

PM BROWNE CLEARS THE AIR

Story on Page 2



The CARILEC Line-workers Rodeo was organized in conjunction with the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and held at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, on Sunday, 21 April 2024. *Story on page 4.*

Local News



PM ‘clears the air’ regarding the Peter Kelsick matter

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has cleared the air regarding the issue surrounding Peter Kelsick, operator of Sneaky Pete’s, an establishment located on the beach at Dickenson Bay.

Opposition sources have been critical of the government on the matter but, PM Browne took to Facebook to give a full account of the matter and he has urged Kelsick to ‘stop peddling lies’.

“Peter Kelsick needs to stop peddling lies and deceitful partisan rhetoric.

He reached a bilateral deal with Royalton, for the demolition of his abandoned, derelict plywood shack, which was located literally on the beach, six feet away from a block of rooms for the new Halcyon Chic Hotel.

“My understanding is that he accepted a compensation package from Royalton that is 40 times the value of his ramshackle building.

He wants to have his cake and eat it. He is now opportunistically trying to extract personal sympathy and political value for his UPP cronies,” the prime minister wrote.

According to PM Browne, Kelsick has had 40 years squatting on the public beach without paying a red cent. He added that as a man ostensibly in his 70’s, he had 40 years to build a savings for his retirement.

“Instead of pursuing a sustainable business model, he operated a one-man business which declined and aged with

him during the 40 years of operation.

He didn’t have the foresight or interest in succession planning. Now that he has advanced in age, he doesn’t have the energy to operate the business and was forced to close it four years ago, leaving the abandoned, derelict structure to further decay,” he remarked.

The country’s leader described the structure was an eyesore to locals and visitors alike.

“This deceit and banal partisan politics will not be allowed to go unchallenged.

No one disenfranchised or dispossessed Mr Kelsick of anything. He was treated fairly and was offered a decent

cont’d on pg 3

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS
EV AND OFF-ROAD SUV

ACE Enterprises Ltd.

*Model shown with optional accessories.

KGM
Formerly SsangYong

CONTACT US:

AL MILS
764-2011

CLIFTON PHILLIP
724-1787

ICILMA CHASTANET
464-3303

Antigua and Barbuda, US hold fruitful talks on SIDS4

Antigua and Barbuda and the United States continue to build on the strong and cordial relations that exist between the two countries over the past several decades.

This week, the US Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Roger Nyhus, and a team from the Embassy have been holding bilateral discussions with senior officials of the Antigua and Barbuda government.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne held discussions with Ambassador Nyhus, and while details of the discussions have not been made public, those discussions likely touched on

areas of cooperation between the US and Antigua and Barbuda.

The Ambassador also paid a courtesy call on Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, Foreign Minister E.P Chet Greene, who just returned from an extended overseas trip to Bangladesh, Malta and the UK, met with the US Ambassador and team.

The US government is playing a significant role in assisting Antigua and Barbuda with the hosting of the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) that takes place in



US Ambassador to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Roger Nyhus, right, with Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

St. John's from May 27-30.

FM Greene thanked the ambassador for the assistance that the US has offered particularly in the area of security for attendees of the conference, especially with the high number of heads of state/government expected to attend the conference.

Included in this, according to the minister, was a session held in March for law enforcement and other security personnel in a Protective Operations and Tactical Medical training course that was held at the Sir Wright George Police Academy at Longford's.

That course, the minister noted, ran for three days and introduced local law enforcement and security personnel to protective security and Diplomatic Security Services operations. The course covered both classroom ses-

sions as well as practical exercises.

"We are grateful for the assistance provided, which will bolster security operations for the SIDS4 conference," Greene told the ambassador.

Ambassador Nyhus said the US is happy to be able to offer assistance to Antigua and Barbuda in a critical area for the SIDS4 conference, security of all attendees.

Meanwhile, FM Greene was in London Tuesday night for a social event that took place at Lord's Cricket Ground to honour Antigua and Barbuda's Four Knights – Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Andy Roberts, Sir Richie Richardson and Sir Curtly Ambrose.

The event marked the start of a marketing campaign in the UK to encourage cricket lovers there to journey to Antigua and Barbuda for the ICC Cricket T20 World Cup matches taking place in June at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.



