

# MORE WATER COMING SOON

*...but at a cost*

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The AICASA classroom of the American University of Antigua was packed to capacity yesterday with citizens and residents who have answered the call to volunteer for the 4th International Conference on Small Island States to be held in Antigua and Barbuda from May 27 - 30. As the first major public exercise of the conference, organizers were delighted at the tremendous turnout. Addressing the meeting were Minister of Foreign Affairs the Hon EP Chet Greene, under whose Ministry the conference falls, and his Permanent Secretary Ambassador Anthony 'Mamba' Liverpool. *Story on page 6.*

## More water coming soon...but at a cost

Water consumers can look forward to having the commodity available on a more consistent basis in the months ahead, but the improvements in distribution and supply are coming at a cost.

Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas said the government is securing a loan to help finance the completion of the reverse osmosis plant at Bethesda. Getting the loan would however necessitate an increase in water rates. The amount of \$12-14 million is being secured from Caribbean Union Bank (CUB).

Nicholas said APUA is now discussing the terms of a loan agreement and that those considerations took into account an increase in the rate at which water is sold to consumers in Antigua and Barbuda.

“I recently presented to the Cabinet the notion that in order for us to meet the ongoing demand for water services, one of the things

that we had to do is to remove the deficit that existed in terms of production of water and the price at which the water is sold; there are differences in these costs,” he remarked.

Nicholas reminded the public that he had suggested that this would become necessary at a press conference he held last year. “I intimated previously that we would have to deal with closing this gap and that the Cabinet has given the go-ahead. I have instructed the senior staff at APUA to proceed with plans to implement a new fare structure for commercial customers by the first of March. The rate for residential customers will go into effect later in the year,” he disclosed.

According to the minister the delay in implementing the increase for residential customers is due to belief that he has which suggests that there should be improvements in the supply of water before charging



Utilities Minister Melford Nicholas

domestic consumers more money.

“I wanted to ensure that we had sufficient water in the system and that we were not asking the public to accept an increase in rates without us being able to supply the water,” he indicated.

Negotiations between APUA and the private water suppliers - Seven Seas and North Sound Manage-

ment Group – are nearing completion. Together these companies will produce a combined 4 million gallons daily; the new Bethesda plant 3.2 million gallons with current production hovering between 7.5 and 8 million gallons daily. This will be more than enough to satisfy the daily demand for water.

Additionally, Nicholas said the increased production will allow APUA to begin providing water to a number of ‘under-served’ communities such as Clark’s Hill, Cedar Valley, and Montrula among others. He said he does not mind going into new areas as this would be a commercial arrangement.

The minister noted that the expansion in the water service can now be justified because the new rates will help cover the increased costs.



## Task force put in place to coordinate security for SIDS4 conference

Planning to meet the vast security requirements for hosting the Small Islands Developing States (SIDS)4 conference here in Antigua and Barbuda in May, has already started with the establishment of a Task Force to oversee this critical subject.

Making the announcement, Information and Technology Minister, Melford Nicholas, said the Task Force has already held two 'very productive' meetings. "In terms of the security, we are in full engagement. I have appointed a task force between my Ministry of Information, Communications and Technology, APUA and the Chief of Defense Staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin. We had two successful engagements last week as I wanted to ensure that the assistance that the United States government has offered to our own military that they can have all the resources that they would need," he explained.

Further, Nicholas revealed that an officer from Motorola, the suppliers of the public safety communications network that will be deployed during the conference, is on island and he expects the system will be fully ready in a matter of weeks.

In addition to these developments, the Cabinet accepted the offer from the United States to train a cadre of police officers whose

primary function will be to provide Security for the Heads of Government and the Heads of State who will be present during the SIDS Conference, May 27 - 30, 2024. The Trainers will come to Antigua and will

likely use the Sir Wright George Academy for the training.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet has continued its examination of those requirements for the successful hosting of the 4th SIDS Conference

in Antigua. The Chairman of Cabinet spoke with Ambassador to the UN (from the Cabinet room) and was given assurances that many of the requirements in pre-planning were already *cont'd on pg 4*

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## THIRD PREPARATORY WEBINAR FOR THE SIDS GLOBAL BUSINESS NETWORK FORUM 2024

*"Small Islands, Big Ideas: Digitalization, Technology & Innovation in Small Island Developing States"*

Thursday, 29 February 2024 - 12-1:00pm (New York Time)



# A special business forum to form part of SIDS conference

The SIDS Global Business Network (SIDS-GBN) Forum 2024 will be held from May 25-26, 2024 in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda, as the premier event that bridges the private sector and Small Island Developing States to forge partnerships for the next decade of action for SIDS.

To bring the voice of the private sector into the

Fourth International Conference on SIDS (SIDS4), the Outcomes of the Forum will feature in discussions at a dedicated private sector roundtable during SIDS4.

The Forum will explore key themes such as blue-green growth, community empowerment, the enabling business environment, as well as financing and investment.

Participants will have

the chance to network with leaders and experts from various sectors, showcase partnerships achievements and insights, and learn from best practices and success stories from around the world.

Whether you are a business owner, an investor, a policy maker, or a researcher, you will find valuable insights and connections at the Forum.

The SIDS-GBN Forum 2024 will be held as a special event to the SIDS4 Conference. Participants do not need special accreditation to attend the SIDS-GBN Forum.

However, special accreditation is required to attend the SIDS4 Conference.

The deadline for registration is 30 April 2024.

A thorough preparatory process with webinars, consultations and knowledge products will inform the agenda of the Forum and set the direction for the next decade of the SIDS-GBN.

The next preparatory webinar will take place on Thursday February 29 from 1pm.

### *cont'd from pg 3*

in place. The Minister of Tourism gave assurances that the V.C. Bird International Airport would be equipped with the kiosks that will allow arriving passengers to enter their biographical data electronically, such that the wait at Immigration in the Arrivals Terminal will be greatly reduced.

