

# NO VISA-FREE ENTRY FOR BANGLADESHIS

Story on Page 2



The National Soup Kitchen will return to full operation on Saturday following a break-in this week that disrupted its operations. Inspector Veldon Raggette, right, accepts a contribution from a corporate citizen. *Story on page 4.*

# No visa-free entry for Bangladeshis

A request for consideration for visa-free entry for citizens of Bangladesh has been denied by the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet.

The matter came up for consideration at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting following the announcement from Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene, that the possibility for such arrangements was among things discussed during his visit to Bangladesh.

In the post-Cabinet Notes, it was explained that the Cabinet has agreed to provide limited access to diplomats and delegates from Bangladesh who will be present in Antigua and Barbuda to attend the SIDS 4 Confer-

ence. However, the Cabinet has decided against the request for visa-free access for citizens of that country who may wish to visit Antigua and Barbuda at other times.



In providing further elucidation to the issue, Information Minister Melford Nicholas said the Cabinet was responding to concerns expressed by several of Antigua and Barbuda's longstanding partners such as the Schengen region of Europe.

"In respect of the Bangladeshis and visa requirements, the Cabinet did for a moment consider whether or not we could facilitate persons with diplomatic status traveling from Bangladesh

and whether or not these could be accommodated and the Cabinet deferred a decision on this matter. But for ordinary Bangladeshis, the notion of entire visa-free access was duly considered and not approved by the Cabinet," he reported.

The issue of establishing a consulate in Dhaka, the Bangladeshi capital, however, remains on the card according to the minister.

"A consular office in Bangladesh to be able to expand our reach in that part of the world is consistent with our foreign policy so there's no harm done in having the consulate set up there," he declared.

BOI BANK CORPORATION		
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION		
AT DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021		
(Expressed in United States Dollars)		
	2022	2021
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents, net (Note 7, 23, 27)	32,979,860	32,998,312
Loans, net (Note 8, 23, 26, 27)	5,335,569	5,320,322
Investment securities, net (Note 9, 23, 26)	1,073,913,070	1,195,034,155
Restricted deposits with banks, net (Note 10)	5,964,630	5,964,630
	<u>1,118,193,129</u>	<u>1,239,317,419</u>
<b>Other assets</b>		
Asset by right of use, net (Note 11)	71,164	111,829
Other assets (Note 12)	79,604	107,509
	<u>150,768</u>	<u>219,338</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,118,343,897</u>	<u>1,239,536,757</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Due to depositors (Note 13, 23, 27)	912,448,194	869,178,690
Borrowings (Note 15, 23, 27)	218,574	211,554
	<u>912,666,768</u>	<u>869,390,244</u>
<b>Other liabilities</b>		
Customer deposits pending of document (Note 16)	3,572,381	3,622,238
Other liabilities (Note 17, 27)	4,493,701	4,097,903
	<u>8,066,082</u>	<u>7,720,141</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>920,732,850</u>	<u>877,110,385</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Common stock (Note 18)	5,000,000	5,000,000
Legal reserve (Note 19)	5,500,000	5,500,000
Fair value reserve	(199,099,041)	(3,398,126)
Retained earnings	386,210,088	355,324,498
Total Equity	<u>197,611,047</u>	<u>362,426,372</u>
Total Equity and Liabilities	<u>1,118,343,897</u>	<u>1,239,536,757</u>
Approved and signed by the Board of Directors:		
	Director	
	Director	
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements		

BOI BANK CORPORATION		
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND 2021		
(Expressed in United States Dollars)		
	2022	2021
<b>INTEREST INCOME:</b>		
Securities	52,387,270	46,687,838
Loans	295,298	312,067
Due from banks	-	6
Total interest income	<u>52,682,568</u>	<u>46,999,911</u>
<b>INTEREST EXPENSES:</b>		
Deposits	(21,127,765)	(23,798,324)
Borrowings (Note 15)	(7,020)	(17,036)
Securities sold under repurchase agreements	-	-
Total interest expenses	<u>(21,134,785)</u>	<u>(23,815,360)</u>
Net Interest Income	<u>31,547,783</u>	<u>23,184,551</u>
<b>IMPAIRMENT ON AVAILABLE FOR SALE SECURITIES</b>		
Provision for deposits	(184)	617
Income recovery (provision for loan losses)	14,785	22,835
Income recovery (provision for losses on securities held until maturity)	4,615,777	(846,962)
Provision for investments at FVOCI	(6,452,547)	740,365
Net interest income (loss) after impairment loss on financial assets	<u>29,725,614</u>	<u>23,101,406</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>		
Net realized gain on sale of investment at FVOCI (Note 8)	(101,303)	1,808,632
Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange	4,504,328	6,822,792
Commissions from banking services	1,406,437	448,117
Commissions expense	(35,915)	(64,474)
Total other income (expenses)	<u>5,773,547</u>	<u>9,015,067</u>
<b>GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and other benefits	(428,361)	(293,471)
Depreciation and Amortization (Note 12)	(30,880)	(39,337)
Other operating expenses (Note 20, 21)	(3,539,324)	(4,227,500)
Total general and administrative expenses	<u>(3,998,565)</u>	<u>(4,560,308)</u>
Net income before tax	<u>31,500,596</u>	<u>27,556,165</u>
Tax on profits (Note 22)	(615,006)	(601,123)
Net income for the year ended	<u>30,885,590</u>	<u>26,955,042</u>
<b>OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)</b>		
Items that are or may be reclassified to the statements of income		
Fair value reserve:		
Debt investment - Net change in fair value	(195,802,218)	(25,182,570)
Debt investment - Net amount transferred to profit or loss	101,303	(1,808,632)
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>(195,700,915)</u>	<u>(26,991,202)</u>
Total comprehensive income	<u>(164,815,325)</u>	<u>(36,160)</u>
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements		

## Food Kitchen to reopen Saturday following break-in

The National Soup Kitchen, which provides free hot meals daily to the less fortunate of society, will return to full operation on Saturday following a break-in this week that disrupted its operations.

Operated by a group headed by Inspector Veldon Raggette, the soup kitchen was broken into on Tuesday evening during which thieves made off with food items, seasoning and ten of the pans from which the food is served.

According to Raggette, some limited food service continued on Wednesday, but the operations closed for Thursday and will close today (Friday) as well. However, when the news of the



break-in was made public, there was a spontaneous response from members of the public to assist.

“The Social Protection Unit in the Ministry of Social Transformation as well as BWA Yachting of English Harbour came to the rescue

of the Soup Kitchen by donating a significant amount of food items to allow for the resumption of the food service operation. Additionally, Dr Jumaane Francis of Family Dentistry made a \$500.00 donation to help replace the pans,” Raggette reported.

He said the response crystallised in his mind the significance of the operation of the Soup Kitchen and the value many in society give to its operation.

“It is most heart-warming to see the generosity of members of the public to our unfortunate situation. It let me know that there are many individuals who appreciate what we are doing for those who are in need of a daily hot meal,” he exclaimed.

