

GEORGE UNDERScores IMPORTANCE OF CUSTOMS DIVISION TO ECONOMY

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Senator George underscores the importance of the Customs Division to the national economy

The Customs Division is the second largest revenue centre for Antigua and Barbuda, ranking behind the tourism industry.

That is the observation of the newly appointed Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Dwayne George, speaking at the opening of The Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC) meeting at the Royalton Hotel on Wednesday.

Speaking in his maiden address since his appointment two weeks ago, Senator George noted that revenues



collected by the Customs Division rose by twelve per cent in 2022 over 2021.

“For Antigua and Barbuda, in 2022 the Customs and

Excise Division, which is considered one of the country’s main revenue centres, recorded a 12 per cent increase when compared with 2021’s performance. 2022 ended with the division’s collections topping EC\$382 million in comparison to \$338.62 million in 2021.

“Tourism was the only other revenue generator that topped that figure,” he reported.

The Senator noted that the Customs Division in Antigua and Barbuda is an important agency to the nation as it is, he believes, for other Caribbean territories.

“As a government, we value your work and the contributions that you make to our economic growth and development.

“That is why I deem it an honour and a privilege to be here with you today as you commence your deliberations on taking The Caribbean

Customs Law Enforcement Council to another level,” he declared.

Senator George described the role of Customs in the region as not only limited to border protection, ensuring that all applicable duties and taxes are paid, but also to ensuring that various regulations and trade agreements are complied with while ensuring cross-border trade facilitation.

CCLEC is a regional organization dedicated to improving the professionalism of its members. CCLEC comprises 38 Customs Administrations of which 36 are signatories to the CCLEC Memorandum of Understanding.

Also addressing the opening were the Chairman of CCLEC, Robert Croes, Permanent Secretary for CCLEC, Claude Paul and Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu.

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Fire destroys unoccupied building

An early morning fire destroyed an unoccupied wooden structure at Point Wharf and investigators of the fire department are probing into the cause of the fire. Fire Department spokesman, Inspector Lester Bagot reported that the St. John's Fire Department received the call at 1:20 a.m. reporting that there was a fire in the Point Area.

"An immediate response was made in the No. 8 Fire Tender at St John's Fire Station, No. 17 Fire Tender at All Saints Fire Station, and the No. 7 Fire Tender at Coolidge Fire Station. On arrival at the scene, the fire crew met a structure fully engulfed in fire. Water was used from the fire tenders to control and extinguish the fire. The building formally housed the Ebenezer Primary School. The building was completely destroyed by the fire. At the time of the fire, the building was unoccupied and frequented by vagrants," Inspector Bagot explained.

Despite the valiant efforts of the firefighters, the



building a two-story wooden structure measuring 70 x 44 feet was destroyed. The fire brigade is investigating the origin of the fire.

Years ago, the building formerly the Ebenezer Primary School, was generally known as Henry's School, the name of the man at the helm of the institutions for years. It was located on the north side of the Fisheries Complex separated by a road from the port. It was considered an old iconic landmark structure that was held in some regard by many who attended school there.

The fire is believed to have led to a power outage in the area and crews from APUA were on the scene very early, to have the electricity restored.



VACANCY BUS DRIVER

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

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

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

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

Minimum Requirements:

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

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
 P.O. Box 1051

V. C. Bird International Airport
 Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.

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

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



Scores of children benefit from pediatric cardiology clinic

Some eighty children received specialized care at a pediatric cardiology clinic held at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre

(SLBMC) organized by the World Pediatric Project (WPP) over the weekend.

The Ministry of Health and SLBMC has partnered

with WPP since 2011 to organize the clinic. This year, 80 patients ranging in age from 1 week to 14 years were treated. All

patients received ECHO services. Prior to 2019, patients would have to travel to St. Vincent for follow-up care and ECHOs.

Of the 80 patients receiving specialized care this year, thirty-three (33) were new patients; twenty have had previous surgeries (14 of which were by WPP); six have been placed on a list for surgeries, which are done at hospitals overseas.

This year, one patient had surgery in Colombia and two had their surgeries done in the United States.

According to WPP, the most common congenital heart disease that has been repaired is the Tetralogy of Fallot (from the current list of patients).

