

BRIDGING THE FINANCE GAP; THE CHALLENGE FOR UWI

Story on Page 2



New UWI FIC Principal, Prof. C. Justin Robinson is capped by University Chancellor, Robert Bermudez at a ceremony held at the SJPC HOR on Saturday. *Story on page 3.*

Bridging the finance gap; The challenge for the UWI

The new Principal of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, Professor, C. Justin Robinson, was formally inducted at a ceremony on Saturday full of pomp and ceremony; the first of its kind for the new university campus.

Commencing with the Academic Procession of undergraduate students and the entrance of the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, the main procession of the afternoon, the Chancellor's Procession which included Chancellor Robert Bermudez, Vice Chancellor, Sir Hilary Beckles, upper echelon of the UWI's academic and administrative staff and the campus principals entered the hall and took their places on the platform.

Messages of congratulations were delivered from many of Prof. Robinson's colleagues and stakeholder groups within the university family.

It was VC Sir Hilary who presented Prof. Robinson to be inducted by helping the new Principal to put on his Pro Vice Chancellor's gown. Following which, Chancellor Bermudez placed the special cap unto Prof Robinson's head and invited him to make his inaugural address to the company.

Prof. Robinson quoted the late Prof. Rex Nettleford

who described the university as the Caribbean's best gift to itself.

"Access to a world class Caribbean university has been of the most positive transformative developments to date on our journey as a Caribbean civilization. Many of us present here today have experienced the life changing opportunities a world class education can bring and an education deeply rooted in all of the contextual complexities of the Caribbean," he noted.

According to Prof. Robinson, Caribbean governments contributed approximately US\$237.85 million to the UWI during the 2013 financial year and for the 2023 financial year that contribution declined to approximately US\$207.35million.

He noted that this is a significant amount of money to come from small island developing states. However, if the UWI is to maintain its ability to provide 'world-class' education, then this is a matter that has to be addressed. "The UWI operates in the same economy as the rest of us and with inflation these amounts are inadequate to sustain the accessible world class Caribbean university I spoke about. Imagine if you had to sustain your household today on an income that is 15% lower than it was in 2013,"



UWI Vice Chancellor, Sir Hilary Beckles helped the new UWI FIC Principal, Prof. C. Justin Robinson with his new gown as part of the installation ceremony on Saturday

he explained.

Further, he added that senior management at the UWI has embraced the challenge to deal with the funding gap while at the same time continue to grow and expand the university.

"As such the current strategic plan seeks to engage in a 'Revenue Revolution'. I take this opportunity to encourage UWI colleagues to embrace this strategy and embrace the "entrepreneurial UWI"," he stated.

Principal Robinson is of the view that the newness of UWI FIC can work to its

advantage. "UWI FIC has a distinct advantage of newness and my most urgent task as leader is to ensure that the campus embraces this entrepreneurial/financially independent as far as possible culture from the outset.

"I see myself as being tasked with crafting a business model that generates the financial sustainability that is the foundation for all the wonderful things we want to do," he declared.

The St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration hosted the installation ceremony.

Government, private sector welcome new UWI FIC Principal

The newly installed Principal of the University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, Professor C. Justin Robinson, has received a warm welcome from the Antigua and Barbuda government as well as the local private sector as he embarks on the journey at the helm of the university.

Speaking at Saturday's Induction Ceremony, Education Minister Daryll Matthew underscored the value of leadership at this critical juncture in the life of the institution. "As we embark on this journey with Prof. Robinson, it's essential to recognize the significance of leadership in shaping the educational landscape. Prof. Robinson brings with him a wealth of experience, a passion for education, and a vision for the future that aligns seamlessly with the values that define our campus," he remarked.

Minister Matthew not-

ed that in his previous role, Prof. Robinson had demonstrated a commitment to academic excellence, innovation, and inclusivity, adding that his dedication to fostering a supportive learning environment and cultivating a sense of community aligns perfectly with the campus' ethos.

"As we transition to a new chapter under Professor Robinson's leadership, it is an opportune moment to reflect on the strengths and achievements that define our university. We have a proud history of academic achievement, a diverse and talented student body, and a faculty committed to pushing the boundaries of knowledge.

"Under Prof. Robinson's guidance, we can anticipate exciting developments and initiatives that will further enhance our educational experience. Whether it's embracing new technologies, expanding research oppor-



New UWI FIC Principal, Prof. C. Justin Robinson outlines his policy objectives for the university during his installation ceremony

tunities, or fostering collaboration across disciplines, we are confident that our principal will lead us toward a future of continued success and growth," he emphasized.

Executive Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Martin Cave, believes that Prof. Robinson's ability to combine academia with business augurs well for UWI FIC. "At the apex of the pursuit of knowledge are our universities. But how we use that knowledge will be

critical to our contributions to our societies.

"At the apex of commerce are our businesses. I believe that with his experience in academia and knowledge of business, Professor Robinson bringing an intersectionality of both is well placed to make a positive impact. Because our businesses need persons who are well trained, and universities are the places that are charged with providing the necessary training," he noted.

Adding his voice to the welcome is Campus Council chairman, Aziz Hadeed, who expressed much confidence in the future of UWI FIC under Prof. Robinson's leadership. "Leadership in education requires a unique blend of vision, compassion and the ability to motivate and inspire others. Prof. Robinson embodies these qualities and has proven himself to be a leader dedicated to the growth and success of our institution," he stated.



Prof. C. Justin Robinson and his extended family at installation ceremony

Friends of India in Antigua and Barbuda join to celebrate that country's 75th anniversary of Independence

Members of the Indian diaspora here in Antigua and Barbuda as well as members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gathered to celebrate India's 75th anniversary of political independence over the weekend.

"The 75th Republic Day celebration in Antigua & Barbuda commenced Saturday morning with a Flag Hoisting Ceremony by Honorary Consul of India, Vijay Tewani. The event, attended by our Indian Diaspora, was followed by an evening reception at The Chimney Restaurant. President of the Senate, Alincia Grant, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, Chief Protocol Officer, Karen Cabrall, Dean of the Diplomatic Corps Ambassador of Venezuela, Carmen Velasquez, Ambassador of Cuba, Sergio Martinez and officials from the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, along with invited guests, and the Indian Diaspora were present," Tewani reported.

Congratulations were conveyed by Prime Minister, Gaston Browne to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, reaffirming Antigua and Barbuda's strong commitment to its relationship with In-



Indians in Antigua and Barbuda mark the 75th anniversary of that country's independence

dia.

In a similar message Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene, commended India on the stance it took at the recent meeting of G20 nations, to highlight issues of interest to Antigua and Barbuda and other small states.

"India's recent presidency of the prestigious G20 group of countries under the theme 'One Earth, One Family,

One Future' provided small countries like Antigua and Barbuda an opportunity to have issues affecting the region advocated among the grouping membership.

The leadership provided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the G20 group was transformational setting a framework for the reshaping of the global order in the decades to come.

"India's contribution and support for Antigua and Barbuda is testimony of your country's commitment towards embracing and supporting developing countries in the areas of technology, education and the environment.," Greene noted.

Tewani, as the Honorary Consul of India, expressed pride in being part of the world's largest democracy, highlighting this year's theme, "Mother of Democracy," and encouraging the championing of justice, fairness, and friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of India.