The National Soup Kitchen has been in operation since 2018 and it serves daily meals to an average of seventy persons seven days a week. It does so through the generous donations from members of the public. For example, the pans that were stolen were donated by Works Minister, Maria Vanessa Browne.

He also reported that has been the first such incident since operations began six years ago.



# Local News



## Gov't gives consideration to temporary fix to airport congestion

Government is giving serious consideration to employing a temporary fix to the congestion problem in the arrivals lounge at the VC Bird International Airport especially on days when large international flights arrive within minutes of each other as happens on the weekend.

To this end the Cabinet heard a report from technicians from the Immigration Department and the Tourism Authority accompanied by the principal of a technology company called ZEN, which is interested in providing a fix for reducing the waiting time for passengers arriving in Antigua, especially on weekends.

It was noted that passengers arriving into Antigua and Barbuda are required to complete an E/D Card (Embarkation/Disembarkation Card) which is handed to an Immigration Officer along with the passenger's passport;

the Immigration Officer swipes the barcode within the passenger's passport and then double checks to determine if the data provided by the written card matches the passport data.

The passenger is usually asked how long and where he/she intends to stay. The improved system which the technology firm proposes would have all the information inputted by the passenger as many as 48 hours before arriving in Antigua, freeing the Immigration Officers at the V.C. Bird International from treating long lines of waiting passengers.

Those arriving at the airport would swipe their passports, submit to a camera, and proceed to Customs. The Cabinet considered the cost and the border security concerns before thanking the firm for its presentation. No decisions were taken.

However, Information Minister

Melford Nicholas explained that this measure, if implemented would be a temporary arrangement as a more permanent fix to the problem has been requested from Canadian Bank Notes, the company that supplies the Antigua and Barbuda machine readable passports and other sensitive documentation.

Nicholas said this system that CBN will provide will make for easier access to other critical information as they will be located on platforms provided by CBN.

He could not give a precise timeline when the CBN proposals will be handed in to the government, but the preference is to remain with CBN for the permanent fix to the congestion that will also include kiosks at the airport as well as electronic gates all of which will reduce significantly the time spent in the waiting lines at the airport.

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## Crabbes facility to house mental patients who run afoul of the law

A soon-to-be refurbished facility at Crabbes Peninsula will now be used to house mentally ill individuals who are involved in criminal activity.

Cabinet spokesman, Information Minister Melford Nicholas made the disclosure at Thursday's post-Cabinet briefing in response to a question posed by one of the reporters.

"As the Cabinet brainstormed on Wednesday, we determined perhaps maybe for the short-term, we could re-purpose that facility at Crabbes that is available, in the first instance, to house their individuals who would be taken off the streets, would be held on remand, for whatever reason, and they would not be held amongst the general prison population.

"The question though is this, will that be sufficient? We would now have to look about the type of care that these persons would need, and the right level of personnel to attend to them," he explained.

According to Nicholas it is now for the ministries of health and legal affairs to work out the modalities for the operation of the facility.

For years, there have been issues with mentally ill persons who are either convicted or linked to some sort of criminal ac-

tivity being housed at His Majesty's Prison. Complaints were that neither the prison nor its staff were adequate to deal with these individuals.

Court cases further highlight shortcomings in

the system, with individuals diagnosed with serious mental illnesses being released back into society without adequate support or supervision.

Just last week, the government was ordered by

the High Court to find a suitable detention facility for mentally ill murder accused Ziggy Beazer, who is said to have killed a cellmate at St John's Police Station in December 2021.

*cont'd on pg 6*



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# Local News



## Sex Offender Registry remains elusive

Despite the passing of the Sex Offender Register Bill, residents are still unable to track sex offenders as the system is not yet operational.

But Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin assured residents that work is still being done to have this fully operational.

Benjamin explained that all preparatory work has been completed, with an imminent announcement on the commencement of the process.

The Sex Offenders Register Bill (2022), passed in November, aims to reduce sexual reoffending by

monitoring convicted sex offenders and sharing their information with relevant authorities.

It allows individuals to request confirmation from the Commissioner of Police regarding the sex offender status of a named individual.

While public access to this information is permitted, any misuse carries severe penalties, including a



Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin

fine of \$10,000 or imprisonment for three years for obtaining information under false pretenses, misus-

ing obtained information, or maliciously disseminating details from the register.

### cont'd from pg 5

Many are questioning why so much time elapsed before such action is taken on this longstanding issue and while Nicholas accepts some blame he says moves are now being made.

He said it is 'better late than never' but that the issue of how to properly treat persons with mental health challenges remains an ongoing subject of discussion at the Cabinet level and throughout the government apparatus.

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## Tourism Authority launches major marketing campaign to woo visitors for cricket

In its latest innovative marketing campaign, 'Be', the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is wooing cricket fans and inviting them to immerse themselves in the atmosphere of the game in Antigua and Barbuda.

CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, says "Our 'Be' campaign is about being present in the moment, allowing one's senses to awaken to the variety of experiences Antigua and Barbuda has to offer. From exploring our heritage and vibrant culture to indulging in the thrill of sailing and yachting, finding solace in our wellness havens, or being romanced in our intimate settings, the campaign beckons visitors to be present and embrace every aspect of our unique destination."

The campaign rolls-out this month, with a "Be" video tailored specifically for cricket fans, as Antigua and Barbuda, known for its rich cricketing culture, readies for a summer of fantastic cricket.

"You've got to Be Here!", exclaims noted batsman Sir Richie Richardson, a West Indies cricketing legend and one of the country's cricketing knights, during the "Be" campaign video as he extends a warm invitation to all to experience, the cricketing action, soak up the 'cricket carnival' atmosphere Antigua and Barbuda is famed for and "be a part

of the game" in his homeland.

Antigua and Barbuda astronaut Keisha Schahaff, the first person in the world to go to space with her daughter, also makes an appearance in the video that plays on elements of the "Out of this World" ICC T20 Men's Cricket World Cup Campaign. The ICC T20 Men's Cricket World Cup comes to Antigua this June.

In the video, a cricket ball is sighted in space, only to make a dramatic appearance on a stunning beach in Antigua, to the delight of young children. From Shirley Heights to Nelson's Dockyard, then spotted at a quaint fruit stall, a busy restaurant, tranquil spa, and beyond, with the sounding of the conch shell as its rallying call, the cricket ball's journey incites excitement and anticipation amongst everyone it comes into contact with, setting the stage for an unforgettable cricketing experience.

The Be Here cricket campaign will be released across key source markets for Antigua and Barbuda, targeting potential travellers interested in cricket. It will appear in digital, print, social media and radio advertising for the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup isn't the only prestigious cricket tournament coming to Antigua and Barbuda this year. The Fair-Break T20 Challenge will



Honorary Indian Consul Vijay Tewani participated in the street session on Thursday as part of the Trophy Tour in St. John's.

celebrate Women's Cricket in July. Then, from August 28 – October 6 the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL24) will take place across the Caribbean, with key matches in Antigua, the birthplace of 'party cricket'. In November, England's Men's Cricket will once again tour the West Indies for a white ball series, with fixtures and matches across Antigua and the Caribbean.