The WPP-sponsored pediatric cardiology clinics have been held at the SLBMC each year since 2019, except for 2021 when there was no clinic because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Hon Carlos James (SVG TOUR MIN) and the Hon. Charles Fernandez

Tourism Minister featured on WTM Tourism Sustainability Panel

Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez highlighted Antigua and Barbuda's efforts at environmental sustainability when he spoke at a panel discussion on sustainable tourism at the World Travel Market, currently taking place in London, United Kingdom.

The discussion also featured the Minister of Tourism for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Carlos James, and was dubbed "The Blueprint for Resilience in island tourism."

Both Ministers of Tourism highlighted sustainability plans of action in their respective islands, geared towards ensuring the viability of the industry in the age of climate change and an uptick in travel worldwide.

According to Minister Fernandez Antigua and Barbuda is focusing heavily on moving towards quality tour-

ism to minimize the island's carbon footprint, and the country has recorded several firsts within the Caribbean region in this regard.

"We were the first to ban single-use plastic bags and Styrofoam products. At present, we also have two reef restoration projects, where the government is working in partnership with two major hoteliers on the island. Even though these actions may not significantly alter climate change on a global scale, it shows we are doing our part to lessen negative environmental impacts on our landscape," said Minister Fernandez.

The tourism minister highlighted marque projects such as the Redonda Island restoration and the newly introduced LPG plant at Crabbs Peninsula as steps being made towards sustainability.



VACANCY AC TECHNICIAN

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

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

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

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

Minimum Requirements:

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

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Local News



Andre Friday takes the spotlight

Andre Friday may be the son of the late icon of the tourism industry, Dennis Friday, but Andre is carving out his own path to success in the industry.

As the son of Dennis Friday, Esq., Andre embodies the spirit of his father's legacy, living by the motto "Always on time with a smile. No job too big or too small." This week, the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association focuses the spotlight on Andre Friday, who is making his mark on the tourism industry.

"With a career spanning over three decades, Andre Friday embarked on his journey as a tour operator, taxi driver, and entrepreneur, drawing inspiration from the profound

influence of his late father, one of Antigua & Barbuda's most esteemed taxi and tour operators," according to the ABHTA release.

It noted that growing up under his father's guidance, Andre had the unique privilege of accompanying him on countless tours, witnessing firsthand the genuine and heartfelt connections his father fostered with tourists and guests. It was this interaction, coupled with his father's passion for showcasing the beauty of Antigua & Barbuda, that fueled Andre's desire to follow in his father's footsteps.

Today, Andre Friday is the Vice President of the Antigua and Barbuda St. John's Taxi Association and Manager, Proprietor, and Entrepre-

neur of Dre's Bus & Luxury Car Service, a business dedicated to providing a personalized and luxurious travel experience. At Dre's, the emphasis is on tailoring each trip to meet the individual needs and desires of the clients. Whether it's a meeting at the client's home, a cozy coffee shop, or a relaxed conversation over a glass of wine in a lounge, Dre's Bus & Luxury Car Service ensures that every aspect of the journey is uniquely designed. As a proud native of Antigua & Barbuda, hailing from the village of All Saints, St. Paul's, Andre Friday is also an alumnus of St. Joseph's Academy.

Mr. Friday holds a positive outlook on the future of Cruise Tourism, especially as



Andre Friday

Antigua eagerly awaits the arrival of its first Oasis-class ship for the upcoming winter season. His message to those contemplating a career in the hospitality industry is to consider only if you aim to enter with unwavering optimism and a profound commitment to delivering unparalleled service.

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Sir Ronald Sanders

A&B's OAS representative to chair a meeting on irregular migration

The Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) is holding a special meeting today, Thursday, to discuss 'the critical issues of irregular migration, refugee flows, and the deepening involvement of organized crime.'

Chair of the Permanent Council, Sir Ronald Sanders, Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda will lead the discussion which forms part of his work plan to bring together experts and policymakers to chart a coordinated response to these complex challenges

According to an OAS report, there has been a dramatic rise in migration across the Americas, with over 400,000 people navigating treacherous routes like the Darién Gap in 2023 alone.