Members of the local diplomatic corps join with Indian Consul, Vijay Tewani on Friday evening to celebrate 75th anniversary of India's independence



HAPI launches 2024 work programme

The Home Assistance Programme for the Indigent, commonly called the HAPI programme has launched an ambitious goal for this year, to repaint and generally beautify the homes of 42 individuals who do not have the means to do this for themselves.

The programme kicked off on Saturday, with volunteers representing the ABLP youth arm in the St. John's Rural East constituency using paints and other materials donated by the representative, Hon. Maria Browne as well as from Mary Baltimore, to paint the home of an elderly woman who lives

on Hawkins Drive in Cassada Gardens.

"A huge thank you to the Honorable Maria Vanessa Browne and Mary Baltimore SPB for generously providing the materials for our project. We are incredibly grateful to the St. John's Rural East Youth Group, led by President, Imani Sinclair, as well as Omarie Joseph, Carl Christopher, Collin Beazer, Wayne Jones, Takeia Henry, Clint Cornelius, Wayne Joseph, Omarie Anthony and 'Jimmy' for their dedicated volunteering efforts," said head of the HAPI programme, Inspector Veldon Raggette.

Raggette is also thanking Franklin James for his excellent supervision of the painting process, and to Kings Casino for making available their power-wash.

According to Inspector Raggette the plan is to

mobilise volunteers each weekend in different communities across the country to assist with the painting and beautification of the homes of those in desperate need during the course of the year.



NOTICE

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. Johns
Antigua.

To: Your Worship
St. Johns Magistrate Court
Gray's Farm
St. Johns
Antigua.

Dear Sir/Madame,

Re: Notice-Application for BAR and RESTAURANT Liquor

License

I, NATALEE K CLARK AND FRANCIS YOUNG of York's with registered business situate at York's in St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, Gray's Farm, St. John's, Antigua on Thursday 4th April, 2024 next ensuring for a Liquor Licensing Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "**PURITY CHILL SPOT SPORT BAR and RESTAURANTE**" situated ay York's the parish of St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 19th day of January 2024

... Natalee K Clark and Young Francis

Local News



We're Hiring

C-Suite

- Chief Finance Officer
- Chief Operating Officer
- Chief Commercial Officer

Sr. Management

- Director of Flight Operations
- Director of Engineering
- Head-ICT
- Head - Human Resource Management
- Manager, Financial Management
- Financial Accountant

Flight Operations

- Chief Pilot
- Chief Training Captain
- Check Airmen/Instructors
- Captain
- Co-pilot
- Training Manager
- Cabin Service Manager
- Flight Attendant
- Manager Ops Control
- Ops Control Supervisors
- Ops Control Instructors
- CRC
- Flight Ops Dispatchers
- Flight Ops Officer - Tech Library
- Flight Ops Officer/Data Analyst
- Exec Mgr. Airports & Customer Service
- Regional Manager North, Central & South
- Station Manager (ANU & BGI)*

Finance

- Systems Audit & Infrastructure Support Lead
- Applications Support Lead
- Service Delivery Lead
- Revenue Accountant
- Revenue Management & Distribution Lead
- Sales & Marketing Lead
- Route Network & Schedule Planning Lead

Manager, Sales & Marketing

- Planning & Research Analyst
- Customer Experience Centre Exec
- Sales & Marketing Exec
- Customer Relations

Training, Development & Facilities Mgt, Lead

- Employee Services Lead (HR Generalist)
- Labour & Employee Relations and Admin Serv. Lead
- Treasurer/Payroll Officer
- Training Officer
- Accounts Clerk
- Treasurer/Payroll Officer

Administrative and Other Support Roles

- Quality Assurance Manager
- Quality Assurance Inspector (AMO)
- Quality Assurance Inspector (AOC)
- Legal Counsel and Corporate Secretary
- Internal Audit Lead
- Executive Secretary
- Corporate Receptionist/HR Assistant
- Corporate Communications Officer

If you are interested in one of our open positions, additional details including job functions, required qualifications for each position and guidelines for application can be found at: www.liat20.com

Remuneration will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Qualified persons should submit an application no later than February 1st, 2024

Who We Are

LIAT (2020) Limited is an innovative and dynamic start-up airline on a mission to connect the sub region with the rest of the world, disrupting the regional aviation industry by providing affordable and efficient travel solutions. Committed to delivering a seamless and exceptional flying experience, we prioritise sustainability and profitability. As we embark on this exciting journey, we are seeking suitably qualified persons who value (our values) to join our team.

Recognising that our employees have choices, we place a strong emphasis on creating and maintaining a positive work culture. Our company thrives on a friendly and informal work environment where everyone, regardless of their position, is treated with respect and consideration. As a member of the team, you will help to foster a positive and supportive work environment.

Arrivals by Air December 2023 versus 2019

Market	2023	(%) of Arrivals	2019	(%) of Arrivals
USA	16,051	49%	15,662	41%
UK	7,679	24%	9,278	25%
Canada	4,019	12%	5,077	13%
Caribbean	2,374	7%	3,874	10%
Italy	538	2%	1253	3%
Other	1855	6%	2674	7%
Total Arrivals	32,516		37,818	-14%

Tourist arrivals still lag behind 2019 figures

Tourist arrivals by air to Antigua and Barbuda continue to show improvement, but they are still not at the level of 2019, the best year for tourism on record.

The latest break-down provided by the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA), shows that for December 2023, arrivals were down by 14 percent when compared with the figure for 2019.

In December 2019, there were 37,818 visitor arrivals with 15,662 or 41% coming from the United States. In 2023, that figure fell to 32,516 with 16,051 coming from the United States. The US

also increased its percentage of the share of source market to 49 percent.

The decline in arrivals for 2023 December may be explained by the fact that there were declines in all the other source markets of Canada, the UK, Europe and the Caribbean. This may be attributed to the challenges the destination has faced on the issue of adequate airlifts from the source markets to the destination.

Occupancy is showing better performance for December 2023 than for the same month in 2019, but when adjusted to available room nights, the 2023 performance still lags behind 2019.

The first in a series of preparatory meeting for 2024 for SIDS4 conclude

United Nations stakeholders note it is more critical than ever before for the international community to devise a strong action plan for small island developing states (SIDS) when leaders converge this May at the Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4). A major milestone in preparations for the SIDS4 is underway, as UN Member States are currently participating in the first Preparatory Committee Meeting for SIDS4.

The Preparatory Committee met last week to engage in negotiations on anew ten-year programme of action for SIDS, to be adopted during SIDS4 in Antigua and Barbuda from 27 to 30 May 2024.

These vulnerable countries continue to face significant challenges to their sustainable development, worsened by impacts from climate change and issues such as food-price volatility, and external financial shocks.

Building on the SA-MOA Pathway, the new programme of action will set out a comprehensive development agenda for SIDS over the next ten years. Drawing on the outcomes of regional and interregional preparatory meetings, it will define SIDS' development priorities and the support required from the international community to make the SIDS-led, SIDS-focused



Chair of AOSIS Amb. Pa'olelei Luteri at the First Session of the Preparatory Committee the SIDS4

agenda achievable.

