

SINGLE DOMESTIC SPACE FOR T20 COUNTRIES

Story on Page 2



T20 WORLD CUP 2024 VENUES (CARIBBEAN)

GUYANA



T20 host nations to form 'single domestic space' for the tournament

The six CARICOM nations selected as hosts for the upcoming T20 World Cup Cricket matches will form a single domestic space in order to facilitate ease of entry for all those involved with the games.

Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, said this was one of the key outcomes of a two-day meeting of comptrollers of customs and chief immigration officers held in Antigua and Barbuda this week.

"We held two days of intense discussions on how to really manage the tournament within the context of a single domestic space.

"We decided to establish a single domestic space similar to the 2007 Cricket World Cup, but the question is what would be the protocols as different countries have different levels of modernization of immigration processes and protocols?" he stated.

The meeting agreed that there will be 'specialised treatment' for those individuals and organisations that are associated with the cricket tournament.

The special arrangements will be extended to that group of persons described as TOMS - the acronym for teams, organisers, media and sponsors. The families of team members have also been included in this arrangement.

With the tournament ap-



Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu

proximately 80-days away, Boddu said one area of concern was the issue of online embarkation.

This system is already in place in Barbados while other countries are at different levels in terms of implementing this phase.

Antigua and Barbuda is awaiting funding to implement this system.

The security officials will meet twice in the upcoming month to review the progress made in having all systems in place ahead of the tournament.

"We will meet virtually in the first week of April and then we will meet in-person in the last week of April to 'tighten the nuts and bolts' of these arrangements. We are ready to facilitate the tournament here in the Ca-

ibbean.

"Additionally, the importance of involving all other stake holders, including the administration of airport authorities, the Veterinary Divisions of the ministries of agriculture as well as health authorities has been highlighted resulting with invitations now being dispatched to these entities to participate in our next meetings in order to have a seamless facilitation process for the tournament," he explained.

According to Boddu it is critical to have all stakeholders on board to ensure the success of the undertaking.

He added that training programmes are also being planned for critical workers in security, health, agricul-

ture, immigration and customs ahead of the tournament.

The single domestic space arrangement means that when TOMS members first arrive at one host country and clear customs and immigration, they would not be required to repeat the process whilst they are traveling within the confines of the six-country domestic space.

If for any reason they have to leave the domestic space, only then would they be required to repeat the clearing process on re-entry.

The six countries establishing the single domestic space for the tournament are Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago.

Haiti and Ukrainian conflict occupy attention of the Cabinet

The ongoing instability that exists in Haiti and the prolonged war in Ukraine were two major issues of conflict that received the attention of members of the Cabinet on Wednesday.

The weekly Cabinet meeting started with a discussion on Haiti where Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry has agreed to step down in an arrangement negotiated by CARICOM Heads of Government.

“The Prime Minister indicated that Antigua and Barbuda’s position on Haiti is quite clear. It was communicated at the last meeting of the Heads of Government, during the first days of March 2024, in Guyana. At that meeting, he made it clear that Antigua and Barbuda would wish to see Prime Minister Henry of Haiti resign,” the Cabinet Notes detailed.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne stated that until Dr. Henry goes, the impact on negotiating a settlement, is not possible. When the CARICOM met again in Jamaica on Monday and Tuesday, Prime Minister Henry announced that he would resign upon the formation of a National Council.

PM Browne explained to Cabinet that it is not a requirement for every Prime Minister to be always present at these meetings. He also noted that being back in Antigua after a weeklong absence is a virtual requirement, pro-

viding his views are known and communicated.

The CARICOM leaders were scheduled to meet by Skype Wednesday night to continue discussions on Haiti.

Meanwhile, the subject of the two-year-old war between Russia and its neighbour, Ukraine, also came up for discussion. Prime Minister Browne once again reiterated his previous call, made a week ago, for Ukraine to seek peace.

The prime minister’s



Prime Minister Gaston Browne position is similar to that expressed by the Catholic Pope Francis who has since called for Ukraine “to raise the white flag” and to seek to make peace with Russia although that larger state is the aggressor.

It was also noted that Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. Secretary of State, one year before his death, also proposed that Ukraine seek out peace with Russia in a war that Ukraine cannot win, and to end the human suffering.

The Prime Minister’s view is therefore consistent with those dispassionate thought-provoking leaders in the world, both of whom deemed war to be destructive and ultimately harmful to civilians and soldiers.



Property Insurance

Secure your largest investment.
Live in a better **STATE** of mind.


STATE INSURANCE
 COMPANY LIMITED
 Live in a better State of mind

(268) 481-7800/04
 info@siclfinancial.com
 www.sicantigua.com

Senator Marshall condemns violence against women

Minister of State responsible for Social Transformation Senator Samantha Marshall, is gravely concerned that the pervasive issue of violence against women and girls is not being treated with the necessary urgency.

Minister Marshall shared this view while addressing a major gathering, which was held this week on the margins of the 68th Session of the Commission of the Status of Women (CSW) taking place at the United Nations in New York.

Her comments were placed against her own expressed view that the world is now at a critical juncture in its pursuit of gender equality and the protection of women's rights. The legal framework of the United Nations on advancing and safeguarding these rights rests upon the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Optional Protocol, which is known as the "International Bill of Rights for Women."

Minister Marshall was quick to point out that de-



Senator Samantha Marshall spite this significant milestone there is a glaring gap that needs to be urgently addressed.

"The global statistics we face are staggering – I dare say alarming – with an estimated 736 million women - one in three - having experienced physical or sexual-intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, or both," she stated in making her point.

"These numbers represent not just statistics but the lived experiences of our mothers, sisters, aunts,

daughters, nieces, goddaughters, and friends. The repercussions extend beyond immediate harm, impacting mental and reproductive health, and perpetuating a cycle of suffering," Senator Marshall further declared.

In spelling out the increasing litany of ills that women continue to face, she added, that the COVID-19 crisis, the cost-of-living crisis, the proliferation of conflicts, and climate change have only added to their burden.

"Women are now facing new and emerging forms of violence rooted in misogyny, patriarchy, and dogmatic beliefs, impacting every aspect of their lives: safety, dignity, freedom, and their equal and full participation in society," Minister Marshall stated.

In this connection, she made the call for nations

worldwide to negotiate the proposed new Optional Protocol under the CEDAW Convention.

"But we are not blind to the challenges ahead. Negotiations face obstacles such as cultural divides, politicisation of gender issues, and resistance from very conservative countries. As we navigate these challenges, I am reminded that the issue of violence against women and girls is deeply woven into the fabric of our societies," she stated.

"I implore each one of you to support the proposal for an Optional Protocol under the CEDAW Convention.

"Violence against women and girls is not just a women's issue; it is an existential threat to the sustainable development of our countries," she concluded.

Commercial Space For Rent

A 1500-square foot commercial space is now available for rent on the corner of Alfred Peters and Bennett Streets. Viewing can be arranged by calling the following numbers: 461-3041/781-3496/727-0300. Price negotiable.

