

PM BROWNE REAFFIRMS STRONG US-A&B TIES

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The Cuban Medical Brigade arrived in Antigua and Barbuda, with a focus on bolstering capacity at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC), particularly within the Emergency Room (ER). The welcoming party was led by Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph and Cuban Ambassador H.E. Sergio Manuel Martinez Gonzalez (both centre). *Story on page 5.*

PM Browne reaffirms strong US-A&B ties

Prime Minister Gaston Browne says Antigua and Barbuda and the United States continue to enjoy 'very good' relations that are built on mutual respect for each other.

PM Browne was at the time commenting on a recent Newsweek Magazine article 'China Building new outposts on US doorsteps, leaked documents reveal', written by Didi Kirsten Tatlow. The article alleges that 'The Chinese state is expanding rapidly in the Caribbean island of Antigua, part of a regional expansion that concerns the U.S. military'.

Speaking on Pointe FM radio on Saturday, the prime minister strongly rejected the claims made in the article and accused the writer of trying to sully the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States.

"At the end of the day, you can see there was a political slant in which the (writer) was trying to create



Prime Minister Gaston Browne acrimony between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States. The US understands our position very well. In fact, I would have spoken to at least two (US) ambassadors and I have also held discussions with higher level officials in the US State Department," he explained.

PM Browne also spoke of his relationship both with President Biden and former President Barack Obama. "I can say comfortably that

I am known by President Biden, who has had his staff reach out to me to get my views on a number of topics. So, I can say that the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the United States is a strong one and we respect the United States as the most important source market for tourists to the country. It is also the most important market in terms of our imports with 80 percent of what we consume is

imported with most of that coming from the United States. In fact, if we don't have the food boats coming each week from the United States our people would starve," he emphasized.

The country's leader underscored the value of the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the US stating clearly that the US is both an ally and a friend and that 'nothing will change that'.

He accused the UPP of 'influencing' the allegations being made in the article which he dismissed as 'sensational' and one which is trying to create a 'fictional' issue between the US and Antigua and Barbuda.

The prime minister emphasized that Antigua and Barbuda would never side with one country against the other, and in the case of the United States, the relationship and other interests are so strong that going against the US would be tantamount to going against the country's own self-interest.

PRC invested almost \$1 billion in Antigua and Barbuda in the past two decades

Investments into Antigua and Barbuda over the past two decades by the Peoples Republic of China have totaled close to \$1 billion dollars and counting.

That's according to the nation's leader, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, speaking in defense of the relationship between the two countries against the backdrop of an article published

last weekend in Newsweek Magazine which suggested that the US Southern Command is growing concerned over the close ties that exist between Antigua and Barbuda and other Caribbean territories with China.

But the prime minister countered their suggestion noting that China has become the 'most important' developmental partner' for Antigua and

Barbuda over the past two decades including under both ABLP and UPP administrations.

He described China's investments into Antigua and Barbuda as 'phenomenal'.

"Let us not forget that they funded the airport with a US\$80 million loan; they funded the cargo port expansion

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Chief of Staff pens letter to Newsweek newsroom

The Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst, has penned a letter to the newsroom of Newsweek Magazine protesting the assumptions and the tone of an article it published at the weekend which suggested that China was exerting undue influence in Antigua and Barbuda government among other conclusions.

The full text of Ambassador Hurst's letter is attached:

19 April 2024
Editor-In-Chief
Newsweek Magazine

Dear Editor,

Your recent article about the relations between Antigua and Barbuda and the

People's Republic of China seems to reflect the thinking of a by-gone age. Antigua and Barbuda is a modern country barely forty years independent and sovereign. China has a civilization that reaches back five thousand years.

Antigua and Barbuda continues to seek friends among all the nations of the world and rejects the notion that it is in any country's "backyard".

China has proven to be a reliable developmental partner and a good friend to many small and large states around the globe.

The rivalry between China and the United States shall not be deemed a replay of Cold War practices.

Antigua and Barbuda



Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst

is also a great friend of the United States. Our soldiers are trained by SouthCom, our security is bolstered by U.S. Coast Guard and other branches of the U.S. military, and our number one trading partner is the United

States.

This journalistic tendency to harp backwards on a Cold War paradigm is hurtful to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, as we turn to making friends that will

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with another US\$95 million; that's half a billion dollars from those two projects and there are many others," he recalled.

One other area where the Chinese have been assisting Antigua and Barbuda has been in the area of agricultural production; teaching local farmers several new techniques to improve their crops and to expand on the crops that they currently grow. He added that there is now a team in the country carrying out such an assignment at the moment.

He reminded the nation that China approved a \$100 million dollar grant that will finance the new housing development at Booby Alley with the remainder going to Mongo Town in the

St. John's City East constituency.

Other investments by China include the buildings, originally constructed to house a secondary school at Five Islands, which the current government re-purposed to be the home of the University of the West Indies FIC.

It was China that also funded the construction of the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, now the country's premiere sporting venue, which was a gift from the Chinese government.

PM Browne also pointed to the recent set of agreements signed between China and Barbuda including a commitment to finance the re-piping exercise which he said would be financed through a combination of grants and loans.

"China has helped Antigua and

Barbuda in a significant way. If you were to take away the investments by China into the country over the past two decades, we would have not developed the way they we have," he remarked.

The prime minister did not mince words in reference to two UPP officials – D Gisele Isaac and Algernon 'Serpent' Watts – who contributed to the Newsweek article that seemed to suggest China has ulterior motives in its operations here in Antigua and Barbuda.

He recalled that China's benevolence was equally forthcoming under UPP and ABLP administrations.

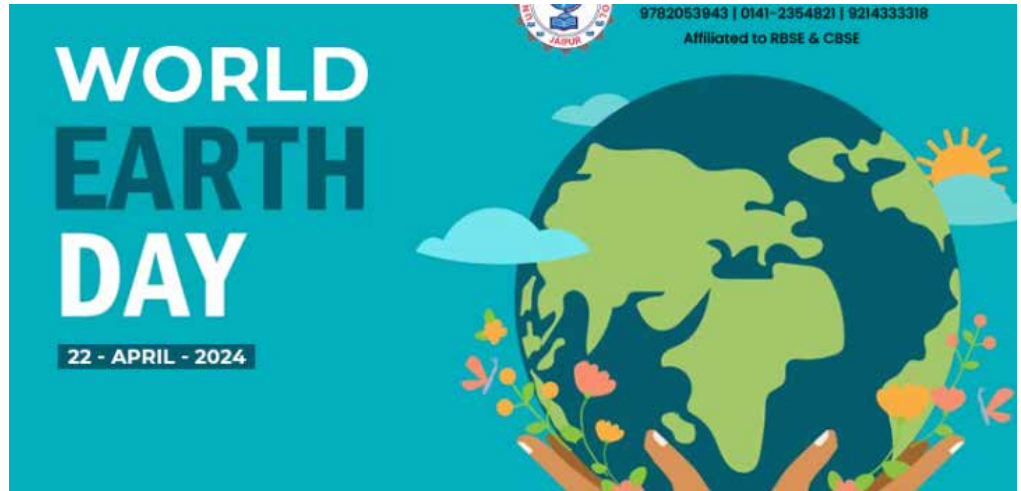
He repeated the government's foreign policy position of 'friends of all...enemies of none'.

Minister of Health highlights World Earth Day

On the occasion of World Earth Day, Minister of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment Sir Molwyn Joseph has reaffirmed his commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. Recognizing the importance of preserving the planet for future generations, Sir Molwyn issued a clarion call for global action to address pressing environmental challenges.