In recognition of their unique vulnerabilities to external shocks and stressors, the international community designated SIDS a special case for environment and development, but after thirty years of this recognition and targeted action the situation remains unchanged.

Co-chairs of the Preparatory Committee, H.E. Caroline Schwalger, Permanent Representative of New Zealand to the United Nations, and H.E. Dr. Ali Naseer Mohamed, Permanent Representative of the Maldives to the United Nations, reminded Member States of the gravity of the work ahead of them and reiterated their commitment to steward negotiations toward an ambitious, action-oriented outcome.

Chair of AOSIS, H.E. Fatumanava-o-Upolu III Pa'olelei Luteru of Samoa, stated:

“AOSIS advocates for a new and more responsive UN for SIDS. This will be essential to deliver a robust 10-year outcome. SIDS' survival is at stake. Our people, natural environments, and overall sustainable development is under threat.

The development challenges we are facing are far outpacing our ability to respond. We are seemingly going from one event to another, without the time or ability to recover and regrow. We are running out of time and running out of space to maneuver.

We sit here with you today with a single request: decide that the development of SIDS and our resilient prosperity provides a collective good, and let us act on that decision throughout the preparatory process for the Fourth Conference and the decade of action to come.”

Strong political commitment to the aspiration of

SIDS was evident in the 42 statements from UN Member States and 22 statements from UN entities and other stakeholders. They highlighted the need for urgent action to address the impacts of climate change—which are existential for many SIDS – to build resilience, reform the international financial architecture to enable SIDS to access sufficient and sustainable finance, and alleviate the impact of external shocks.

Speaking on behalf of the European Union, Stavros Lambrinidis, Head of the European Union Delegation to the United Nations said the EU will “engage constructively in the negotiations on the SIDS4 outcome document” and that the EU is “committed to achieving strong, concrete results for the SIDS for the next ten years.”

Speaking on behalf of Canada, Australia and New Zealand (CANZ), H.E. James Larsen, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the United Nations said “CANZ extends our unwavering support for the upcoming process to agree a new programme of action that delivers meaningful outcomes for SIDS.”

Negotiations on the outcome document will continue ahead of the Second Preparatory Committee meeting on 1 to 5 April 2024.

Cannabis authority CEO attends workshop in Jamaica

The Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Cannabis Authority, Regis Burton, is in Jamaica for a technical dialogue on cannabis policies and regional workshop taking place there from Monday to Tuesday.

The objectives of the

workshop are; to,

- promote information sharing and a technical dialogue on cannabis policies with key stakeholders in Jamaica (regulatory authorities, private companies, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations...);

- promote a bi-regional

technical exchange on cannabis policies between key Latin American and Caribbean countries that have implemented or are considering implementing cannabis policies;

- discuss the findings of the updated 2020 report 'Monitoring and evaluat-

ing changes in cannabis policies: insights from the Americas'.

Organisers include the National Council on Drug Abuse of Jamaica and the European Monitoring Centre on Drugs and Drug Abuse and Funded by the European Union.

Senator Kiz Johnson wants better public understanding of the role of Independent Senator

Independent senator, in the Upper Chamber of Parliament, Sen. Kiz Johnson, will observe the first anniversary since her appointment this weekend with much satisfaction with her achievements in the first year in office.

She told Point Express that her first year was phenomenal. "I have to say that it has been a pleasure serving in the Senate as an Independent Lawmaker. I enjoy it immensely. You must observe how my eyes lit up just knowing that I am a part of shaping the laws of this country which will impact not only our current generation but that of our future generation brings me joy."

Much as she has enjoyed her experiences over the past year, one of which was representing Antigua and Barbuda as the country's standard bearer at King Charles the Third's Coronation, Sen. Johnson believes that there is some misunderstanding among the public about her role as an independence senator.

For her, this is a major challenge. "The only challenge with this role is that there is still a perception that the Independent Senator is not really "independent" by virtue of the fact that I am the Governor General's appointee and the Governor General is himself



Sen. Kiz Johnson

appointed by the Prime Minister," she bemoaned.

According to Sen. Johnson the confusion in the minds of many people is manifested by the comments they make in their social media postings.

"I have been looking at the comments online following my debate presentations and some people still do not understand who is an Independent Senator, some have said that I am opposition senator while some have asked if I am a Government Senator.

"An Independent Senator is not affiliated with any political party nor represent the interest of any political

party. That in my capacity as an Independent Senator, I represent the interests of the people, the ones who are underserved or do not wish to channel their views through a political party. The views of the average man must be represented and I take pleasure in speaking on behalf of these groups in our society," she stated.

Despite this however, Sen. Johnson believes that generally there is what she termed 'a good view' of her within the body politic. "The only comment that is not very appealing is that the independent senator is not a necessarily a popular position within the parliamentary structure, so it takes some work to stamp your name in this capacity and to be embraced by society. Overall, I think people are beginning to warm up to the idea of the Independent Senator based on my contributions so far in the Senate," she added.

Editor's Note

This story was carried in our last issue, however, the headline for the story conveyed the wrong impression; one that neither the senator nor I had intended. In the interest of fairness, I have decided to reprint the story with a corrected headline. Apologies to Senator Johnson.

**FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK (BARBADOS)
LIMITED - ANTIGUA BRANCH
SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended October 31, 2023
(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)



FirstCaribbean
International Bank

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**TO THE SHAREHOLDER OF FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK
(BARBADOS) LIMITED - ANTIGUA BRANCH**

Opinion

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at October 31, 2023, the summary statement of income, summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in head office account and summary statement of cash flows for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited – Antigua Branch for the year ended October 31, 2023.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, on the basis described in Note 1.

Summary Financial Statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by International Financial Reporting Standards ("IFRS"). Reading the summary financial statements and the auditor's report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

The Audited Financial Statements and Our Report Thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated January 24, 2024.

The audited financial statements and the summary financial statements do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on the audited financial statements.

Responsibilities of Management for the Summary Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with Note 1.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Summary Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing ("ISA") 810 (Revised), Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
St. Lucia
January 24, 2024

NOTE 1

The summary financial statements are prepared in accordance with criteria developed by management. Under management's established criteria, management discloses the summary statement of financial position, summary statement of income, summary statement of comprehensive income, summary statement of changes in head office account and summary statement of cash flows. These summary financial statements are derived from the audited financial statements of FirstCaribbean International Bank (Barbados) Limited - Antigua Branch for the year ended October 31, 2023, which are prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards.

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF INCOME

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Interest and similar income	66,713	52,068
Interest and similar expenses	13,436	10,374
Net interest income	53,277	41,694
Operating income	27,906	25,751
	<u>81,183</u>	<u>67,445</u>
Operating expenses	41,566	33,259
Credit recovery on financial assets	(7,931)	(2,559)
	<u>33,635</u>	<u>30,700</u>
Income before taxation	47,548	36,745
Income tax expense	20,340	15,063
Net income for the year	<u>27,208</u>	<u>21,682</u>

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Income for the year	27,208	21,682
<i>Other comprehensive loss, net of tax, to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods</i>		
Net loss on debt securities at fair value through OCI	(103)	(849)
Net other comprehensive loss, net of tax, to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods	<u>(103)</u>	<u>(849)</u>
<i>Other comprehensive income/(loss), net of tax, not to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods</i>		
Re-measurement gain/(loss) on retirement benefit plan	290	(12,589)
Net other comprehensive income/(loss), net of tax, not to be reclassified to net income in subsequent periods	<u>290</u>	<u>(12,589)</u>
Other comprehensive income/(loss) for the year, net of tax	187	(13,438)
Total comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	<u>27,395</u>	<u>8,244</u>

The above information is an extract from the full financial statements within the meaning of the related Banking Act and the full financial statements can be inspected on request.