Antigua and Barbuda spearheads second national workshop on multi-hazard early warning systems

In a bold move towards bolstering its disaster preparedness infrastructure, Antigua and Barbuda recently hosted the second National Consultative Workshop on Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) at the prestigious St. James's Club. This pivotal gathering served as a follow-up to the inaugural workshop held in December, where participants collaborated to conduct a comprehensive Gap Analysis.

Stakeholders representing various sectors vital to the nation's economy converged at the event, underscoring the significance of the initiative. Notable attendees included representatives from the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Social Transformation, the Antigua and Barbuda Met Service, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Department of the Environment, the Chamber of Commerce, Antigua Barbuda Fire Service, among others. Facilitated by



the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the National Office for Disaster Services (NODS), the workshop marked the second installment under the Early Warnings 4 ALL (EW4ALL) Initiative.

EW4ALL, championed by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, aims to equip all nations with robust Early Warning Systems (EWS) by 2027. Simply put, EWS are integrated systems that encompass hazard monitoring, forecasting, risk assessment, communication, and preparedness activities. These systems empower individuals, communities, governments, businesses,

and other stakeholders to take timely action to mitigate disaster risks before hazardous events occur.

Technical Consultant for UNDRR, Mali Barnes, emphasized the workshop's primary objective: to unveil an implementation plan and roadmap delineating Antigua and Barbuda's strategy to achieve comprehensive MHEWS coverage by 2027. Director of NODS, Sherrod James, expressed gratitude for the unwavering support from local stakeholders and expressed eagerness to translate the deliberated activities into tangible outcomes.

Programme Manager for the Caribbean at UNDRR, Dr. Jair Torres, commended Antigua and Barbuda's proactive stance towards disaster risk reduction. Highlighting the country's pivotal role within the EW4ALL initiative, Dr. Torres underscored its inclusion alongside Barbados, Haiti, Guyana, and Surina-

me as Caribbean trailblazers under the initiative's ambit.

Supported by regional and international partners such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), among others, the workshop symbolized a collaborative effort towards building resilience and safeguarding the future of Antigua and Barbuda.

As the world's gaze turns towards the imperative task of fortifying disaster preparedness and resilience, Antigua and Barbuda's steadfast commitment serves as a beacon of hope and inspiration for nations worldwide.



MoE organises public discourse on Mathematics

A public discussion is taking place Thursday as part of an initiative by the Ministry of Education to promote mathematics and to reverse what are seen as worrying trends regarding the subject within the education system.

The theme of the public discussion is ‘The Heart of the Matter’ and it is expected to explore various aspects of mathematics education, with an aim of enhancing what currently exists.

Mathematics results for students at the primary and secondary school levels are concerning for education officials, who have taken steps to improve the subject area, in order to yield satisfactory outcomes.



Director of Education Clare Browne



In addition to the remedial work being carried out with students and new and improved approaches being adopted, the Ministry of Education is also engaging key stakeholders, the

latest being Thursday’s forum.

“This conversation aims to address the challenges faced by students, identify effective strategies, and foster collaboration among stakeholders to enhance Mathematics education in our country,” said Shoya Hurst, Acting Education Officer, Curriculum Mathematics.

The event will be held at the Sir John E. St. Luce Finance and Conference Centre, commencing at 5 p.m on Thursday 14th March, 2024.



Live coverage will be provided by ABS Television and the Facebook page of the Education Broadcasting Unit will also stream the proceedings.

invites you to

THE 2ND REX NETTLEFORD DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

SPONSORED BY

“NEGRO HISTORY, BLACK STUDIES, AFRICAN DIASPORAN PARADIGM”

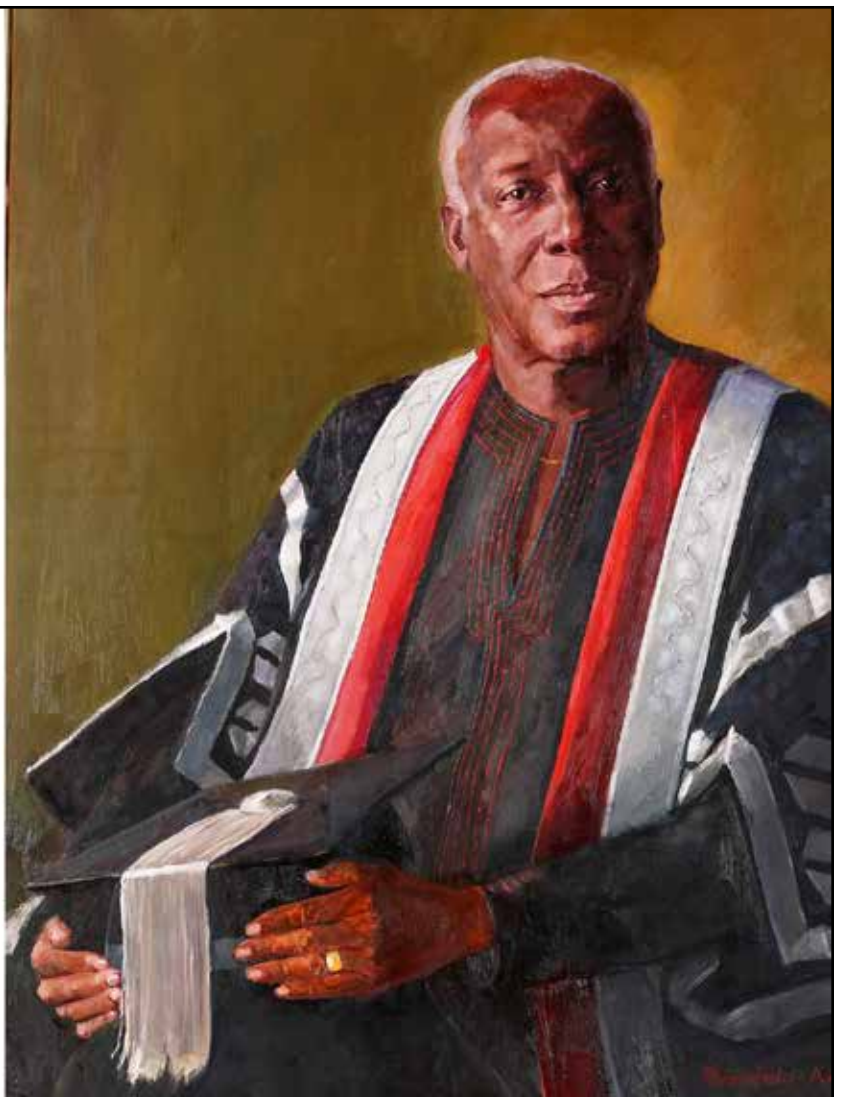
PRESENTED BY

DR. HOWARD DODSON

Director Emeritus of the Schomburg Centre for Research in Black Culture

<p>WEDNESDAY 20 MARCH 2024 6:00P.M.</p>	<p>THE UWI FIVE ISLANDS CAMPUS <small>Lorem Ipsum</small></p>
--	---

RSVP oshane.grant@uwi.edu or
1268-484-3900 ext 117 /268-464-0596



Social clubs engaging families for positive youth development: Youth FLOE 2024

The youth of the nation are the focus of two-days of events at Government House this weekend organized through the Office of the Governor General. The Youth Future Leaders Opportunities Expo (FLOE), is set to take place on the lawns of Government House on March 16th and 17th, 2024. This innovative event aims to empower young minds with the tools and insights necessary for future leadership roles.

