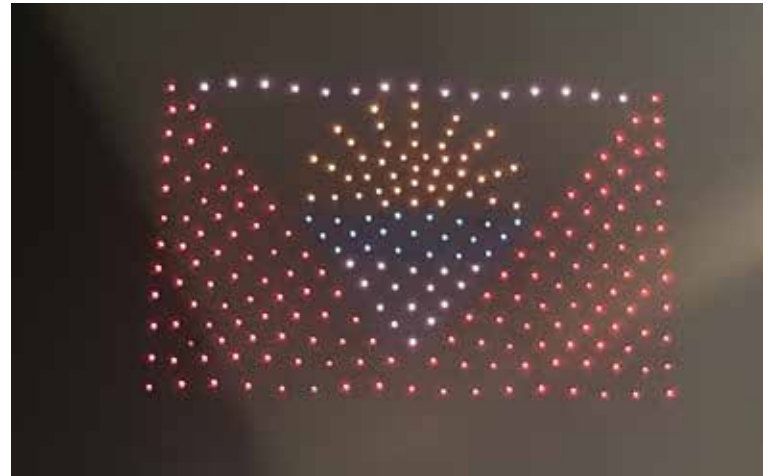
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Local News



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Service and thousands donned their national dress on National Dress Day, last Friday," a spokesman for the Festivals Commission indicated.

The Commission was however forced to reschedule the Youth Rally which had to be abandoned last Friday because of persistent showers. They now plan to complete the programme today, Thursday, November 2nd with the cheerleading competition, the special

skills events, and the DJ competition. These activities will take place at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

The Ministry of Education indicated that there will be no marching by the schools. Some of the schools finished their march pass on Friday when rain forced the event to be called off and rescheduled. There is no word on whether or not the 'Night of Theatre' will also be rescheduled. That too, was postponed because of inclement weather.



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The Ministry of Creative Industries publicly apologizes to His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda

The Ministry of Education, Sports, and the Creative Industries, in conjunction with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, extends a heartfelt public apology to His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda, and his esteemed office, in response to the recent incident during the announcement of the National Awards and Drone show at the Ceremonial Parade.

The Ministry deeply regrets the absence of a seamless transition between the National Awards and the highly anticipated Drone Show, which replaced the traditional fireworks display. This regrettable occurrence was due to time-sensitive constraints imposed by Air Traffic Control, endangering the designated show window for the drones as approved by Air Traffic. Further de-

lays would have clashed with the flight plan of BA2156, arriving from Aruba and scheduled to land at the V. C. Bird International Airport at 20:50 hrs.

Honorable Daryll S. Matthew, the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, and the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, offers his most sincere apologies to His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, the office of the Governor General, and all of the Awardees.

While the Ministry is accountable for the execution of the Ceremonial Parade, it is vital to recognize that this event holds a special place for His Excellency, and the occurrence of such an incident during the most significant segment of the program is deeply regrettable.

The Ministry of Education, Sports, and the Creative Industries, in collab-

oration with the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission, is committed to conducting a comprehensive review of the protocols and logistics for future events. Our goal is to ensure that such unfortunate occurrences do not repeat themselves.

We will take all necessary measures to prevent any disruptions in future programs, providing a smoother and more enjoyable experience for all attendees and participants.

We understand the significance of the Governor General's role and the need to uphold the integrity and prestige of His Excellency's Office. We are unwavering in our commitment to upholding the highest standards of professionalism and excellence in all our future endeavors and pledge to make every effort to rectify this unfortunate incident.



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New space exhibit unveiled at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda

Space-lovers and fans of history, Antigua and Barbuda has unveiled a new exhibit at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda that celebrates the historic visit to space on August 10, 2023, by Antigua and Barbuda's Keisha Schahaff and Anastasia Mayers.

The "Antigua and Barbuda Goes to Space" exhibit, is a collaboration between the Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment, The Antigua and Barbuda *cont'd on pg 8*



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Local News



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Tourism Authority, and the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda.

The unveiling was performed by Astronaut Keisha Schahaff alongside the President of the Historical and Archeological Society - Museum of Antigua and Barbuda - Dr. Reginald Murphy, Chairman of the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda - Walter Berridge, Antigua and Barbuda Ministry of Tourism's Director of Special Events, Promotion and Protocol - Annette Aflak and Antigua and

Barbuda Tourism Authority's Marketing Communications Manager - Maria Blackman.

The guest of honour, Keisha Schahaff expressed her gratitude for being present at the reveal which was attended by her family, well-wishers, visitors to the museum, and government officials.

"I am deeply moved by the pride and humility that this moment instills in me. On August 10th, 2023, my heart swelled with pride as my daughter, and I etched our names into the pages of history. Together, we embarked on an extraordinary journey, not only for our beloved nation and the Caribbean but for the entire human spirit.

"Together, we proudly carried our national flag into space, marking a historic moment for Antigua and Barbuda as we ventured beyond our world. Our flag, symbolizing our unity, resilience, and unwavering spirit, soared above the Earth, proclaiming to the universe that our nation had arrived among the stars.