Organized crime groups are profiting immensely amidst this human tragedy,

capitalizing on the desperation of migrants and refugees. With 45 million people on the move since 2015 and the U.S. experiencing an influx of 7.5 million irregular migrants, within the last three years, the OAS recognizes the imperative for a collective and strategic approach.

The meeting will include the participation of the President of the Migration Policy Institute (MPI), Andrew Selee, the Senior Advisor on Migration of The White House, Emily Mendrala, the representative of Crimestoppers (a Civil Society Organization), Alejo Campos, the Director of the Latin America and Caribbean Program of the International Crisis Group, Ivan Briscoe, and The Director of the Department of Social Inclusion, Secretariat for Access to Rights and Equity, OAS, Betilde Muñoz-Pogossian.



VACANCY PLANT MECHANIC 2

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

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

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

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

Minimum Requirements:

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

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Local News



Antigua and Barbuda co-hosted UN Day concert in the UN Building

The Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Mission at the United Nations was among the co-hosts of a special concert held at the United Nations Building in New York City to mark UN Day.

The 2023 United Nations Day Concert celebrated the adoption of the 1945 UN Charter and focused on mobilizing global action in support of the world's most vulnerable nations on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Hosted by the Kingdom of Tonga and organized, with support from the PVBLIC Foundation, The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the



United Nations, The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations, and the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS), the concert featured internationally renowned

cellist Michael Fitzpatrick, Tongan youth scholars from the Mana Academy, and the world premiere of the Environmental Symphony: The Movement - a multimedia symphonic experience fea-

turing the New York Orchestra Ensemble and conductor Julien Benichou.

During the event, UN Secretary-General António Guterres drove home a poi-
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Local News

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gnant message demanding action in his opening remarks, “While we enjoy this moment of music, culture, and creativity, let us reaffirm our shared commitment to a cause that becomes more urgent by the day: climate action.”

The Secretary-General said this unprecedented challenge transcends borders and affects all nations.

“The most vulnerable communities are bearing the brunt of extreme storms and droughts, changing weather patterns, and increased food insecurity. Tonight, let the music remind us of our shared humanity and interconnectedness. Together, let us redouble and accelerate our efforts towards a safer, greener, more sustainable, more peaceful world.” he added.

H.E. Viliami Va’inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations and host of the 2023 UN Day Concert concluded the concert’s opening speeches by



highlighting the role that island nations have in the battle against climate change.

In his remarks, he stressed the importance that data and geospatial information play in this fight and touted Tonga’s participation in the SDG Data Alliance. He ended by calling on world leaders to mobilize support for COP28 in Dubai and the SIDS4 summit in Antigua and Barbuda next year.



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Forest collapse has been seen in continental Europe and North America.

UK forests face ‘catastrophic ecosystem collapse’

By Helen Briggs

Silent forests devoid of life are a possibility within a generation in our already deforested nation, according to a panel of British experts.

“Ecosystem collapse”, where trees suddenly fade and die, could happen within 50 years, they warn.

But the 42 experts said if we act now we can avert the catastrophe.

The large-scale loss of forests hit by “wind, fire, pests and disease” has already happened in continental Europe and North America.

“A collapsed forest would be heart-breaking, devoid of its essential life and all the joy and benefits it gives to humanity,” said Dr Eleanor Tew of Forestry England and Cambridge Uni-

versity.

But she said we have time to make a difference and we know what to do to make our forests more resilient “so they can continue to thrive for future generations”.

The UK is one of the least forested countries in Europe.

Its remaining woodlands face many challenges including climate change, biodiversity loss, invasive species, damage from deer and grey squirrels, and a big increase in the number of tree pests and pathogens.

There is also a skills shortage in the forestry sector, jeopardising the ability to deliver government tree planting targets.

Solutions include planting forests

made-up of a range of different species that are better for wildlife and more resilient to pressures such as flood, drought and disease.

Other “over-looked and emerging issues” identified in the first “horizon-scanning” exercise for UK forests include:

Competition with human society for water

New pests and pathogens, particularly viruses

Extreme weather affecting forest management.

Forestry England, a part of the Forestry Commission, collaborated with the University of Cambridge on the study, which was published in the journal, *Forestry*.

WeWork forced to file for bankruptcy in the US

WeWork, the shared office firm that was once valued at \$47bn (£38bn), has been forced to file for bankruptcy in the US.