Opinion

Growing up is hard to do

By Tony Deyal

You are never too old to learn. If this was not something I have always known, I would have found it out the hard way earlier this week. My son Zubin, who learnt fishing from (and with) me since he was able to walk, stood with me on the beach in Castara, Tobago, waiting for the boatman to come and take us out to sea and, of course, to see whether we would catch a few “red fish” or “Snappers”.

While it didn't matter to me what we caught, even our tails in the hot sun and rough sea, we also knew that my wife (and Zubin's Mom) Indranie stayed home with our daughter Jasmine getting the onions, garlic and appetites ready.

Henry David Thoreau, the famous naturalist, believed, “Many men go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after”. While he might be right most of the time, he was definitely wrong in our case. Fishing as a sport, hobby, or way of life has caught us hook, line and sinker.

In terms of learning, blowing up in a boat, especially if the gas tank is leaking, is not a problem. Throwing up is even easier for people who, unlike me, just need two bounces of the boat and they let it all out.

But growing up is the “biggie”. As Neil Sedaka wrote, and the Partridge

Family sang, that is the one that is hard to do. Fortunately, while I found out that the politics in Trinidad after 2015 made it hard to earn, I didn't have to get the strap from my ‘headmaster’, or the belt from my father, to learn.

One good thing that I learnt is not to beat my children, but teach them. Since schooldays, I've heard that, if you give a man, or your son, a fish, you feed him for a day, but if you teach him to fish he is good for a lifetime. In fishing, it doesn't work that way.

As comedian George Carlin said, “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.” Others have added, “Teach a man to fish and he will be surrounded by people telling him how they can do it better.” I've experienced that. What I found out from my wife is that, when a man is taught to fish, you can get rid of him for the entire weekend.

We only had a few hours to catch a fish or two and then catch a plane back to Trinidad. However, luck and the Almighty were with us in a big way. We had been told that we should get a young Tobago fisherman, Nkosi Walker, to take us out at a relatively low price.

While he was much closer to my son's 25 than my 78, he was everything



Tony Deyal

we could hope or pray for – boatman, fisherman, friend and teacher. He brought in the boat, not in high moon but early morning.

While Zubin is tall and jumped into the boat, I had to pull myself up, and in, while the waves came at me. Even though the ups and downs had not abated, Nkosi stopped the boat to catch some bait with a cast net. As much as he admired Nkosi's skills, Zubin was watching Nkosi so closely that I knew my son planned to buy a net and practise until he was good at it.

The next step was catching fish instead of watching them. Nkosi and then Zubin got going immediately. It

took me much, much longer. There I was, the old man and the sea who Ernest Hemingway would not have been proud of.

If Hemingway were around, instead of a marlin I would have got a mauling. What I realised is that Zubin had watched Nkosi closely and followed his every move. I was the big fisherman and did it my way.

However, I am no Frank Sinatra and, even though the end is near and I am facing the final curtain, my way was not even the highway. It was the low and no way.

By the time my baited line and bated breath reached the bottom, the fish

cont'd on pg 12

**FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTERNATIONAL BANK (BARBADOS)
LIMITED - ANTIGUA BRANCH
SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

For the year ended October 31, 2023
(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)



FirstCaribbean
International Bank

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Assets		
Cash and balances with Central Bank	132,138	194,730
Due from banks	161,462	112,345
Other assets	131,546	36,654
Taxation recoverable	24,059	15,306
Securities	286,794	178,403
Loans and advances to customers	897,261	855,291
Property and equipment	19,042	18,830
Deferred tax assets	7,527	12,998
Retirement benefit assets	17,683	11,413
Total Assets	<u>1,677,512</u>	<u>1,435,970</u>
Liabilities		
Customer deposits	1,123,313	1,134,666
Other liabilities	431,634	210,416
Deferred tax liabilities	4,709	3,365
Retirement benefit obligations	3,412	474
Total Liabilities	<u>1,563,068</u>	<u>1,348,921</u>
Head Office Account		
Reserves	56,083	55,896
Due from Head Office	58,361	31,153
Total Head Office Account	<u>114,444</u>	<u>87,049</u>
Total Liabilities and Head Office Account	<u>1,677,512</u>	<u>1,435,970</u>

Approved by the Board of Directors on January 24, 2024

Carl Lewis
Director

Donna Wellington
Managing Director

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN HEAD OFFICE ACCOUNT

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	Reserves \$	Due from Head Office \$	Total \$
Balance at October 31, 2021	69,334	9,471	78,805
Net income for the year	-	21,682	21,682
Other comprehensive loss for the year, net of tax	(13,438)	-	(13,438)
Total comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	<u>(13,438)</u>	<u>21,682</u>	<u>8,244</u>
Balance at October 31, 2022	55,896	31,153	87,049
Net income for the year	-	27,208	27,208
Other comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	187	-	187
Total comprehensive income for the year, net of tax	<u>187</u>	<u>27,208</u>	<u>27,395</u>
Balance at October 31, 2023	<u>56,083</u>	<u>58,361</u>	<u>114,444</u>

SUMMARISED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

(expressed in thousands of Eastern Caribbean dollars)

	2023 \$	2022 \$
Cash flows from operating activities		
Income before taxation	47,548	36,745
Credit recovery on financial assets	(7,931)	(2,559)
Interest income on investment securities	(7,832)	(2,126)
Depreciation on property and equipment	5,181	5,211
Interest expense incurred on lease liabilities	44	37
Net cash flows from operating activities before changes in operating assets and liabilities	<u>37,010</u>	<u>37,308</u>
Changes in operating assets and liabilities		
Increase in due from banks	(16,681)	(2,532)
Increase in other assets	(101,300)	(2,241)
Increase in loans and advances to customers	(34,285)	(70,410)
(Decrease)/increase in customer deposits	(11,353)	69,818
Increase in other liabilities	222,134	69,301
Income taxes paid	<u>(18,840)</u>	<u>(4,777)</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>76,685</u>	<u>96,467</u>
Cash flows from investing activities		
Purchase of property and equipment	(5,393)	(4,034)
Purchases of investment securities	(949,624)	(327,671)
Proceeds from disposals and redemption of investment securities	840,996	280,868
Interest income received on investment securities	<u>8,178</u>	<u>1,877</u>
Net cash used in investing activities	<u>(105,843)</u>	<u>(48,960)</u>
Cash flows from financing activities		
Interest expense on lease liabilities	(44)	(37)
Payment of principal portion of lease liabilities	(954)	(931)
Net cash used in financing activities	<u>(998)</u>	<u>(968)</u>
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents for the year	<u>(30,156)</u>	<u>46,539</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	<u>262,215</u>	<u>215,676</u>
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	<u>232,059</u>	<u>262,215</u>

The above information is an extract from the full financial statements within the meaning of the related Banking Act and the full financial statements can be inspected on request.