"What makes this achievement even more profound is that our flag, having ventured into space, will find its place in the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, a symbol of our resilience and the realization of our dreams. Our story will forever resonate with the boundless dreams of every dreamer and the

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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE
 "EMBRACING THE LEGACY, SHARING THE FUTURE"

I am honored to serve as your Minister for Education, Sports, and Creative Industries, and I am committed to empowering the next generation, fostering creativity, and nurturing the talents that will shape our future.

Let us continue to work hand in hand, embracing the legacy of our forefathers, as we forge ahead, shaping a prosperous, inclusive future filled with opportunities for all.

Wishing you a joyous **Independence Day!**

Honorable Daryll S. Matthew
 Minister for the Ministry of Education, Sports, and Creative Industries

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beating hearts of every adventurer,” added Schahaff.

Dr. Reginald Murphy, President of the Historical and Archeological Society - Museum of Antigua and Barbuda said, “This is a very significant event for us at the Museum. It demonstrates that we are not only about old artifacts.

“We are about Antigua and Barbuda’s culture, Antigua and Barbuda’s history, present and past. We pledge to look after this very valuable artifact which we have acquired.”

Additionally, Murphy encouraged people to visit the museum and be inspired by the displays. “Alongside our new space exhibit, you will see cricketer Sir Vivian Richards, rowers Team Antigua Island Girls and Team Waddli - Atlantic Rowers - demonstrating that the tiny nation of Antigua and Barbuda is making its mark on the world stage.”

Speaking about the exhibit, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority’s Marketing Communications Manager, Maria Blackman said, ‘The Antigua and Barbuda Goes to Space’ exhibit ensures that the tangible assets from the historic August 10th visit to space, form a permanent part of the history of Antigua and Barbuda. That day was such an incredibly powerful moment for those of us watching in Antigua, Barbuda, as well as around

the world. We hope future generations who view the exhibit housed at the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda, will be inspired by our astronauts and will use this moment as their personal catalyst towards achieving their dreams.”

The exhibition focuses squarely on the National flag of Antigua and Barbuda that Schahaff folded tightly and carried in the pocket of her space suit, along with two small vials of Barbuda’s pink sand. Photographs captured from the day’s historic events

within the USA and at the watch party in Antigua and Barbuda, as well as video footage from the space flight also form part of the exhibit. Memorabilia from the watch party make up part of the display.

The exhibit was aptly unveiled on the eve of Antigua and Barbuda’s 42nd Anniversary of Independence held under the theme ‘Embracing the Legacy, Shaping the Future’.

The ‘Antigua and Barbuda Goes to Space’ exhibit is now open to the



public.

As of November 2, 2023, the Museum of Antigua and Barbuda’s opening hours will be Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE
EMBRACING THE LEGACY, SHAPING THE FUTURE

Today, we stand as a testament to our people's strength, unity, and vibrant spirit. Together, we've embraced our cultural heritage, nurtured our talents, and harnessed our collective potential. Let's continue building upon this solid foundation, empowering our youth, and fostering innovation for a prosperous tomorrow.

On this special occasion, we take pride in our achievements and express gratitude to every citizen who's contributed to our nation's growth and development. Your commitment and passion are vital in shaping the bright future ahead.

Happy 42nd Anniversary of Political Independence to Antigua and Barbuda!

Sen. Shenella Govia
Parliamentary Secretary
Ministry of Education, Sports,
and The Creative Industries

Congratulatory Messages from Foreign Governments



Translation

His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams
Governor-General of Antigua and Barbuda

St John's

Governor-General,

On the occasion of Independence Day in Antigua and Barbuda, permit me to offer you and your fellow citizens my sincere congratulations.

We continue to face challenging times. The climate crisis, the terrorist attack by Hamas against Israel and the grave consequences of the Ukraine war are dominating the international agenda. I would like to thank you most sincerely for your country's ongoing support in the United Nations and in CARICOM in condemning Russia's attack on Ukraine.

With regard to climate action, I am pleased that Ambassador Dr Christophe Eick, Germany's Special Representative for Climate in the Caribbean Island States, has taken up his dual post as our Ambassador for Trinidad and Tobago and your country. He is now in the eastern Caribbean and is your first point of contact for all matters concerning our cooperation in the joint fight against climate change.

I wish you personally and your compatriots a happy and peaceful future.

Frank-Walter Steinmeier
President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Il Presidente della Repubblica Italiana

1 NOVEMBRE 2023

S.E. SIR RODNEY WILLIAMS
GOVERNATORE GENERALE DI ANTIGUA E BARBUDA
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Congratulatory Messages from Foreign Governments



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AS THE HONORARY CONSUL OF INDIA, I EXTEND MY WARMEST WISHES TO ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA ON YOUR 42ND INDEPENDENCE DAY. THIS MILESTONE IN YOUR NATION'S JOURNEY IS A TESTAMENT TO YOUR RESILIENCE AND COMMITMENT TO PROGRESS. MAY THE BONDS BETWEEN OUR NATIONS CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN, AND MAY YOUR PEOPLE ENJOY PEACE, PROSPERITY, AND UNITY AS YOU CELEBRATE THIS IMPORTANT DAY. HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!