Marking the theme of this year's World Earth Day, "Restore Our Earth," Sir Molwyn emphasized the critical need for restoration efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. He underscored that safeguarding the environment is not only a moral imperative but also essential for ensuring human health and well-being.

"Our planet is facing unprecedented environmental threats that require urgent and concerted action," stated Sir Molwyn. "As custodians of the Earth, it is our responsibility to protect and restore its ecosystems



for the benefit of current and future generations."

The Minister also highlighted the interconnectedness of environmental health and human health, noting that environmental degradation contributes to the spread of diseases, air and water pollution, and other health hazards. He stressed the importance of adopting sustainable practices and policies that promote a healthy environment and lifestyle.

"Investing in environmental conservation is an investment in public health," remarked Sir Molwyn. "By preserving our natural resources and

reducing our ecological footprint, we can create a healthier and more sustainable future for all."

In conclusion, Sir Molwyn reaffirmed his dedication to advancing environmental conservation and sustainable development goals on World Earth Day and beyond. He expressed optimism that by working together, humanity can restore and preserve the Earth for the benefit of all life.

As the world commemorates World Earth Day, Sir Molwyn's message serves as a rallying cry for collective action to protect and restore the planet's precious ecosystems.

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respond to the needs of a small island-State like ours.

There was a time when the USA was exceedingly generous and helpful in engineering a sustainable future for its friendly neighbours in the Caribbean; its

diplomats complain bitterly and publicly that the US Congress deprives the State Department of the resources needed to continue to win friends and influence leaders.

We completely reject your characterization of

the friendship between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China as being somehow sinister and dangerous to the United States and its interests.

Our hope is that your readers will not be afflicted with the same harmful dis-

ease that plagued US/USSR relations and citizens of both States prior to 1989.

Our leaders are smart, have access to the same information as many of yours, and certainly are more clever than the journalists who deliberately choose to mischaracterize the foreign relations of friendly States.

Pringle returns as UPP Political Leader

Opposition Leader, Jamale Pringle has consolidated his hold on the opposition United Progressive Party with a convincing victory over fellow parliamentarian, Richard Lewis during the party's convention on Sunday.

Reports are that Pringle secured a to-

tal of 237 against Lewis 173 votes.

The lead up to the convention election created much interest with what many thought was going to be a close race between Lewis and Pringle...in the end Pringle won by a comfortable 64 votes.

*Ambassador Lionel Hurst
Chief of Staff
Office of the Prime Minister
Antigua and Barbuda*

Cuban Medical Brigade arrives to shore up healthcare services

In a significant development aimed at enhancing healthcare services, the Cuban Medical Brigade has arrived in Antigua and Barbuda, focusing on bolstering capacity at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC), particularly within the Emergency Room (ER). Comprised of skilled doctors and nurses, this brigade represents a pivotal step in elevating the nation's healthcare infrastructure.

Led by Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph and Cuban Ambassador H.E. Sergio Manuel Martinez Gonzalez, the reception at the V C Bird International Airport celebrated not only assistance but also a profound endeavor in capacity building. Minister Joseph emphasized, "The arrival of the Cuban Medical Brigade marks a transformative moment for the SLBMC. With their expertise,



Sir Molwyn Joseph (centre) greets Cuban Ambassador Sergio Gonzalez (right centre) at the airport

we aim to bolster emergency services, ensuring swift and efficient care for our citizens."

Ambassador Gonzalez echoed this sentiment, highlighting Cuba's dedication to supporting Antigua and Barbuda in healthcare capacity building. "Our collaboration extends

beyond immediate assistance; it's about empowering local healthcare professionals and institutions," stated the Ambassador.

Ten healthcare professionals arrived on Saturday, with an additional four members expected to arrive on Thursday of this week, further reinforcing healthcare efforts in Antigua and Barbuda.

In conjunction with the Cuban Medical Brigade, the government of Antigua and Barbuda plans to recruit specialist nurses and doctors from various sources to further augment healthcare services until local physicians, currently in training, assume their roles. Additionally, the government continues to extend invitations to aspiring stu-

dents to pursue careers in nursing, offering nursing scholarships to facilitate education and bolster the healthcare workforce.

The Ministry of Health and the SLBMC expressed profound gratitude to the Cuban government and people for their unwavering support. Beyond immediate aid, Cuba's contribution extends to long-term capacity building, shaping a brighter future for healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda.

This concerted effort underscores the significance of international cooperation in addressing healthcare challenges and nurturing local talent. With the combined efforts of the Cuban Medical Brigade,

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Sir Molwyn leads welcoming party at the airport

Booby Alley Project to start by August

Following lengthy delays lasting several years...work on the Booby Alley housing project is now scheduled to start by August this year.

According to the parliamentary representative for the area, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the project has been placed before the Tenders Board for the selection of a construction firm to carry out the project.

PM Browne said the tenders board's process is likely to last for two months with a selection slated to take place by June.

Actual work on the project will likely start within a sixty-day period from the selection of the contractors.

The People's Republic of China is financing the project as part of a \$100 million grant that will also finance a similar project in Mongo Town.

The start of the project was initially delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but was further delayed due to issues where some residents had refused to be relocated to enable the demolition or removal of

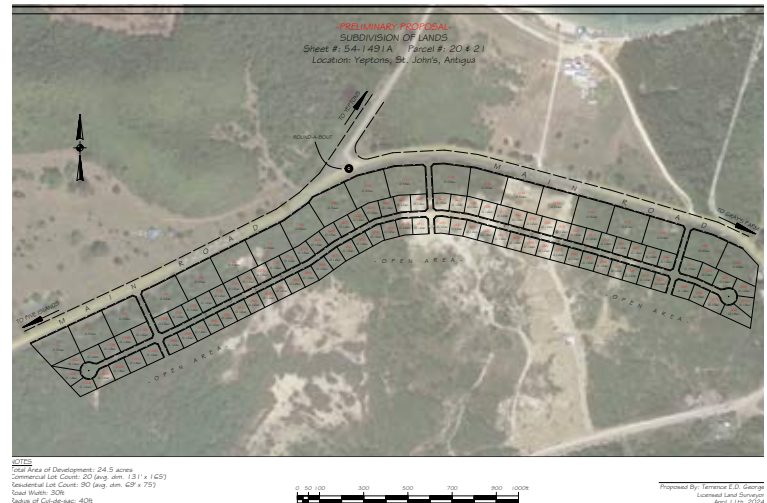


Artist rendition of the housing development planned for Booby Alley

the homes in the heavily congested block of houses the site for the project. After a stand-off with some residents, they finally agreed to vacate the premises thus clearing the way for the construction of the multi-storey condominium-style homes for the residents of Booby Alley.

MP Browne said the housing project was a necessity to ease the congestion, but also to improve the quality of homes that the residents will move into on completion.

He promised that residents will have an opportunity to have their views



Yeptons development proposal aerial view.

heard on the homes during consultations planned for later.

Meanwhile, the ABLP Caretaker for the St. John's Rural West constituency,

Michael Joseph, has announced plans to implement a housing development at Yeptons and he is asking the prime minister for his assistance to raise the financing for the project.

Under the project, some ninety homes will be constructed in Phase One with plans to construct additional homes in later Phases.

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specialist recruits, and aspiring health-care professionals, Antigua and Barbuda strides closer towards a robust and resilient healthcare system. This development comes on the heels of the successful expansion of the waiting area of the emergency room and the complete refurbishment of the emergency theater.
Sir Molwyn vows to continue the process of upgrading the staff complement of both the hospital and community clinics, as well as ensuring a full complement of doctors, nurses, and other health professionals to meet the demand level of health services by the public.