The decision follows the meteoric rise - and fall - of a company which was once seen as the future of the workplace.

WeWork's filing will give it protection from its creditors and landlords as it restructures its vast debts.

Based on its latest share price, WeWork is now worth less than \$50m.

The bankruptcy will affect the company's business in the US and Canada. The firm said its co-working spaces remained open and operational, including in the UK.

In an email to tenants in London seen by the BBC, the firm said it remained "fully committed" to providing its services and planned to remain "in the vast majority of our buildings".

"We are committed to communicating with members first and early should we foresee potential changes," it added.

The BBC recently reported that WeWork was shuttering at least one office on the capital's South Bank as it grapples with its finances.

On Tuesday, one tenant in the UK told the BBC it



The co-working firm was once seen as the future of the office.

was "certainly considering our options and looking at other co-working spaces".

Paul Frampton-Calero, global president at consulting business Control v Exposed, said the firm's 30 staff spread across multiple cities enjoy the flexibility, larger meeting rooms and events at WeWork.

However, he said if WeWork starts cutting back on members' perks and events to save money, it risks losing its tenants to competitors.

"The challenge for WeWork is that there are now a multitude of alternatives so the early differentiation they relied on is no longer a strength," said Mr Frampton-Calero.

"Even if they continue trading for a period, I'm sure many businesses are

already weighing up their options so I'd expect them to see an increase in churn."

As of the end of June, the company had more than 700 sites around the world and about 730,000 members.

WeWork, which is loss-making, has billions of dollars in liabilities. In a statement late on Monday, it said that bankruptcy protection would allow it to "further rationalise its commercial office lease portfolio" while trying to ensure continuity for its users.

David Tolley, WeWork's chief executive, said he was "deeply grateful for the support of our financial stakeholders as we work together to strengthen our capital structure and expedite this process through the restructuring support agreement".

WeWork, which was founded in 2010 and was led by the colourful Adam Neumann, leases office spaces where individuals and companies can rent and share space on a short-term basis. It became known for offering free-flowing alcohol in its offices as well as bright and relaxed decor.

Demand for the firm's shared office spaces was hit after a disastrous 2019 effort to raise money in a public listing that hurt its reputation and led to the ousting of Mr Neumann.

That was swiftly followed by the pandemic which led to many office closures around the world, with people having to work from home.

In the first half of this year, WeWork lost more

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Guyana hopes to improve electricity supply before Christmas season

CMC - The Guyana government says it anticipates by Christmas a relief in the electricity problems being experienced by consumers.

Guyana Power and Light (GPL) is engaged in a load-shedding exercise and in a meeting with the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) to discuss the ongoing situation, the Minister within the Ministry of Public Works, Deodat Indar said the government had invested US\$27.5 million to procure 17 generator sets.

“On the 22nd of November, the engines will arrive in Guyana which is 17 engines by 1.7 megawatts which will give you the 28.9 megawatts that will deal with our demand and should be ready for the 15th of December to be plugged into the grid, so



that you can have relief in the Christmas time,” Indar said.

He said while the country awaits the completion of the 300-megawatt gas-to-energy project, GPL is already planning to meet projected demand increases for 2024.

He said that next year,

there will be an estimated peak of 236 megawatts. Currently, the country has a total of 203.5 megawatts of reliable generating capacity with Indar noting that in 2020, the reliable generation capacity fluctuated between 96 and 117 megawatts. The peak at that time was 120 megawatts.

In 2021, the peak demand increased to approximately 136 megawatts, and in 2022, it increased to approximately 154 megawatts. This year has seen an increase to 184.5 megawatts.

Indar told the private sector group that the government is committed to address the issue.

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than \$1bn, weighed down by the expense of operating its offices, as well as other costs.

Dealing with the hangover of acting like a big tech business, the company has been scrambling to sell off parts of its business and pushing to shut locations or renegotiate the terms of long-term leases and debts.

The company's massive losses and insider dealings have been well-covered by the media - including in the Apple TV Series WeCrashed, starring Anne Hathaway and Jared Leto as Rebekah and Adam Neumann.

It featured several scenes depicting the hard-partying habits of its charismatic co-founder as he built the symbol of “office cool” out from one property in New York City.