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Disney to buy remaining 33% stake in streaming service Hulu

Disney has announced that it will buy the remaining stake in streaming service Hulu, in a widely expected move.

The company said on Wednesday it would acquire the 33% stake it does not own from TV giant Comcast.

This would give Disney full ownership of the streaming service and the ability to incorporate it into its own Disney+ platform.

Disney has been locked in battle with other streamers as profits have fallen.

Completing its takeover of Hulu is expected to cost some \$8.6bn (£7bn), Disney said in a statement.

But it added that the move would “further Disney’s streaming objectives” as it sought to boost subscriber numbers.

In the US, the entertainment giant already sells Hulu as part of bundled offerings with its Disney+ and ESPN+ platforms.

In the UK, some Hulu content is already available to watch via the Disney+ app, such as *The Kardashians* and *The Bear*.

The price tag reflects a “guaranteed floor value” for the streaming service that was established when California-based Disney took over Rupert Murdoch’s 21st Century Fox in a huge deal in 2019, along with a majority stake in Hulu.

Under an agreement be-



tween Disney and Comcast that year, both firms had the right to force a sale of Comcast’s stake in Hulu - and executives have been vocal about wanting to do a deal.

But at a conference this year, Comcast chief executive Brian Roberts described Hulu as a “scarce kingmaker asset”, which was “way more valuable today” due to its hits like the series *Only Murders in the Building*.

Disney said on Wednesday that it hoped the deal would be concluded by 1 December although negotiations with Comcast, NBC Universal’s parent company, are ongoing.

In the announcement, Disney said that if the current value of Hulu was determined to be greater than

the guaranteed price, it would pay NBC Universal the difference.

Hulu currently has about 48.3 million subscribers, in comparison with Disney’s 146.1 million globally.

The boss of Disney, Bob Iger, told investors in August that the company was moving towards having one app in the US where it could combine content from its various brands.

Since economies have reopened from pandemic-related lockdowns, competition for audience attention has been fierce.

Disney reported in August that profits continued to fall as it faced a raft of issues including lacklustre film performance and a sharp drop in advertising sales in its traditional tele-

vision business.

Overall, revenue at the company grew by 4% year on year in the three months ending 1 July, but it posted a loss of \$460m, compared with a \$1.4bn profit in the same period last year.

Alongside Disney, other streamers have been weighing up how to generate cash and crack down on password-sharing.

The film and television sector has also seen some productions paused by strikes in the US, slowing down the turnaround of the new content needed to hook audiences.

A senior Disney creative behind films like *Frozen* recently told the BBC that the actors’ strike could halt animation production later this year.

Rishi Sunak: AI firms cannot 'mark their own homework'

Monitoring the risks posed by artificial intelligence (AI) is too important to be left to big tech firms, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak has said.

He told the BBC that governments needed to take action and AI firms could not be left to "mark their own homework".

He was speaking ahead of the AI Safety Summit, where a global declaration on managing AI risks has been announced.

King Charles told delegates the issue required "urgency, unity and collective strength".

It comes amid growing concerns about highly advanced forms of AI with as-yet unknown capabilities.

So far countries are only starting to address the potential risks, which may include breaches to privacy, cyberattacks and the displacement of jobs.

In an interview with the BBC at Downing Street, Mr Sunak AI was a "transformative technology" that could have huge benefits in the NHS or in schools.

But he said he wanted the UK and other countries to be able "do the testing that is necessary to make sure that we are keeping our citizens and everyone at home safe".

"There has to be governments or external people who do that work," he said.



Prime Minister Rishi Sunak

Speaking to the BBC's technology editor Zoe Kleinman, he said that many AI firms had already given the UK access to their models before their release.

And he claimed the UK was "investing more" AI risk management than any other country.

"We've already invested £100 million in our task force, which will become our Safety Institute," he said.

"And we're attracting the best and the brightest researchers from around the world to come and work in that institution."

Around 100 world leaders, tech bosses and academics are currently gath-

ering at the UK's first AI safety summit at Bletchley Park, in Buckinghamshire.

Earlier on Wednesday, the delegates agreed the world's first ever "international statement" on so called frontier AI - the government's term for AI that could exceed the capabilities of today's most advanced systems.

The Bletchley Declaration calls for global cooperation on tackling the risks, which include potential breaches to privacy and the displacement of jobs.

Signed by 28 countries and the EU, it also says AI should be kept "safe, in such a way as to be human-centric, trustworthy and respon-

sible".

Dr Caitlin Bentley, AI education lecturer at King's College London, said the declaration was an "important milestone" in promoting the "responsible AI development".

However, she said more investment in AI education was needed to ensure "AI is not only responsible, but equitable in its effects" with the benefits felt by all.

In his BBC interview, the prime minister defended a planned discussion with controversial tech billionaire Elon Musk on Thursday night, saying he could bring "something valuable to the conversation".

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Belize removes fees charged at public hospitals

The Government of Belize is on the path to ensuring universal access to quality health care after it approved the removal of all fees charged in public hospitals.

The CARICOM member country announced that this move eliminates financial barriers and enhances healthcare accessibility for all citizens, particularly low-income families.

The current system, which required patients to pay fees for services, posed a significant barrier to healthcare access. Additionally, administrative costs associated with fee collection strained the healthcare system.