View the 'Be' campaign's cricket video here. The video was shot on location in Antigua and Barbuda by creative agency The Vi-

sual Echo.

The full schedule of the upcoming ICC T20 Fixtures taking place in Antigua are:

9th June, 2024 - Oman vs Scotland

11th June, 2024 - Australia vs Namibia

13th June, 2024 - England vs Oman

15th June, 2024 - Namibia vs England

19th June, 2024 – A2 vs D1

20th June, 2024 – B2 vs D2

22nd June, 2024 – A1 vs D2

23rd June, 2024 - C2 vs D1



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# Obituary



## Reflections of Comrade Robert S. Josiah

By Comrade Jermaine P. Lewis

*Through all the changing scenes of life,  
In trouble and in joy,  
The praises of my God shall still  
My heart and tongue employ.*

The constituency of All Saints East and St. Luke regrettably announce the passing of Comrade Robert “Robbie” Josiah.

Com. Robert Josiah was affectionately known to the constituency, constituents, friends and family members as Robbie.

He last resided in Old

Road Village, where he took his church, community and Constituency to heart.

Oftentimes, Mr. Josiah would be seen adorned in a red t-shirt or red dress shirt neatly tucked in place, depending on the occasion. Such attire reflected his political affiliation; the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party. HE WAS A PROUD LABOURITE!

Upon our introduction from a mutual friend, who is also deceased (Dede or Bandid); Robbie would voice to him “although you support the wrong side you’re still my friendly fisherman and neighbor” they both would



Comrade Robbie Josiah and Jermaine P. Lewis on V.C Bird Day 2023

share a hearty laugh. He did not mince words nor relented his opinion.

Late 2019, when I took the position of vying to become the caretaker of the Constituency of All Saints East and St. Luke, I was summoned to have an audience with him. I wondered why! The two-member team I had at the moment was no match to challenge Comrade Robbie. In wisdom, I secured a third person.

Eric “aka Jerry or Bugga” Murraine, David “aka Campaign king Pinny” James and I became the vying team.

Now, I was prepared for the challenge. Jerry and Pinny had no inclination what I was doing.

*I prepared my recitation that night, knowing I was*

*about to meet Labour Party itself; Com. Robbie Josiah.*

That Sunday afternoon, fostered comradery amongst comrades, advisor to my campaign, a father to daughter, one constituent to the other and finally a friendship like no other.

I was dubbed by Comrade Josiah, the saving grace of our constituency. There was no hesitancy in him expressing those sentiments to constituents and leaders of ABLP. He devoured my philosophy for the greater constituency and supported the methodology of execution. He was proud of what I stood for. He would often say, “Ah John Hughes, you come fram; John Hughes people nuh afraid no baddi.”

I became the saving ***cont’d on pg 11***



Comrade Robbie Josiah, Jermaine P. Lewis, and Hon. Sir Molwyn Joseph at the Thanksgiving service for Mr. Stevens.

# Obituary



*cont'd from pg 10*

grace for the constituency and constituents in his view.

During the heightened period of the pandemic, I would check in on his household from a distance. Mrs. Josiah would answer the telephone; I would often have to explain who I was, until one astonishing day, all I heard was, "Your representative is on the phone." At which point, I was participating in mental backflips.

Learning more about his life, he was A giant of a man. A gentle man. A statesman. A noble man. A charismatic man. A businessman. A family man. Most importantly, A man of God.

Many friends and colleagues would recall his pioneering contributions as an employee at State Insurance. He fought for the less fortunate in our society, no matter the political affiliation. His teaching also included never to become prejudiced; discriminating against anyone was a sin. For God made us all equally.

As I watched him deteriorate in memory and body mass, I knew one day the memories would become the leading remains of a noble man.

He insisted on the retention of The People's Flag and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Creed; both should be my driving force in representing the

constituency. To date, I proudly personify both.

That dreadful day came on Easter Monday while socializing within the constituency, a text message sharing "Hi. I just learned that Comrade Josiah passed." A few members of my campaign team and constituents were at the domino table when I broke the news. A lull ensued!

Amplified in my spirit was "When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."

I was comforted!

Such peace cocooned me; I knew Comrade Josiah found eternal peace not only with man but with God.

To his beloved wife, Mrs. Josiah; thank you for sharing your life partner for over 50 jubilant years with us. To his children, you all were his pride and joy. To his extended family, continue to epitomize the statesman, the noble man and overall, was the Godly man.

To the community of Old Road, I implore you to continuously live in harmony and love. For love covers a multitude of sin. To my Campaign Team, we will continuously visit, care for, and support all persons in our constituency. To the constituency of All Saints East

and St. Luke let us Keep the Charge in Changing lives; finding liberty and giving hope to "human rights and human gain."

Constituents, comrades, colleagues, friends and family let us unite by "raising the scarlet standard high because beneath its folds we choose to live and die. Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer; We will keep the Red Flag flying high."

Comrades, family, and friends of Our dearly departed Comrade Robert 'Robbie' Josiah : Cmd. Rufus Lewis, Cdm. Harold Carter, Mr. Hilroy Humphreys, The Executive Branch of All Saints East and St. Luke to include past representatives, Sen. Osbert Fredrick, Sen. Mary-Clare Hurst, Amb. Lionell 'Max' Hurst, Sir. Hugh Marshall Sr, Sir. Robin Yearwood Sr, Sir. Molwyn Joseph, Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, Sen. Samantha Marshall, Melvin 'Mel' Greene Sr, Kenry Simon, Joseph "Joe Barrow" Thomas, Juliette "Junie" Richards, Luther Lee, Denley 'Kimba' Payne, Audley 'Beef' Joseph, Everton Barnes, The Josiah, Parker, Joseph, Browne, Philip, Carlisle, Hastings, Francis, Benjamin, Thomas Families and a host of many others he spent time with.

Solidarity Forever Comrade Robert "Robbie" Josiah. Sleep in Perpetual Peace.

# Opinion



## Is Ecuador's expulsion from the UN really the answer to the diplomatic crisis with Mexico?

By Sir Ronald Sanders

The Mexican government has taken the significant step of asking the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to “suspend Ecuador as member of the United Nations” and also to “initiate the process of expulsion under article 6 of the United Nations Charter”.

Mexico took this action in response to the forced entry by Ecuadorian police into its embassy in Quito on April 5.

Acting under direct orders from the Ecuadorian government, the police sought to arrest Jorge Glas, a former Vice President who had been granted refuge in the embassy.

Many in the diplomatic community, including myself, strongly supported Mexico in condemning Ecuador's incursion into the Mexican Embassy.

We also empathised with Mexico's decision on April 6 to sever diplomatic relations over the 'flagrant and serious violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, specifically, the violations pertaining to the principle of inviolability of Mexico's diplomatic premises and personnel, along with the basic rules of international coexistence.