US Ambassador Roger Nyhus (Left) Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene (centre) and US Consular Officer, Tapitha Snowbarger (right).

cont'd from pg 2

compensation package, which he agreed to.

He is nothing short of a liar and a deceiver, who is peddling miss/dis informa-

tion.

He needs to cease and desist from unnecessary acrimony on the society," the prime minister stated.

Local News



Ishekelle Corbin wins St Maarten Caribbean Pageant in convincing style

Antigua and Barbuda's Ishekelle Corbin has won another regional pageant. This time Corbin walked away with the Caribbean Queen Pageant held in St. Maarten on Tuesday night.

The Caribbean Queen pageant was making a comeback as part of St Maarten's Carnival after an absence of several years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Corbin dominated the pageant by winning four of the five judged segments.



She won Best Evening Wear, Best Swimwear, Best Interview and Best Identification Question.

Corbin is the reigning Queen of Carnival here in Antigua and she was presented with the top prize of US\$10,000.00.

Her chaperone for the competition was Raynel Carroll, herself a former contestant in the pageant.

Meanwhile, the official media launch for Carnival 2024 takes place this afternoon (Thursday) at the Hodges Bay Club.

Head of the Queen's Sub-Committee, Brucilla

Marsh-Sutton, said the occasion will also include the unveiling of the 'Extraordinary Seven'; the seven delegates who will vie for the coveted Queen of Carnival title, 2024.

"We are asking the delegates to 'Be Extraordinary'...to dream, to believe and to evolve," Marsh-Sutton explained. The names of the sponsors will also be revealed during the event as they will be asked to 'sash' their respective contestants.

BVIEC and NEVLEC cop major awards for 2024 CARILEC Line-workers Rodeo

After three days of activities, including safety training, hosting of a Seminar and Exhibition, showcasing the latest technologies and tools in the power line segment of the industry, fun exercises and competitive activities in Antigua, the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation (BVIEC), and the Nevis Electricity Company Limited (NEVLEC) secured the top titles in the 2024 CARILEC Line workers Rodeo.

The CARILEC Line-workers Rodeo was organized in conjunction with the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) and held at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, on Sunday, 21 April 2024. The Rodeo activities were conducted in two categories: Apprentices, which are line-workers who have less than 4 years of experi-

ence, and Experienced line workers, who have 4 years or more of experience. Despite heavy rains bringing the games to an abrupt end, the British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation (BVIEC) was able to retain the title of Best Experienced Team for the second consecutive year, and Kishawn Hobson from NEVLEC captured the title of Best Apprentice.

Now in its sixth year, the CARILEC Line-workers Rodeo is the a key aspect of the Association's disaster management strategy and builds greater resilience in the electricity industry by providing a live simulation testing ground where Line-workers from around the region can apply the knowledge gained through various capacity building activities and through their experience in

the field, to strengthen their ability to maintain the transmission and distribution network and restore the electrical supply quickly and safely. Line-workers specialize in the installation, maintenance, and repair of electrical lines and equipment. These highly trained professionals play a crucial role in ensuring the safe and reliable transmission of electricity from power plants to homes, businesses, and communities, and in the restoration of electricity after a natural disaster.

The Rodeo also provides the public with an opportunity to gain a first-hand view of the work of Line workers. As part of its mandate to improve collaboration and knowledge sharing among its members, CARILEC provides regular training and conference opportunities for Line-workers,



as well as employees in other fields, at various levels within utilities.

The full list of winners for the CARILEC Line-workers Rodeo are as follows:

Best Experienced Team
1st Place – British Virgin Islands Electricity Company (BVIEC)

2nd Place – Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC)

cont'd on pg 5



cont'd from pg 4

3rd Place – Nevis Electricity Company (NEVLEC)

Best Apprentice

1st Place – Kishawn Honson, Nevis Electricity Company (NEVLEC)

2nd Place – Shoy Matthew, Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA)

3rd Place – Joesh Marquis, Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC)

Winners of Other Challenges

3 Phase HV Cutout Installation Experienced - Saint Lucia Electricity

Services Limited (LUCELEC)