Negotiations are continuing with a

cruise ship company that will allow for 2,500 delegates to be housed in a cruise vessel moored in St. John's Harbour during the days of the Conference. The ship will arrive before the conference and depart after. Deposits on hotel rooms have already been demanded; 2,500 hotel rooms will likely be blocked to accommodate that many delegates.

## ‘Beat the heat’ campaign expanded

The “Beat the Heat” campaign organized jointly by the Ministry of Health and UNICEF Eastern Caribbean has been expanded to include a further six schools.

These are, Green Bay Primary, Five Islands Primary, Jennings Primary, Potters Primary, New Winthropes Primary and Caterpillar Clubhouse are the most recent recipients. This is in addition to the Sir Luther Wynter Preschool and the St. John’s Lutheran Primary School.

The campaign, aimed at raising awareness about the importance of staying hydrated and preventing heat-related illnesses, saw active participation from students who were eager to learn how to stay safe under the sun.

Public Relations Officer at the Ministry, J’noure Smith-Kellman took the lead in educating students on various ways to keep themselves hydrated and the signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke. “It’s crucial for students to recognize these symptoms and know what actions to take to protect themselves,” remarked Smith-Kellman.

As part of the campaign, students were provided with essential tools to beat the heat, including water bottles for convenient refills, sun shades to shield themselves from harmful UV rays, and hand-held fans to stay cool during hot days.

The Ministry of Health expressed gratitude to UNICEF for its invaluable support in making the campaign

possible. “We deeply appreciate UNICEF’s continuous partnership and look forward to implementing more projects aimed at educating and empowering the students of Antigua and Barbuda,” stated Smith-Kellman.

The “Beat the Heat” campaign not only equips students with practical knowledge but also instills a sense of responsibility towards their health and well-being, ensuring they can enjoy the beautiful weather while staying safe and hydrated.

As the campaign continues to make strides in educating the youth, it serves as a testament to the collaborative efforts between government agencies and international organizations in promoting public health and welfare in Antigua and Barbuda.



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## Prospective volunteers meet as anticipation builds for SIDS4 conference

In a remarkable display of civic dedication, nearly 200 individuals from diverse backgrounds gathered at the American University of Antigua (AUA) campus for the first meeting of prospective volunteers for the upcoming 4th United Nations Small Island Developing State Conference (SIDS4), scheduled to take place from May 27-30, 2024, in Antigua and Barbuda.

The event featured distinguished speakers, including the Honourable E.P. Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Ms Karen Cabrall, Chief of Protocol and SIDS4 Volunteers Coordinator; and Anika Kentish, Volunteer Programme Advisor.

Ambassador Liverpool set the tone for the evening, welcoming all attendees and providing a comprehensive overview of the conference. He emphasised the historic nature of hosting an international event of this magnitude and underscored the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' commitment to excellence in professionalism and service, regardless of the volunteers' specific areas of placement.

Minister Greene, addressing the eager crowd of prospective volunteers, expressed his deep appreciation for the overwhelming turnout. He commended the



Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P. Chet Greene addressed the participants.

volunteers for their dedication, describing their involvement as a demonstration of love and service to Antigua and Barbuda as the nation readies itself to host a significant international conference.

“By volunteering, you are showing your nationalism, patriotism, and selfless duty to your beloved country as it plays its role in addressing the defining issues of our time,” Minister Greene declared, encapsulating the spirit of the gathering.

Moreover, emphasising the inclusive nature of the initiative, Minister Greene stressed the need for all hands on deck, irrespective of economic background, race, gender, or political affiliation. He also announced the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' intention to establish a National Volunteer Corp, aiming to create a pool of skilled and talented individuals ready to provide support at major government events.



Ambassador Anthony Liverpool, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, also addressed the gathering.

Ms Karen Cabrall then took the stage, providing an overview of timelines and outlining the various areas where volunteers could contribute and the opportunities for volunteers beyond the conference. Thereafter, Anika Kentish presented a teaser on customer service excellence, a precursor to the significant training sessions planned in the coming weeks.

As the meeting concluded, attendees were reminded of the magnitude of the SIDS4 Conference, expect-

ed to draw over 5,000 individuals, including world leaders, experts, and technicians. The conference will serve as a platform for the international community to review Small Island Developing States' sustainable development progress and propose a new decade of partnerships and solutions to bolster their path to resilient prosperity. Interested volunteers are encouraged to visit [sids4.gov.ag](https://sids4.gov.ag) and click on the 'Volunteer' tab to complete the registration form.

## Celebrity chefs for Restaurant Week 2024 named

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority has announced the list of celebrity chefs and culinary arts professionals participating in the second annual Antigua and Barbuda Restaurant Week (ABRW) starting May 4. During the two-week-long celebration, visitors and nationals can enjoy a variety of special and discounted dining and event experiences designed to showcase the twin-island nation's delicious and diverse food, restaurants, art, and culture. This year also makes the return of Chef Andi Oliver who will headline events at the "The Peppercorn Rum Shop," a 100-day food and cultural pop-up.

"The Restaurant Week annual celebration highlights the best culinary experiences we have to offer—from favorite casual spots to multi-course menus at the finest restaurants," said Shermain Jeremy, Special Projects and Events Manager at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "Given the fantastic lineup of Caribbean celebrity chefs and guests confirmed for this year, we expect to draw record-breaking participation from food loving locals and tourists. We're excited, too, to showcase the diversity of food from our twin-island nation, especially with an elevated twist."

**Chef Kareem Roberts.** Born in Leicester and raised in Antigua, Kareem first set foot in a professional kitchen at 26. He began composing salads at a small café in St. John's, Antigua, and quickly moved to the high-volume kitchens at Sandals Grande Antigua. Over the next decade, he would hone his skills in a variety of kitchens in the United Kingdom, ranging from fine dining establishments to hotels to gastropubs. He worked his way up to his most recent position

as Head Chef of Trinity, a contemporary British restaurant in Cambridge. Roberts attributes his development as a chef to the foods and cultures he's experienced, along with the fresh seafood he was exposed to as the son of an Antiguan fisherman. His creativity and passion were showcased recently on the BBC's cookery competition "The Great British Menu."