Civil society encouraged to participate fully in SIDS4 Conference and upcoming CSO consultations

As the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) approaches, civil society organisations (CSOs) are being encouraged to seize the opportunity to join the interregional discussion on sustainable development by participating in the events around the SIDS4 Conference, and by joining the next series of CSO consultations happening in conjunction with the SIDS4 CSO Coalition co-led by Integrated Health Outreach Inc. (IHO) and the Marine Ecosystems Protected Areas Trust (MEPA Trust).

The SIDS4 Conference is happening in Antigua and Barbuda from May 27 to May 30, 2024, under the theme “Charting the course toward resilient prosperity” and with the aim of assessing the ability of SIDS to achieve sustainable development. During the conference, mem-

ber states plan to agree on a broad strategy for the way forward over the next decade.

At the same time, SIDS civil society has a unique opportunity to advocate, network and collaborate on their plan of action.

There will be several pre-conference activities available for CSOs. A hybrid Global CSO Summit is to be held on May 24 to provide civil society across the globe the platform to share inputs. Civil society unable to attend the conference will be able to access the summit virtually. The Official Special Event, the Civil Society Forum on May 29, will be a condensed version of the Global CSO Summit, where the SIDS4 Civil Society Roadmap and Action Plan will be declared.

This plan is a collaboration meant to represent the research and inputs of CSOs across the Caribbean; the Pacific; and the Atlantic, Indian



Antigua and Barbuda's UN Ambassador, W. Aubrey Webson (centre), welcomed representatives of the SIDS4 CSO Coalition to the UN HQ in New York in April to observe the 2nd Preparatory Meeting for the SIDS4 Conference. The representatives from the coalition pictured here are Chloe Ambrose of Scrub Life Cares (right) and Britney McDonald of IHO.

Ocean and South China Sea (AIS), on sustainable development and actions for SIDS. There will be an open call for speakers to address the SIDS4 Civil Society Forum and at the Global CSO Summit pre-activity hosted by the SIDS4 CSO Coalition.

Underscoring the importance of civil society engagement in connection to the conference, SIDS4 CSO Coalition representatives were welcomed to observe the Second Preparatory Committee Meeting for the SIDS4 Conference at the United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York from April 1st to April 5th. The delegation included representatives from IHO, Scrub Life Cares, and the Antigua & Barbuda Holistic Coalition. They were

welcomed by the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the UN, Ambassador W. Aubrey Webson and his staff, who shared his support for the work of CSOs preparing for the conference.

Civil society participation in the SIDS4 Conference will be discussed during the third series of consultations by the SIDS4 CSO Coalition. There will be sessions open to all CSO Sectors, on the following dates: April 25 and April 29. Sector specific consultations will occur early May to ensure strong representation in key areas. CSOs are encouraged to register for the upcoming consultations and lend their experience and expertise to the discussion. More information contact: info@ihoab.com.



From left to right, SIDS4 CSO Coalition representatives Chloe Ambrose of Scrub Life Cares, Britney McDonald of IHO, and Cerene Prince of the Antigua and Barbuda Holistic Coalition.



Career Opportunity

The Financial Services Regulatory Commission of Antigua and Barbuda (FSRC) invites applications from suitably qualified applicants for the position of Regulatory Team Support.

Pre-requisites:- As a pre-requisite the successful candidate will be required to have the following:-

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

1. A Bachelor's Degree in Banking, Finance, Economics or Accounting.
2. Supplemental Professional and Technical Training in related areas would be an asset. That includes CFE, CPA, CFA, ACCA.
3. Ability to speak and understand Spanish would be an asset.

Experience:

1. Such as may have been gained through public or private employment (**with a minimum of 3 years**) involving the conduct of off-site supervision and on-site examinations of the financial records of financial institutions.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education

Regulatory Team Support provides support to Regulatory Team Leaders and Regulatory Directors/Manager on the onsite and off-site examination of a portfolio of financial institutions.

RESPONSIBILITIES

1. To perform tasks incidental to the conduct of off-site supervision and on-site examinations of the operations, books and records of a portfolio of financial institutions for the purpose of ascertaining their ability to meet obligations and compliance with applicable Laws, Regulations, International prudential and other requirements and to do related work as required.
2. To work under the general supervision of a Regulatory Directors/Manager.
3. To review and examine applications, and conduct preliminary work as directed by a Regulatory Team Leader or Regulatory Directors/Manager relating to applications for licensing of financial institutions.
4. To prepare high quality reports within the stipulated time frame following the onsite and offsite examination of a portfolio financial institutions.
5. To conduct research work from time to time.
6. May deputize from time to time for a Regulatory Team Leader.
7. To do related work from time to time as instructed by a Regulatory Team Leader, Regulatory Directors or Executives.

REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT: KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND CAPACITIES:

1. A working knowledge of auditing principles and methods applicable in performing routine tasks incidental to the examination of the financial condition and affairs of licensed financial institutions.
2. Familiarity with the Laws and Regulations, International Prudential Standards and other requirements governing institutions under the regulatory and supervisory purview of the Commission.
3. The ability to carry out written and oral instructions.
4. The ability to assist in the preparation of reports relating to financial institutions.
5. A high level of motivation, initiative and the ability to work effectively as part of a team.
6. Strong analytical and critical thinking skills.
7. Good time management skills.
8. The ability to deliver high quality work and multitask under different situations.
9. Good interpersonal and communication skills.
10. A working knowledge of computerized business applications such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft PowerPoint.

- The completed application along with supporting documents must be sent no later than 30th April 2024 to The Assistant Human Resources Manager, P.O. Box 2674, St. John's, Antigua OR Via email to Janice.Thomas@fsrc.gov.ag.

- Only candidates who are shortlisted for the selection process will be contacted.

- Shortlisted candidates will be required to undertake a written assessment.



Dr. Monica Osborne-Stevens

Dr. Monica Osborne-Stevens: A dedicated advocate for diabetes care and community health

Submitted by the Antigua and Barbuda Diabetes Association

Dr. Monica Osborne-Stevens, a family medicine physician, has been making remarkable strides in the field of diabetes care and community health. In 2022, she achieved a significant milestone by obtaining a master's degree in diabetes, solidifying her expertise in managing this chronic condition.

Her dedication to her patients' well-being and her passion for combating diabetes as one of the leading causes of mortality have

earned her widespread recognition.

Through her involvement with the Diabetes Association as a member and their Medical Advisor, she contributes her expertise to promoting lifestyle changes in the prevention and treatment of diabetes.

Dr. Osborne-Stevens's primary focus is on her patients, especially those living with diabetes. She recognizes the profound impact that this condition can have on individuals' lives and their overall health. By emphasizing preventive care

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Countdown for Antigua Sailing Week 2024 is now on

Hoist your sails for the 55th edition of Antigua Sailing Week from April 27 to May 3. Even with less than 7 days to go, the ASW committee is reminding sailors that its not too late to join the other 88 yachts that have registered so far.

This year the regatta village is expanded from Antigua Yacht Club Lawn to include the platform at the Antigua Yacht Club Marina.

Regatta village bars will open daily at 3pm. Daily prize-givings will still take place on the lawn at the Antigua Yacht Club at 6pm each afternoon. In the evenings, you will find live entertainment from local bands with creative themes at the Antigua Yacht

Club Platform.

The Antigua Yacht Club lawn is where everyone is invited to gather daily to mingle with their closest rivals as the results are calculated. Eat from venue restaurants and enjoy the lawn bars, which will be stocked with ice-cold Beers, refreshing Rum.

At 6 pm each day, we will run our daily prize giving. Be prepared to join race officials on stage to have your daily racing achievements recognised.

To celebrate, we have an amazing lineup of evening entertainment scheduled at the AYC Marina platform.