HV Fuse link Changeout Apprentices - Joesh Marquis, Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC)

3 Phase Pin and Insulator Changeout - Experienced - British Virgin Islands Electricity Company (BVIEC)

1 Phase Deadend Changeout – Apprentices - Joesh Marquis, Saint Lucia Electricity Services Limited (LUCELEC)

3 Phase Earth Installation - Experienced - British Virgin Islands Electricity Company (BVIEC)

1 Phase Earth Installation - Apprentices – Dan Paul, Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA)

Hurtman Rescue - Experienced – Saint Kitts Electricity Company (SKELEC)

Hurtman Rescue – Apprentices – Shad Haynes, Barbados Light & Power Company Limited

Sponsors of the 2024 CARILEC Line-workers Rodeo include Domino High Voltage, Buckingham Manufacturing, Tim Self Powerline Safety & Training, and Pro Consulting Group.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

2 DAYS WAYS SAVE

\$16.99
- *2 pcs
- Biscuit
- Drink

\$19.99
- Zinger / CCB
- Drink

KFC

limitations apply

Available on the App Store and Google Play

FOR BUCKETS DELIVERY

#KFCcanu

Chinese Embassy condemns Newsweek Magazine article

The Chinese Embassy in St. John's has written a letter to the Editorial Board of Newsweek Magazine condemning an article it published last weekend that made certain allegations regarding the relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and the People's Republic of China.

The full letter is published below.

Journalistic objectivity should be adhered to

Dear editor,

I read an article Newsweek carried on April 19, titled "China Building New Outpost on U.S. Doorstep".

The article has made irresponsible remarks and leveled groundless accusations about the bilateral cooperation between China and Antigua and Barbuda, trying to discredit and smear the Chinese Embassy in Antigua and Barbuda.

Since it is driven by preconceived notions, and is in no compliance with Journalistic objectivity, I would like to share the following points of fact:

Firstly, it has always been consistent and clear that China's foreign policy sticks to equal treatment and win-win cooperation. In the era of globalization, as a major developing country, China is committed to promoting common development with other countries while focusing on its development.

China welcomes cooperation with all countries, including Antigua and Barbuda and the US, following the principles of mutual respect, fairness and justice, and non-interference in each other's internal affairs, and advances mutually beneficial cooperation based on compliance with laws and regulations.

China's goals are to enable its people to live a better life, share the fruits of development with the rest of the world, and promote building a community with a shared future for mankind, rather than engage in geostrategic competition with any country. Cooperation between China and Antigua and Barbuda has always been oriented towards people's livelihood from the very beginning when we had diplomatic relations 41 years ago.

From as early as the 1990s on, landmark projects were completed with the joint efforts of both sides, the Big Creek Bridge, the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Center, the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, the new terminal building of the V.C. Bird International Airport, and the Deep Water Harbor port, to name a few.

All these projects have directly benefited the people of Antigua and Barbuda and played a positive role in promoting the economic and social development and tourism



industry.

In the course of cooperation, China never attaches any political strings to such cooperation, never imposes its will on others, never makes empty promises, and never targets any third party.

The so-called "traded its sovereignty", "pursuing colonization" and "stealth through locking countries in with loans" in the article, completely distort the facts and unduly mislead the public.

Secondly, Developing countries should be treated as equal partners. China always holds that all countries, regardless of size, should be treated as equals. All countries have the right to independently choose their development partners.

Between China and Antigua and Barbuda, based on fully respecting each other's will and cultural traditions, to help each other and deepen South-South cooperation is simply natural, fully justified, and always done above board.

China has always opposed confrontation in this

region, for this is entirely the opposite of what the region urgently needs, nor is this consistent with the development trend of the world.

The Caribbean island nations are the homeland of their peoples, not the "backyard" nor "front yard" of any country. Their right to independent development cannot be deprived, and their region should not become an arena for competition among major countries.

It is hoped that no country should engage in zero-sum games or exclusive arrangements, more countries would provide practical assistance for the island countries and bring more benefits to their peoples. The so-called "diplomatic fortress", "intelligence center", "listening post", or "military purposes", are completely fabricated and cannot stand the test of facts and time.