**Cookbook Author Althea Brown.** Althea Brown is the creator and voice behind [metemgee.com](http://metemgee.com), a blog about Guyanese and Caribbean recipes and traditions. She offers simplified recipes, made accessible with diet specific tweaks. She is the author of the bestselling cookbook *Caribbean Paleo*. You can often find her on social media sharing stories about traditional Guyanese food and culture, and how she remixes dishes to fit her dietary needs. Born and raised in Georgetown, Guyana, Althea now lives in Aurora,

Colorado, with her husband and three children.

**Chef Angel Barreto.** Chef Barreto is a three-time James Beard Foundation Award semifinalist and finalist, StarChefs Game Changer (2022), and a Food & Wine "Best New Chef" (2021). His highly-awarded culinary career spans more than a decade, with exceptional experience in both French and Korean cuisines. He's best known for his contemporary Korean cuisine at Anju in Washington, DC. Barreto is of Puerto Rican heritage and will be honoring Boricua cuisine at ABRW.

**Chef Shorne Benjamin.** St. Lucian born and New York-based, Chef Benjamin is known for his ability to infuse Caribbean food with a modern flair. Classically trained in French cuisine, he gained international acclaim as a guest chef at Mimo's in London. Career highlights include an annu-

*cont'd on pg 9*



## Heart and Stroke Foundation continues to raise awareness about heart disease

February has been observed as Heart Disease Awareness Month each year where the Heart and Stroke Foundation focuses attention on heart health and how to recognise signs heart disease.

The Heart and Stroke Foundation, led by Consultant Cardiologist and President, Dr. Georgette Meade, has emphasized the critical issue of heart failure. Dr. Meade recently shared valuable insights on heart health during an episode of House Calls ded-

icated to providing the latest medical advice.

During the programme, Dr. Meade highlighted the importance of recognizing the signs of heart failure and taking proactive steps.

“Heart failure is a chronic and progressive condition where the heart struggles to pump blood effectively, leading to serious health consequences. It is essential to understand its symptoms and seek medical attention promptly,” stated Dr. Meade.

The discussion covered various aspects, including the causes of heart failure, risk factors, and preventive measures. Dr. Meade explained that conditions such as hypertension, coronary artery disease, and viral infections contribute to heart failure. Lifestyle factors such as diet, exercise, and stress management play pivotal roles in preventing and managing heart health.

The programme also delved into the diagnostic process, emphasizing the significance of tests such as chest X-rays and echocardiograms. Dr. Meade clarified that early detection allows for better management and treatment options. She urged individuals to be vigilant about any changes in their health, such as chest tightness, shortness of breath, sudden fatigue, and swelling of limbs.

Dr. Meade encouraged the public not to underestimate the importance of heart health, especially during Heart Disease Awareness Month.

“Heart failure is a serious and potentially life-threatening condition, but there is hope. With awareness, lifestyle modifications, and timely medical intervention, we can significantly improve heart health and reduce the risk of heart failure,” she affirmed.

As part of the Heart & Stroke Foundation’s commitment to raising awareness, it will host its 5th Annual Cardiac Symposium on February 25 at 8:30 a.m at Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa under the theme, “Heart Disease & Stroke - “Where are we 5 years later?”

Persons interested are encouraged to register early on our website at <https://heartandstrokeag.org/register/>

The Foundation aims to empower the community with knowledge that can lead to healthier hearts and improved overall well-being.



## Hip-hop/R&B sensation YoungLuiy and Sean Kingston release brand new single

Rising star YoungLuiy is making waves in the music industry with his latest single, "Show You," featuring Grammy-nominated artist Sean Kingston and Jamaican dancehall sensation Hink45.

The highly anticipated track, which drops today at 6 PM, blends diverse musical styles to create a unique and infectious sound. "Show You" showcases YoungLuiy's versatility as an artist, as he effortlessly switches between melodic R&B vocals and rhythmic rap verses.

Sean Kingston adds his signature flair to the song with his smooth vocals, while Hink45 brings the energy with his infectious dancehall flow. This body of work was brought to life by Antigua's very own Dmitri Baptiste more pop-



YoungLuiy

ularly known as DmitriB, at the Chosen Sounds Studio Antigua,

The release of "Show You" is a significant moment for Antigua and Barbuda's music scene, as it marks the first time that a locally based hip-hop / rnb artist has collaborated with two international stars of such caliber. YoungLuiy's collaboration with Sean

Kingston and Hink45 is a testament to his talent and determination, and it is sure to propel him to new heights in the music industry.

In addition to the single, YoungLuiy is also set to release a stunning music video for "Show You," which will further showcase his artistic vision.

With this release,



Sean Kingston

YoungLuiy is poised to take the music world by storm. His unique musical style, combined with the star power of Sean Kingston and Hink45, is sure to captivate audiences around the globe. The song's release today marks an exciting new chapter in YoungLuiy's career, and it is sure to leave a lasting impact on the music industry

*cont'd from pg 7*

al presentation at the James Beard House, competing on the Food Network's "Beat Bobby Flay," becoming a finalist on Chopped and winning the 2017 Jamaican Jerk Festival Celebrity Chef Throw Down. Most recently, he opened Fat Fowl in Brooklyn, where he crafts new age inspired dishes to showcase the richness and depth of Caribbean flavors through a healthy and imaginative lens.