There are some fancy dress-up theme nights planned as well - Pirate



Antigua Sailing Week starts on Saturday 27 April

Nite, Tropical Shirt Nite, Reggae Nite and Ladies Nite in White - so don't forget to pack a few garments so you can fit right in.

Check your closet for your cheesiest Tropical shirts, your bright Reggae

Colors (Red Yellow Green), Classic white, or whimsical Pirate shirts, aka Jack Sparrow, and include them in your luggage.

Reggae in the Park - Tuesday April 30

Legendary reggae performer Sanchez will step on stage for the 13th Reggae in the Park - now at a brand-new location, Dow's Hill Interpretation Center, in English Harbour.

This singer and producer rose to major fame in the reggae scenes of London and the Caribbean in the 90's and is a favorite of Gen-X, Millenials and even teenagers.

The event will open at 5pm and will include a beautiful early sunset session with Hellsgate Steel Orchestra, DJ sets and food and drink on sale where you can enjoy the incredible views and take in the history of the Belvedere Ruins.

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and providing comprehensive treatment plans, she strives to empower her patients to lead fulfilling lives. Her compassionate approach and unwavering commitment to their well-being have earned her the trust and gratitude of countless individuals and their families.

Diabetes is a complex condition that requires a multi-disciplinary approach, and Dr. Osborne-Stevens is at the forefront of championing this holistic perspective. She collaborates with a diverse team of healthcare professionals, including nutritionists, endocrinologists, and exercise physiologists, to develop personalized care plans tailored to each patient's unique needs.

Beyond her clinical practice, Dr. Osborne-Stevens is deeply committed to community health and education. She generously volunteers her time to plan

and conduct health fairs, where she raises awareness about non-communicable disease prevention, early detection, and management. These events provide an invaluable platform for individuals to learn about the importance of a healthy lifestyle, the benefits of regular exercise, and the significance of monitoring their blood sugar, blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels.

Dr. Osborne-Stevens's passion for community health extends beyond the health fairs. She actively collaborates with local schools, community centers, and organizations to provide education on diabetes, helping individuals make informed choices and take proactive steps to safeguard their health. By empowering communities with knowledge and resources, she aims to create a lasting impact and reduce the burden of diabetes on our society.

Earth Day 2024



Earth Day 2024 - A new beginning or waiting for the end?

By Clarence E. Pilgrim

Earth Day, April 22nd, 2024, marks a defining critical juncture in our planet's history—a period of urgency and opportunity. The latest data from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) underscores the gravity of our situation: 2023 has become the hottest year on record, compounded by a troubling decline in Antarctic-sea ice.

Dr. Sarah Kapnick, NOAA Chief Scientist, underscores the imperative for swift action in the face of a rapidly warming planet.

The signs of ecological distress are glaring, from extreme weather events to rising sea levels, demanding decisive multilateral intervention.

Another major factor contributing to our planet's unhealthy state is at the heart of this year's Earth Day theme, "Planet v. Plastic," highlighting the per-

vasive threat of plastic pollution to our ecosystems and wildlife. It's a call for unwavering commitment to confront this existential crisis head-on.

The Sustainable Development Goals address the issue of plastic bags primarily through Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Within this goal, Target 12.5 specifically aims to "substantially reduce waste generation through prevention, reduction, recycling, and reuse." This target encompasses efforts to minimize plastic waste, including single-use plastic bags, by promoting responsible consumption and production patterns.

The proposed solution is to replace these plastics with alternatives: "biodegradable utensils, compostable wrappers, plant-based bottles, and compressed-fiber plates and bowls," are all seen as creating a roadmap towards resilience and sustainability.

Yet, the omnipresence of single-use

plastic remains a formidable obstacle, with far-reaching environmental consequences. From contaminating oceans to endangering wildlife, the toll of plastic pollution is staggering and enduring.

Single-use plastic bags epitomize the dilemma between convenience and consequence. Despite their initial utility, they persist for centuries, infiltrating even the most remote regions and wreaking havoc on ecosystems.

As we confront the plastic crisis this Earth Day, let us do so with renewed determination. By embracing sustainable alternatives and advocating for policy reforms, we can combat plastic pollution and safeguard the future of our planet.

Earth Day is a stark reminder of our collective responsibility to cherish and protect the precious gift of our planet. It's a call to action—a moment to choose the path of stewardship and sustainability, ensuring hope for generations to come through decisive multilateral action.

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- Biscuit
- Drink

\$19.99
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- Drink

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Where there's poke

By Tony Deyal

"In spite of their diversity in ancestry and language, the countries of the West Indies share a largely common culture, the result of their somewhat parallel experiences as plantation colonies. The culture of the Caribbean people is a blend of African, American Indian, European, and, in some cases, Asian influences."

One thing that Caribbean people know is the song by the calypsonian, the Mighty Sparrow, "If Sparrow say so is so/I want the whole world to know." Fortunately, he didn't tell the world that our culture includes as the second and third in command, the American Indians and the Europeans, with the "Asian influences" having very little, if any, influence in what I call "our" culture. For the 32 years this column has been running, especially in Barbados, Jamaica, and once upon a time, Trinidad and Tobago, I have insisted that we have more in common than we have differences. But to get Back to Britannica and it's "kids" or "students" homework help, "Most of the population is descended from enslaved Africans or from Spanish, French, British or Dutch colonists or is of mixed ethnicity."

It is true that we have some big differences based on the fact that while it is said that "No man is an island but a piece of the conti-

nent and a part of the main", each island is supposedly a class in itself. Each little bit of sand and rock surrounded by the Caribbean Sea has a demi-god Prime Minister who calls the shots and, for the most part, lives in riches and splendour.

Yet, regardless of how poor they are kept by their masters, the people believe that their place alone is "God's" country and they are the only "God's people" in the region. We also have other issues but not many to sneeze at except what I call "CARICOMMESS". The others, apple, peach and kiwi fruit, are not Caribbean. What we have in our countries are some with different names depending on where you live.

The Africans have the same kind of problem. My favourite example is the fruit that in Nigeria is "Agbalumo" to the Yoruba, "Chiwo" to the Hausas, and "Udara" to the Igbo. In Jamaica it is "Star Apple" and in Trinidad it is "Caimit". Another fruit there is the "Star Fruit" which is known in other places as "Carambola", "Chinese Jimbelin", "Coolie Tamarind" and "Five Fingers." Obviously, our fingers don't just do the walking but also a lot of talking. Trinidad also has a fruit called "Jmoon" and "Pommerac" but known in Jamaica as "Otaheite apple." I lived in a place called "Otaheite" in Trinidad and



Tony Deyal

there was none there but Guyana has. However there it is named, "Titi Apple". What we know as "Pommerac", they call "Cashew", and what we call a "Zabocca" they say is a "pear". What Trinis call "pommeseetay" is June Plum in Barbados and "Dew Plum" or "Golden Apple" in other countries.

So, the question is, "Do we have anything in common that other countries and people don't call by the same name?" Well folks, I found one. The word is "Pokey".

I will start with the great American President, Abraham Lincoln. His nine-year-old son, Tad, could not read, write or dress himself. Lincoln did not worry and said, "Let him run. There's time enough yet for him to learn his letters and get pok-ey." US experts say that we should keep in mind that "pokey" is not listed in the Webster's dictionary and has mysteriously acquired the meaning of dull, stupid or slow. So is that the only

meaning of pokey and, if not, what are the others? One group has "pokey" as "A word used to describe a girl you're very fond of." In other words, it means that "she's beautiful, funny, smart and means a great deal to you." It adds, "a pokey is your ride or die, your go to girl and your one and only." For example, Guy 1 says, "She's kinda hot man." The other replies, "Nah man, she's more than that. She's my pokey."