By removing fees, the government aims to improve healthcare access, reduce administrative burdens, and promote health equity.



A statement said statistics reveal that revenue arrears for hospital care bills reached approximately 50 per cent over the past three years, underscoring the need for change. Removing fees simplifies the billing process and allows healthcare facilities to focus on delivering quality care.

The government notes

the Karl Heusner Memorial Hospital is not included in this initiative as its needs will be evaluated separately; however, the government remains committed to ensuring quality healthcare access for all Belizeans.

The removal of fees in public hospitals aligns with Belize's goal of achieving universal health coverage

and health equity. Furthermore, it believes this landmark decision sets an example for other nations and demonstrates Belize's dedication to fulfilling its social responsibility.

Through this initiative, the government expects to improve public health and enhance economic productivity.

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"Elon Musk for a long time has both been an investor and developer of AI technologies himself," said Mr Sunak.

"For over a decade, he's been also talking about the potential risks that they pose and the need for countries and companies to work together to manage and mitigate against those risks."

Mr Musk arrived at the summit on Wednesday morning, having warned the day before that AI could lead to the extinction of humanity.

But many experts consider warn-

ings like this overblown.

"We've got representatives from all the major AI companies here at the summit," said Mr Sunak.

"And that's crucial, because countries will need to work together with the companies that are developing the technology."

Those appearing at the summit are discussing how best to maximise the benefits of AI - such as discovering new medicines and tackling climate change - while minimising the risks.

The summit's priorities include the threat of bio-terrorism and cyber attacks.

Speaking ahead of the event in London, US Vice President Kamala Harris said that world leaders "must address the full spectrum of AI risks to humanity" and listed examples of faulty algorithms in healthcare, the use of AI in making "deepfakes", misinformation and biased facial recognition.

China has also backed international cooperation on AI, with the country's Vice Minister for Science and Technology, Wu Zhaohui, calling for "global collaboration to share knowledge and make AI technologies available to the public".

Montserrat selects new top cop



Commissioner of Police Robin Hall. Photo: Government of Montserrat.

Montserrat has selected veteran police officer Robin Hall to be the new Commissioner of Police.

In a statement on Tuesday, the Governor's Office said that Hall was selected after an international recruitment process.

Hall has been a police officer for thirty years serving in a number of UK forces, the last 18 of which with Cambridgeshire Constabulary where he is the Head of the Major Crime Unit.

Hall has also worked alongside a number of other

international police services including Turks and Caicos, Mauritius and Malta.

He will take up his position on 11th December 2023.

The current Commissioner of Police, Dr Nick Caveney will depart Montserrat later this month, as he returns to policing in the UK.

In the interim period between Caveney's departure and Hall's arrival, Deputy Commissioner, Charles Thompson will be acting Commissioner of Police.

PM Drew says Nevis will rebound after Four Seasons Fire

Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew is expected to travel to Nevis to get a first-hand view of the damage that the Four Seasons Resort suffered during last evening's fire and to stand in solidarity with islanders.

Drew said he has spoken with Nevis Premier Mark Brantley and Billy Cueto, the General Manager of Four Seasons to express his sympathies.

The prime minister said during this time of heartbreak for Nevis, it was important for the country to be united.

"As we move forward from this tragedy, we must stand united as a community to rebuild what has been lost. The spirit of Nevis is resilient, and I have no doubt that, with time and effort, we will witness the Four Seasons Resort restore the affected areas, becoming stronger and more beautiful than ever before," he said.

"In the face of adversity, our Kititian-Nevisian spirit shines through. Let us come together as a united com-



Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew

munity and offer our support to those affected by this tragedy."

He said the government plans to assist persons affected by the fire, which began late on Tuesday night.

The resort said its pro shop and gym were damaged.

Drew added that he is confident the luxurious resort will be restored to all its glory.

Bolivia severs diplomatic ties with Israel over Gaza war

By Antoinette Radford

Bolivia has become the first Latin American country to cut diplomatic ties with Israel over what it describes as “aggressive and disproportionate” military actions in Gaza.

The country called for a ceasefire and said it would be supplying the blockaded Gaza Strip with aid.

An Israeli official said the move was “a surrender to terrorism”.

Lior Haiat accused the Bolivian government of “aligning itself with the Hamas terrorist organization”.

Bolivia’s Deputy Foreign Minister Freddy Mamani said that the government had taken the decision to cut ties “in repudiation and condemnation of the aggressive and disproportionate Israeli military offensive taking place in the Gaza Strip”.

He added that the country wanted an end to Israel’s blockade that was preventing “the entry of food, water and other essential elements for life”.

Gaza has been under an Israeli siege for weeks, with essential aid only reaching people through Egypt’s Rafah crossing sporadically.

“Israel condemns Bolivia’s support of terrorism and its submission to the Iranian regime, which attest to the values the government of Bolivia represents,” Mr Haiat said in response.

Iran has been accused of providing support for Hamas to carry out the 7 October attacks. While Iran’s leaders have celebrated and praised the violence, they have denied involvement.

Bolivia is not the only Latin American country to have begun taking diplomatic steps against Israel.