Potential investors also questioned the links between Mr Neumann's personal finances and WeWork, as well as his decision to expand WeWork into areas of personal interest, like a surf park business. Last month, as discussions with landlords and financiers intensified, WeWork told investors it was not making payments on its loans.

Major shareholder SoftBank, a Japanese technology conglomerate,

has pumped tens of billions of dollars into WeWork as it continued to lose money.

As anticipation of a bankruptcy filing emerged, Mr Neumann said the fall of WeWork was “disappointing”.

“It has been challenging for me to watch from the sidelines since 2019 as WeWork has failed to take advantage of a product that is more relevant today than ever before,” Mr Neumann said.

“I believe that, with the right strategy and team, a reorganisation will enable WeWork to emerge successfully,” he added.

Bermuda: Lawyer found guilty of stealing funds belonging to clients

CMC – A High Court judge has remanded a 37-year-old lawyer into custody after he was found guilty of stealing nearly half a million US dollars belonging to his clients.

Puisne Judge Juan Wolffe remanded Tyrone Quinn, 37, into custody after the 12-woman jury found him guilty of three counts of theft by a unanimous verdict following three and a half hours of deliberation.

The judge rejected an appeal from Quinn that he be released on bail pending sentence to allow him to get his affairs in order. The Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Alan Richards, told the High Court that the offences were serious and deserved a significant sentence.

Justice Wolffe has ordered a social inquiry report on Quinn and for the matter to return to the court to be mentioned next month.

Quinn was accused of three counts of theft totalling \$483,000 after three of his clients said he had failed to turn over compensation payments he had received on their behalf.

The offences are alleged to have taken place between May 2020 and February 2021 and the High Court was told that Quinn had represented



Jacqueline Trott in 2020 when she sought compensation for an injury she suffered working as a security guard.

The woman said Quinn advised her to accept an award of US\$100,000 and, near the end of February 2021, he informed her that the money had been transferred.

He then gave her an envelope with \$13,000 in it and said that the rest of the money was transferred to her account, but no such transfer was ever made.

Another client, Larry Brangman said he had retained Quinn in March 2019 after an accident had caused him cuts and a dislocated hip. He settled for US\$300,000 in April 2020 but became suspicious after he did not receive the money.

Brangman said he was

told by Colonial Insurance in March 2021 that the money had been sent out almost a year earlier.

The third client, Jenna Riley, said she had settled a case for US\$89,000 and was told by Quinn she would receive the funds in a matter of weeks, but after months of trying to receive the funds she reported the matter to the police.

Quinn admitted in court that he had received the funds for the clients and had no intention of permanently depriving them of the money.

He said he had been approached by two men in 2019 over a “problem” related to an illegal business transaction and that they had demanded compensation.

Quinn said he did not know the men or their “problem”, but he com-

plied with their demands after they threatened him and his family, paying them thousands of dollars and making a range of payments on their behalf.

He told the court he had always intended to repay the funds owed to his clients.

He told the jury to consider what they would have done if the lives of their families had been threatened.

But the prosecutor said Quinn had acted dishonestly and had treated his clients’ funds as if they were his own.

Richards said neither Quinn nor his witness were willing to identify the alleged culprits to police or the courts and that large portions of the money were used for expenses completely unrelated to the alleged threats.

Sudan conflict: Thousands flee fresh ethnic killings in Darfur

Thousands of people have been forced to flee the Sudanese region of West Darfur amid fears of ethnic cleansing, a medical charity says.

Witnesses have accused the paramilitary group Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of targeting and killing non-Arabs, with reports of hundreds of deaths.

This comes after the RSF captured the Sudanese army headquarters in West Darfur capital of El Geneina.

The RSF says it is not involved in what it describes as a “tribal conflict”.

It has been battling the army for control of the country since April.

Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) says that most of the 7,000 people who have crossed into Chad in the past three days are women and children who are fleeing with nothing.

Hatim Ali, a local human rights monitor, said he had fled to Chad after the RSF and allied militias arrived on horses, camels and motorbikes and besieged Erdamta, just across a river from El Geneina.

He said they “killed so many men and raped a lot of women”, adding that hundreds of people may have been killed.



The refugees are mainly women and children who are fleeing the violence with nothing.