**Chef Digby Stridiron.** A native of St. Croix, Chef Digby is inspired by ingredients indigenous to the Caribbean and the history of regional recipes. He is best known for his work as chef of award-winning restaurants Balter and Braata in St. Croix, where

he earned recognition as one of USA Today's 10 Best restaurants in the Caribbean and Food & Wine named his food "the new heart of Caribbean cooking". A community leader, Stridiron served as a culinary ambassador for the U.S. Virgin Islands, having showcased West Indian cuisine at the James Beard House, and also received the 2014 Chef of the Year award from the Caribbean Tourism Association. Currently based in Phoenix, Az., Chef Digby is also the founder of the West Indian Chefs Alliance.

**Sommelier Nadine Brown.** Born and raised in Jamaica and Puerto Rico, Brown fell in love with the hospitality industry after moving to the United States and started her career as a

restaurant host in Washington, DC. Twenty years later, she's an acclaimed industry veteran and award-winning Sommelier.

Nadine worked as Wine Director at Charlie Palmer Steak for more than a decade. Owner of At Your Service, a wine consultancy, she is a wine writer, judge and educator. Nadine sits on the board of the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington and the Verasion Project, a non-profit that works to help more people of color enter the wine industry. Nadine curates a popular dinner series called, "Re-"Imaging Wines', where she collaborates with chefs, exploring wine pairings with cuisines from the Caribbean to the Philippines

# Fortifying International Law: Safeguarding Global Stability

By Sir Ronald Sanders

In today's complex global landscape, peace and prosperity face significant threats due to a blatant disregard for international law and the meticulously constructed human rights framework established since the aftermath of World War II. This disregard poses a grave threat to the stability of nations worldwide.

Hence, all nations, particularly the small and powerless ones, must be deeply concerned about the actions of Israel in Gaza and the Russian Federation in Ukraine. In both cases, international law and the global humanitarian system have been ignored, not only by Israel and Russia but also by other nations with a vested interest in supporting them, despite the illegalities that have been perpetrated.

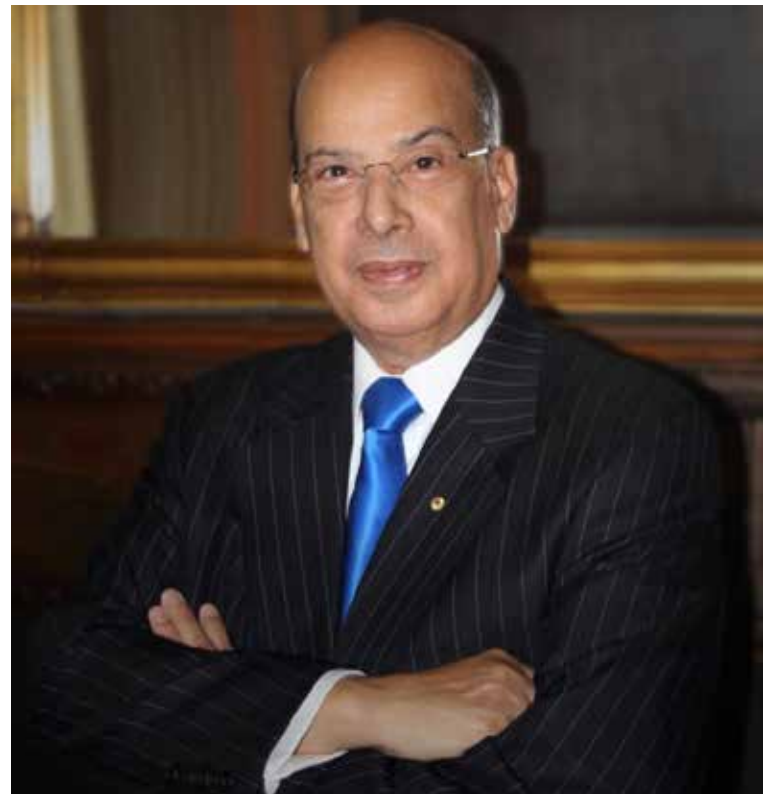
Consequently, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) finds itself paralyzed, with its five veto-wielding nations failing to act collectively, either due to direct involvement (as in the case of Russia) or because of alliances with Israel (as with France and the US).

The consequences of this inaction are stark and evident to all. It is a grim tableau of death, destruction, and displacement, with innocent individuals, including women and children,

bearing the brunt of the conflicts. In Ukraine, nearly six million people have been forcibly displaced, with almost eight million fleeing to neighbouring countries and beyond. Alarming, UN officials report that more than 20,000 Ukrainian children have been forcibly deported to Russia, given Russian nationality in violation of established rules of war.

In Gaza, Palestinians have been forcibly displaced, enduring indiscriminate, disproportionate, and direct attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure, including schools and hospitals. More than 28,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 69,000 wounded, with the majority being women and children. In contrast, since Hamas launched an assault on Israel on October 7, 2023, the Israeli death toll stands at 233 soldiers and 1,200 civilians.

The atrocities and gross violations of human rights and international law persist. Yet, in the Israeli-Gaza conflict, the countries that have been the strongest advocates of human, civil, and political rights have failed to condemn Israel's disproportionate and excessive actions, which are indiscriminately killing Palestinians. Instead, powerful Western nations continue to provide billions of dollars in support



Sir Ronald Sanders

to Israel, while refraining from supporting calls for a ceasefire in the UN Security Council.

To address any misconceptions, it's important to note that I have unequivocally condemned the October 7, 2023, attack on Israel by Hamas, describing it as "stupid." This condemnation stems not only from the inherent wrongness of attacks on civilians but also from Hamas's reckless miscalculation, providing Israeli leaders with the pretext to pursue what they term as "total victory."

Similarly, President Vladimir Putin of the Russian Federation has indicated that a ceasefire with Ukraine can only be

achieved if there is agreement that Russia will not relinquish any Ukrainian territory gained during the conflict.