Opinion



cont'd from pg 10

had already taken them off the hook. I kept on baiting the line, dropping it and pulling it back empty. The only good news was that, unlike the Government, when I lost my bait, I got a rebait.

This was when Nkosi stepped in and taught me how to tango and not tangle the line of atonement and astonishment. I needed to put two of the small bait-fish together on each hook.

I had to make sure that my fingers did the dropping so I would know when a fish pulled on the line. I couldn't just let the line down and then wait for a bite. I had to be alert all the time, from the time I let down the hook to when I felt a bite.

Some of the fish were coming at the bait before it hit the ground. Nkosi had four hooks on his line and had caught fish on all of them at the same

time, Zubin was doing relatively well compared with Nkosi, but much better than the third man in the equation – me! It took me longer than it should but I did what my young son had recognised as the way to go. Follow the leader.

By the time we moved and reached the red-fish resort, I was holding my own with Zubin but not even close to Nkosi. Given his commitment to his own fishing but still with time and help for us, it was clear that we were very fortunate to be with him.

I watched my son and Nkosi catching fish after fish and said to myself, "Good things come to those who bait". There was a time when I actually saw myself as a Master-Baiter but, on Wednesday, I learnt the hard way that the Bible was right and pride really goes before a fall.

When I tried to get off the boat,

instead of watching what I was doing, I got washed in and was the first rolling stone to gather moss, sand and salt water.

A few times out in stormy weather and lightning, I found myself between the devil and the deep blue sea. At other times, when my friends were spear-fishing, everything went swimmingly. However, my learning from Nkosi and my son Zubin was vital.

When I meet up with the Almighty, He would know that not only am I willing to learn, but also to attribute and say thanks to my teachers, regardless of race, colour, creed and age. Boys will be boys, and girls will be girls, but, when it is necessary, they can all rise to higher heights and greater glory.

Tony Deyal was last seen asking, "Why are fish so smart?" Because they swim in schools.

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CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

Disposable vapes to be banned for children's health, government says

Disposable vapes are set to be banned as part of plans to tackle the rising number of young people taking up vaping, the government says.

Measures will also be introduced to prevent vapes being marketed at children and to target underage sales.

Figures from the Action on Smoking and Health (Ash) charity suggest 7.6% of 11 to 17-year-olds now vape regularly or occasionally, up from 4.1% in 2020.

The ban is expected to be introduced across the UK, the government said.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak is expected to explain the plans during a visit to a school on Monday.

“As any parent or teacher knows, one of the most worrying trends at the moment is the rise in vaping among children, and so we must act before it becomes endemic,” he said in a statement.

It follows last year's announcement of a ban on the sale of cigarettes to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 as part of an attempt to create a “smoke-free generation”.

It is already illegal to sell any vape to anyone under 18, but the government said disposable vapes - often sold in smaller, more colourful packaging than refillable ones - are a “key driver behind the alarming rise in youth vaping”.

It is not yet clear when the ban will be introduced, but it



could be brought in using existing legislation designed to protect the environment.

Campaigners have long argued that disposable vapes are wasteful and that the materials and chemicals used to make them, including their lithium batteries, make them difficult to dispose of safely.

Once the timing is confirmed, retailers will be given six months to implement it.

The latest changes would also introduce powers to stop refillable vapes being sold in a flavour marketed at children and to require that they be produced in plainer, less appealing packaging.

The government will also be able to mandate that shops display refillable vapes out of sight of children and away from other products they might buy, like sweets.

A further public consultation will take place to decide which flavours should be banned and how refillable vapes will be sold, the government said.

Among the child-friendly vape flavours currently available are those inspired by cookies, jam and energy

drinks.

To help stop underage sales, additional fines will be brought in for any shops in England and Wales caught selling vapes illegally to children.

Vaping alternatives like nicotine pouches - small white pouches that are placed between the lip and gum - will also be banned for children. The pouches release nicotine but do not contain tobacco, so can currently be legally sold to under-18s.

While vaping is substantially less harmful than smoking, it has not been around for long enough for its long-term risks to be known, according to the NHS.

Health leaders will nevertheless be keen to ensure that the new measures do not make it harder for adult smokers to move to vaping as an alternative.

This is where the consultation over how far to go with restrictions on flavours and displays in shops will be important.

The announcement follows an initial consultation launched late last year by

the UK government and devolved administrations to gauge public attitudes to measures being proposed to reduce levels of smoking and vaping.

The government said almost 70% of respondents supported a ban on disposable vapes.

The Scottish and Welsh governments both said they would introduce bans, either with legislation in their own parliaments or by supporting UK-wide measures.

Scotland's public health minister, Jenni Minto, said disposable vapes were a “threat to both public health” and that the Scottish government wanted to “do more to achieve our goal of being tobacco-free in Scotland by 2034”.

Wales's deputy minister for wellbeing, Lynne Neagle, said that “vaping carries a risk of harm and addiction for children” and that “we want to take all actions possible to prevent youth vaping”.

Northern Ireland remains without a devolved administration following a breakdown of power sharing, but its Department of Health said it had “a long-standing strategic aim for a tobacco-free Northern Ireland” and would make preparations to allow incoming ministers to take a decision on the ban.

Deborah Arnott, chief executive of Ash, said that the “government's strategy is the
cont'd on pg 14

Regional News



Belizean Minister hopes for regulations to deal with social media

CMC - Cabinet Minister Henry Charles Usher says he is hoping that legislation regarding the regulation of the media in Belize “comes soon” as the fallout continues from the social media posting regarding the alleged sexual assault of two women by a prominent attorney there.

Last week, the Belize government said it was “closely monitoring” the matter” and that “the seriousness of such allegations demands a thorough and impartial investigation to ensure justice is served”.

Earlier this month, Police Commissioner Chester Williams confirmed that the attorney, who is also a member of the main opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) is assisting police investigations following the allegations made



by the two women that they were sexually abused at the lawyer’s residence in Belize City during the early hours of last Friday after a night of socialising at a popular establishment.

Usher said that while Cabinet cannot influence, “in any way, if any charges will be brought against the individual” the discussion among Cabinet ministers centered more on the need

to deal with “the social media blogs that are operating as though they are media outlets.

“That was the more general discussion where they have to be regulated just like any media house is regulated. These sites seem to pop up overnight. There are no regulations. They don’t seem to have any accountability to anyone.

“They publish articles,

blogs, whatever you want to call them, that it seems that they are untouchable,” he said, noting that the blog showing the video from the night of the incident, “borders on witness intimidation.

“It also creates an environment where other women, other girls may not want to come forward if this happens because they fear that they might be blasted on one of these social media outlets.”

“So that’s where the discussion came out, and that’s where our Cabinet focuses on to make sure that they have some kind of regulations in place. The Belize Broadcasting Authority had created a policy last year, and it spoke about regulating these sites. We hope that the legislation comes soon,” Usher told reporters.

cont’d from pg 13

right one: stop smoking initiation, support smokers to quit..., while protecting children by curbing youth vaping”.