Thirdly, in today's world, countries are more interconnected and interdependent than ever before, and mankind is living in the same global village.

cont'd on pg 7

Fake scholarship advertisement

The Ministry of Education, sports and Creative Industries is advising the general public that an advertisement making the rounds on social media regarding free online university courses is 'FAKE'. The advertisement bears the Coat of Arms of Antigua and Barbuda, what appears to be a medical logo and also another symbol that is unrecognisable and reads as follow:

"Ministry of Education and universities team up to offer free online university courses. Suitable for people aged 18 to 60 years old. Get your certificate in 4 weeks, Laptops will be provided free."

It also urges people who are between 18-30, 31-45, 46-60 and over 60 years to

apply and that students with excellent grades will receive scholarships and completion of the program leads to a degree.

The Ministry's headquarters continues to field calls from residents seeking further information on the "2024 Online Courses".

However, education officials have no knowledge of such an arrangement.

Therefore, persons are asked to refrain from sharing personal information as it relates to the advertisement.

Any scholarship offering being announced by the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries will be done through mainstream media outlets and via the Ministry's social media platforms.

cont'd from pg 6

Never has the connection between countries been so close as it is today, and the aspiration of the people of the world for a better life has never been so strong.

China has always believed that China and the US stand to gain from cooperation and lose from confrontation.

The visit of US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to China from April 24 to 26 is part of the China-US efforts to implement the consensus of the San Francisco meeting of the heads of the two countries and to maintain dialogue, manage differences, promote cooperation, and strengthen coordination in international affairs.

We hope that the visit will achieve positive results. We also hope that the media reporters and other people concerned will abandon the Cold War mentality, stop spreading false information about the so-called "potentially the greatest external challenge", and contribute more comments conducive to win-win cooperation and common development.

Pang Qingjie

Spokesperson of Chinese Embassy
In Antigua and Barbuda

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Automotive Service Manager - Summary

An automotive dealership in Antigua is seeking a Service Manager who has in depth knowledge of the automotive industry. The successful candidate should have hands on technical experience working with premium brands and be able to efficiently manage a service center. The manager should be able to adapt to the client - centric culture of the company by enhancing customer satisfaction, through the delivery of first-class service.

Essential Duties

- Responsible for managing the service department operations, staff and other resources
- Ensuring the efficient and profitable operation of the department to achieve both high levels of customer satisfaction, retention and profitability
- Controlling resources at a level commensurate with profit requirements and enhanced customer relations
- Monitoring and improvement of internal control procedures and systems
- Overseeing and supervising the work technicians to ensure that customers receive consistent and accurate service.
- Managing customer satisfaction levels by ensuring fix-it-right the first-time policy is adhered to.
- Advise staff on mechanical issues or be able to resolve mechanical issues in a timely and cost-effective manner.
- Motivating and coaching staff members to ensure high levels of productivity
- Keeping track of the status of vehicle repair and notify customer about same
- Managing the work in progress
- Authorizing and managing leave for all service department personnel
- Planning and managing training needs for all departmental personnel by keeping abreast of what is trending globally for each brand.
- Monitor productivity through hours sold on daily basis
- Making sure that hours sold per RO are in-line with benchmark
- Making sure that workshop parts sales are in-line with benchmark
- Making sure that the average labour rate is above the minimum rate
- Carry-out capacity studies for the workshop
- Monitor utilization and efficiency of Technicians (Units reports) and take suitable actions to improve levels
- Ensure the utilization of workshop resources and assets for excellent rates of productivity and efficiency
- Reviewing monthly sales(hours) and profit performance (Net profit vs gross)
- Any other duties assigned

Qualifications

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

Education and/or Experience

- Bachelor's degree in management
- Certified auto mechanic
- Certification from training done through dealerships
- 5-10 years related experience and/or training, or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Knowledge of automotive dealership software (especially CDK) would be an assets
- Sound knowledge of the automotive industry
- Recent certification in customer service

Other Skills

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups of customers or employees of organization.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations. Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, clients, customers and the general public.
- Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as probability and statistical inference, and fundamentals of plane and solid geometry and trigonometry. Ability to apply concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios and proportions to practical situations.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is April 26, 2024 with the resumes and contact information for 2 referees able to provide professional references on your behalf.