Then I decided to go further and got COPILOT, the new AI-powered chat mode of Microsoft. It gave me summarised answers and what it thought was creative inspiration: "The term 'pok-ey' is a slang word for jail. It's an informal way to refer to a prison and is often used in a light-hearted or humorous context. The word 'pok-ey' has been in use since the early 20th century and is an alteration of 'pogey' which had an early sense of being a hostel for the needy. The

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Opinion



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term may have been influenced by 'poky' meaning small and cramped, which describes the conditions of many jails." A British dictionary sees "pokay" with adjectival words "pokier" and "pokiest" as "small and cramped" or "without speed or energy", or "slow".

The adverb is "pokiness." It claims that in American English is "not lively" but "slow, dull, dilatory, small and uncomfortable, stuffy etc" like a "poky room". "Jail" for them is the poky of pokies, "They put him in the poky for carrying a concealed weapon."

Other examples of the use of "poky" include: "We got used to it, but the house is poky in the extreme" (Sunday Times); "What you find is a poky little afterthought crammed into a corner of the top floor." (Sunday Times); "The downside is that some rooms remain authentically poky, with poor views or no

balconies." (Sunday Times); and from Susan Coolidge in What Katy Did, "It is all dark and poky, you know."

Some of the other meanings and uses of "pokey" outside of the Caribbean are like, "The old computer feels so pokey compared to the new one" and one wonders how the owner worked that out. Coming closer to the Caribbean we get, "Poki is a fantastic online gaming platform that offers a wide variety of free games. Whether you're playing solo or with friends, Poki has someone for everyone!" I heard a children's song, Pokey Pokey which goes, "You put your right hand in, / Your put your right hand out, / You put your right hand in, / That's what it's all about!" However, when I found that "Pokey" is Australian slang for "slot machines" I decided to go straight home.

In Jamaica, while "pork" is known by some as "poke", the word "pokey"

(sometimes known as "coochie") is a slang expression for a woman's vagina. Example sentences are: "Yuh need fi wash out yuh pokey" or "You need to clean your coochie." I remember my reaction when I first entered the University in Trinidad and heard Jamaican boys referring to one of their countrymen as "Pokey".

The Trini girls and the boys from Guyana, Trinidad and several other Caribbean countries laughed, "You hear what they calling him?" However, it is the Caribbean Dictionary that makes it clear, "The vagina. The female sexual organ" with alternatives like cat, fanny, fat pork, good good, pumpum, punani, youyum, saltfish, tonky and, the one that will get me killed, "wife".

Tony Deyal was last seen with the Urban Dictionary which says "Pokey" is "when something pokes you repeatedly in the mouth or any other area."

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TikTok warns US ban would 'trample free speech'

By Thomas Mackintosh

TikTok says a potential ban on its app in the US would "trample the free speech" of 170 million Americans.

The US House of Representatives voted on Saturday to ban TikTok if the app's owner does not cut its ties with China.

The legislation was part of a US foreign policy package that included aid for Ukraine and could become law as early as next week.

In recent months US officials have voiced alarm over TikTok's popularity with young people.

They allege TikTok's owner ByteDance is subservient to Beijing - accusations it has repeatedly denied.

The TikTok legislation was included in a package, approved by lawmakers, that would send \$61bn (£49bn) in foreign aid to Ukraine, as well as money for Israel and Taiwan.

The House of Representatives voted on TikTok's future first - with 360 to 58 voting on the updated divest-or-ban bill.

The Senate is expected to vote on the bill next week and previously US President Joe Biden has said he will sign the legislation.

If the bill becomes law, ByteDance will have nine months to sell its stake - with a possible three-month extension while a sale is in progress - or face a ban.

A spokesman for TikTok denounced the bill, saying it "would trample the free speech rights of 170 million Americans, devastate seven million businesses, and shutter a platform that contributes \$24bn (£19.4bn) to the US economy annually".

TikTok has said ByteDance "is not an agent of China or any other country". And ByteDance insists it is not



Western officials have voiced alarm over the popularity of TikTok with young people, alleging it is subservient to Beijing and a conduit to spread propaganda - claims denied by the company's owner ByteDance.

a Chinese firm, pointing to the many global investment firms that own 60% of it.

The US House of Representatives voted in March to give ByteDance six months to sell TikTok to non-Chinese owners, or have the app blocked in the US - but that bill is still pending Senate approval.

Founded in 2012 by Chinese entrepreneurs, ByteDance first hit the jackpot with short video app Douyin in China. A year later, it launched TikTok, an international version.

The social media app was banned in China but gained a billion users in five years.

It is now run by a limited liability company based in Los Angeles and Singapore but is essentially owned by ByteDance.

While its founders own only 20% of ByteDance, it is the controlling stake in the company. About 60% is owned by institutional investors, including major US investment firms such as General Atlantic, Susquehanna and Sequoia Capital.

The remaining 20% is owned by employees around the world. Three of its five board members are American.

But Beijing's grip over private companies in recent years worries the US about how much control the Chinese Communist Party has over ByteDance, and the data it holds.

China has dismissed these concerns as American paranoia and has warned a TikTok ban will "inevitably come back to bite the US".

Since 2022, TikTok has been routing all US users' data through Texas-based tech giant Oracle to address security concerns.

TikTok has stressed US data will be ringfenced and stored on Oracle servers in the US.

Speaking ahead of Saturday's vote, Democratic Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi told the BBC's World Business Report programme that they want the app to continue.

"I think that it still has a lot of good content," he said. "But most important thing is that it's not under the control or operation of an adversary country."

Regional News



USVI leader urges repeal of racist law

CMC – A senior official of the United States Virgin Islands (USVI) government is urging the Department of Justice to end the classification of residents of US territories, including those in the Caribbean as second-class citizens.

Director of State and Federal Relations for the USVI Virgin Islands government, Teri Helenese, said the change would emphasise the urgency of reforming policies that undermine the fundamental rights and dignity of these American citizens.

Helenese has criticised the “undemocratic colonial framework” established by the Insular Cases, which deemed the “half-civilised,” “savage,” “alien races” living in Puerto Rico, Guam, and other so-called “unincorporated” US territories were not entitled to the same constitutional rights and democratic participation because they were “unfit” and could not understand “Anglo-Saxon principles.”

Helenese has joined the call for repealing “this anachronistic legal stance,” which she said not only “undermines the integrity of our republic but also inflicts unconscionable damage on the residents of these territories.”

Helenese said it was a moral imperative to rectify this injustice, echoing leaders across party lines, including Supreme Court

Justices Sotomayor and Gorsuch, who had taken the lead and condemned the Insular Cases for their baseless racial prejudices, “which have no place in our law.”

She said that USVI Governor Albert Bryan noted that the outdated rulings had enforced a century-long history of disenfranchisement and second-class status for Virgin Islanders. “Virgin Islanders deserve to enjoy the full range of civil and political rights afforded by the US Constitution,” she



cont'd on pg 15 Teri Helenese.

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UN reports increased murders in Haiti during first quarter of 2024

CMC - The United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti (BINUH) reports that more than 2,500 people have been killed or injured in gang violence in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country during the first three months of this year.

In a statement, BINUH said that the situation from January through March is a 53 percent increase from the last three months of 2023.

BINUH said that at least 590 were killed during police operations, and several were apparently not involved in gang violence, while some had impaired mobility, and at least 141 were killed by vigilante justice groups.

Most of the violence took place in the capital, while at least 438 people were kidnapped across the wider West Department and agricultural Artibonite region.

BINUH said that gang members continued to perpetrate rapes against women and girls in rival neighborhoods, as well as in



prisons and displacement camps.