A release from Government House noted that with one in every three members of the 2.6 billion persons in the 56-member Commonwealth of Nations falling between the ages of 15 – 29 years old, it is imperative to focus on initiatives that cater to our youth. The Youth FLOE seeks to bridge this gap by bringing together families, young people, and local service organizations over a two-day period to explore opportunities for youth development.

“We are thrilled to spearhead the Youth FLOE,” said His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams, Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda. “This event presents a unique platform for collaboration, mentorship, and inspiration,



paving the way for the next generation of leaders.”

The response from service organizations has been overwhelmingly positive, with all available slots booked for participation in the Expo. This enthusiastic response underscores the relevance and importance of initiatives geared towards youth development in our community. The event can accommodate a total of 15 organizations, and all slots have been filled.

New Feature: Youth Voices @ FLOE

This year, Youth FLOE introduces a new feature: Youth Voices @ FLOE. This innovative platform offers young people the opportunity to explore real-life scenarios through creative expression. Participants will engage in two one-hour sessions each day, led by experienced facilitators.

Through drama, poetry, song, and pantomime, participants will immerse themselves in various situations, responding with their own unique perspectives and insights. Co-hosts will offer guidance, fostering a supportive environment for youth to express themselves and share their voices. It's a dynamic opportunity for young minds to shine and make their voices heard!

Seminar 4 Leaders Topics:

Day 1: Revitalise & Rise: Nurturing Leadership Excellence for Growing Organizations

Facilitator: Mr. Stuart Shilson – Senior Partner, McKinsey & Co, UK

Day 2: Cultivating Empathy: A Key Element in Developing Strong
cont'd on pg 8



SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit launch takes place

A first-of-its-kind summit placing young people at the forefront of discussions on the challenges facing Small Island Developing States (SIDS) was officially launched on Monday in Antigua and Barbuda where it will be held. The SIDS Children and Youth Action Summit will bring together 60 young delegates to drive “meaningful change” on a range of issues threatening the future of SIDS.

The event, facilitated by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Ashley Lashley Foundation and UNICEF began the countdown to the ground-breaking Summit which will take place from 24-26 May ahead of the 4th International Conference on SIDS in Antigua

and Barbuda.

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne described the summit as “a pivotal gathering amplifying the voices of children and youth.” Addressing young people directly, he added, “We expect active engagement, innovative ideas, and bold initiatives. Your voices matter and will shape the outcomes.”

Representative for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Pieter Bult noted that the summit’s theme: “Small Islands, Big Dreams: Youth for SIDS Resilience,” zeroes in on the specific challenges faced by SIDS, including climate change, limited resources, and economic vulnerability. He also stressed the critical

role youth must play in addressing these issues.

“This summit is a beacon of hope, a platform for collaboration. Children and youth are not waiting for tomorrow to lead; they are leading now,” said the UNICEF Representative.

Ashley Lashley, Executive Director of The Ashley Lashley Foundation, revealed that children and youth at the summit will engage in discussions on climate action, education, sustainable development, and their rights. She added that a key outcome will be a “Call to Action” presented to world leaders at the upcoming SIDS4 conference and a 10-year commitment to action.

“We will implement

youth-led projects and establish the first-ever SIDS Youth Action Body to monitor progress and hold leaders accountable,” the advocate disclosed.

Monday’s launch featured a video showcasing youth from the SIDS regions: the Caribbean, Pacific and Atlantic Ocean and South China Sea.

They demanded action on climate change, biodiversity protection, and access to education and clean water.

A poem by student Atiba Thompson-Sealy aptly titled: “Save the World” further emphasized the perspectives of young people on the issues.

Key partners also present at the launch included the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

“We are pleased to support empowering adolescents and youth in SIDS,” said UNFPA Director and Representative for the Caribbean, Elizabeth Talbert.

Chief of the Social Sector Division at the CDB, Dr Martin Baptiste agreed, saying that the bank was keen to support initiatives that create space for young people to share ideas and solutions.

“Realizing resilient prosperity requires children and youth to be valued partners,” he said.

cont’d from pg 7
Social Skills

Facilitator: Ms. Koren Norton – Principal, KN Consulting

“We believe that by participating in this event, both service organizations and visitors will contribute to the positive development of future leaders who will play a pivotal role in shaping our society,” added Chairperson of the Commonwealth Day Planning Committee, Mrs. Paula Frederick-Hunte.

For more information and to stay updated on Youth FLOE 2024, please call the Office of the Governor General at 462 0002/3/4/5



Senator Kiz Nathaniel-Johnson with two young people

Deputy CHI promises greater supervision of food safety

Starting this week, food handlers across the island can expect to get a visit from someone attached to the Food Safety Division as officials within the department are ramping up protocols.

Deputy Chief Health Inspector Darryll Spencer announced via state media on Wednesday morning.

Spencer admitted that the department has in the past been complacent in terms of enforcing and conducting regular visits but all that is set to change.

“The intention is to visit every food handler within the next four months and that is a lot. The general idea is to at least pay a visit and those food handlers who are not up to par, we will have some conversations with them and try to bring them up,” Spencer said.

At least 10,000 individuals have been trained in food safety in the country since the food handlers training program

began.

Over the years, reports have been made that some vendors were not complying with the specific protocols.

Some vendors have even been shut down temporarily in the past until they could meet certain standards.

While the supervision of these protocols has been a difficult task for the Central Board of Health (CBH), Spencer revealed that one of their biggest issues at this time is with consumers.

Some, Spencer said, have even deterred inspectors from carrying out their duties effectively.

“They become very aggressive during that period. You know, some people want their chicken, and they want it now and when the inspectors are trying to carry out their tasks, they would say, leave them alone and whatever the case is but the role of the Public Health In-

spector is to protect you from the food and from consuming contaminated products,” he added.

Limited human resources was another area Spencer said is plaguing the department.

Nevertheless, Spencer is encouraging all food handlers to continue to abide by the protocols.

For those persons who have not been certified, they are being urged to get the proper training.

A certification training is set to take place next month starting April 11th from 9 am-2 pm.

Another session will be held seven days later with two sessions: 9 am-12 pm and 1 pm-3 pm.

All sessions will be at the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre.

Persons can register at the CBH Office on Upper Church Street.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

2 DAYS WAYS SAVE

\$16.99
- *2 pcs
- Biscuit
- Drink

\$19.99
- Zinger / CCB
- Drink

KFC

limitations apply

Available on the App Store

Available on Google Play

FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY

#atkcnu

Antigua and Barbuda launches local chapter of the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WIMAC)

On March 8, 2024, the Antigua and Barbuda Chapter of the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WiMAC) was launched at the Tradewinds Hotel with an official ceremony and cocktail reception. The special event was celebrated on International Women's Day under the theme and motto: "Inspire Inclusion – Count her in – Invest in Women – Accelerate progress," and began with the Reverend Denise Smith-Lewis, Minister of the Cedar Hall Moravian Church delivering the invocation.