Chile’s President Gabriel Boric said on Tuesday he was recalling the country’s ambassador in Tel Aviv for consultations “given the unacceptable



People cook food inside a tent complex in Gaza.

violations of International Humanitarian Law that Israel has incurred in the Gaza Strip.”

“Chile strongly condemns and observes with great concern that these military operations - which at this point in their development entail collective punishment of the Palestinian civilian population in Gaza,” he wrote on X, formerly Twitter.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro made a similar announcement on social media.

“I have decided to call our ambassador in Israel for consultation,” Mr Petro said, adding that “if Israel does not stop the massacre of the Palestinian people we cannot be there.”

Brazil’s President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva urged a ceasefire. Following reports of a new Israeli air strike in Gaza, Lula said on X: “We are seeing, for the first time, a war in which the majority of those killed are children... Stop! For the love of God, stop!”

The majority of the 8,500 war

deaths reported by the Hamas-run health ministry in Gaza are of adults but they include 3,500 children.

Israel has been bombing Gaza since the Hamas attack of 7 October that killed 1,400 people and saw at least 239 people taken hostage.

The US said on Tuesday that 66 trucks had been able to deliver aid inside Gaza, but charities warn that it will not be enough.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (Unrwa) commissioner-general, Philippe Lazzarini said that prior to the war, about 500 trucks would enter Gaza each day.

Bolivia only restored diplomatic relations with Israel in 2019. It had previously cut ties with the country in 2009 under President Evo Morales, again to protest against Israel’s actions in Gaza.

On Monday, Bolivia’s President Luis Arce described Israel’s actions in Gaza as “war crimes” on X after meeting with the Palestinian ambassador to Bolivia, Mahmoud Elalwani.

Egypt opens Gaza border crossing to evacuate injured and foreigners

By David Gritten

Ambulances have taken 76 seriously injured Palestinians from Gaza into Egypt for the first time since the war between Hamas and Israel began.

A group of 335 foreign passport holders - including British nationals - were also allowed to leave via the Rafah crossing on Wednesday, officials said.

Gaza's borders have been closed since Hamas's attack on Israel on 7 October.

Rafah is expected to continue opening for limited time periods to let foreign nationals and injured civilians leave.

The lists of those allowed to cross will be agreed between Egypt and Israel, with embassies from the relevant countries being informed in advance to ensure they can prepare to receive their citizens, Western officials say.

The BBC understands there are about 7,000 dual nationals in Gaza.

Speaking on Wednesday evening, US President Joe Biden said that thanks to "concerted American leadership, safe passage for wounded Palestinians and foreign nationals has started".

American citizens were able to exit, he said, as part of the first group of "probably more than 1,000", adding that the process would



Most patients are being taken to a new Egyptian field hospital that has been set up nearby.

continue over "the coming days".

"We're working non-stop to get Americans out of Gaza as soon and as safely as possible," Mr Biden stressed.

UK Foreign Secretary James Cleverly earlier said the departure of the first of the estimated 200 Britons in the territory was "a hugely important first step".

"We are working with Egyptian and Israeli authorities to ensure the crossing stays open so all British nationals can get to safety in the coming days," he wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Israel has been bombarding Gaza for more three weeks and has recently sent in ground forces in response to an unprecedented cross-border assault by Hamas gunmen in which 1,400 people were killed and 240 taken hostage.

Gaza's health ministry says more than 8,700 people have been killed in the territory since then, while the

UN says supplies of food, water, fuel and medicine are dangerously low because of a siege imposed by Israel.

Ambulances were seen rushing to Rafah on Wednesday morning. At least two children were among the wounded - one with a bandaged stomach. After medical checks, they were carried away on stretchers.

At least 76 had arrived in Egypt by the evening, according to a spokesperson for the Palestinian border authority and an Egyptian official.

"Hospitals in the Gaza Strip are treating large numbers of injured people while suffering from a lack of medical supplies. Therefore [they] cannot operate on such cases," Nassem Hasan, a medic working with Gaza's health ministry, told Reuters news agency.

"Now they are being transported to the Egyptian side, and will then be evaluated and might be relocated to another hospital."

Most of the patients will

be taken to a field hospital built by Egyptian authorities in Sheikh Zuweid, 15km (9 miles) from Rafah. Others will go to permanent hospitals in the nearby town of El-Arish or the city of Ismailia.

The director general of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, welcomed Egypt's decision to accept medical evacuations.

But he warned: "Attention must not be diverted from the far greater needs of thousands of patients in Gaza, many of them extremely fragile who cannot be moved."

"We need an immediate acceleration in the flow of medical aid permitted into Gaza. Hospitals must be protected from bombardment and military use."

The WHO says more than a third of Gaza's hospitals are not functioning, while the rest are only partly working and are overwhelmed by casualties.

Gaza's health ministry says more than 20,000 people have been injured.

The Palestinian border authority said 335 foreign and dual nationals had crossed by Wednesday evening.

As well as the unspecified number of Britons, they included five French nationals, four Italians and a number of Americans.