The UN estimates that hundreds of thousands have been internally displaced by gang violence, which has worsened as the criminal gangs seek to remove the government of Prime Minister Dr Ariel Henry, who came to power in July

2021 following the assassination of President Jovenel Moise at his private residence overlooking the capital.

“Insecurity continues to affect the people of Haiti, especially in the Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area (ZMPAP), where looting and murders persist. For ex-

ample, on 18 April, armed groups attacked areas in the Carrefour commune and seized a police station, killing seven people, as reported by the media,” according to a report released on Saturday by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Haiti in collaboration with humanitarian partners.

In its report, OCHA said logistical constraints, especially with regard to supply, are also causing increasing difficulties in accessing food and other basic goods, resulting in a consequent rise in prices.

cont'd from pg 14

said, noting that President Joe Biden is on record as saying “there’s can be no second-class citizens in the United States of America”.

Helene said she is calling for the Department of Justice to abandon its reliance on the Insular Cases “that stain our democracy and mock the anti-colonial values of

our nation’s founding.”

She joined fellow leaders in demanding immediate action to eliminate the “blight of the Insular Cases from our legal system” adding that repealing the measure will not only heal the wounds inflicted on the residents of US territories but will also restore the principles of justice and equality that form the bedrock of America.

Ukraine Russia war: US House passes crucial aid deal worth \$61bn

The House of Representatives has finally approved billions of dollars in new US military aid for Ukraine to help combat Russia's invasion.

The much-delayed measure had vocal opponents in Congress and it took a fragile bipartisan deal to get the \$61bn (£49bn) package through.

Republicans said more than a third would be dedicated to replenishing weapons and ammunition.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky described the US support as "vital".

The aid is likely to include air defence systems, mid to long-range missiles and artillery shells.

It is unclear when it will arrive. The package will now go to the Senate, which is expected to pass it within the next few days before President Joe Biden signs it into law.

Ukraine, which relies on Western weapons, desperately needs the aid as it struggles to contain invading Russian troops, who have been making steady advances in recent weeks.

Mr Zelensky said the aid should come as quickly as possible. In an evening address on Sunday, he said that if Ukraine were given the right weapons it could change the situation on the frontline.

"Frontline air defence is as crucial as the protection of our cities and villages. Our long-range capabilities. Our artillery. Our ability to expand the area of our control," he said. "Every day is important now."

Alongside replenishing weapons and ammunition systems, Ukraine will also receive more than \$9bn (£7.28bn) of economic assistance in the form of "forgivable loans" - ones that do not need to be paid back.

Russian President Vladimir Putin launched a full-scale invasion of



Ukraine has grown impatient as its ammunition supplies dwindle, with Russia making steady territorial gains.

Ukraine in February 2022. Since then tens of thousands of people, mainly soldiers, have been killed or injured on both sides, and millions of Ukrainians have had to flee their homes.

Ukrainian soldiers are now running low on munitions and having to ration artillery shells on a front line more than 1,200km (745 miles) long.

Last weekend, the head of Ukraine's military warned the battlefield situation in the east of the country had "significantly worsened" as Russia intensified its armoured assaults.

Cheers and applause erupted in the House when the measure passed, by 311 votes to 112, with some Representatives waving Ukrainian flags.

Welcoming the result, Mr Biden praised the bipartisan effort to "answer history's call" and urging the Senate to approve it quickly "so that I can sign it into law and we can quickly send weapons and equipment to Ukraine to meet their urgent battlefield needs".

Nato Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said the significant boost in aid would supplement the tens of billions of assistance being provided to Ukraine by European allies.

"Ukraine deserves all the support it can get against Russia," EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel said in a joint statement.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the package would "make the United States of America richer, further ruin Ukraine and result in the deaths of even more Ukrainians".

Speaking to the BBC World Service's Newshour programme, Oleksandr Merezhko, head of Ukraine's foreign affairs committee, described the vote as a "historic decision" that would "definitely save lots of lives of our civilians and our soldiers".

"It gives us strength, it gives us courage and resolve to continue to fight, and I'm sure that the situation at the front will soon change in our favour," he said.

Both Mr Zelensky and head of the CIA William Burns have said that Ukraine will lose the war without American help.

That has been reinforced over the past six months by Russia taking more territory, and other Western allies struggling to fill the gap left by Washington.

cont'd on pg 17

US agrees to pull troops out of Niger

By **Natasha Booty**

All US soldiers are set to leave Niger, ending their role in the fight against Islamist insurgents.

Military leaders in the West African nation have sought closer ties with Russia since seizing power in a coup last year.

On Friday the US also announced that it had agreed to close down its drone base near Agadez, in the Sahara desert.

Niger is in Africa's Sahel region, which is considered the new global epicentre of the Islamic State group.

The US has relied on Niger as its primary base for monitoring regional jihadist activity.

An American delegation is to head within days to Niger's capital, Niamey, to arrange an orderly withdrawal of its more than 1,000 troops.



The junta-led nation has turned towards Russia instead.

Friday's announcement follows talks in Washington between the US deputy secretary of state, Kurt Campbell, and Niger's Prime Minister Ali Mahaman Lamine Zeine.

It is seen as a blow to US President Biden's administration, which had resisted the move.

The US's \$100m (£80m) military base there was built just six years ago, and has played a key role in the US and French strategy to combat jihadists in West Africa.

But Niger's relations soured with both Western countries last year following the coup and the mil-

itary leaders have sought closer security ties with Russia.

Dozens of Russian military instructors have arrived in Niger in recent weeks, bringing with them a state-of-the-art air defence system, according to state media reports.

Niger has also distanced itself from local democracies and sought stronger regional alliances with fellow junta-led nations Burkina Faso and Mali.

The trio have quit Ecowas - the West African regional body which opposed their military takeovers.

They have also quit the French-backed G5 Sahel force, saying it was ineffectual and undermined African sovereignty, and have launched their own defence pact called the Alliance of Sahel States.

cont'd from pg 16

Ukraine is now feeling the weight of American support once more.

This is not the silver bullet which will help Ukraine win the war, but it extends its window to fight and keep the negotiating table at bay.

The House vote had been delayed by Republicans for months, with some objecting to sending money overseas instead of dealing with the US-Mexico border issue.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson said he wanted to push the measures through, even if it jeopardised his position.

On Saturday, it was passed by a comfortable margin - but those numbers obscure the increasingly sharp partisan divides on the issue.

While all 210 Democrats voted in favour, more Republicans were against the legislation than in favour of it, 112 to 101.

That could spell trouble for Mr Johnson. Three House Republicans are already calling for him to be ousted as Speaker. They may even force a vote on the matter next week.

While the billions of dollars in new aid is expected to sustain the Ukrainian war effort in the months ahead, if Republicans gain more power in Congress - or take back the White House - further US support seems increasingly unlikely.

Separately, the House also passed a bill that would force the China-based owner of the TikTok social media platform to either sell its stake or face a ban in the US.

Sea View Farm move closer to promotion in Second Division League

Sea View Farm moved a little closer to clinching one of the two automatic promotion spots in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division after the latest round of matches.

Sea View Farm moved back within two points of Second Division leaders Freeman's Village after winning by default against Earthquakes, who were unable to field a team for their encounter at the ABFA Technical Center.

Their 14th win in 18 matches allows Sea View Farm to move back into second place with 43 points, two adrift of Freeman's Village.

Both teams and FC Master Ballerz, who have 40 points, have one game remaining. The top two teams at the end of the 20-team round-robin competition will gain automatic promotion to the First Division next season.

Soccer Academy moved into fifth place after winning by default against the bottom team, the JSC Progressors, who failed to show up for their encounter at the ABFA Technical Center.