The fundamental point that should never escape acknowledgement is that Russia blatantly and knowingly violated international law and the Charter of the UN by its attack on Ukraine and annexation of its territory. This is a particularly egregious act because the Russian Federation is a veto power in the UNSC with the responsibility to safeguard peace.

Many smaller countries of the world, for example those in the Caribbean, have not developed any military

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muscle. None of them have military air forces or naval battleships, and such armies as they have, are rudimentary with no capability for war. This is so because, when they became independent from European powers, they regarded the Charter of the United Nations and international law as their protection from aggression, including invasion, by external forces. Small countries are now left to question the value of the international system to them.

It would be easy for developing countries to take the position that since powerful nations have betrayed the international system, it is no longer effective or beneficial.

However, such a position, while understandable, would be a mistake. For, it would play into the hands of authoritarian regimes everywhere.

The International legal and humanitarian systems, which have been

painstakingly assembled over seven decades, should continue to be strongly upheld and vociferously advocated. They remain vital protections for democratic countries which should insist that they be upheld and vigorously applied to all.

This is why in all the organizations of the UN and other regional organizations such as the Organization of American States, smaller nations should not surrender their voice nor cede their votes to those who use the international system selectively and as a convenience for their own interest.

Similarly, the one-sided approach, taken powerful nations in relation to Russia and Israel in their conflicts with Ukraine and Hamas respectively, and their flouting of the international legal and humanitarian systems, has weakened their authority and influence. They should learn lessons from the ways in which they have damaged themselves by double standards.

in the face of all this adversity, it is imperative that democratic countries do not succumb to despair or cynicism. Rather, all nations must redouble their efforts to uphold and strengthen the international legal and humanitarian frameworks that serve as their collective shield against chaos and tyranny.

Small countries need global peace and stability in which to achieve economic prosperity and social progress, or their peoples will face persistent poverty and global inequity. The key to such prosperity and progress is the international legal and humanitarian systems which must always be upheld, strengthened, and broadened.

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the current President of the OAS Permanent Council. The views expressed are entirely his own. For comments and previous commentaries, see: [www.sirronald-sanders.com](http://www.sirronald-sanders.com))*



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Photo courtesy the Tobago Emergency Management Agency (TEMA)

## Grenada contacts Trinidad about potential impact of Tobago oil spill

Grenada said it has contacted the Trinidadian Government to ascertain how an oil spill in Tobago will affect the Spice Isle.

In a statement on Wednesday af-

ternoon, Grenada's National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) said it has deployed elements of the oil spill hazard-specific protocol as a preliminary measure.

NaDMA has also contacted the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and other local and regional partners to assist as a precautionary measure, pending an official report from Trinidad and Tobago.

A National Oil Spill Committee meeting was convened today and members were briefed on the response plans.

NaDMA said it will continue monitoring the situation in Tobago, which is located 145 kilometres south of Grenada.

Trinidadian officials have been working to clean up and contain the spill after oil began washing up on Tobago's shoreline on February 7.

The petrochemical is seeping from a barge that overturned just off the coastline.

The Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard said the barge was being towed to Guyana from Panama by a tugboat called 'Solo Creed'.

Trinidadian officials say they have been unable to find the crew of the barge or the tugboat.



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## NOTICE OF RECORD DATE 67th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

TO: SHAREHOLDERS OF ANTIGUA  
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Pursuant to section 110 of the Companies Act, 1995 of the laws of Antigua and Barbuda, **NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the Board of Directors of **ANTIGUA COMMERCIAL BANK LTD. TRADING AS ACB CARIBBEAN** has fixed **Friday February 23, 2024** as the **RECORD DATE** for determining the Shareholders entitled to receive:

- **Notice of the 67th Annual General Meeting (AGM)** of the Company to be held via hybrid format (both online and in-person) on **Thursday March 21, 2024 at 2:00 pm** at the Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Convention Centre on Factory Road, St. John's, Antigua and on the Zoom Webinar Platform, and
- **Payment of a Dividend**, if declared, for the financial year ended September 30, 2022.

Be advised that only the Shareholders of the Company on record at the close of business on **Friday February 23, 2024** will be entitled to receive Notice of the Meeting and payment of a Dividend.

Notice of the 67th AGM will be subsequently issued in accordance with Articles 12.3 and 12.4 of the Company's Bylaws by publication in the newspaper and on the Company's website, <http://www.acbonline.com> and by email distribution for the attention of the Shareholders of the Company.

Shareholders are encouraged to submit any queries and / or concerns in advance of the upcoming AGM via email: [ACBSecretariat@acbonline.com](mailto:ACBSecretariat@acbonline.com).

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

RHODETTE F. C. PAIGE  
LEGAL COUNSEL / CORPORATE SECRETARY  
FEBRUARY 16, 2024

# Regional News



## South Korea says Cuba diplomatic ties would shock North Korea

South Korea's presidential office claimed Thursday that the country's move to establish diplomatic relations with Cuba would deal a "political and psychological blow" to the South's war-divided rival North Korea, whose diplomatic footing is largely dependent on a small number of Cold War allies.

The comments followed an announcement by South Korea's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday night that it has agreed to open ambassador-level relations with Cuba following a meeting between their United Nations representatives in New York.

With authoritarian leader Kim Jong Un embracing the idea of a "new Cold War," North Korea has recently been boosting the visibility of its ties with Russia and China in an effort to break out of isolation and join a united front against Washington amid tensions over its nuclear weapons ambitions. North Korean state media has yet to comment on the South Korea-Cuba agreement.

A senior South Korean presidential official, speaking to reporters in Seoul, noted that North Korea has traditionally portrayed its relations with Cuba as "brotherly ties" and said the opening of diplomatic relations between Seoul and Havana would "inevitably



The new presidential office building is seen in Seoul, South Korea, on May 9, 2022. (Yonhap via AP, File)

deal a significant political and psychological blow" to Pyongyang.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing, as according to department rules, said the government of President Yoon Suk Yeol had been actively working to establish ties with Cuba, but that Cuba was initially hesitant because of its relations with North Korea.