Dr Camilla Kingdon, president of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, said the organisation was “thrilled to see the government take the first necessary steps to create a smoke-free generation”.

“By stopping children and young people from ever starting to smoke we decrease their chances of developing preventable diseases later in life,” she said.

In a statement, the UK Vaping Industry Association said disposable vapes have “played a key role in helping millions of adults quit and stay off ciga-

rettes” and that it was “dismayed” by the announcement.

“While action to prevent youth access to vaping is critical, this move smacks more of a desperate attempt by the government to sacrifice vapers for votes,” it said.

It added that the ban would put children at greater risk by “turbo-charging the black market” and increasing the availability of illicit vapes. Instead, it said there should be better enforcement of the current laws.

Eve Peters, UK director of government affairs for Elf Bar, one of the country’s biggest vape manufacturers with sister brand Lost Mary, said the company supported the government’s wish to stop children using vapes but that it was

“disappointed with the outright ban”.

The UK has joined a small group of countries planning to ban disposable vapes. Australia, France, Germany, and New Zealand have all announced similar plans, although only New Zealand has so far implemented them.

Some will argue the UK’s plans still don’t go far enough. There have been calls for a tax on e-cigarettes to bring them in line with tobacco, while Australia has made vapes available only by prescription. Trading Standards officers also say more resources are needed to help crack down on rogue retailers, and it may take some time and a different range of policies to stop vapes with damaging illegal content coming into the UK and reaching children.

Kenya to challenge high court block on deployment to Haiti

CMC - The Government of Kenya says it intends to exhaust all legal remedies at its disposal to challenge the verdict of the High Court of Justice prohibiting the deployment in Haiti of 1,000 security agents as part of the Multinational Security Support Mission (MSS) in support of the Haitian National Police in its fight against gangs and for the restoration of public order.

“Although the Government respects the rule of law, we have nevertheless decided to immediately challenge the High Court verdict,” said Isaac Mwaura, the spokesperson for the Government.

“The Government reiterates its commitment to honour its international obligations as a member of the community and committee of nations [...] Kenya has an exceptional record of contributing to peacekeeping missions at the international level in countries such as South Sudan, Namibia, Croatia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, among others...” he said.

On Friday, Justice Chacha Mwita declared that the National Security Council did not have the mandate to deploy police officers in another country.

In October last year, Kenya’s National Security Council had requested Parliament’s approval for the deployment of Kenyan police officers as part of the UN-backed security mission. The National Assembly then approved this deployment.

In its ruling, the High Court said that parliamentary approval was only required for military and not police deployments.

But it said for officers to be deployed, there needed to be a reciprocal arrangement with the host government,



which the petitioners had argued, with no contest from the government, was not currently in place.

On Thursday, Haiti’s Foreign Minister, Jean Victor Génés, had pleaded for the deployment to be speeded up, telling the United Nations Security Council that violence in the country was as barbaric as in a war zone.

The United Nations Special Representative to Haiti, Maria Isabel Salvador, also told the UN Security Council that the crisis in Haiti had reached “a critical point.

“I cannot overstate the severity of the situation in Haiti, where multiple protracted crises have reached a critical point,” said Salvador in presenting the latest report of the UN political office in Haiti, known by the French acronym as BINUH.

She said more than 8,400 people were victims of gang violence in Haiti last year, including killings, injuries and kidnappings, a 122 per cent increase over 2022.

Salvador said the impoverished Caribbean country remains plagued by mounting violence and insecurity at the hands of armed gangs “against a backdrop of political, humanitarian and socioeconomic challenges.”

Haiti has seen years of declining security due to raging gang violence, with its political, economic and pub-

lic health systems also in tatters. The country has been without a president since the incumbent, Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in July 2021.

Earlier this week, the United Nations reported that 5,000 homicides were recorded in Haiti last year, more than double that in 2022.

“I am appalled by the staggering and worsening level of gang violence devastating the lives of Haitians, in particular in Port-au-Prince,” said UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres said in the report, adding “gang killings, kidnappings and sexual violence, notably against women and young girls, among other abuses, continue with widespread impunity.

The UN report said that one in 10 police stations nationwide had been attacked through the year, while many of the police’s armored vehicles were left inoperable after clashes with gang members, who often donned fake police uniforms to carry out kidnappings.

Several Caribbean countries, including Jamaica, the Bahamas and Belize, have indicated a willingness to be part of the UN-backed mission and the Minister of State in the Ministry of National Defense, Oscar Mira, in Belize said an official decision has not yet been made and that Belmopan is waiting for directives from its CARICOM counterparts.

US drone attack: Three US troops killed in drone strike on US base in Middle East

Three US troops have been killed and dozens injured in a drone attack on a US base near Jordan's border with Syria.

US President Joe Biden said the attack was carried out by "radical Iran-backed militant groups". He added: "We shall respond."

It is the first time that a strike has killed US troops in the region since Hamas's 7 October attack on Israel.

Jordan says the attack took place in Syria, not inside Jordan.

There have been other attacks on US bases in the region but so far there have been no casualties reported by the US army.

It is not clear who is behind this latest attack.

President Biden said the US "will hold all those responsible to account at a time and in a manner of our choosing".

The White House said Mr Biden was briefed Sunday morning on the attack by US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin and other officials.

"Jill and I join the families and friends of our fallen - and Americans across the country - in grieving the loss of these warriors in this despicable and wholly unjust attack," Mr Biden said in a statement.

The names of the servicemen killed and injured have not yet been released as officials work to notify their families.

On a visit to South Carolina, Mr Biden said "we had a tough day last night in the Middle East. We lost three brave souls".

US officials say at least 34 military personnel were being evaluated for possible traumatic brain injury, and that some of the injured soldiers were medically evacuated from the base for further treatment.



The attacked base was named by US officials as Tower 22.

They also say that the drone struck the living quarters, which, if confirmed, could explain the high number of casualties.

US Central Command and President Biden said the attack was on a base in northeastern Jordan, near the Syrian border. It was later named by US officials as Tower 22.

A Jordanian government spokesman, Muhannad Moubaideen, however, told state TV that the attack targeted al-Tanf base in Syria.

In December, US officials said that US bases in Iraq and Syria had been attacked at least 97 times since 17 October.

Last month, the US carried out airstrikes against Iran-affiliated groups after three US servicemembers were injured, one critically, in a drone attack on a base in northern Iraq.

Earlier in January, one retaliatory US strike in Baghdad killed a militia leader accused of being behind attacks on US personnel.

In a pre-recorded interview with ABC News that aired on Sunday morning, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen CQ Brown said

that America's aim in the region is to "not have the conflict broaden".

"The goal is to deter them and we don't want to go down a path of greater escalation that drives to a much broader conflict within the region."

US and coalition troops are also stationed in the Red Sea after the Iran-backed Houthis began attacking commercial ships in the region. The Yemen-based group says it is targeting vessels in the region in support of Palestinians in Gaza, where Israel is fighting Hamas.

The US military has previously said "these unlawful actions have nothing to do with the conflict in Gaza".

"The Houthis have fired indiscriminately into the Red Sea, targeting vessels impacting over 40 countries around the world," Centcom has said.

Two Navy SEALs are presumed dead after they went missing in January during an operation off the coast of Somalia to seize Iranian-made weapons bound for Houthis in Yemen.