Players of the Sea View Farm football team. (File photo)

Their 10th win in 18 matches allows Soccer Academy to advance to 35 points with one game remaining. JSC Progressors will remain in the cellar on goal difference with six points after losing for the 15th time in 17 matches.

Khael Williams scored twice as the Lingies CPTSA Wings prevailed 3-1 against the Young Warriors at Buckley's Primary School playing field.

Williams had conversions in the

19th and 68th minutes, and OJ Wilfred Greene scored the other goal for the Wings in the 74th minute.

Caric James scored in the 50th minute for the Young Warriors, who will remain in 17th place with nine points after losing for the 15th time in 18 matches.

Wings will advance to 27 points but will remain in 12th place after winning for the eighth time in 16 matches.

Five Islands move back to the top of First Division League

Five Islands regained the lead from the Potters Tigers in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on Friday.

They did so after Demarco Roberts scored four goals and Samuel Semper converted twice to lead Five Islands to a 10-1 drubbing of Fort Road at the ABFA Technical Center.

Roberts had conversions in the 25th, 26th, 63rd, and 70th minutes, while Semper

scored in the 15th and 29th minutes. The other goals for Five Islands were scored by Avante Warner (56th), Jahiem Jeremy (58th), Hamilton Joseph (66th), and Troy Allen (85th).

Ezekiel Thomas scored the consolation goal for Fort Road, which remained third from the bottom of the 11-team round-robin competition on goal difference with 10 points after losing for the 12th time in 16 matches.

Their 13th win in 15

matches allows Five Islands to advance to the top of the First Division with 40 points, one ahead of the Potters Tigers, who slipped back into second place.

Police moved into joint-third place with the Attacking Saints by recording a 6-0 victory against the Liberta Blackhawks at the ABFA Technical Center.

The goals for Police were scored by Nijah Hope (29th), Dimitri Scotland (40th), Wilton Rhodes



(61st), Jomol Semper (62nd), Glenroy Prince (67th), and Carl Kirby (78th).

cont'd on pg 19

Wins for All Saints United and Parham in Premier League

All Saints United and Parham recorded wins in the second phase of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

All Saints United secured their second win in the second round by snatching a one-nil victory against the Pigotts Bullets in the first game of Saturday's triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

D'Andre Bishop scored the only goal of the match in the 25th minute. The Bullets finished the match with 10 men due to the expulsion of Akeem Isaac, who received a red card in the 65th minute for using offensive, insulting, and abusive language toward the referee.

Their 14th win in 16 matches carries All Saints United, who are in second place, to 43 points, five adrift of leaders Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades.

The Pigotts Bullets remain in seventh place with 23 points after losing for the sixth time in 17 matches.

Jahquan Davis scored in the eighth minute of added

time as Parham snatched a 2-1 win against the Greenbay Hoppers in Saturday's third and final Premier League encounter.

Dennie Henry scored in the 19th minute to give Parham a one-nil lead, but Javorn Stevens converted a penalty kick in the 24th minute to equalize for the Hoppers as both teams reached halftime deadlocked at 1-1.

However, Hoppers contributed to their own demise, with two players and a member of their coaching and managerial staff receiving red cards during the encounter.

Kendall Pennyfeather was expelled in the 38th minute for serious foul play, and Cuban striker Yoandir Puga Estevez was sent off in the 88th minute for violent conduct.

Cadeejah Proctor, who was on the Hoppers bench, was expelled in the second minute of added time for using offensive, insulting, and abusive language to the referee.

Parham remain in the relegation zone, third from the bottom of the standings



D'Andre Bishop scored the winner for All Saints United against the Pigotts Bullets. (All Saints United FC)

on goal difference, after securing their second win in 16 matches.

Parham advanced to 11 points, the same as the Ottos Rangers, who have a game in hand. The Hoppers remain in fourth place with 28 points after suffering their seventh

defeat in 17 matches.

Peter Byers scored an equalizer in the third minute of added time as SAP snatched a 1-1 draw with the Garden Stars in Saturday's second encounter.

Nashaun Phillip scored in the 32nd minute to give the Garden Stars a one-nil lead at halftime.

The Garden Stars will remain in sixth place with 25 points after drawing for the fourth time in 16 matches. SAP will remain in 11th place with 14 points after drawing for the fifth time in 17 matches.

cont'd from pg 18

Their 10th win in 16 matches carries the Police to 33 points, the same as the Attacking Saints, who have played 17 matches. The Liberta Blackhawks remain second from the bottom of the standings on goal difference with 10 points after losing for the 12th time in 16 matches.

Shemarah Andrew scored twice as

Lion Hill claimed a two-nil win against Bendals at the Bendals playing field. Following a goalless first half, Andrew scored in the 75th and 80th minutes.

Lion Hill will remain in sixth place, advancing to 21 points after recording their sixth win in 15 matches. Bendals will remain in eighth place with 12 points after losing for the 11th time in 17 matches.

Sports News



Blackhawks still unbeaten in ABCA Super-40 Cup

Cup-holders PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawk extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup limited overs competition on Saturday.

The Blackhawks claimed their fourth win in five matches with a five-wicket victory against the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at Ball Beef in Liberta.

The Golden Eagles were dismissed for 115 in 31.2 overs with captain Teron Payne, who opened the innings, getting a top score of 33 off 34 balls. Kofi James bagged three for 17, and Amahl Nathaniel claimed three for 25.

Nathaniel then opened

the innings and cracked 39 off 43 balls as the Blackhawks soared to victory at 117 for five in 21.5 overs.

The New Winthorpes Lions and the Jennings Tigers both recorded their third win in five matches. The Lions crushed the Bolans Blasters by 198 runs in New Winthorpes.

Set 280 to win, the Bolans Blasters were bundled out for 81 in 21.1 overs. Kyian Joseph snapped up four for 21, and Orandel Boston bagged three for 15.

Captain Nino Henry slammed an unbeaten century in the Lions' total of 279 for six off their allotted 40 overs. Henry hit 102 not out off 55 balls, including seven sixes and nine fours.

Damon Valentine struck 66, opener Bartlette Henry



Nino Henry got 32, and Ishmael Peter cracked 31 not out off 30 balls.

The Jennings Tigers beat the Pigotts Crushers by 47 runs in Jennings. The Tigers made 170 for nine off their 40 overs, with Emmanuel Lawrence hitting 35 off 33 balls and Cameron Miller getting 31. Pacer Jawakie Joseph took three for 32.

In reply, the Crushers were dismissed for 123 in 29.4 overs. Left-arm spinner Glenton Williams grabbed three for 16, and Morton Browne picked up three for 38.

In the other matches, the WES Rising Sun Spartans trounced Empire Nation by 98 runs at Rising Sun, and the All Saints Pythons prevailed by seven wickets against Combined Schools at Mack Pond in All Saints.

Shane Burtons slammed an unbeaten century to lead Rising Sun to 258 for three off 25 overs. Burton struck 134 not out off 69 balls, including 11 sixes and 10 fours. Owen Graham chipped in with 40 off 23 balls.

Empire Nation then tumbled to 160 all out in 24 overs. Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. hit 51 off 43 balls, with four fours and four sixes, and fellow opening partner Zianni Da Silva cracked 31 off 24 balls. Graham captured six for 26.

All Saints Pythons dismissed Combined Schools for 30 in 18.3 overs. Kadeem Josiah snapped up four wickets for two runs, and Emroy Lee claimed four wickets for 13 runs. The Pythons secured victory at 31 for three in 12.1 overs.



Amahl Nathaniel

Narrow wins for Da Project and Fearless Crew in D-2 basketball

The Da Project and Jim Nance Jan Serv Fearless Crew snatched narrow wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Saturday night.