Senator Samantha Marshall, Minister of State with responsibility for the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy, was the Keynote Speaker for the inaugural and auspicious affair. She affirmed that "there is so much to be done to promote and inspire inclusion, and to present women with equal access to opportunities and resources in order to realize their full potential" and expressed her elation that the Antigua and Barbuda Chapter of the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean has chosen to play its role in advancing this cause.

In addition to the Keynote Speaker's inspirational and impactful speech, the audience was presented with committed support from His Excellency Ambassador Dwight Gardiner, Permanent Representative to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Director and Registrar General of the Antigua and Barbuda Department of Marine Services and Merchant Shipping (ADOMS). "I wholeheartedly endorse the objectives of the Association and in my role as International Gender Champion, I have made a commitment to support your local chapter and I am determined to break down barriers and make gender equality a working reality in my sphere of in-



Members of the Women in Maritime Association Caribbean (WiMAC) Antigua and Barbuda Chapter Inc. Front Row, Left to Right: Mrs. Tamara Lowe-James (Immediate Past President of WiMAC), Ms. Shenica Sebastian (President) and Mrs. Jemella Bascus-Sharpe (Vice President), Second Row, Left to Right: Mrs. Katarina McGhie-Thompson, Ms. Brenda Albert (Treasurer), Mrs. Karen Michael, Ms. Lanise George, Dr. Tricia Lovell, Ms. Franciose Bowen, Mrs. Mikyla Frederick-Winter, and Ms. Nicola Alleyne.

fluence" the Ambassador stated. There were also sound encouragement and pledged support from Mr. Jamie Saunders - Executive Director of the Directorate of Gender Affairs, and Dr. Evette Smith Johnson - President of WiMAC.

Ms. Shenica Sebastian, President of the WiMAC Antigua and Barbuda Chapter Incorporated (Inc.), in her inaugural address emphasized that "It was not an easy road. We had numerous challenges to navigate, but we can now happily report that the WiMAC Antigua and Barbuda Chapter is now a registered non-profit organization as of the 6th of December 2023. With delight she further stated, "we are now on equal standing with other established chapters in Jamaica, Dominica, Barbados, Guyana and Suriname that are committed to exerting collective influence within the Caribbean maritime space."

An overview of the journey towards

establishing the Antigua and Barbuda Chapter was presented, where in 1988 the IMO, a specialized agency of the United Nations with responsibility for the regulation of international shipping, established a Women in Maritime Programme to develop networks for the integration of women to address issues facing women's development and well-being in the maritime sector.

In the furtherance of its strategic objectives, the IMO facilitated the establishment of several regional non-profit professional women associations worldwide for the development of women. To date, eight regional Women in Maritime Associations have been formed around the world: notably Africa, the Arab States, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific, covering some 152 countries and dependent territories.

It was noted that on the 17th of April 2015, the Women in Maritime Association *cont'd on pg 11*



cont'd from pg 10

International Women's Day (WiMAC) was launched in Montego Bay, Jamaica, as the seventh regional Association with the stated vision to empower women to become beacons for the sustainable development of the maritime industry. The Association's commitment to increasing the performance, participation, and contribution of women in the maritime sector was also recalled. With representatives from across the Caribbean region in attendance, each country was mandated to establish a local chapter to further the goals and objectives of the regional association.

The Antigua and Barbuda Chapter of WiMAC is governed by a Board of Directors comprising of: Ms. Shenica Sebastian - President; Mrs. Jemella Bascus-Sharpe - Vice President, Ms. Brenda Albert - Treasurer, Ms. Shenique Barry - Secretary; and Ms. Maxime James - Member at Large.

Top initiatives of the WiMAC Antigua and Barbuda Chapter are:

- to promote the maritime sector through awareness seminars and outreach programmes in the community



Senator the Honourable Samantha Marshall, Minister of State with responsibility for the Ministry of Social Transformation and the Blue Economy presenting the WiMAC Antigua and Barbuda Certificate of Incorporation to President, Ms. Shenica Sebastian.

- as an attractive and rewarding career option for women and girls both on board ships and shore-based facilities;

- to strengthen the relationship with the Directorate of Gender Affairs to collaborate on lobbying for harmonized legislation and implementing policies and programs that will advocate for the economic and professional development and empowerment of women and girls in Antigua and Barbuda;

- to conduct research on the information gap as it relates to the awareness of the role, professional opportunities, and achievements of women to produce sound action plans

- to increase training, visibility, and recognition of women in the maritime sector; and

- to embark on a recruitment drive to increase membership.

Enrollment is open to female nationals or residents employed or engaged in the maritime sector and affiliate organizations, individuals, and students as well as corporations that share and support the objectives of WiMAC. The Association appeals for support in investing in gender equality, and accelerating the progress in charting the course for generations of women in the maritime sector.

In celebrating International Women's Day, the local WiMAC Chapter recognized Senator, the Honourable Samantha Marshall, for her passionate contribution towards the advancement and protection of the citizens of Antigua and Barbuda and for her continuous work on developing better policies aimed at improving social and economic targets to benefit all, in particular the most vulnerable. And in the same spirit, Dr. Tricia Lovell, Deputy Chief Fishers Officer, a recent graduate from the World Maritime University with a PHD in Maritime Affairs, was also acknowledged for her over 20 years' experience in the Maritime Industry and contribution to the Maritime Sector in Antigua and Barbuda. The evening's event culminated with an elegant and entertaining cocktail flavoured with music from the Wadadli Vibes band.

For further information on the Antigua and Barbuda Chapter Inc. visit the WiMAC Antigua and Barbuda Chapter Facebook Page. If interested in joining the chapter kindly apply via email to wimac.antiguaandbarbudachapter@gmail.com.

Technology



MEPs approve world's first comprehensive AI law

The European Parliament has approved the world's first comprehensive framework for constraining the risks of artificial intelligence (AI).

The sector has seen explosive growth - driving huge profits but also stoking fears about bias, privacy and even the future of humanity.

The AI Act works by classifying products according to risk and adjusting scrutiny accordingly.

The law's creators said it would make the tech more "human-centric."