Since the capture of El Geneina, the RSF and allied Arab militias have been accused of murdering ethnic Masalit people, looting homes and raping women.

The RSF and Arab militia even reportedly attacked a camp for internally displaced people in Erdamta, where some 800 people are said to have been killed.

A man who fled the camp with his family before the attack told the BBC: “I’m still alive, but I lost a lot”.

Alaa Babikr, a resident of El Geneina, told the BBC that civilians had no

way to escape the fighting.

While many people have fled to Chad, thousands remain trapped in Sudan as Arab militias demand huge sums of money to cross the border, an aid worker told BBC.

Pierre Honnorat, the head of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Chad, told the BBC the key challenge was feeding the thousands of refugees.

“We need support, and we need it now. We do need to secure a meal a day to them all. They have nothing,” he said.

The RSF originated in Darfur and has been accused of atrocities against

non-Arabic groups in the region during this year’s conflict.

The paramilitary group has been gaining more territory in Darfur since the beginning of this month, taking control of four of the region’s five states.

Peace talks in Saudi Arabia have been unfruitful as efforts to secure a ceasefire have failed, according to Reuters.

The UN refugee agency says “an unimaginable” humanitarian crisis is unfolding in Sudan.

Nearly six million people have been forced from their homes since the war began.

Man crushed to death by robot in South Korea

By Emily Atkinson

A man has been crushed to death by a robot in South Korea after it failed to differentiate him from the boxes of food it was handling, reports say.

The incident occurred when the man, a robotics company employee in his 40s, was inspecting the robot.

The robotic arm, confusing the man for a box of vegetables, grabbed him and pushed his body against the conveyer belt, crushing his face and chest, South Korean news agency Yonhap said.

He was sent to hospital but later died. According to Yonhap, the robot was responsible for lifting boxes of peppers and transferring them onto pallets.

The man had been checking the robot's sensor operations ahead of its test run at the pepper sorting plant in South Gyeongsang province, scheduled for 8 November, the agency adds,



quoting police.

The test had originally been planned for 6 November, but was pushed back by two days due to problems with the robot's sensor.

The man, a worker from the company that manufactured the robotic arm, was running checks on the machine late into the night on Wednesday when it malfunctioned.

In a statement after the incident, an official from the Donggoseong Export Agricultural Complex, which owns the plant, called for a "precise and safe" system to be established.

In March, a South Korean man in his 50s suffered serious injuries after getting trapped by a robot while working at an automobile parts manufacturing plant.



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Sandals and Agriculture record wins in business football league

Sandals and the Ministry of Agriculture recorded wins in the Cool & Smooth, JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League on Tuesday evening.

A conversion by Daniel Francis in the 44th minute was sufficient to give the Sandals a 1-0 victory against the CHAPA Warriors in their Group 2 encounter at the Princess Margaret School's (PMS) playing field.

Their fourth win in as many outings lifted the Sandals to the top of Group 2 with 12 points. The CHAPA Warriors slipped to third

place on nine points after suffering their second defeat in five matches. DEWS Pro Builders are currently in second place with 10 points from five outings.

A double conversion by Tyrique Tonge propelled the Ministry of Agriculture to a 4-1 victory against Cocos/Keyonna in their Group 1 affair at the Golden Grove playing field.

Tonge had conversions in the 8th and 18th minutes. Alden Spencer scored in the 24th minute, and Kenny Morgan also converted in the 60th minute for the Minis-



Sandals player Daniel Francis. (Photo courtesy Ministry of Sports)



try of Agriculture. The lone goal for Cocos/Keyonna was scored by Conrad Willock in the 52nd minute.

The Ministry of Agriculture advances to joint first place with the Royalton Hotel. Both teams have 12 points at the top of Group 1 and identical records of four wins and one loss from five matches.

The St. John's Development Corporations (SJDC) and Gail Christian's Law Enforcers are leading the other

two groups.

The SJDC is at the top of Group 3 with 10 points from four matches. Public Works Asphalt is in second place on eight points, one point ahead of the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board in third place.

The Law Enforcers are leading Group 4 with eight points from four matches. PBC HC VER and Villa Tech Enterprises are jointly tied for second place with seven points from four matches.