That strong collective response underscored the gravity of the breach of such a fundamental international norm.

At the very least, the

Ecuadorian government should have apologized for its breach of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and customary international law.

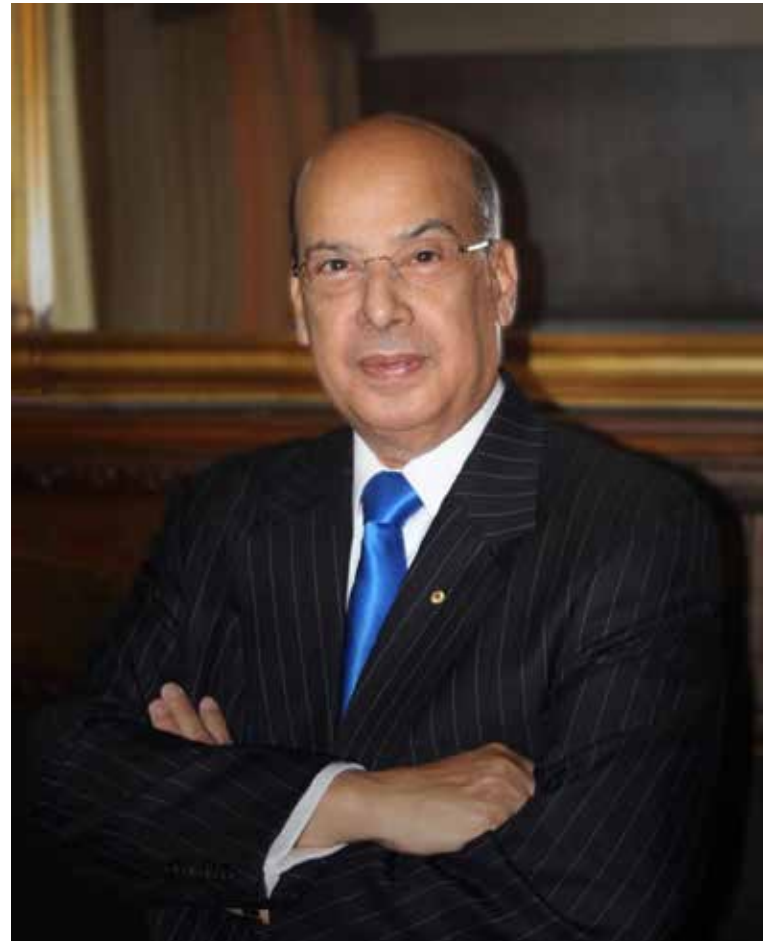
As my colleague and friend Héctor Arce Zaconeta, the Ambassador of Bolivia, emphasized in an article in *La Razón* on April 17, the normalization of such events could erode one of the fundamental pillars of international law: the absolute inviolability of diplomatic premises, thereby undermining the progress made in international law thus far.

Despite the gravity of the situation, Ecuador has not issued an apology. In the absence of such an acknowledgment, Mexico's decision to seek redress at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is justified. However, the proposal to expel Ecuador from the United Nations should be considered carefully.

Such a drastic measure requires a mature approach, balancing the need for accountability with the broader implications for international relations.

Moving forward, a sincere apology from Ecuador for invading the Embassy would be a crucial first step in mending the fractured relations between the two countries.

At the same time, the ancillary issue regarding the legality of the asylum grant-



Sir Ronald Sanders

ed by Mexico to Jorge Glas, the former Vice President of Ecuador, also needs to be tackled.

The Ecuadorian government contests the legality of this asylum, citing an outstanding arrest warrant against Glas for ongoing corruption allegations.

This complex issue, entangled with claims of political persecution versus criminal evasion, should rightly be adjudicated by the ICJ.

However, in its application to the ICJ to institute proceedings against Ecuador and its request for provisional measures, Mexico is asking the Court, “to sus-

pend Ecuador as member of the United Nations” until it issues a public apology recognizing its violations to the fundamental principles and norms of international law”.

The Government of Ecuador should spare itself and the Court the agony of examining this matter by issuing an apology for the invasion of the Embassy. It would be the right thing to do and would go a far way in easing the tension between the two countries and setting the pathway to normalising their relations.

In its submission, Mexico is also asking the ICJ “to set a precedent stating that

*cont'd on pg 13*

*cont'd from pg 12*

a State or nation that acts as Ecuador did in the present case will ultimately be expelled from the United Nations in accordance with the procedure foreseen under Article 6 of the United Nations Charter”.

It would be truly regrettable if the dispute between Mexico and Ecuador intensified to such an extent, particularly as Article 6 states: “A Member of the United Nations which has persistently violated the Principles contained in the present Charter may be expelled from the Organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.”

The Article clearly envisaged that the decision to

expel a member state would be a political decision residing first in a recommendation of the Security Council and a vote by the General Assembly, based on “persistent violations of the UN Charter”.

It is difficult to imagine the ICJ abrogating to itself an authority that the UN Charter gives only to the member states, particularly as the incident of invading the Mexican Embassy, while wholly egregious and unacceptable, has not happened in Ecuador before and is hardly a “persistent violation” of the UN Charter; it is more a demonstration of a badly considered political decision, which could be remedied by an appropriate apology and reparation for

any damage done to the Embassy.

The Court will hold hearings on April 30 and May 1 to consider Mexico’s request for provisional measures against Ecuador pending a final judgment in the case.

There is still time for Ecuador to step forward with an apology and for both nations to seek the Court’s arbitration, concerning the status of Jorge Glas and the validity of granting him political asylum.

It is notable that Mexico and Ecuador have no history of hostilities or tensions prior to this incident.

There is every basis for a mature approach to resolving this matter if Ecuador accepts responsibility and

apologizes for the invasion of the Mexican Embassy, and the two governments seek legal arbitration concerning their differing interpretations of the law concerning political asylum.

Within the international community, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean need inclusivity and unity of purpose to advance their collective interests.

All should work to help Ecuador and Mexico to resolve this issue in the collective interest of the peoples of the area.

*(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sirronaldsanders.com](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*



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# Regional News



## Cuba and US hold migration talks

The Government of Cuba has reaffirmed its willingness to comply with policies established in a bilateral agreement with the United States concerning irregular migration.

This was the outcome of talks held earlier this week in Washington DC, attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío Domínguez who headed the Cuban delegation and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for the State Department's Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs Eric Jacobstein who



led the US delegation.

The Cuban delegation reaffirmed its willingness

to comply with and respect, as it has done to date, the commitments established

and reiterated its concern over the policies and measures to encourage irregular migration that remain in place as a result of a political decision by the US Government.

During the meeting, Cuba again denounced the negative impact that the US economic blockade and its extreme reinforcement applied since 2019, exert on the socioeconomic conditions of the Cuban population, a factor that constitutes an important incentive to migration.