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Sports News



South Africa thump New Zealand at Cricket World Cup

PUNE, India (Reuters) - Quinton de Kock smashed his fourth century of the World Cup and Rassie van der Dussen also hit a ton as semi-finals-bound South Africa sealed a comprehensive 190-run victory over New Zealand on Wednesday for their sixth win in seven matches.

New Zealand were left needing a rescue act after collapsing to 90 for five inside 19 overs while chasing 358, with only Will Young (33) and Daryl Mitchell (24) offering any resistance, but South Africa did not relent and dismissed them for 167 in 35.3 overs.

Pace bowler Marco Jansen, who took three for 31, began the rout with an early

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Médecins Sans Frontières said 22 of its international staff had successfully crossed.

Egyptian state-run Al-Qahera News TV broadcast footage showing what it said was the first group getting off a coach, which included many women and young children.

Mohammed Ghalayini, a British scientist from Manchester who had been in Gaza visiting family when the war began, accompanied his uncle to the crossing after he was named by Gaza authorities on the list of potential evacuees.

"People are really afraid



South Africa's Quinton De Kock celebrates his century during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between New Zealand and South Africa in Pune, India, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023. (AP)

double strike. Spinner Keshav Maharaj, who claimed four for 46, landed timely blows to ensure New Zealand had no way back at the MCA Stadium in Pune despite a defiant 60 by Glenn

of what's going on and so if they have a chance to leave, they're trying to leave," he told the BBC.

"But getting to the border is a struggle as well, because fuel supplies are short," he added. "So you know, I saw people arriving on a donkey cart with their luggage at the border."

Other British nationals hoping to cross in the coming days include the parents-in-law of Scottish First Minister Humza Yousaf.

He welcomed news that the border was opening up, but said his in-laws were trapped without clean drinking water and with rapidly diminishing supplies.

Rugby World Cup final, De Kock struck 114 and Van der Dussen exploded late on to score 133 for his second ton of the showpiece as South Africa posted 357 for four.

"Clinical display I would say," South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said. "With the bat we handled the challenge up front and with the ball nipping around. The big partnership really set it up for the boys."

Victory helped South Africa leapfrog India to the top of the standings while New Zealand are still in the hunt for a place in the semi-finals in fourth.

CWI and Antigua & Barbuda strengthen relations

Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the Government of Antigua and Barbuda are in sync with initiatives that will benefit cricket stakeholders in the Caribbean.

On October, 25, 2023, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, held an audience with CWI President Dr. Kishore Shallow at the Office of the Prime Minister in St John's.

Also in attendance were Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew; Ricky Skerritt, Chairman of the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) Board and former CWI President; and Nelecia Yeates, CCG General Manager.

The meeting focused on Antigua and Barbuda's continued role in cricket development, particularly in grassroots cricket, infrastructure improvement, and hosting international cricket.

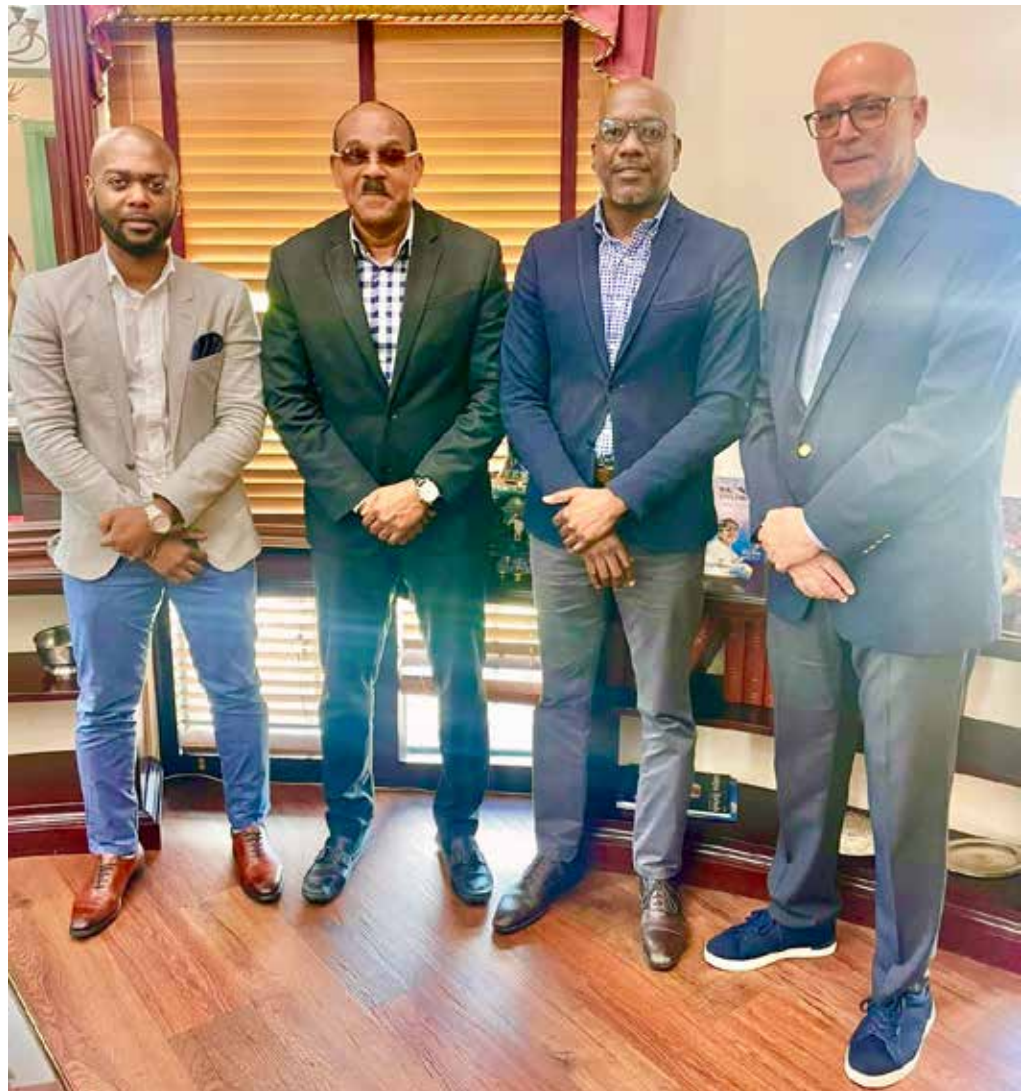
In addition, an update of the master development plan for CCG was presented to the government officials, with both parties identifying opportunities for collaboration to transform the existing cricket facility into one of the best in the world.