Cuba has maintained close relations with North Korea since the 1960s and has an embassy in Pyongyang.

"The opening of diplomatic ties (with Cuba) is a culmination of our efforts to expand our diplomacy to nations that had been

part of the socialist bloc, including countries that have been friendly to North Korea," the South Korean official said. "It clearly shows where the main tide lies in the flow of history, and also who is involved in that main tide."

The official said South Korea informed the United States in advance of its decision to open relations with Cuba.

The US currently maintains an economic embargo of Cuba that was first imposed in the 1960s, following the revolution led by Fidel Castro and the nationalization of properties belonging to US citizens and corporations.

Lim Soosuk, a spokesperson for South Korea's

Foreign Ministry, said Cuba had been the only nation in the South American and Caribbean region that didn't have official ties with Seoul. He said the opening with Cuba will allow new business opportunities for South Korean companies and make it easier for South Korea to provide consular assistance to its nationals in that country.

"In the future, our government will actively engage in further discussions with the Cuban government to promote friendship, including opening embassies mutually," said Lim. He refused to provide details on the discussions between South Korean and Cuban diplomats leading up to the

*cont'd on pg 15*

## Guyana: Teachers' union takes government to court

CMC - The Guyana Teachers' Union (GTU), is taking the government to Court over its objection of the two-week running industrial/strike action and a series of reproach which the union now deems as discriminatory and a breach and violation of key rights.

In a fixed date application, filed on Tuesday, Attorney General Anil Nandlall was named as the respondent as the GTU seeks to quash the government's decision to discontinue the deduction of union dues from teachers' salaries monthly and a declaration that the strike is legal.

The GTU is also contesting, among other things, the government's decision to deduct monies from the salaries of striking teachers for the days they were absent from the classroom.

Hours after the application was filed, Nandlall appearing on his "Issues in the News" Facebook programme, said he is prepared to defend all the decisions the government has taken with regard to the strike.

The GTU is seeking a total of 18 reliefs; the union



is alleging breach of their right to freedom of association and assembly; their right to protection from deprivation of property; and their right to be heard before determining that it will cease the practice of performing as an agent of the union to deduct union dues from the wages and salaries of teachers.

But on Thursday, the Attorney General outlined the three general grounds for the application: the decision to cease the deduction of union dues, the decision to deduct the salaries

of striking teachers, and a willingness to engage in the continued collective bargaining process.

On all three grounds, Nandlall says the government's decisions are lawful.

On the first ground, he cited the case of the Guyana Public Service Union v Nanda Gopaul (number 584W/2000-Demerara), where Chief Justice, the late Ian Chang delivered a judgment that instructed that "in respect of the deduction of union dues in particular, the G.O.G was merely acting as the agent of the union

to withhold and remit such dues to the union.

"[This] has already been settled by our courts and declared to be lawful, the severance of that relationship, that is," Nandlall said.

He insisted that the government has a right to levy a deduction against workers who are absent from work without permission, leave or authorization.

He said the teachers must bear the conditionalities and burden of the freedom to strike among which is the right of the employer to deduct wages from the worker who is absent from work.

Speaking briefly on collective bargaining, Nandlall said the government is not interested in antagonistic relationships.

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agreement in New York.

Tensions on the Korean Peninsula are at their highest point in years, after Kim dialled up North Korean weapons demonstrations and issued provocative threats of nuclear conflict toward rivals in recent

months.

In a parliamentary speech last month, Kim declared that North Korea is abandoning its long-term objective of reconciliation with South Korea and threatened to annihilate the South with nukes if provoked.

## Kansas City shooting: A dispute led to gunfire after Super Bowl parade, police say

By Mike Wendling

Police in Kansas City say an argument between several people that escalated led to a shooting that killed one and injured 22 others after a Super Bowl victory parade.

The deceased victim was identified as Lisa Lopez-Galvan, 43, a local DJ.

Police said the injured victims ranged in age from eight to 47 years old and that at least half are under 16.

Three suspects were taken into custody shortly after the shootings. Two of them are aged under 18.

“This appeared to be a dispute between several people that ended in gunfire,” Kansas City Police Chief Stacey Graves told reporters on Thursday.

Chief Graves said firearms had been recovered, but did not give further details on the type of guns used in the shooting. She said no arrests had yet been made or charges laid and that the investigation is ongoing.

There was no link to terrorism, police said.

Ms Lopez-Galvan, who was identified as the one victim killed in Wednesday’s violence, hosted Taste of Tejano, a Tex-Mex music show, on community radio station KKFI.

In a statement posted on Facebook, the station said: “This senseless act has taken a beautiful person from her family and this KC Community.”

Nine injured children aged six to 15 were treated at the city’s Children’s Mercy Hospital. All are expected to recover from their wounds.

Kansas City Police have appealed to the public for further information about the shooting.



“We need to hear from anyone in the vicinity of the parade shooting today that directly witnessed the shooting incident or who was a victim of the shooting who has not yet reported being shot,” they said in a statement late on Wednesday.

A phone line and online tip page have been set up to collect information from the public.

More than 800 police officers were on patrol as hundreds of thousands turned out to watch a Super Bowl victory parade, which culminated in a rally outside Union Station in the middle of the Missouri city.

A stage was set up outside the station, which was decked in the red and gold colours of the Kansas City Chiefs, who won their second straight NFL championship on Sunday.

The rally had just ended at around 14:00 local time (20:00 GMT) when shots rang out to the west of the station, which remains closed on Thursday.

Videos posted online show members of the crowd tackling one of the

alleged suspects on a street near the station.

One of the bystanders who stepped in, 46-year-old Paul Contreras, told NBC that he was at the parade with his three daughters.

“It was just a reaction. He was running the wrong way. There was another gentleman just screaming at the top of his lungs, ‘This guy, tackle him’... I took him down,” Mr Contreras said.