Ecowas: Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso quit West African bloc

By Vicky Wong

Niger, Mali and Burkina Faso have announced they are leaving the Economic Community of West African States (Ecowas).

The junta-led countries had already been suspended from the bloc, which has been urging them to return to democratic rule. The three governments said it was a “sovereign decision” to withdraw from Ecowas.

They were also founding members of the bloc, first established in 1975.

In a joint statement - that was read out on state broadcasters in the three countries - they said Ecowas had “drifted from the ideals of its founding fathers and the spirit of Pan-Africanism.”

It goes on to say that Ecowas “under the influence of foreign powers, betraying its founding principles, has become a threat to member states and peoples,” adding that the bloc had failed to help them tackle the jihadist violence in their countries.

Relations between the bloc and the three countries have been tense after

military coups took place in Niger in July, Burkina Faso in 2022 and Mali in 2020.

Ecowas has called on all three countries to return to civilian rule.

And in a response to Sunday’s announcement it said the three countries were “important members of the Community” and the bloc “remains committed to finding a negotiated solution to the political impasse”.

It also said it had not yet received formal notification from the countries about their withdrawal from the bloc.

According to the Ecowas treaty, member states wishing to withdraw must give written notice a year in advance, and continue to abide by its provisions during that year.

Despite suspension from the bloc, sanctions, negotiations and threats of military intervention, the military leaders have hardened their stance, accusing the bloc of being influenced by external powers.

The three countries have distanced themselves from former colonial power France, strengthened ties to Russia,

and in September they formed a mutual defence pact called The Alliance of Sahel States,

The three military leaders have argued that they want to restore security before organising elections as they struggle to contain jihadist insurgencies linked to al Qaeda and Islamic State.

Niger’s military leaders have said they want up to three years for a transition back to civilian rule.

The military government in Mali had pledged to hold elections in February, but that has now been pushed back to an unknown date.

Meanwhile, Burkina Faso has set elections for this summer, but authorities there say the fight against the insurgents remains the top priority.

A delegation from Ecowas was due to travel to Niamey for a meeting with the junta in Niger on Thursday to discuss sanctions on the country.

However, the aircraft that was meant to take the delegation there developed “technical problems” in Abuja and the meeting was postponed.

CWI and WIPA sign new historic MOU

Kingston, Jamaica - In a groundbreaking development, Cricket West Indies (CWI) and the West Indies Players' Association have signed a new four (4) year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), solidifying their commitment to promoting gender pay equity within West Indies cricket.

The MOU outlines plans to achieve parity in international and regional match fees, international captain's allowances, international team prize money and regional individual prize money for all West Indies cricketers by October 1, 2027.

This strategic initiative is a testament to CWI's dedication to creating a more equitable playing field and fostering an environment where talent is valued irrespective of gender.

The MOU also aligns the performance grading



From left to right: CWI's CEO Johnny Grave, CWI's President Dr. Kishore Shallow and WIPA's President and CEO Wavell Hinds at the signing of the new MOU in Kingston, Jamaica, on Thursday, January 25, 2024. (CWI Media)

criteria for international women's and regional men's contracts with the established standards for international men, ensuring a uniform evaluation process across domestic and international cricket from October 1, 2024.

Commenting on the announcement, Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of Cricket West Indies, stated, "This is a historic day for West Indies cricket. As we overhaul the compensation structures and align performance grading, we are taking a signifi-

cant step towards creating a more inclusive and progressive cricket framework.

"This step reflects our unwavering commitment to gender equality and acknowledges the immense contributions of female

cont'd on pg 19

Five Islands and Attacking Saints win in First Division

Leaders Five Islands and Attacking Saints claimed wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on Friday.

Five Islands opened up a four-point gap at the top of the 11-team round-robin league with a two-nil victory against Fort Road at King George

V Recreation Grounds.

Their seventh win in nine matches carries Five Islands to 22 points, four ahead of the Potters Tigers, who are in second place. Fort Road remains on nine points after suffering their fifth loss in nine matches.

Attacking Saints moved into third

place by snatching a one-nil win against the Liberta Blackhawks at the ABFA Technical Center.

Their fifth win in eight matches carries the Attacking Saints to 17 points, while the Liberta Blackhawks remain on six points after slumping to their fifth loss in seven encounters.

All Saints United end Old Road's winning run in Premier League



Nazir Mc Burnette scored one of the two goals for All Saints United against Old Road on Saturday, January 27, 2024. (File photo)

All Saints United ended Old Road's 100 percent winning run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday night.

In arguably the best game thus far this Premier League season, All Saints United snatched a 2-1 victory over Old Road in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, Nazir Mc Burnette put United ahead by converting a penalty kick in the 48th minute. Old Road drew level in the 80th minute when fleet-footed national winger Raheem Derville scored the equalizer.

But Malcolm Stewart scored the winner in the 89th minute, which allowed All Saints United to claim all three points and inflicted Old Road's first loss in nine matches in the competition.

Jahred Williams scored twice as the Garden Stars claimed their fourth win in eight matches by romping to a 4-1 victory against the Villa Lions in Saturday's first encounter.

The result carries the Garden Stars into fifth place on 14 points, three adrift of the Villa Lions, who slipped into fourth place after suffering their second loss in nine matches.

Promoted Green City claimed their first ever win in the Premier Division by snatching a one-nil victory against the Pigotts Bullets in the second game on Saturday.

Following a goalless first half, Ranje Williams scored the only goal of the match for Green City in the 63rd minute.

The result carries Green City to four points from eight games, while the Pigotts Bullets remain on six points after slumping to their fourth loss in eight matches.

The Premier League will continue today when unbeaten leaders and defending champions, Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades, face SAP at the ABFA Technical Center at 6 pm.

cont'd from pg 18
 players to West Indies cricket."

The MOU also introduces opportunities for compensation enhancement for both international and regional men, signifying a commitment by CWI to acknowledge and reward excellence.

In addition to unprecedented levels of prize money on offer for regional tourna-

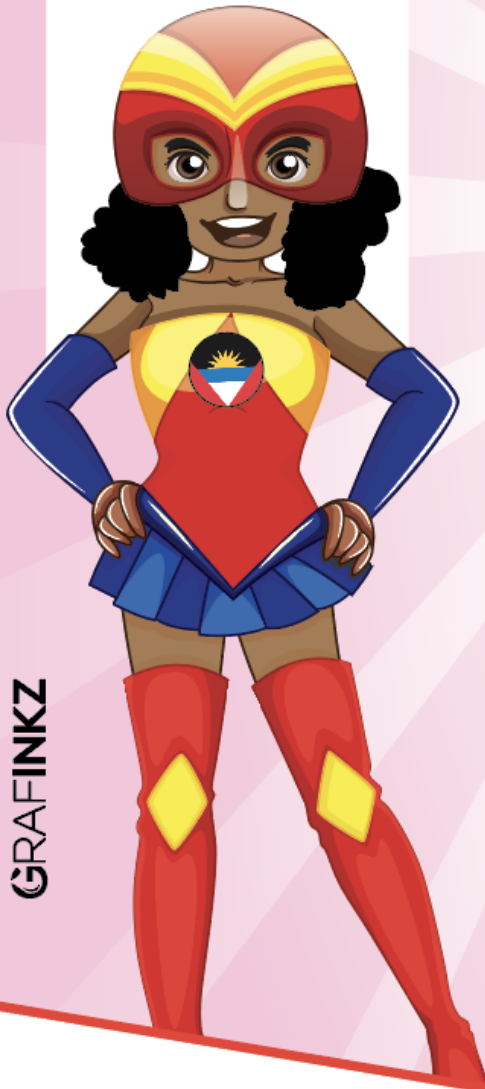
ments, there are new team and individual incentive bonuses available for the top performers in the system.