CWI President, Dr. Shallow, was upbeat about the partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda government.

He said, "Prime Minister Browne and his government have been valuable friends of West Indies cricket. In recent years, their cooperation in supporting CWI in the acquisition of Coolidge Cricket Ground as our home of cricket has been truly appreciated. It gives us great confidence to have them as a key partner as we embark on this next development phase."

President Shallow also commented on his predecessor's involvement as CCG Board's Chairman.

He remarked, "The appointment of Ricky Skerritt as Chairman of CCG augurs well for the continuation and fur-



Pictured from left: Dr. Kishore Shallow (President of CWI), Honourable Gaston Browne (Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda), Honourable Daryll Matthew (Minister of Sports Antigua and Barbuda), and Ricky Skerritt (Chairman of the Coolidge Cricket Ground Board and former CWI President). (CWI Media)

ther investment in the potential of CCG. No doubt, his wealth of experience and institutional knowledge offer tremendous value to completing this next phase of the CCG project."

The CCG Board met on October 24, 2023, at the CWI headquarters at Coolidge. The updated design for the facility, inclusive of a state-of-the-art training facility, was presented by the designers. In addition to cricket, a significant component of the new development comprises commercial establishments.

Prime Minister Browne was also

pleased about the upcoming international fixtures for Antigua & Barbuda.

In December, the first two matches of the impending CG United One-Day International Series between West Indies and England will be held at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium. The country was also named among the seven Caribbean host countries for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2024.

Antigua has been the headquarters of CWI (formerly West Indies Cricket Board of Control and West Indies Cricket Board) for nearly three decades.

"EMBRACING
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FUTURE"

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2ND
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SIR VIVIAN RICHARDS
CRICKET STADIUM
4:00 PM



"EMBRACING THE **LEGACY**, SHAPING THE **FUTURE**"

Reifer suspended from bowling slower balls and cutters



Barbados Pride all-rounder Raymon Reifer

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced that Barbados Pride all-rounder, Raymon Reifer has been suspended from bowling his slower balls and cutters in all cricket matches until his action on these deliveries is cleared.

Should Reifer use these deliveries in a match, CWI reserves the right to suspend him from bowling altogether.

Reifer, Barbados Pride's left-arm seamer, was reported by the match officials during the CG United Super50 Cup match between Barbados Pride and Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on October 25.

In accordance with the procedure for suspected illegal bowling actions, the match footage was sent to Loughbor-

ough University for an opinion report. The report has determined that an illegal action was used to bowl the cutters and slower balls.

The Barbados Pride are currently second in the table with 36 points after five matches, having won three and lost one, with one no result due to rain.

The semifinals of the regional one-day competition will be played on November 8 and 9 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad.

The CG United Super50 Cup final will be played at 1 pm on Saturday, November 11, at the same venue. These will be day/night matches and will be televised exclusively live on ESPN Caribbean with match highlights on the Windies Cricket YouTube channel.

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Teams to share points in rain-affected matches in Secondary Schools' Football League

The Ministry of Sports has taken a decision to award a point to all teams in the Under-14 and Under-16 divisions of the Secondary Schools' Football League that had matches affected or postponed due to inclement weather, which will take effect on Monday, November 6.

Within the past two weeks, the ministry of Sports took a decision to postpone several matches in the schools' football league due to heavy rains across Antigua and Barbuda that left many of the playing fields water-logged and unprepared.

Some of the affected matches were

played on Tuesday and the Secondary Football League will continue with matches in the east zone of the Boys Under-20 and Under-14 divisions today (Thursday).

All Saints Secondary will play two matches at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints. All Saints Secondary will face Ottos Comprehensive School in an Under-14 Boys Division affair at 2:10 pm, and they will tackle Pares Secondary School in an Under-20 Boys Division encounter at 3:10 pm.

St. Joseph's Academy will play two matches at the Potters playing field. St.