Email applications to: Acting.offices@gmail.com

Local News



Restaurant Week returns with 65 participating restaurants

Residents of Antigua and Barbuda are getting ready to treat their taste buds with the delightful offerings of the many restaurants that are down to participate in the 2024 instalment of Restaurant Week.

It's the second annual Antigua and Barbuda Restaurant Week (ABRW) from Saturday, May 4 through Sunday, May 19, with a total of 65 restaurants featuring diverse cuisines will offer prix fixe menus and special dining experiences to restaurant and food lovers. This year's celebration also includes events with local and celebrity chefs as well as the "Eat Like A Local" campaign that encourages guests to support the country's small, casual cookshops.

Prix Fixe lunch and dinner menus will range from \$25-\$75USD, with more affordable "Eat Like A Local" options available around the island. "The event was designed to encourage locals

and tourists to enjoy old favorites and also explore new restaurants and cuisines," said Shermain Jeremy of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority. "We look forward to celebrating great flavor with great value."

This year, ABRW will feature a lineup of celebrity chef and beverage professionals exclusively of Caribbean heritage, including Chef Angel Barreto, Chef Shorne Benjamin, Cookbook Author Althea Brown, Chef Kareem Roberts, Chef Digby Stridiron, and Sommelier Nadine Brown.

Coinciding with the run of ABRW is the Pepperpot Rum Shop, a 100-day pop-up destination created by The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Treehouse Beach Club, and British chef, television and radio broadcaster, and former singer Andi Oliver. The concept came from Oliver's successful recipe book, *The Pepperpot Diaries: Stories*

From My Caribbean Table. From May through August, the pop-up will host curated experiences featuring Caribbean food, music, art, and film. For more details on events at the Pepperpot Rum Shop, including a book Q&A with Oliver, rum tasting with global rum ambassador, Ian Burrell, and more, visit the events section of the pop-up's website here.

Special event experiences open to all throughout the two-week-long celebration include:

Sunday, May 5: "The Food & Art Experience," at Dow's Hill Interpretation Centre

The historic site overlooking Nelson's Dockyard will be transformed into a food and art village where guests can be the first to collect ABRW Food passports, sample fare from participating restaurants and local food brands, and explore art from local artists and makers. Guests can watch demonstrations from visiting celebrity chefs, in a private lounge where AS Brydens will pair wines and cocktails with samples from the demos.

Tuesday, May 7: "Destination Food Forum: Nourishing the Future" at the John E. St. Luce Finance & Conference Centre

The Food Forum, presented by Grace Foods, is a one-day immersive event designed to gather chefs, food enthusiasts, tourism experts, hospitality leaders, and sustainability advocates. Experts will lead insightful panel discussions on issues such as sustainability in food, supporting local producers, innovation, food trends and more.

Wednesday, May 8: Caribbean night and bonfire on the beach at Wild Tamarind

Guests will enjoy steelpan music, live entertainment, sundowner cocktails, passed appetizers, and a casual cookout prepared by two guest chefs: Shorne

cont'd on pg 9

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
Restaurant Week
2024

Taste
Antigua
Barbuda

May 4 - 19. 2024

PRIX FIXE LUNCH & DINNER
USD \$25 | \$50 | \$75

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
The Beach is just the beginning.

#ABRestaurantWeek #TasteAntiguaBarbuda
www.antiguarbarbudarestaurantweek.com

Grace ACB Digicel



Local News

cont'd from pg 8

Benjamin of Fat Fowl, who's based in Brooklyn, New York and originally from St. Lucia, and Chef Angel Barreto of Anju in Washington, DC, who is of Puerto Rican heritage.

Thursday, May 9: Roti master class at Loose Cannon beach bar's School of Cooking

Cookbook author Althea Brown, based in Aurora, Colorado and originally from Guyana, will host an intimate cooking class that covers the history of roti, how it came to the Caribbean, and differences in preparation throughout the region. A copy of Brown's cookbook, Caribbean Paleo, will be included with each ticket, which also includes a family-style lunch, rum punch and wine.