The top contract band values for men at international and regional level have also been increased, underscoring the commitment to fostering a culture of player growth, improvement and high performance.

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Players of the Earthquakes football team. (File photo)

Bethesda, SVF, and Earthquakes among winners in Second Division

Bethesda, Sea View Farm, and Earthquakes are among the winners in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division.

Bethesda moved to the top of the Second Division by beating Blackburn Palace 4-2 at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

Their sixth win in eight matches has propelled Bethesda to 19 points, one ahead of the Freemans Village Scorpions, who are now in second place. Blackburn Palace remain on six points after suffering their third loss in seven matches.

Rhezal Gomes struck a hat trick to lead Sea View Farm to a four-nil drubbing of West Ham at the ABFA Technical Center. Gomes had conversions in the 10th, 49th, and 82nd minutes, and Jahte Shepherd scored a penalty in the first minute of added time (90+1 minute).

Raheim Andre scored four goals, and Zorio Morales and Shumba Thomas both struck hat tricks as the Earthquakes crushed the JSC Progressors 13-0 at the ABFA Technical Center.

Shakir Perry, Nottoway Silcott, and Abdel Greene each scored one

of the other three goals for the Earthquakes.

Brandon Satchell's 22nd-minute conversion gave FC Master Ballerz a one-nil win against Urlings at the Urlings playing field.

Following a goalless first half, Golden Grove snatched a 2-1 victory against Glanvilles at the Golden Grove playing field.

There was success as well for Real Blizzard, who prevailed 3-2 against ABAYA, with all five goals being scored in the second half of the encounter at the Parham playing field.



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Golden Grove and SVF win in schools' basketball mini divisions

Golden Grove and Sea View Farm (SVF) primary have recorded wins during the latest round of games in the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships.

Golden Grove Primary prevailed 8-2 against Post Millennial Academy, which was making its debut in the Miniboy's Primary Division at the JSC Sports Complex.

Jenair Pascal shot a game-high 12 points as Sea View Farm Primary romped to an 18-1 victory against Post Millennial Academy in the Minigirls Primary Division.

Success as well for defending champions St. Joseph's Academy, which prevailed 41-14 against Clare Hall Secondary School in their Miniboy's Secondary Division affair.

Nathan Matthew shot a game-high 16 points, and Erije Joseph chipped in with 11 points for St. Joseph's Academy.

Dante Richards and Luis Ozuma each scored six points for Clare Hall



The Sea View Farm Primary School's Minigirls Primary Division basketball team. (Photo courtesy School Basketball Unit)

Secondary.

However, Clare Hall Secondary School trounced Irene B. Williams Secondary 89-41 in the Senior Boys Division.

Kevin Pimental produced 25 points, Aiden Christian converted 20

points, Tajahron Davis had 16 points, and Orion Seraphin chipped in with 12 points for Clare Hall Secondary.

Shemaiah Cochrane scored 16 points, and Adrian Francis sank 15 points for Irene B. Williams Secondary.

cont'd from pg 24

up at the ground for day four. But some medical treatment did the trick, and he was soon bowling over Cameron Green (42) and Travis Head in consecutive deliveries.

Mitchell Marsh (10) fell next, juggled between the slipsman, and Alex Carey (2) soon had his stumps rattled as Joseph's fiery afternoon rampage continued.

Resuming from 33 overnight, Smith continued to accumulate while Starc opted for aggression, blasting a 14-ball 21 before presenting debutant Kevin Sinclair at backward point his third catch for the game.



West Indies players celebrate after defeating Australia on the 4th day of the second cricket Test match in Brisbane, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024.

Cummins, caught-behind, added two before becoming Joseph's sixth victim in a lionhearted 11 over

spell, which reduced the hosts to 187 for eight at the long break.

Alzarri Joseph captured

Nathan Lyon's bottom-edge one ball after spilling a caught-and-bowled chance to have Australia nine down and trailing by 21, setting the stage for Shamar Joseph's dramatic dismissal of Hazlewood.

West Indies last defeated Australia in a Test in 2003 at Antigua.

"My message to the group is this is the beginning. It's amazing, we will enjoy it but this has to continue," said West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite.

"Very proud of the guys, they showed a lot of heart, especially after the first Test."

Joseph inspires Windies to Test victory

BRISBANE (Reuters) - West Indies quick Shamar Joseph took seven for 68 as he bowled through pain to give the Caribbean side a first Test win in Australia since 1997 with an incredible eight-run upset on day four of the day-night second Test in Brisbane on Sunday.

Forced to retire hurt from a toe-crushing Mitchell Starc yorker the previous evening, Joseph bounced back to claim six wickets in a session to help West Indies sensationally dismiss Australia for 207 in pursuit of their modest target of 216.

Australia's new opener Steve Smith, who made 91 not out, farmed the strike to protect Josh Hazlewood (0) when the Test hung in the balance, but it was to no avail.

Joseph, playing his first Test series, sent Hazlewood's off-stump flying and he dashed off across the Gabba field with his tongue hanging out before celebrating with his team mates.

"Tears would have come to my eyes but I already cried when I got my five-wicket haul," said Joseph, who was named both Man of the Match and Man of the Series.

"It's just happiness, when was the last time we won in Australia? I can't even remember. Today's a big day for us."

It was Australia's first loss in 12 pink ball Tests. The West Indies, who arrived in Australia with a weakened and inexperienced squad, were given little hope of getting anything out of



West Indies' Shamar Joseph raises the ball after taking seven wickets in his team's defeat of Australia on the 4th day of the second cricket Test match in Brisbane, Sunday, Jan. 28, 2024. (AP)

the series, a judgement apparently vindicated when they lost the first Test by 10 wickets in Adelaide.

"I feel like we won the series even though it's 1-1," Joseph added. "It's really amazing for my team mates; I must give another shout out to them. They're really encouraging."

Australia skipper Pat Cummins had courageously declared at 289 for nine with his side still behind the visitors' first innings total of 311 before his bowlers dismissed West Indies for 193 in their second innings.

Cummins, who led Australia to a World Test Championship triumph last year, said he was disappointed at the defeat but paid full tribute to the West

Indies.

"That was a fantastic Test match and a fantastic series," he said. "I thought in particular, Shamar, the way he bowled today was right up there, and, unfortunately, we weren't good enough."

"We've all played enough to know that this game humbles you pretty quickly when you're thinking you're on top of the world."

Joseph, who lit up the first Test with a five-wicket haul on debut and handy runs from number 11, was unable to finish his batting innings on Saturday night, such was the pain from his injury.

The 24-year-old said he was in such discomfort that he almost did not turn

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