In this regard the following was highlighted: keeping the country on the so-called List of State Sponsors of Terrorism, the preferential treatment still received by Cubans who illegally enter US territory and the validity of the Cuban Adjustment Act.

The Cuban delegation also reiterated the importance of reestablishing the

*cont'd on pg 15*

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## Dominica: Judge denies bail to US national charged with murder

CMC - High Court judge, Colin Williams, on Thursday denied bail to United States national Jonathan Lehrer, one of two American nationals charged with the murders of famed Canadian animator Daniel Langlois, 66, and his long-time partner Dominique Marchand, 58.

Lehrer had sought bail in order to travel overseas for medical treatment.

However, the Director of Public Prosecution (DPP), Sherma Dalrymple, speaking to reporters following the “in camera” hearing, said Justice Williams had denied the request for the accused to travel to Texas in the United States to obtain medical care.

She said that the application had been heavily opposed by the DPP and the state’s team that included Trinidad-based attorney Keith Scotland, the special prosecutor.

“Today Justice Colin Williams ruled after hearing arguments on Monday, April 8, that there was no just cause to grant the applicant bail and also the requirement of the Bail Act had not been met for the

granting of bail”.

The DPP said that she is of the view that Justice Williams’ ruling “focused heavily on the public interest, which was considered ... under section 4 of the Bail Act, (and) so the requirements which were not met”.

Asked whether the accused could re-apply for bail at a later stage, the DPP said “in matters of that nature from my experience when bail is not granted at the first instance, where there is a change of circumstance and an application is brought before the court another application can be made”.

Dalrymple said that the prosecution intends to have the trial start at the September Assizes, “because we go back to court to present paper committal bundles in July,” adding that the evidence against the accused men has to be made available to the defence by June 18.

In December last year, murder charges were filed against Lehrer, 57, and 62-year-old Robert Snyder Jr., over the deaths of animation pioneer and Quebec philanthropist Daniel Lan-



glois and his partner.

The prosecution alleges that between November 29 and December 2, 2023, the two Americans murdered Langlois and his partner Marchand. Their bodies were found incinerated in a car near Gallion, in the south of the island where they owned a hotel. Langlois and Marchand had been reported missing for several days.

The Americans were not required to enter a plea in the magistrate’s court, since murder is an indictable offence and can only be tried before a judge and jury at the High Court.

In December last year, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said that a special

prosecutor would be appointed to deal with the murders, saying then, “I have every confidence in the justice system to administer this matter fairly and above board.”

Lehrer and Langlois had fought bitterly over the use of a road that sliced through the former’s property on the Bois Cotlette Estate, one of the oldest plantations in Dominica. But the High Court had ruled that the road was public.

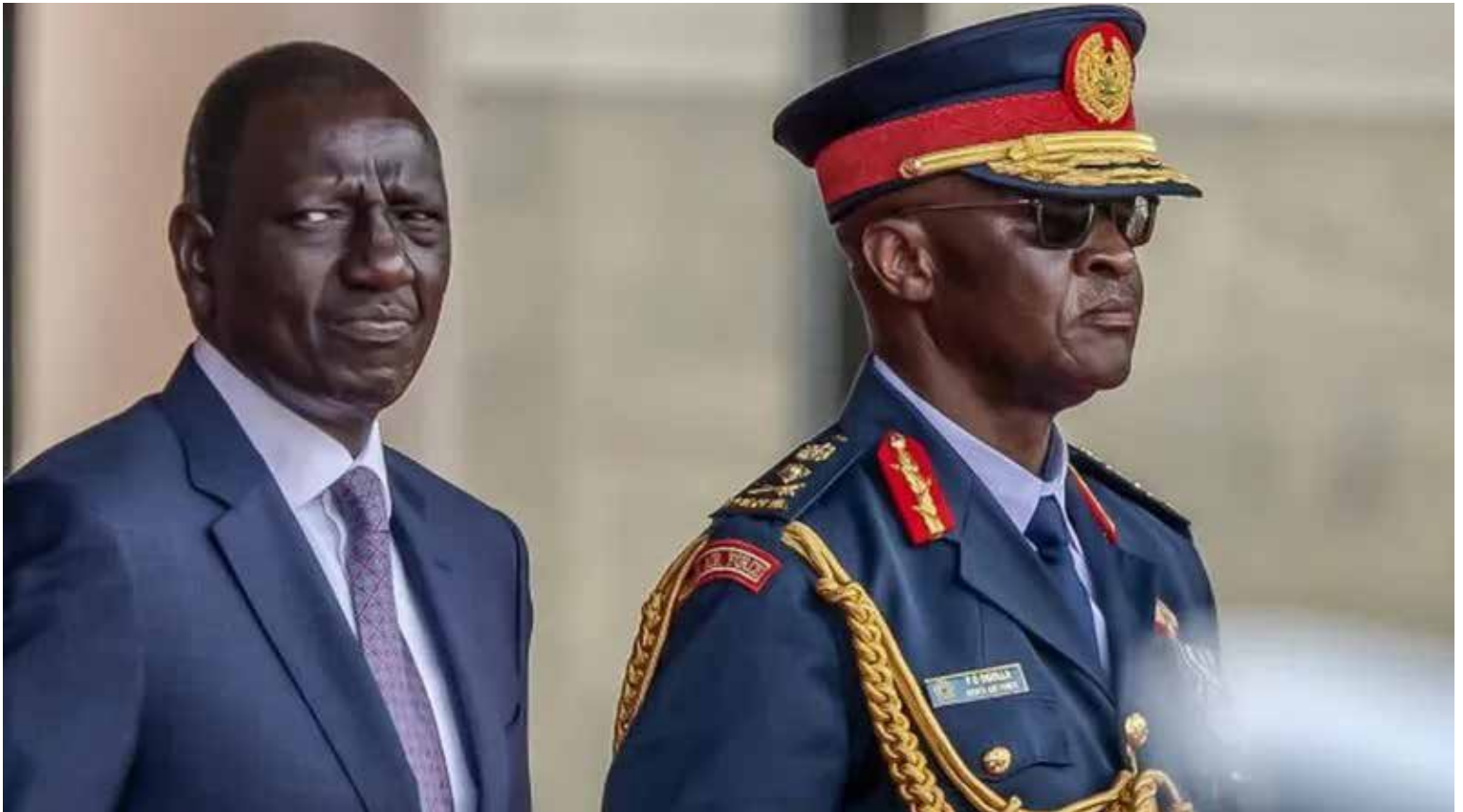
Langlois had made a fortune developing cutting-edge 3D animation software for the company he founded, Softimage, that was used in Hollywood blockbusters such as “Jurassic Park,” “Star Wars,” and “The Matrix.”

In 1994, he sold his company to Microsoft, and three years later was awarded a scientific and technical Oscar, according to his foundation’s website.

### *cont’d from pg 14*

processing of non-immigrant visas at the US Embassy in Havana, a consular facility that would prevent the movement to third countries of Cuban citizens interested in this type of visa.