The videos showed a long-barrelled gun falling to the ground and a member of the public picking it up and placing on the ground away from the confrontation.

Chief Graves on Thursday praised the bystanders who stepped in and the emergency services who responded to the shooting.

“I’m angered about what occurred in our city yesterday, but I am also thankful for the response,” she said.

Kansas City Fire Department Chief Ross Grundyson said medical personnel at the scene responded immediately despite some being just 40 feet (12 metres) from the shooting.

*cont’d on pg 17*



## Senegal election delay ruled unlawful

By James Gregory

The decision to postpone this month's elections in Senegal is against the country's constitution, the country's top court has ruled.

The Constitutional Court annulled President Macky Sall's decree and a contentious bill passed by parliament moving the vote to December.

Widespread protests have gripped the West African country, once considered a bastion of democracy in the region.

Opposition figures said it amounted to an "institutional coup".

Mr Sall had announced he was pushing the election back because of what he claimed were concerns over the eligibility of opposition candidates.

His proposal had been backed by 105 out of the 165 MPs. A six-month postponement was originally proposed, but a last-minute amendment extended it to 10 months, or 15 December.

Mr Sall had reiterated that he was not planning to run for office again. But his critics accused him of either trying to cling on to pow-



There have been widespread riots in Senegal following the president's announcement of the delay to the election, scheduled for later this month.

er or unfairly influencing whoever succeeds him.

Opposition candidates and lawmakers, who had filed a number of legal challenges to the bill, will likely feel vindicated by the court's decision on Thursday evening.

Khalifa Sall, a leading opponent and a former mayor of the capital Dakar, who is not related to the president, had called the delay a "constitutional coup" while Thierno Alassane Sall, another candidate, also no relation, called it "high treason".

The court said it was "impossible" for the election to be held on the originally intended date of 25 February - just 10 days time - but urged authorities to organise it "as soon as possible".

Most candidates have not been campaigning since President Sall issued his 3 February decree, hours before campaigns were meant to kick off.

The court decision comes on the same day as several opposition politicians and civil society members were released

from prison, in what some in the country viewed as a move to appease public opinion.

Senegal had long been seen as one of the most stable democracies in the region. It is the only country in mainland West Africa that has never had a military coup. It has had three largely peaceful handovers of power and until earlier this month had never delayed a presidential election.

President Sall has been in power since 2012, with his second term in office due to end this April.

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The parade violence is not unprecedented - several shootings at sporting celebrations have occurred across North America in recent years.

In 2021, two shootings left three people injured in Milwaukee after the local basketball team won their first NBA championship in 50 years.

In 2020 two people were killed in Los Angeles after the Dodgers won baseball's World Series.

Four people were shot and injured in Toronto in 2019 during a victory parade for the NBA Raptors championship win. In a statement after the shooting, the Kansas City Chiefs organisation said it was "truly saddened"

by the violence. It added that its players, coaches and staff - as well as their families - were accounted for and safe.

Travis Kelce, the star tight end of the team whose relationship with Taylor Swift became a cultural phenomenon, wrote on social media that he was "heartbroken over the tragedy that took place today".

# Sports News



## Triple Dynamite lead female domino competition

Triple Dynamite are the early leaders in the D'Gala Bar and Restaurant Female Domino Competition, which is currently in progress.

Triple Dynamite are currently perched at the top of the eight-team round-robin competition with seven points apiece after four matches.

They are closely followed by Unstoppables and Super Nova, who are jointly tied for second place with 6.5 points each.

The next four teams, Miserable, Highly Favored, Xandapay Warriors Reloaded, and the Ultimate Force, are all tied with six points each. The other team in the competition, Remix, currently occupies the cellar with four points.

Matches are played throughout the week in the competition, which com-



menced during the first week in February.

Works Minister Maria Browne, and Senator Royden Turner sponsored the competition, which is expected to

conclude at the end of February.

The winning team will receive EC\$2,000, the runner-up will get EC\$1,200, and the third place finisher

will collect EC\$900.

Additional prizes, including awards to the most valuable players, will also be presented to outstanding performers.

## AGHS and CKHS make winning starts in school volleyball development league

Team 1 of the Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) and Christ the King High School (CKHS) recorded wins in the opening matches of the Ministry of Sports Inaugural School Volleyball Development League on Wednesday.

Antigua Girls High School 1 prevailed 15-12, 15-13 against Clare Hall Secondary in the first game of the league at the indoor volleyball

stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Christ the King High School overcame Irene B. Williams Secondary 2-0 by prevailing 15-13, 15-13 in the second encounter.

The Antigua Girls High School first team and the Antigua Grammar School (AGS) claimed wins in the Ministry of Sports Inter-School Vol-

leyball Championships at the same venue on Tuesday.

Antigua Girls High School 1 beat Ottos Comprehensive School in the girls' division in straight sets, 2-0, prevailing 25-7, and 25-15.

Antigua Grammar School opened their campaign in the boys' division with a 2-1 win against All Saints Sec-

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Clare Hall continue to dominate junior boys division

The defending champion, Clare Hall Secondary School, continued to dominate the Junior Boys Division of the Cool and Smooth Inter-School Basketball Championships on Wednesday.

Clare Hall Secondary School continued their unbeaten run by romping to a 47-31 victory against Irene B. Williams Secondary School at the JSC Sports Complex.

Tajahron Davis produced a game-high 29 points for Clare Hall Secondary, while Joshua Abbott scored eight points for Irene B. Williams Secondary School.

St. Mary's Secondary School and the first team of the Antigua Grammar School also recorded wins in the junior boys' division.

St. Mary's Secondary School snatched a 36-25 victory against St. Anthony's Secondary School.

The first team of the Antigua Grammar School



Players of the Clare Hall Secondary School junior boys division basketball team at the JSC Sports Complex. (Photo courtesy of School Basketball Unit)

prevailed 34-24 against the second team of the Antigua Grammar School.