England end losing streak with win against Netherlands

PUNE, India (AP) - Ben Stokes scored his first World Cup century to help England finally end a five-game losing streak by beating the Netherlands by 160 runs on Wednesday.

Stokes reached his hundred off just 78 balls and finished on 108 to help England reach 339 for nine after his team opted to bat first. Pace all-rounder Chris Woakes also scored 51 off 45 balls, and he and Stokes put on 129 runs to rescue England from a precarious 192 for six.

In reply, the Netherlands was all out for 179 in 37.2 overs. Adil Rashid and Moeen Ali took three wickets each for England, which climbed off the bottom of the table with a second win from eight games.



England's team members celebrate their win over Netherlands in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match in Pune, India, Wednesday, Nov. 8, 2023. (AP)

The defending champions had already been eliminated from semifinal contention, but can still clinch a spot in the 2025 Champions Trophy with a win over Pa-

kistan in their final game on Saturday.

The Netherlands' slim chances of advancing to the last four of the tournament officially ended with

the loss. The Dutch can still finish eighth or higher to qualify for the Champions Trophy, but must beat table-toppers India in their final game on Sunday.

Williams scores four as PMS trounce SNRA

National Under-15 forward Greg Williams scored four times to lead Princess Margaret School (PMS) to an emphatic win in the Under-16 Boys Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Tuesday.

Williams four-goal blitz led Princess Margaret School to an 8-1 drubbing of Sir Novelle Richards Academy in the second match of a double-header at the PMS playing field.

The other goals for PMS were

scored by Jermarion Edwards, Zaddler Forde, Shumba Thomas, and Mario Lewis. Jamil Thomas scored a consolation goal for Sir Novelle Richards Academy.

All Saints Secondary School beat Glanvilles Secondary School 4-0 in the first encounter at the PMS playing field.

Kamarlie Benjamin scored in the 3rd minute, Damin Jeremiah in the 31st minute, Aaron Marie in the 46th minute, and Azori Destin in the 50th minute.

St. Anthony's Secondary School snatched a 3-1 win against Irene B. Williams Secondary School.

Jaden Browne, Clayton Compton, and Seth Layne each converted once for St. Anthony's Secondary School.

Shamar Anthony scored for Irene B. Williams Secondary.

The Ottos Comprehensive School won by default against St. Mary's Secondary School, which failed to show up for their Under-16 Boys Division encounter.

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BOE advance to the second round of business basketball league playoffs

The Board of Education (BOE) completed the second round line-up in the playoff championship of the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League on Tuesday night.

The eighth-seeded Board of Education became the last team to book their spot in the second round by prevailing 66-55 against the ninth-seeded H. Wright Promotions in the final first-round encounter at the JSC Sports Complex.

Xavier "X-Man" Meade and

Kelvyn Pimental each produced 17 points, Jesus Emmanuel sank 15 points, and David Hernandez had 11 points for the Board of Education.

Adrian Carnegie shot a game-high 20 points, Gerard Henry converted 12 points, and Shaquille Kelly chipped in with 10 points for H. Wright Promotions.

Second-seeded Sandals will take on 10th-seeded Eye Mobile Vision Care in the last second round encounter at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Thursday) at 6:30.

Following Thursday evening's

encounter, the national basketball fraternity will join the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association in paying tribute to the late ex-national player and legend Rowan "Tekel" Gomes.

The Rowan "Tekel" Gomes tribute night will take place at the JSC Sports Complex at 7:30 pm.

Gomes, who passed away on September 11, will be laid to rest on Friday after a funeral service at the Christian Union Church on Wireless Road in Clare Hall at 2 pm on the same day.

Ticket outlets: Landing Strip, Roti King, Eighteen Plus 1 Restaurant

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CWI thanks Sunil Narine for his contribution to West Indies cricket

Cricket West Indies (CWI) is expressing its thanks to Sunil Narine for his service to West Indies cricket during his international career.

The talented spin bowler announced his retirement from international and regional List A cricket on Sunday, ahead of the final preliminary match for Trinidad & Tobago Red Force in the CG United Super50 Cup.

The 35-year-old made his debut for West Indies in India in 2011 and his last appearance was also against India in Guyana in 2019.