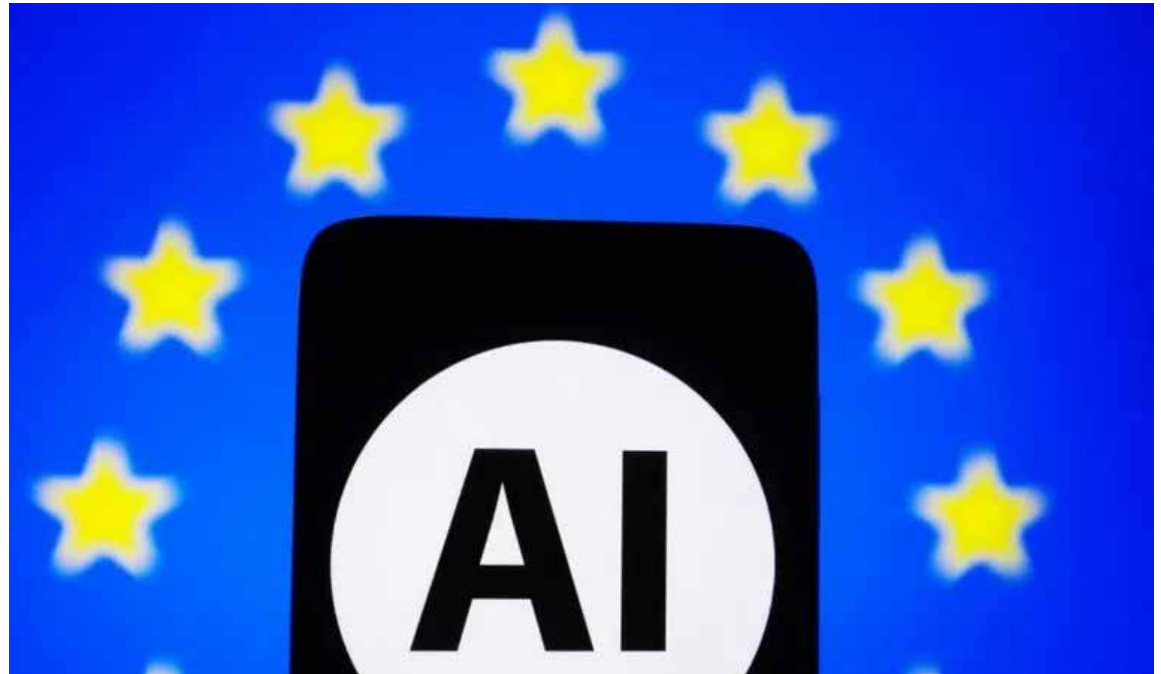
"The AI act is not the end of the journey but the starting point for new governance built around technology," MEP Dragos Tudorache added.

It also places the EU at the forefront of global attempts to address the dangers associated with AI.

China already has introduced a patchwork of AI laws. In October 2023, US President Joe Biden announced an executive order requiring AI developers to share data with the government.

But the EU has now gone further.

"The adoption of the AI Act marks the beginning of a new AI era and its importance cannot be overstated," said Enza Ianpollo, principal analyst at Forrester.



"The EU AI Act is the world's first and only set of binding requirements to mitigate AI risks," she added.

She said it would make the EU the "de facto" global standard for trustworthy AI, leaving every other region, including the UK, to "play catch-up."

In November 2023, the UK hosted an AI safety summit but is not planning legislation along the lines of the AI Act.

The main idea of the law is to regulate AI based on its capacity to cause harm to society. The higher the risk, the stricter the rules.

AI applications that pose a "clear risk to fundamental rights" will be banned, for example some of those that involve the processing of biometric

data.

AI systems considered "high-risk", such as those used in critical infrastructure, education, healthcare, law enforcement, border management or elections, will have to comply with strict requirements.

Low-risk services, such as spam filters, will face the lightest regulation - the EU expects most services to fall into this category.

The Act also creates provisions to tackle risks posed by the systems underpinning generative AI tools and chatbots such as OpenAI's ChatGPT.

These would require producers of some so-called general-purpose AI systems, that can be harnessed for a range of tasks, to be transparent about the material used to train their models and to comply with

EU copyright law.

Mr Turodache told reporters ahead of the vote that copyright provisions had been one of the "heaviest lobbied" parts of the bill.

OpenAI, Stability AI and graphics chip giant Nvidia are among a handful of AI firms facing lawsuits over their use of data to train generative models.

Some artists, writers and musicians have argued the process of «scraping» huge volumes of data, including potentially their own works, from virtually all corners of the internet violates copyright laws.

The Act still has to pass several more steps before it formally becomes law.

Lawyer-linguists, whose job is to check and

cont'd on pg 14



VACANCY NOTICE

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission is inviting suitably qualified applicants to apply for the position of **Receptionist in its establishment.**

The Receptionist reports to and provides administrative support to the head of the Human Resources Department to ensure accurate record keeping, and efficient, timely execution of the Department's duties.

This position also provided administrative support to the Commission's operational departments where needed and reports directly to the respective heads of department based on the tasks assigned.

Minimum Qualifications and Experience: -

1. Associates Degree in Business Administration, or Human Resources Management, **OR**
Five (5) CXC / GCE O' Levels including English and Mathematics, strong computer skills and 2-4 years relevant experience in customer service.
2. Excellent writing skills and highly confidential.

Duties and Responsibilities: -

1. Answer incoming telephone calls and direct to appropriate department or employee.
2. Ensure that the reception area is always manned, provide a welcoming atmosphere for visitors, identify the nature of their visit, and direct visitors to the appropriate personnel.
3. Record and dispatch incoming and outgoing correspondence on a timely basis.
4. Monitor the attendance register, note absenteeism, and prepare monthly report for viewing by the Assistant Human Resources Manager.
5. Assist with filing and typing of correspondence.
6. Prepare and update staff vacation schedules.
7. Assist with entering data on computer system.
8. Assist with booking staff travel and hotel accommodation.
9. Assist operational departments with duties as needed/requested.
10. Perform other assigned tasks ancillary to the post.

Interested individuals should submit applications no later than 22nd March 2024 to the Assistant Human Resources Manager via email Janice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag.

NB: Only applicants who are shortlisted for the selection process will be contacted.



Wildfire in Guyana (Photo credit: Guyana Fire Service)

Guyana: Tragic wildfire incident claims life of elderly man

Guyanese are being advised to take precautions when it comes to wildfires after an elderly man died from severe burn injuries which he sustained while on his farm.

The deceased has been identified as Alexander Josephine, 93, of the Parakies Village community in the North West District.

According to the Guyana Fire Service, on Tuesday, a wildfire occurred on an open farmland area adjacent to Parakies Main Road, amidst dense vegetation, as

the scene revealed significant burn damage and ash residue on the ground.

It was determined that Josephine had left his residence at approximately 9 am on the day of the incident to attend to his farm. Tragically, around 1 pm, family members received distressing news that Josephine had sustained severe burns while on his farm and had succumbed to his injuries.

Upon arrival at the scene, emergency responders found Josephine lying

motionless on his back with burns covering his body. He was transported to the Kumaka District Hospital, where medical professionals pronounced him deceased.

A post-mortem examination will be conducted.

An investigation into the circumstances surrounding the fire is currently underway.

The Guyana Fire Service notes wildfires are more common during the dry season, and the Fire Service has been battling several wildfires as well as large

grass fires over the past two months.

The public has been advised to remain vigilant and monitor their lands for any signs of potential wildfires as this can help reduce the risk of wildfires and contribute to the safety of communities.

The Guyana Fire Service said residents can create a defensible space around property by digging trenches to direct the fire towards a predetermined area, where it can be safely burned out.

Persons should also have an evacuation plan ready, including multiple escape routes.