Cuba also pointed to the importance of complying with bilateral migration agreements in their entirety and not selectively, and reaffirmed its willingness to continue the rounds of talks on migration issues with the United States.



President Ruto is seen with the chief of the Kenya Defence Forces General Francis Ogolla in this photo on 28 February.

## Kenya helicopter crash kills country's military chief

Kenya's military chief, Gen Francis Omondi Ogolla, has died after a military helicopter crashed in the west of the country, the president said.

Ogolla - Kenya's highest ranking military officer - was in the helicopter alongside 11 other military personnel. Only two people survived.

In a news conference, President William Ruto said it was a "moment of great sadness" for the country.

He had earlier convened an urgent security council meeting.

The crash happened at 14:20 (11:20 GMT), Mr Ruto said. The Kenyan air force has dispatched an air investigation team to establish the cause.

The helicopter came down in Elgeyo Marakwet county, some 400km (250 miles) north-west of the capital Nairobi, shortly after take off, Mr Ruto said.

Ogolla was appointed in April of last year after serving as the commander of the air force and deputy chief of defence forces.

Mr Ruto described his chief military adviser as a gallant officer who had died in the line of duty.

"Our motherland has lost one of her most valiant generals, gallant officers, service men and women," Mr Ruto told the nation.

Kenya will observe a three-day period of mourning, commencing on Friday, with flags flying at half-mast.

Ogolla first joined the Kenya Defence Forces on 24 April 1984, according to the Kenyan defence ministry's website.

He was due to mark 40 years in the military next week.

He began his career as a 2nd lieutenant in the country's air force, where

he trained as a fighter pilot with the US air force, the ministry says. In 2018, he became commander of the air force.

Nine others killed in the crash were named as Brig Swale Saidi, Col Duncan Keittany, Lt Col David Sawe, Maj George Benson Magondu, Capt Sora Mohamed, Capt Hillary Litali, Snr Sgt John Kinyua Mureithi, Sgt Cliphonce Omondi, and Sgt Rose Nyawira.

Moussa Faki Mahamat, chair of the African Union Commission, said its "thoughts and prayers" went out to Kenya's president, government and people following the "tragic helicopter accident".

The two survivors are in critical condition and undergoing treatment.

The officers had travelled to Kenya's North Rift region, which has been

*cont'd on pg 17*





US soldiers seen at Rzeszow-Jasionka Airport in 2022.

## Man arrested in Poland over alleged Russia plot to kill Zelensky

By Ido Vack

A Polish man has been arrested and charged with planning to co-operate with Russian intelligence services to aid a possible assassination of Volodymyr Zelensky, authorities said.

Polish prosecutors said the man, named as Pawel K, was allegedly tasked with collecting information about an airport in Poland used by Ukraine's president.

The arrest was made on the basis of Ukrainian intelligence, they added.

Authorities did not specify whether the man actually passed any information on.

He could face up to eight years in prison if found guilty. The suspect is in custody and the investigation is ongoing.

In a statement, Polish prosecutors alleged Pawel K had offered his services to Russian military intelligence. He contacted Russians "directly involved in the war in Ukraine," they added.

They said Pawel K had been tasked with collecting information about security at Rzeszow-Jasionka Airport in south-east Poland.

Before the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Rz-

eszow-Jasionka Airport was a small regional airport. But it has since become a key hub in the vast operation to supply Western military aid to Ukraine.

Military and cargo aircraft from the US and across Europe regularly fly in and out of the airport to deliver supplies to waiting trucks that make the 100km (62 mile) journey to the Ukrainian border.

Ukrainian airspace is closed to most flights, so leaders travelling in and out of the country tend to fly in to neighbouring countries such as Poland and travel on

to Kyiv by train.

Mr Zelensky is known to have flown out of Rzeszow-Jasionka on foreign visits. In December 2022, he flew back to the airport after a visit to Washington. Other foreign dignitaries, such as US President Joe Biden, have transited via the airport on their way to Ukraine.

Last year, Polish authorities said they had arrested a group of foreign citizens on suspicion of spying for Russia. They were reported to have installed dozens of cameras, including some around Rzeszow-Jasionka Airport.

On Thursday, neighbouring Germany arrested two alleged Russian spies suspected of planning to sabotage German military aid for Ukraine.

*cont'd from pg 16*  
plagued by banditry.

They were on a mission to reopen some of the schools closed following bandit attacks.

They had also visited military officers deployed to stabilise the region.

In June 2021 at least 10 soldiers were killed when their helicopter crashed while landing near the capital, Nairobi.

## More success for Stoneville in men's volleyball league

Reigning champions Stoneville continued their winning form in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABA-VA) Men's Division 1 Local League on Wednesday night.

The defending men's division champs notched up their sixth win in seven games by cruising to a 3-0 victory against the Sharks at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Stoneville won 25-8, 25-17, and 25-22 in approximately an hour as the Sharks suffered their fifth loss in six games.

Invaders secured their second win in seven games with a 3-0 victory against TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity.

The Invaders prevailed 25-16, 27-25, and 25-18 against the Chargers Velocity in an hour and 29 minutes.

The Chargers Velocity remain in the cellar of the men's Division 1 round-robin league without a win after



The Stoneville men's volleyball squad crashing to their seventh defeat in as many games.

The Top-Ranking Storming Lions claimed their fourth win in six games with a straight-set 3-0 victory against Print Xpress Renegades.

The Lions stormed to

victory in one hour and 15 minutes, prevailing 25-20, 25-11, and 25-21 to send the Renegades to their third loss in seven games.

High Flyerz 1 taught their junior colleagues, High Flyerz 2 Phoenix, a lesson in soaring to their third win in

five games.

High Flyerz 1 soared to victory in an hour and 15 minutes, winning the encounter with scores of 25-20, 25-16, and 25-23. It was the third loss in six games for the High Flyerz 2 Phoenix.

## Results of matches in Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League

Defending Under-7 champions Pigotts Bullets dropped points for the first time but extended their unbeaten run during the latest round of matches in the Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League.

After winning their previous four encounters, the Pigotts Bullets were held to a 1-1 draw by the Generation Next Football Club (GNFC) Rebels A in a top-of-the-table clash during the

fifth week of matches at St. Anthony's Secondary School at Langfords.

Both teams remain jointly tied at the top of the Under-7 division standings with 13 points and identical records of four wins and a draw after five matches.

GNFC Rebels 1 and CPTSA Wings FC both recorded wins in the other Under-7 division encounters.

The GNFC Rebels 1 claimed their

second win in five games with a 3-0 win against TAMO FC, which lost for the fourth time in five games.

The CPTSA Wings FC won for the third time in five outings by securing a 3-0 win against the Young Warriors FC, which remained in the cellar after losing for the fifth time in as many games.

Last year's third-place finishers

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Wins for Spanish Heat and Da Project in ABBA's leagues

Spanish Heat recorded their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) First Division League on Wednesday night.