He played in West Indies colours in 122 matches, which included 6 Tests, 65 appearances in One-Day International (ODI) and 51 in T20 International (T20I) cricket.

He was a member of the West Indies team which won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2012 when

they beat Sri Lanka at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo. He played a crucial role with the ball in the victory, with three wickets as West Indies won by 36 runs.

Narine represented the West Indies in all three formats.

He played six Tests and took 21 wickets with best bowling figures of six for 91 against New Zealand in Hamilton.

In 65 One-Day Internationals he took 92 wickets, including a best of six for 27 against South Africa in Guyana in 2016.

He also took 52 wickets in 51 T20 Internationals, with best returns of four for 12 against New Zealand in Fort Lauderdale in 2012 to help secure the series victory.

CWI Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, said, "On behalf of CWI I would like to thank Sunil Narine for his contribution



Off-spinner Sunil Narine in action for Trinidad & Tobago Red Force in the 2023 CG United Super50 Cup. (CWI Media)

to West Indies during his time on the international stage.

"He was the kind of bowler who excited fans and brought them to the game. He was the 'X' factor in the West Indies bowling attack and produced some amazing spells.

"When at his best he ranked among the very best in the modern era. We all remember the magical bowling performance in Sri Lanka, when he helped the West Indies to their first T20 World Cup title. As he continues his playing career, we wish him more success."

Narine was in the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force squad for the first Semi-Final of the CG United 50 Cup, which was played on Wednesday, November 8, at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, and he may therefore make his final List A appearance on Saturday, November 11, in the final. The semi-finals and final will be live on ESPN Caribbean.

cont'd from pg 22

The Leewards had their final match against Combined Colleges and Campuses in the preliminary round at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine abandoned without a ball being bowled due to wet conditions on Saturday.

Coach Cornwall said the team is not affected by any injuries, and everyone is available for Thursday's semi-final. He, however, said the rainy weather has hampered his team's preparations for Thursday's encounter.

"We are blessed because we don't re-

ally have any current injury scares, and I think we have a very focused squad at the moment," he said.

Cornwall said the ultimate goal is to get to Saturday's final and win the title.

"We have it all to play for on Thursday and produce what it takes to come out victorious and book our spot in the final," Cornwall said.

"We will not be taking anyone for granted, and we will not be complacent. But I think while we stick to the basics and our game plan, I think nine out of 10 times we will end up on the winning side."

Cornwall said LIH focused for Super50 Cup semis

Leeward Islands Hurricane's (LIH) assistant coach and manager, Wilden "Polo" Cornwall, said the players of the team are focused and optimistic about their chances of reaching the final of the regional CG United Super50 Cup in Trinidad and Tobago.

The Hurricanes will take on the Barbados Pride in the second Super50 Cup semi-final at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba today at 2 pm, a game that will be televised live on ESPN Caribbean.

Cornwall said the Leewards, who beat Barbados by four wickets in their preliminary round meeting at the same venue on November 2, will be guarding against complacency in Thursday's semi-final.

Cornwall, the ex-Leeward Islands and Antiguan attacking batsman, said the Hurricanes will be aiming to maintain their momentum, which propelled them to finish the preliminary rounds in second place with 44 points, seven adrift of first-place finishers, Trinidad and Tobago Red Force.

"I think we already know what transpired during the preliminary rounds of this tournament, and so we already have good momentum. We beat Barbados already, but that is already gone. However, we can build on and access what we were able to achieve in that game," Cornwall stated.

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes have been one of the more consistent performers in all aspects of the current 50-over one-day tournament, which



Hayden Walsh Jr.

featured eight teams.

The Hurricanes all-rounder Justin Greaves of Barbados and leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. of Antigua are among the leading run scorers and wicket takers in this year's competition.

Greaves, who struck his maiden first-class century of 121 against the Winward Islands Volcanoes and cracked an unbeaten 95 against Barbados Pride in his last two innings, is the leading run scorer with 328 runs in five innings.

Walsh is among the four players that ended the preliminary rounds as the joint-leading wicket takers with 16 scalps apiece. The others are Trinidad and Tobago's leg-spinner Yannich Carriah and off-spinner Sunil Narine, and Barbados Pride off-spinner Roston Chase.

cont'd on pg 21



Justin Greaves