In addition, the public is reminded to avoid outdoor burning of garbage or grass as these fires can quickly spread during the dry season and if you must burn, never leave fires unattended.

cont'd from pg 12

translate laws, will scour its text and the European Council - composed of representatives of EU member states - will also need to endorse it, though that is expected to be a formality.

In the meantime, businesses will be working out how to comply with the legislation.

Kirsten Rulf - a former advisor to the German government, and now a partner at Boston Consulting Group - says more than 300 firms have been in touch with her company so far.

“They want to know how to scale the tech, and get value from AI,” she told the BBC. “Businesses need and want the legal certainty.”

BVI: Attorney at law found dead with gunshot wounds

There is shock and disbelief in the British Virgin Islands as prominent attorney Jamal S. Smith was found dead with gunshot wounds at his residence on Tortola. This is the territory's first homicide for 2024.

The Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF) said on Monday it received a report via the 911 call centre at 7:30 pm about a shooting at Manuel Reef. Officers of the RVIPF and ambulance immediately responded to the scene.

Upon arrival, thorough searches were conducted in the area, but nothing suspicious was initially found. Further investigations by officers led them to a residence in the Manuel Hill area.

After a thorough search of the premises, officers discovered the lifeless body of Jamal Smith, 46, of Manuel Hill, an Attorney at law, with apparent gunshot wounds. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

The police force said it is actively investigating the circumstances surrounding this incident.

Jamal S. Smith, an attorney, is the Founder & Principal of THORNTON SMITH, a general practice law firm which expertise in complex corporate



Jamal Smith.
transactions.

His death has created much concern on the usually quiet island of Tortola.

Governor of the BVI, Daniel Pruce in a Facebook post said: "I'm deeply saddened to see this. Jamal's commitment to public service made an important contribution to the Virgin Islands. My thoughts are with his loved ones. I would urge anyone with any relevant information to be in touch with the RVIPF"

Acting Governor of the Virgin Islands, David Archer Jr, has expressed condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Jamal Smith.

He said Smith will be

remembered for his altruism as a prominent member of the Virgin Islands legal community who gave many years of service to the Territory by serving on a number of Boards including the Labour Arbitration Tribunal.

"As Acting Governor, I have already spoken to the Commissioner of Police and will attend the National Security Council meeting this afternoon. I am appealing to anyone with relevant information to contact the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force (RVIPF)."

Meanwhile, the National Security Council (NSC) in a statement said it convened a special

meeting today to receive a briefing from the Commissioner of Police in light of Monday's homicide of attorney Jamal Smith.

The NSC acknowledged that the Territory unfortunately recorded its first homicide for 2024.

The NSC further acknowledged that the recent murder is shocking and disturbing and has reiterated its zero-tolerance policy to crime.

The NSC said it continues to deliberate strategically on all options to confront and eradicate the scourge of crime in the Territory.

In its condolences to the family of Smith, the NSC recommitted to introducing measures and any relevant legislation to bring a resolution to this and all other unsolved crimes.

The National Security Council said it considers matters relating to internal security and any significant security developments in the Territory, including the occurrence of significant criminal activity.

The NSC comprises the Governor, as Chairman and members, including the Premier, the Minister for Communication and Works, the Attorney General (ex-officio) and the Commissioner of Police (ex-officio).

Rwandan opposition leader barred from election

A court in Rwanda has blocked efforts by prominent opposition figure Victoire Ingabire to lift a ban on her running in July's presidential election.

She was freed in 2018 after spending eight years in prison for threatening state security and "belittling" the 1994 genocide.

In Rwanda, people who have been jailed for more than six months are barred from running in elections.

Ms Ingabire said the court's ruling was politicised.

"The refusal of my rehabilitation is not merely a personal attack but is emblematic of the broader issues facing our nation, issues that human rights organisations and development partners of Rwanda have long criticised," Ms Ingabire said in a statement released on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Outside court in the capital, Kigali, the 55-year-old politician said: "I don't agree with what the judge said, and unfortunately you can't appeal before two years."

"We are still far from a law-abiding country."

Ms Ingabire is an outspoken critic of President Paul Kagame, who has been the dominant force in the country for three decades.

He secured more than



Victoire Ingabire has long been a fierce critic of President Paul Kagame.

90% of the votes in presidential elections in 2003, 2010 and 2017 - and changes to the constitution mean he could potentially stay in power for another 10 years.

The 66-year-old president has faced criticism from rights groups, which have accused him of cracking down on the opposition.

But Mr Kagame has in the past fiercely defended Rwanda's record on human rights, saying his country respects political freedoms.

There is currently only one challenger to the pres-

ident in July's election in the shape of the Green Party's Frank Habineza, the AFP news agency reports.

He won 0.45% of the vote in 2017.

In 2010, Ms Ingabire returned from exile in the Netherlands to take part in that year's presidential election.

But she was arrested, prevented from standing and later sentenced to 15 years in prison. After she was pardoned in 2018, she went on to found the Dal-fa-Umurinzi opposition party.

Ms Ingabire, a member of the Hutu ethnic group, had got into trouble for questioning why Rwanda's official memorial to the 1994 genocide did not include any Hutus.

Most of the 800,000 people killed in the space of 100 days were ethnic Tutsis but Hutu moderates were also slaughtered by the Hutu extremists.

Mr Kagame's Tutsi-dominated Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel group - now a political party - put an end to the genocide.

Gaza war: First aid ship sets off from Cyprus

By David Gritten

A Spanish ship towing a barge loaded with 200 tonnes of desperately needed food supplies for Palestinians in Gaza has finally set sail from Cyprus.

Open Arms left Larnaca just before 09:00 (07:00 GMT) on a journey which could take as long as two days.

Gaza has no functioning port, so the US charity behind the mission, World Central Kitchen, is building a jetty to receive the aid.

The UN warns that massive aid shortages have left Gaza on the brink of famine.

The quickest, most effective way to get aid into the territory is by road. But aid agencies say Israeli restrictions mean a fraction of what is needed is getting in.

If Open Arms successfully docks in Gaza, then other ships will follow as part of a European and Emirati maritime effort to get more aid into Gaza.

Israel says it welcomes the creation of a maritime corridor and that it is facilitating the transfer of aid to Gaza while its forces continue to fight Hamas.

The war began when Hamas gunmen attacked southern Israel on 7 October, killing about 1,200 people and seizing 253 hostages. More than 31,180 people have been killed in Gaza



World Central Kitchen founder Jose Andres posted a photo showing workers building a jetty on Gaza's coast.

since then, the Hamas-run health ministry says.

World Central Kitchen (WCK) announced that its first maritime shipment of aid was on its way to Gaza on Tuesday morning after weeks of preparation.

Open Arms - a salvage vessel belonging to a Spanish charity of the same name - is towing a barge filled with rice, flour, legumes, canned vegetables and canned proteins.

While it is at sea, Palestinians working for WCK will continue building a jetty at an undisclosed location on Gaza's coast, which will be used to offload the aid. They are using rubble from buildings and infrastructure destroyed over the last five months.

If the jetty is ready in

time, WCK says it will load the food on to lorries and distribute it to communities in need. The charity has a network of some 60 kitchens across Gaza and has provided more than 35 million meals to the estimated 1.7 million displaced Palestinians there.