The Spanish Heat won for the second time in eight games by pulling off a 70-61 victory against Kennedy's Club Ottos Full Throttle in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Steven Matthew converted 20 points and claimed five rebounds; Kelvyn Pimental sank 14 points and snatched five rebounds; Antonio Cruz scored 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds; and Bernard Andrew chipped in with nine points and seven rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

Morlon Davis converted 22 points and snatched nine rebounds; Warren Bogle produced 13 points, 11 rebounds,



seven steals, and five rebounds; and Shaquille Kelly had 11 points and eight rebounds for the Ottos Full Throttle, which lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Da Project recorded their sixth win

in seven encounters in ABBA's Division 2 League by snatching a narrow 67-65 victory against the Old Road Daggars in the first game of Wednesday's a double header.

Bryan Matthew sank 22 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Eric Joseph sank 17 points and snatched 13 rebounds; and Nyique Watkins had 13 points and nine assists; and Tyler Jacobs scored 10 points and claimed 10 rebounds for Da Project.

Braulio Loper converted 20 points and snatched six rebounds; Kelvin Simon sank 17 points and grabbed 16 rebounds; Kedar Clarke produced 15 points, 15 rebounds, and five steals; and Craig Thomas scored nine points and claimed five rebounds for the Old Road Daggars, who lost for the fourth time in eight games.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

in the Under-9 Division, Pigotts Bullets FC, had their unbeaten run ended by CPTSA Wings FC.

CPTSA Wings FC claimed their third win in five encounters by snatching a 2-1 victory against the Pigotts Bullets FC, which lost for the first time in five matches.

Reigning Under-9 division champions, the GNFC Rebels, won for the fourth time in five outings, snatching a 1-0 victory against Five Islands FC, which lost for the third time in five matches.

The Young Warriors FC claimed their first win in five matches with a 3-0 victory against TAMO FC,

which remained in the cellar of the Under-9 Division after suffering their fifth loss in as many games.

The reigning champions, the GNFC Rebels 1, extended their unbeaten run in the Under-11 division.

The GNFC Rebels 1 claimed their third win in as many games with a 3-0 victory against TAMO FC, which remained in the cellar after losing for the fourth time in as many games.

The Young Warriors FC won for the third time in four matches by romping to a 6-2 victory against the GNFC Rebels A, who lost for the second time in four games.

CPTSA Wings FC 1 also claimed their third win

in four encounters with a 2-0 victory against Pigotts Bullets FC, which lost for the first time in three matches.

Five Islands FC recorded their first win in four matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against CPTSA Wings FC A, which lost for the third time in as many games.

Reigning Under-13 Division champions Villa Lions were beaten in their latest outing, falling to a 6-2 defeat against GNFC Rebels A.

The Pigotts Bullets FC snatched a 3-2 victory against GNFC Rebels 1, the Greenbay Hoppers FC romped to a 3-0 win against Jennings Ebenezer FC, and

CPTSA Wings FC claimed a 3-0 victory against TAMO FC in the other matches in the Under-13 division.

Five Islands FC extended their unbeaten run in the Under-15 division during the latest round of matches. Five Islands notched up their third win in four matches by snatching a 2-1 victory against Cutting Edge FC.

Five Islands FC also played to a 1-1 draw with Old Road FC in another encounter. Old Road FC also secured a 2-2 draw with CPTSA Wings in another Under-15 division affair.

The Greenbay Hoppers claimed their first win in three games with a 3-0 victory against Jennings Ebenezer FC.

# Sports News



## Matthews' heroics lead West Indies Women to win over Pakistan

West Indies Women's captain Hayley Matthews delivered a stellar all-round performance to lead her team to a commanding 113-run victory over Pakistan Women in the first One Day International (ODI) at the National Stadium in Karachi on Thursday.

Matthews played a pivotal role in setting up the win, first with the bat and then with the ball. She showcased her batting prowess by scoring an impressive unbeaten 140 runs, anchoring the West Indies' innings to a challenging total of 269 for eight in their allotted 50 overs. Matthews' innings was decorated with 15 boundaries (fours) and a well-struck six.

After losing an early wicket, Matthews combined forces with Shemaine



Hayley Matthews scored an unbeaten 140 as the West Indies Women beat Pakistan Women by 113 runs in the first One-Day International in Karachi, Pakistan, on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

Campbell to forge a crucial partnership of 102 runs for the second wicket. Campbell contributed a valuable 45 runs to the cause before departing.

Chinelle Henry (23) and contributions from Chedean Nation and Aaliyah Henry, who scored 17 each, further solidified the West Indies' innings, as Matthews led

from the front, steering her team to a formidable total.

In response, Pakistan Women struggled to build partnerships against the disciplined West Indies bowling attack. Tuba Hassan top-scored with 25 runs, while Muneeba Ali and Nahida Alvi made contributions of 22 and 20 runs, respectively.

However, it was Matthews who turned the game decisively in her team's favour with the ball, claiming three crucial wickets for just 17 runs.

Afy Fletcher and Zaida James also made significant contributions with the ball, picking up two wickets each to bundle out Pakistan Women for 156 runs in 35.5 overs.

Sadia Iqbal (two for 38) and Tuba Hassan (two for 48) were the standout bowlers for Pakistan, but they couldn't contain Matthews' brilliance.

With this commanding victory, West Indies Women have taken a 1-0 lead in the three-match ODI series against Pakistan Women, setting the stage for an exciting contest in the upcoming matches.

## Golden Grove continue to dominate Primary School Cup

Reigning three-peat champions Golden Grove continued to dominate the Primary School Cup football competition.

Golden Grove extended their unbeaten run when the competition resumed following a two-week break to facilitate the annual Easter vacation.

The defending champions continued their winning form in Group A by claiming their third win in as many games with a 2-0 victory against Jennings Primary during the third round of matches at the Golden Grove playing field.

Five Islands Primary notched up their second win in as many games with a 7-1 drubbing of Old Road Primary.

In the other Group A matches, Bendals Primary snatched a 3-2 victory against Foundation Mixed School, which lost for the third time in as many games, and Olivia David and Urlings Primary battled to a goalless draw.

St. Peters Primary made it three wins in as many games in Group B at Buckley's Primary School's playing field, prevailing 3-2 against CT Samuel Primary.

Goals by Johnathan Duberry and Shaheem George and an own goal by Tydick Dalrymple gave St. Peters Primary their latest win. Jahiem Francis and Malachai De Castro scored for CT Samuel Primary.

Sherwin Martin scored five goals, and Asante Warner scored twice to lead Cobbs Cross Primary to a 7-0 drubbing of Buckley's Primary.

But Freeman's Village and JT. Ambrose Primary could only battle their way to a 2-2 draw. Rayon Nicholas scored both goals for JT. Ambrose

*cont'd on pg 21*

## Freeman's Village move closer to winning Second Division title

Freemans Village took another step towards winning the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Wednesday.

Freeman's Village extended their lead at the top of the Second Division to five points after being awarded a 3-0 victory against West Ham by default.