Anthony Osborn and Najee Simmon each scored 12 points for the Antigua Grammar School's first team, while Joneiker Lopez had 10 points and Jovan

Gordon scored eight points for the Antigua Grammar School's second team.

Clare Hall Secondary School also clinched an 18-14 victory against Antigua Grammar School in the Miniboys Secondary Division.

Richard Anthony converted six points, and Luis Ozuna had four points for Clare Hall Secondary School, while Giovanni Hodge and Dajon George each produced six points for Antigua Grammar School.

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 onday School.

Antigua Grammar took the opening set 25-6, but All Saints Secondary rebounded to level the match 1-1 by taking the second set 25-21.

However, Antigua Grammar School regained their composure to secure victory by prevailing 15-9 in the third and deciding set.

Defending girls and boys' cham-

pions, Island Academy, made winning starts to their campaigns in defense of their titles in both divisions in the opening matches on Monday.

Island Academy overcame Ottos Comprehensive 2-0 in the boys' division, prevailing 25-11, 25-17.

The Island Academy girls also prevailed 2-0 in their opening encounter against Christ the King High School, winning 25-20, 25-13.

The competition will continue with a triple header at the YMCA Sports Complex today (Friday).

The Antigua Girls High School second team will face All Saints Secondary, and Princess Margaret School will clash with Ottos Comprehensive School in the girls' division.

Ottos Comprehensive School will also tackle All Saints Secondary School in a boys' division encounter.

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## 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup holds security, safety and medical summit

Organizers of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 recently held high-level meetings with various stakeholders as the preparations for the global sporting event intensify.

Officials from regional organizations – The Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), and the Organization of American States (OAS) -- were just some of the main agencies in attendance, in addition to the Chief Medical Officers and Commissioners of Police from CARICOM member states hosting the historic cricket event.

K.J Singh, Head of Operations for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 in the West Indies and USA, said he was extremely pleased with the level of participation, information sharing, and commitments made by national, regional, and international agencies, which will be left as a legacy not only for the hosting of cricket but other major events in the region.

“This will be the biggest event the region has ever undertaken, and to ensure its success it will require the collaboration and operational integration of many key regional and international agencies, especially since the tournament is being hosted for the first time jointly between two regions in the



Some of the regional officials who were involved at the recently held 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup high-level meetings with various stakeholders as the preparations for the global sporting event intensify. (CWI Media)

southern hemisphere.

“The key objective of the summit was to bring the main security, safety, medical, and health stakeholders together, with a focus on sharing

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 will be the largest in the tournament's history with 20 international teams playing 55 matches across nine host locations.

It is the first time USA will host matches at a T20 World Cup, with 16 first round matches split between Nassau County International Cricket Stadium (New York), Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium (Dallas, Texas), and Broward County Stadium (Lauderhill,

Florida).

The West Indies, who hosted the event in 2010, will hold matches at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (Antigua and Barbuda), Kensington Oval (Barbados), Guyana National Stadium (Guyana), Daren Sammy Cricket Ground (Saint Lucia), Arnos Vale (Saint Vincent and The Grenadines), and Brian Lara Cricket Academy (Trinidad and Tobago).

Cricket West Indies is the official host of the event, with an entity T20 World Cup Inc. established to administer local delivery within the USA to support the growth of the sport in the country.

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burn Palace.

Their fourth win in 11 matches allows Blackburn Palace to advance to seventh place on goal difference, joining Belmont FC and Urlings Golden Stars on 16 points.

CPTSA Wings remained in 13th place with 11 points after suffering their fourth loss in nine matches.

However, the other Second Division game between FC Master Ballerz and JSC Progressors was not played.

JSC Progressors failed to show up for the encounter at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

The ABFA's First Division will resume with three matches today (Friday). Jennings United will host Fort Road at the Jennings

playing field at 4:15 pm.

The Liberta Blackhawks will take on Lion Hill in the first game of a double header at the ABFA Technical Center at 4:15 pm, and Police will tackle Bolans in the second game at 6:15 pm.

## Earthquakes go third in Second Division

Earthquakes moved into third place in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League on Wednesday.

Tarice Wilson scored two late goals as the Earthquakes advanced into the top three of the Second Division standings by romping to a 4-1 victory against Belmont FC at the Fort Road playing field.

Wilson had conversions in the 89th and the second minute of added time (90+2 minutes) to wrap up Earthquakes' sixth win in 10 matches.

Ariel Thomas scored in the 22nd minute to give the Earthquakes a one-nil half-time lead. Kenton Morgan scored the other goal for the Earthquakes in the 80th minute.

Earthquakes' captain and central defender Arnold "Keegan" James scored an own goal for Belmont FC in the 87th minute.

The result allows the Earthquakes to overtake English Harbour into second place by advancing to 19 points. They moved one point ahead of English Har-



Players of the Earthquakes football team. (File photo)

bour, who have a game in hand.

Belmont FC remains in fifth place with 16 points after slumping to their fourth consecutive loss in 10 matches.

Urlings Golden Stars joined Belmont FC on 16 points and moved into sixth place on goal difference after pulling off a 3-1 win against Glanvilles at the

Urlings playing field.

Devlyn Williams found the back of the net in the 9th minute, Ojahrie Mitchell scored in the 13th minute, and Jahmiah Daniel converted a penalty kick in the 59th minute for the Urlings Golden Stars.

Jahren Thomas scored a consolation goal in the 83rd minute for Glanvilles, who remained on six points after

crashing to their eighth defeat in 10 matches.

Blackburn Palace scored twice in the first half to record a 2-0 win against Lingies CPTSA Wings at the Princess Margaret School's playing field.

Tarique Gomes scored in the 16th minute, and Sanje Carr had a 42nd-minute conversion for Black-

*cont'd on pg 21*