Da Project recorded their seventh win in eight encounters by snatching a one-point win against Spanish Heat 2 in their encounter at the JSC Sports Complex.

Former national small forward Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew shot a game-high 34 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to lead Da Project to their 75-74 victory.

Tyler Jacobs produced 14 points, 10 rebounds, and six steals; Eric Joseph converted 12 points and snatched 15 rebounds; and Nyique Watkins had 12 points and eight assists for Da Project.

Jesus Emmanuel sank 22 points and claimed nine re-



bounds; Ismael Palemo converted 19 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Gabriel Perez had 10 points and eight rebounds; and Erwin Rodriguez chipped in with nine points and eight rebounds for the Spanish Heat 2, which lost for the second time in eight games.

The Fearless Crew grabbed their sixth win in eight games by clinching a three-point victory against the Old Road Daggers.

Ricky Willock sank 18 points and claimed 10 rebounds to lead the Fearless Crew to their 72-69 victory.

Ryan Shepherd produced 13 points, 14 rebounds, and five steals; Rafiki Harris had 13 points, 12 assists, and five rebounds; and Ronel Gomez scored 10 points and claimed five rebounds for the Fearless Crew. Jesus Lopez sank 19 points; Kelvin Simon converted 17 points and grabbed 20 rebounds; Craig Thomas scored 12 points and snatched 11 rebounds; Devea Aaron had 12 steals and 11 rebounds; and Braulio Lopez had 12 points, six rebounds, and six assists for the Old Road Daggers, who lost for the fifth time in nine games.

The Lava Smoke Shop Lower Ottos Warriors recorded their sixth win in eight games by snatching a narrow four-point victory against the Court Martials.

Ariel Quallis converted 17 points and snatched 10 rebounds to lead the Lower

Ottos Warriors to their hard-fought 69-65 victory.

Kwame Huntley sank 13 points; Javon Simon scored 11 points; and Michael Barton chipped in with 10 points, 18 rebounds, and five steals for the Lower Ottos Warriors.

Baldwin Anthony converted 15 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Regillio Cisse had 15 points and eight steals; and Piper Hansel scored nine points for the Court Martials, who lost for the fourth time in nine encounters.

The Wadadli Elite won by default against the Honourable Gaston Browne Pointville Ballers, when the team failed to show up for their encounter at the JSC Sports Complex.

It was the fourth win in eight games for the Wadadli Elite, while the Pointville Ballers lost for the seventh time in nine encounters.

cont'd from pg 22

(Ackeem Auguste 76, Carlon Bowen-Tuckett 49, Johann Layne 38, Akeem Jordan 4-76) and 219-7 off 67.4 overs (Rashawn Worrell 63, Kadeem Alleyne 52; Kraigg Brathwaite 3-28, Jomel Warican 3-62). On a rain-shortened fourth and final day, the Windwards eventually reached 296 for seven off 94 overs, 120 runs short of their target after starting the day 112 for one.

Full Scores: Leeward Islands Hurricanes 300 all out off 82.5 overs (Mikyle Louis 100, Jewel Andrew 68, Jeremiah Louis 43; Ryan John 3-67, Gilon Tyson 2-33) and 294 all out off 79.2 overs (Keacy Carty 65, Mikyle Louis 33; Kaven Hodge 3-60, Gilon Tyson 3-91).

Windward Islands Volcanoes 179

all out off 53 overs (Johann Jeremiah 42, Shamar Springer 33; Daniel Doram 6-34, Hayden Walsh Jr 3-21) and 296-7 off 94 overs (Stephan Pascal 63, Johann Jeremiah 51, Shamar Springer 35; Daniel Doram 4-65).

These results confirmed the Guyana Harpy Eagles as champions of the West Indies Championship for the second straight season. The Trinidad and Tobago Red Force dismantled the Jamaica Scorpions by an innings and 125 runs inside three days at Sabina Park in the other match in round seven.

Dr. Shallow lauded the collective efforts of all participating teams, stating, "The West Indies Championship is the pinnacle of regional cricket and serves as a testament to the rich legacy and

tradition of cricket in our region. Therefore, it was only fitting that Cricket West Indies further invested in this level of cricket by increasing the financial winnings to incentivize players further and build interest across the region.

"As the cricketing community reflects on the tournament's outcomes, Cricket West Indies remains committed to fostering excellence and nurturing talent at all levels."

Dr. Shallow expressed optimism for the future of West Indies cricket, affirming, "The dedication and passion exhibited by our teams reaffirm cricket's enduring significance and relevance, which we are confident will positively produce more desirable and sustained success at the international level."

Sports

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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Guyana retain regional four-day title

President of Cricket West Indies (CWI), Dr. Kishore Shallow has offered congratulation to the Guyana Harpy Eagles, who emerged triumphant once again, retaining their West Indies Four-Day Championship title and collecting US\$250,000 in a thrilling showcase of cricket prowess.

Dr. Shallow extended his heartfelt congratulations to the team, emphasizing their remarkable consistency and dedication. He stated, "The Guyana Harpy Eagles have demonstrated immense skills, tactical astuteness, and resilience throughout the tournament, showcasing the true spirit of West Indies cricket."

In a gripping finale to the championship, the Harpy Eagles secured a decisive eight-wicket victory over the Combined Campuses and Colleges at Frank Worrell Field in Trinidad on Friday, propelling them to the top of

the table with 103.8 points.

Set 180 for victory, Harpy Eagles, through half-centuries from Raymond Perez (79 not out) and captain Tevin Imlach (50), got across the line with minimum fuss to successfully wrap up what started out as a slow campaign.

Scores: Combined Campuses and Colleges Marooners 200 (Demario Richards 43, Romario Greaves 36; Nial Smith 3-45, Veerasamy Permaul 3-51) and 203 (Shamarh Brooks 59, Odaine McCatty 56).

Guyana Harpy Eagles 223 all out (Raymond Perez 62, Tevin Imlach 55, Kevin Sinclair 37; Avinash Mahabirsingh 8-51) and 182 for two (Raymond Perez 79 not out, Tevin Imlach 50, Tagenarine Chanderpaul 42).

After the Barbados Pride lost by three wickets against the West Indies Academy at the Coolidge Cricket Ground



President Dr. Kishore Shallow, left, presents the US\$250,000 champions cheque to Tevin Imlach, who is the captain of the Guyana Harpy Eagles in Trinidad on Saturday, April 20, 2024. (CWI Media)

in Antigua, the championship culminated in a gripping showdown at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad between the Leeward Islands Hurricane and the Windward Islands Volcanoes, resulting in a hard-fought draw that ultimately secured Guyana's reign as champions for the seventh time in nine years.

The West Indies Academy completed a tense three-wicket win over the

Barbados Pride on Saturday's fourth and final day.

The Pride, who began Saturday 228 for five off 92 overs and leading the Academy by 138 runs, carried on to post 308 from 113.3 overs to leave the Academy needing 219 for victory. The Academy then needed 67.4 overs to reach 219 for seven and secure the win.

Full Scores: Barbados Pride 153 all out off 39.5 overs (Jonathan Drakes 33; Johann Layne 3-23, McKenny Clarke 3-26) and 308 all out off 113.3 overs (Kraig Brathwaite 90, Raymon Reifer 82, Demetrius Richards 46, Kevin Wickham 35; Joshua Bishop 3-59, Ashmead Nedd 3-80).

West Indies Academy 243 all out off 61.3 overs

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The Guyana Harpy Eagles captured the 2024 Cricket West Indies Four-Day Championship in Trinidad on Saturday, April 20, 2024.