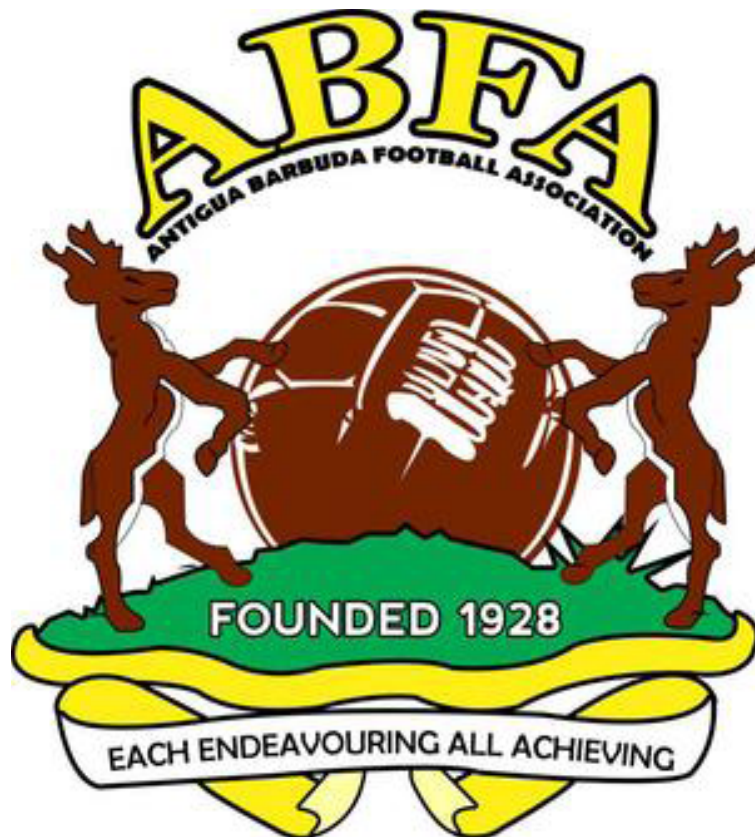
The ABFA claimed it awarded Freeman's Village the win by a three-nil margin after the West Ham Football Club indicated it would not play that match, which was a rescheduled fixture.

The result gave Freeman's Village their 15th win in 18 matches to advance to 45 points, five ahead of their closest rivals, FC Master Ballerz and Sea View Farm.

Freeman's Village will secure the Second Division title and automatic promotion to the First Division by winning their one remaining match.

The result also meant that West Ham finished their Second Division campaign with 15 points after losing for the 12th time in their quota of 19 matches.

FC Master Ballerz also



benefitted with a win by default after ABAYA failed to show up for their encounter at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos. The result allows FC Master Ballerz to overtake Sea View Farm on goal difference and move into second place with both teams tied on 40 points.

Their 12th win in 18 matches means FC Master Ballerz have one game remaining, while Sea View Farm have two matches left to play.

ABAYA will remain on six points after losing for the 16th time in 18 matches.

Belmont FC ended their Second Division campaign with a 4-0 victory against TAMO FC at the Golden Grove playing field.

Jahvier Joseph scored twice with conversions in the 50th and 60th minutes. The other goals were scored by Zamaal Greene in the 38th minute and Jamal Spencer in the 78th minute.

Belmont ended their quo-

ta of 19 matches, including nine wins, with 30 points. TAMO FC remains on 20 points after losing for the ninth time in 17 matches.

Jennings United and Bolans played to a goalless draw in the ABFA's First Division encounter at Jennings on Wednesday. However, after the game ended, the referee issued a red card to Tahari Peters of Bolans for using offensive, insulting, and abusive language.

The result meant Jennings United will remain in fifth place by advancing to 25 points after drawing for the fourth time in 14 matches.

Bolans will remain in seventh place by advancing to 14 points after drawing for the second time in 15 matches. Attacking Saints moved into third place in the First Division with an 8-0 drubbing of the bottom team, the Young Lions of Old Road, at the ABFA Technical Center on Tuesday.

Their 10th win in 17 matches carries the Attacking Saints to 33 points, while the Young Lions remain in the cellar with nine points after losing for the 13th time in 16 matches.

*cont'd from pg 20*

Primary, while Dimique James and D'Jani Richards each scored once for Freeman's Village Primary.

Last year's second-place finishers, TN. Kirnon Primary, continued their winning run in Group C, coasting to a 4-0 victory against Villa Primary at the

TN. Kirnon Primary School playing field to make it three wins in as many games.

It was the third defeat in as many games for Villa Primary. New Winthorpes Primary claimed their second win in as many matches in Group C with a 1-0 win against Sunnyside Tu-

torial School.

But after winning their two previous matches, Potters Primary was held to a goalless draw by Greenbay Primary.

Pigotts Primary snatched a 2-1 victory against Pares Primary in the other Group C affair.

## Anglers compete in Antigua sports fishing tournament

Anglers from across the Caribbean are competing in the 56th Annual Antigua and Barbuda Sports Fishing Tournament.

The tournament, which is being held at the Falmouth Harbour Marina on April 18 and 19, follows the Mikie Pigott Jr. Memorial Classic that took place on Wednesday.

A number of boats, including several entrants from other Caribbean islands, are taking part in the competitions.

Among them are Team Douglas and Team Touloulou from Guadeloupe. Team Douglas won the 2018 Marlin Division Champion Boat title.

Anglers in the Antigua and Barbuda Sports Fishing Tournament are competing in two categories, the Marlin Division and Sports or Pelagic Fish Division.

With the support of sponsor Anjo Insurance Agency, the team that breaks the current blue marlin record will win a brand new Nissan Frontier PRO 4X pickup truck and a brand new 16-foot Eduardono boat powered by



Team Touloulou from Guadeloupe is one of the boats competing in the ABSFA tournament. (Photo courtesy ABSFA)

a 70-horsepower Yamaha outboard engine with trailer.

The brand new truck and boat are worth US\$100,000. The current record for the largest blue marlin is 771.25 lbs.

The angler with the largest marlin, 450 pounds and above, will receive EC\$10,000. The champion boat will also receive EC\$10,000.

In the Sports or Pelagic Fish Division, the champi-

on boat, which will be decided by the poundage, will receive EC\$2,000, while the boat that finishes in the runners-up position will be rewarded with EC\$1,000.

Cash prizes will also be presented to the anglers with the largest and second largest tuna, wahoo, dolphin, and kingfish.

A number of sponsors are partnering with the ABSFA to stage the event. They include Anjo Insurances, agents for Massy

United; Falmouth Harbour Marina; Premier Beverages, agents for Cavalier Rum and Oasis Water; Outdoor World, agents for Yamaha; and Anjo Wholesale, agents for Heineken and Grace Foods.

Other sponsors are Antigua Masonry Products, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Calvin Air Helicopters, Dews Lumber Yard, CG United Insurance, BMW, Antigua Distillery, and Guardian Security.