"Everyone thought was impossible, still many things are happening at once," WCK's founder, Spanish celebrity chef José Andrés, wrote on X.

"We need to finish the jetty that will allow us to download the food! Failure is not an option... North [Gaza] needs to be fed!"

Later on Tuesday, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) said it had managed to get an aid convoy into northern Gaza for the first

time in three weeks.

Enough food for 25,000 people was delivered to Gaza City, the agency added, before stating: "We need deliveries every day."

The UN says at least 576,000 people in Gaza - one quarter of the population - are one step away from famine.

It warns that time is running out for the estimated 300,000 people isolated in the north of the territory, which UN agencies have struggled to access for several months due to the ongoing hostilities and a breakdown of law and order.

Gaza's health ministry says at least 25 people, many of them children, have died as a result of malnutrition and dehydration at hospitals

cont'd on pg 18

CWI pledges in-country ticket sales for ICC Men's T20 World Cup

Following discussions during the 46th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of Cricket West Indies, affirmed the organization's commitment to ensuring accessible ticket sales for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Acknowledging the region's reliance on cash transactions and the importance of inclusive access to sporting events, Dr. Shallow emphasized Cricket West Indies' leadership in facilitating widespread participation in the tournament.

"At Cricket West Indies, we prioritize the inclusion of all cricket enthusiasts in experiencing the excitement of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup," stated President Shallow.

"In alignment with discussions during the CARICOM meeting, we are committed to making tickets available at retail outlets across the Caribbean, en-



Fans in celebratory mood at a cricket match at the Kensington Oval in Barbados. (CWI Media)

sure that our fans across the region can engage with the tournament directly."

The decision aligns with Cricket West Indies' ethos of promoting accessibility and fostering community engagement within the cricketing fraternity.

With the June 1-29 ICC Men's T20 World Cup poised to showcase the best of cricketing talent and ca-

maraderie, Dr. Shallow expressed confidence in delivering a memorable experience for fans across the region.

"As we prepare for what promises to be an exceptional tournament, we recognize the significance of making tickets readily accessible to all," remarked Dr. Shallow.

"We are dedicated to

leading efforts to ensure that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup is enjoyed by every cricket fan, reflecting the inclusive spirit of our beloved sport."

The initiative reflects Cricket West Indies' proactive approach to meeting the needs of its diverse audience, embodying a commitment to fostering unity and inclusivity through cricket.

cont'd from pg 17
there.

On Tuesday, Palestinian media reported that nine people were killed by Israeli fire as they waited for aid lorries to arrive at Kuwait Square in Gaza City, which is in the north. The Israeli military said it was checking the reports.

"We are being starved in two ways: food is scarce, and the little that is available is so expensive as to be be-

yond imagination," Yamen, a father of four whose family is sheltering in the central town of Deir al-Balah, told Reuters news agency on Tuesday.

WCK says it has another 500 tonnes of aid in Cyprus ready to be shipped and that its goal is to establish a "establish a maritime highway of boats and barges stocked with millions of meals continuously headed towards Gaza".

Open Arms is the first aid ship to

set sail as part of a maritime corridor initiative by Cyprus, with the support of the European Union, the UK and US.

Cypriot President Nikos Christodoulides said its journey was "one of hope and humanity" and that it might become a "lifeline to civilians".

The US has also launched a separate initiative which will see a military ship build a floating harbour off Gaza's coast, including a temporary pier to

cont'd on pg 19

St. Anthony's upset Princess Margaret in schools' basketball

St. Anthony's Secondary stunned defending senior boys division champion Princess Margaret School in the Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools' Basketball Championships on Tuesday.

St. Anthony's Secondary overcame a huge individual scoring effort by last year's most valuable player, Craig Massiah, to snatch a keenly contested 64-62 victory against Princess Margaret in the last game of a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Devonte Carter sank 22 points, Jabin Silston converted 14 points, and Theo Blair scored 11 points for St. Anthony's Secondary School. Massiah shot a game-high 51 points for Princess Margaret School.

St. Anthony's Secondary School also celebrated victory in the senior girls division on Tuesday.



Players of the St. Anthony's Secondary School's senior boys team in a huddle during a timeout in one of their games at the JSC Sports Complex. (Photo courtesy of the School Basketball Unit)

Jenah Andrew scored 12 points, and Sydney Hesse chipped in with seven points to lead St. Anthony's Secondary School to a 31-23 victory against Christ the King High School.

Jodaliah Constant shot

a game-high 17 points in a losing effort for Christ the King High School.

However, it wasn't all doom and gloom for Princess Margaret School, as its senior girls enjoyed success by romping to an emphatic

39-8 drubbing of Irene B. Williams Secondary School.

Kayla Melvin converted 13 points for Princess Margaret School, and

Gabrielle Abbott scored six points for Irene B. Williams Secondary School.

cont'd from pg 18

transport supplies to the shore.

Western and Arab countries have also been carrying out airdrops, mostly over northern Gaza. However, they are considered ineffective and costly.

Two senior UN officials welcomed the opening of a maritime corridor to Gaza but also warned that road routes were the only option to transport the large quantities of food needed.

"For aid delivery at scale there is no meaningful substitute to the many land routes and entry points from Israel into Gaza," UN Humanitarian and Reconstruction Co-ordinator for Gaza Sigrid Kaag and UN Office for Project Ser-

vices executive director Jorge Moreira da Silva said.

"The land routes from Egypt, Rafah in particular, and Jordan also remain essential to the overall humanitarian effort."

The UN is urging Israel to open its crossings with the north, which were closed after the 7 October attacks, and allow the use of the port of Ashdod, 37km (23 miles) from Gaza, as an aid route.

Israel denies impeding the entry of aid or its distribution and blames UN agencies for failing to get the aid that is allowed in to the people who need it.

"The UN wants you to think aid

isn't reaching northern Gaza, because it's not reaching it... through the UN," government spokesman Eylon Levy wrote on X.

"Far more aid trucks are reaching Gaza through Israeli co-ordination with the Gazan private sector - Palestinian business-people."

About 500 lorries - suitable for carrying up to 20 tonnes of material - crossed into Gaza each day on average before the war. In the first 10 days of March, an average of 162 lorries entered Gaza daily via the Egyptian-controlled Rafah and the Israeli-controlled Kerem Shalom crossings, according to the UN.

Sports News



Five Islands open up four-point gap atop of First Division

Five Islands maintained their successful run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League on Tuesday.

Jamal Joseph and Demario Roberts each scored twice as Five Islands opened up a four-point gap as leaders of the First Division with a five-nil drubbing of the Liberta Blackhawks at the ABFA Technical Center.

Joseph had conversions in the 31st and 37th minutes, Roberts scored in the 33rd and 66th minutes, and Avante Warner scored in the 60th minute for Five Islands.

Their 10th win in 12 matches carries Five Islands to 31 points, four ahead of the Potters Tigers in second place.

The Liberta Blackhawks remain second from the bottom on goal differ-

ence with nine points after losing for the 10th time in 13 matches.