Joseph's Academy will challenge Princess Margaret School in the Under-14 Boys Division at 2:10 pm, and will challenge defending champions, Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE), in the Under-20 Boys Division at 3:10 pm.

Clare Hall Secondary will also play two matches at the Clare Hall School playing field. Clare Hall Secondary School will tackle St. Mary's Secondary School in the Under-14 Boys Division at 2:10 pm, and they will clash with Irene B. Williams Secondary in the Under-20 Boys Division at 3:10 pm.

Transport Board win business basketball league title

The Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board are the new champions of the Cool & Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League.

The Transport Board clinched the title in the 13-team round-robin competition by snatching a 64-60 victory against defending playoff champions Richie's Shooterz at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday night.

Marlon "Buju" Charles produced 25 points, and Russell Daley scored 17 points to lead the Transport Board to their victory and secure the title with the league's best record of 10 wins and two losses in their 12 games.

Kwame Brathwaite, Olivee Morris, and Nickon McGregor each scored 13 points, and Lincoln Weekes had 12 points for Richie's Shooterz, who ended their

league campaign with a record of nine wins and three losses.

Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew won by default against the Board of Education in the other encounter, which was slated

to be played on Tuesday night.

Both teams ended their league campaigns with identical records of six wins and six losses.

The final game in the business basketball league

before the start of the play-off phase will be played at the JSC Sport Complex this evening (Thursday).

H. Wright Promotions will take on the Sandals in their last league encounter at 6:30 pm.

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the Barbados Pride to a 48-run win over the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) in their fifth round CG United Super50 Cup tussle at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine, Trinidad, on Tuesday.

McCaskie, playing his first game of the season, hit a 116-ball 131, including 13 fours and four sixes, to help Barbados post 314 for seven from their 50 overs after winning the toss and batting first.

West Indies batsman Shamarh Brooks also hit a well-compiled 65 off 67 balls, including four fours and two sixes.

West Indies ODI skipper Shai Hope was also in a destructive mood, hitting 33 off just 19 balls, including two fours and two sixes.

Left-arm seamer Jediah Blades and leg-spinner Abhijai Mansingh each took a pair of wickets for the CCC. The CCC chase,

after a valiant effort, ended in the 46th over with them being bowled out for 266.

Captain Shane Dowrich, who hit a brilliant unbeaten 102 to lead the CCC to victory against the Windwards in round three, top scored with 86 off 84 balls, including five fours and three sixes.

Eighteen-year-old West Indies Under-19 batsman Jordan Johnson also showed excellent form, following up 41 in round four against the Jamaica Scorpions with a 45-ball 50, including two fours and two sixes, to record his maiden List A half century.

Demario Richards, who also hit a half-century against the Scorpions, made 41.

Off-spinner Roston Chase took three for 56 in his 10 overs. Dominic Drakes and Roshon Primus each picked up two wickets for the Pride, who are in second place with 36 points from three wins, one loss, and a no result in this year's tournament.

Leewards crush Windwards in regional Super50 Cup

All-rounder Justin Greaves hit his maiden List A century to help the Leeward Islands Hurricanes secure a massive 114-run victory over the Windward Islands Volcanoes in their fifth round CG United Super50 Cup fixture at the Queen's Park Oval on Tuesday.

The Leewards posted 293 all out from their 50 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Greaves, who also hit 58 in their previous game against the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force, led the way with a masterful 121 off 126 balls, including 10 fours and a six, while Jahmar Hamilton provided good support with an even 50 off 72 balls. It was Hamilton's 8th half century of his List A career.

Captain Alzarri Joseph hit 24 and all-rounder Terance Ward scored 22 as the lower-order gave solid contributions to the Leewards' eventual total.

Pacer Shermon Lewis picked up three wickets in his seven overs, but was expensive, conceding 68 runs.

Leg-spinner Darel Cyrus took two for 52 from his full 10 overs, while Shamar Springer took two for 45 from six overs.

Springer then completed a fine all-round performance with a top score of 58, but it wasn't enough as the Windwards slumped to another defeat, being bowled out for just 179 in 42.3 overs.

Alick Athanaze got a start once again with 39 and Kavem Hodge hit 38 for the Volcanoes. Leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. captured four for 40 from 6.3 overs for the Hurricanes.

Left-arm spinner Daniel Doram



Leeward Islands Hurricanes leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr., center, is congratulated by wicketkeeper Jahmar Hamilton, left, after taking a wicket against the Windward Islands Volcanoes in their fifth round CG United Super50 Cup match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Tuesday, October 31.

provided good support for Walsh Jr. by taking two for 29 in his 10 overs. Walsh Jr. and Doram are now top two on the leading wicket-takers list after five rounds with 17 and 14 wickets, respectively.

The Leewards are third in the standings with 35 points from three wins and two losses this season. The Volcanoes are second from bottom with 17 points from only one win and five losses in six games.

Meanwhile, a maiden List A hundred from Zachary McCaskie propelled

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Leeward Islands Hurricanes all-rounder Justin Greaves celebrates after reaching his maiden first class century against the Windward Islands Volcanoes in their fifth round CG United Super50 Cup match at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad on Tuesday, October 31. (CWI Media)