Bendals and the Young Lions of Old Road also recorded wins in the First Division on Tuesday.

Bendals came from behind to snatch a 2-1 win against Bolans at the Jennings playing field. Andre Weekes scored in the 39th minute to give Bolans a one-nil halftime lead.

But Te'Andre Elliot

scored the equalizer in the 71st minute, and Darren Stevens struck the winner in the 80th minute to secure victory for Bendals.

Bendals will remain in eighth place and advance to 12 points after recording only their third win in 13 matches.

Bolans will remain one point and one place ahead of Bendals after suffering their sixth loss in 11 encounters.

The bottom team, the Young Lions, claimed only their second win in 13 matches by pulling off a 2-1 win against Fort Road at the Fort Road playing field.

Zavier Joseph scored in the 10th minute to give the Young Lions a one-nil halftime lead, and Orlando Mitchum doubled their advantage with a 53rd-minute conversion.

The Young Lions' Damon Brown scored an own goal in the second minute of added time (90+2 minutes) for Fort Road.

The result allows the Young Lions to move on to six points, but they will remain in the cellar of the 11-team round-robin competition.

Fort Road will also remain third from the bottom of the standings on goal difference with nine points after losing for the ninth time in 12 matches.



WE'RE ON WHATSAPP!

CONTACT US!

729-3397 / 729-1210

SEND US YOUR ESTIMATES!




DEWS


dewspro


info@dewspro.com


729-3397 / 729-1210

Wins for Fearless Crew and Court Martials in ABBA's Division II League

Jim Nance Jan Serve Fearless Crew and Court Martials secured wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division II League on Tuesday night.

The Fearless Crew notched up their third win in as many games by romping to a 68-29 victory against MJ Gray's Green Phoenix in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Rafiki Harris narrowly

missed out on achieving a triple double by producing a game-high 24 points with nine rebounds, nine assists, and nine steals for the Fearless Crew.

Harris got good support from teammates Takeem Martin and Ralph Spooner.

Martin had 13 points and 11 rebounds, while Spooner contributed 11 points, 11 rebounds, and six steals for the Fearless Crew.

Nicholas Simpson had

15 points, 11 rebounds, and five steals for MJ Gray's Green Phoenix, who suffered their third loss in as many games.

Court Martials claimed their third win in four games by snatching a 67-61 victory against Cecil Charles Cristos United in Tuesday's first encounter.

Victor Horseford produced 21 points, eight rebounds, and six steals; Baldwin Anthony converted 16 points and snatched

nine rebounds; and Regillio Cisse scored 12 points and grabbed seven rebounds for the Court Martials.

Dwayne Samuel had a game-high 26 points with 11 rebounds and five blocked shots; Manlight Simmons produced nine points and 13 rebounds; and Dorian James chipped in with eight points, six rebounds, and five steals for Cristos United, which lost for the third time in as many games.

cont'd from pg 22

200-meter and 4x100 and 4x400 relay races.

Gardner will run in the Under-20 boys 4x100 and 4x400 relays, while Dowdye will contest the Under-20 girls 100 and 200-meter sprints.

Antigua Grammar School's Maliek Francis, who won silver at last year's CARIFTA Games in the Bahamas, will once again compete in the javelin in the Under-17 boys division.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy's Zonique Charles, who broke her own record in the javelin in the Under-17 girls division at last weekend's inter-schools' track meet, will compete in the same category at the CARIFTA Games.

Nicholas Simpson of Ottos Comprehensive School set a new record in the high jump last weekend to qualify for this year's CARIFTA Games. Simpson will compete in the Under-20 boys high jump in Grenada.

The other members of the squad are new sprint sensation Tyra Fenton of St. Anthony's Secondary School, Kevon Campbell of All Saints Secondary School, and Cleon Joseph of Clare Hall Secondary School.



Tyra Fenton

The 13-year-old Fenton booked her ticket to Grenada by producing three gold-medal-winning record-breaking performances to win the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 400-meter races and claimed the Most Valuable Player award in the Under-20 Girls Division at the recent inter-schools' meet.

Fenton will compete in the Under-17 girls 200 and 400-meter races; Campbell will participate in the Under-20 boys 400-meter and 4x400 relay; and Joseph



Ajani Daley

will run in the Under-20 boys 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Manager and head coach Ted Daley, assistant coach Oswald Baptiste, and Chaperone Gillian Allen-Matthew will accompany the athletes.

Antigua and Barbuda name Carifta Games squad

Seven overseas-based athletes have been included in a 17-member squad that will be representing Antigua and Barbuda at the 2024 CARIFTA Track and Field Games at the Kirani James Stadium in Grenada from March 30 to April 1.

Two of the athletes are currently enrolled at Hinds Community College in Raymond, Mississippi, USA. They are female sprinter La’Nica Locker, who will compete in the Under-20 girls 100 and 200 meter races, and male sprinter Ajani Daley, who will run in the Under-20 boys 100-meter and the 4x100 relay.

Locker recently became the first Antiguan to win a gold medal at the NJCAA Indoor National Championships in the USA.

The Commonwealth Youth Games bronze medalist and former Ottos Comprehensive School student achieved the feat by running a personal best time of 23.59 seconds and setting a record for Hinds Community College to win the women’s 200 meters at the NJCAA Indoor National Championships in Gainesville, Florida, from March 1-2.

Triple jumper Alyssa Dyett and male sprinter Dwayne Fleming, who are attending Monroe College in New York, are also selected for the squad.

Dyette will contest the Under-20 girls triple jump, while Fleming will compete in the Under-20 boys 4x100 and 4x400 relays.

Dyett also set a new school record in the women’s triple jump at the NJCAA Indoor National Championships.



Long jump gold medalist Gerilin Barnes (right) and javelin silver medalist Maliek Francis display the Antigua and Barbuda flag at the 2023 CARIFTA Games in the Bahamas. (File photos)

Dyett leaped to a personal best of 12.02 meters, placing 5th overall and earning First Class All American Honours in the process.

The other three overseas-based athletes selected in the squad, long jumper Gerilin Barnes, middle distance runner Hannah Charles, and sprinter Nicardo Clarke, are all enrolled at learning institutions in Jamaica.

Barnes and Hannah Charles are attending the Queen’s School, which is an all-girl high school located in Kingston, while Clarke is enrolled at Kingston College.

Barnes will be defending the Under-17 girls long jump title, which she won on debut at last year’s CARIFTA games in the Bahamas; Hannah Charles will compete in the Under-20 girls 800

and 1,500-meter races; and Clarke will run in the Under-20 boys 100-meter and 4x100 relay races.

The other members of the squad are all high school students in Antigua and Barbuda and produced outstanding performances at last weekend’s Cool and Smooth Inter-Schools Track and Field Championships at the Yasco Sports Complex.

Four members of the squad were part of the Princess Margaret School contingent that retained both boys and girls division titles at this year’s national schools’ track and field championships.

They are under-20 boys MVP Kasiya Daley, Caandre Pascal, Osei Gardner, and Geolyna Dowdye. Daley and Pascal will compete in the Under-20 boys

cont’d on pg 21