Thursday, May 9 and Saturday, May 18: Six-course Antiguan tasting menu from Chef Kareem Roberts and Head Chef of Weatherills Hotel Omar Nicholas

Antiguan chefs Omar Nicholas and Kareem Roberts, who is visiting from Cambridge, United Kingdom, will use local bullfoot, tamarind, black pineapple, lionfish and more in a meal that reimagines national cuisine at the historic estate house-turned-hotel. The collaborative six-course tasting menu will be available on two nights, with optional cocktail pairings.

Friday, May 10: Six-course tasting menu experience at Cove Restaurant at Blue Waters Resort

Guests will enjoy a six-course tasting menu featuring dishes from visiting Chef Kareem Roberts alongside Blue Waters Chef de Cuisine Ronald Wilson and Pastry Chef Tameka Hamilton. Hand painted chocolates and local bush tea will finish off the meal.

Saturday, May 11: Multicourse Korean dinner with wine pairings presented by Carlisle Bay and Premier Beverages.

This dining experience will feature dishes from Angel Barreto, acclaimed chef behind Anju, a Washington D.C.-based restaurant renowned for its contemporary Korean cuisine. Angel, recognized as a Food & Wine Best New

Chef and a James Beard Award finalist and semifinalist, will curate a four-course Korean dinner at East, the premier restaurant of Carlisle Bay Antigua. Enhancing the experience further, D.C.-based Sommelier Nadine Brown will pair complementary wines with each course. As a special treat, Angel will also introduce a signature dish to East's menu, available for guests to savor throughout the month of May.

Wednesday, May 15: The Bay House Modern Caribbean Sunset Cocktail experience introduces and celebrates Bay House's innovative approach to Caribbean cuisine and mixology, with a fusion of tradition and creativity.

The early evening affair guarantees a selection of enticing new Modern Caribbean dishes curated by Chef Dominique James of Bay House, in collaboration with Chef Kareem Roberts. These dishes will be served tapas-style and expertly paired with refreshing Modern Caribbean cocktails.

Back for a second year is the "Eat Like A Local" experience, which high-

lights casual island cookshops from Antiguan and Barbudan restaurant owners and cooks. Throughout Restaurant Week, guests can explore these local eateries via an interactive map on the ABRW website.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority encourages visitors to sample pepperpot and fungee, national dishes that are beloved on the island. Fungee is a cornmeal-based dish, variations of which are found throughout the Caribbean and believed to have been brought to the region by enslaved Africans; it is similar to fufu or fofoo, popular in many West Africa nations.

Other local dishes to be enjoyed include goat water, ducana and saltfish, and much more. Visitors and locals alike are also encouraged to book one of the many personalized cooking classes and food and rum tours, which are available throughout the island. A comprehensive list is available on the ABRW website.

A final schedule of events, how to book and a roster of participating restaurants is available at www.antiguabarbudarestaurantweek.com.

STATE INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

GET COVERAGE WITH STATE... ONE LESS THING TO WORRY ABOUT

Live in a better STATE of mind.

- HEALTH INSURANCE WHEN YOU NEED IT MOST
- COVERAGE TO SUIT YOUR NEEDS
- PROTECT YOUR MOST IMPORTANT ASSETS
- OTHER POLICIES TO PROTECT YOU

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



Megan Thee Stallion's representatives say the allegations are an attempt to embarrass the rapper.

Megan Thee Stallion: Cameraman accuses rapper of 'hostile' workplace

By **Riyah Collins**

Megan Thee Stallion has been accused of fat-shaming her former cameraman - and having sex next to him in a car - in a new lawsuit.

The US rapper is alleged to have made an "intolerable" work environment by ex-employee Emilio Garcia.

In a claim filed in Los Angeles, Mr Garcia also claims a change to his contract left him with unpaid wages.

Megan's lawyers told BBC Newsbeat the claim was "an attempt to embarrass her".

"This is an employment claim for money with no sexual harassment claim filed and with salacious accusations," they said, adding that they will deal with the lawsuit in court.

Mr Garcia claims to have started working for the Savage rapper in 2018 as her personal cameraman, and remained in the role full-time until June

2023.

In the legal documents, his lawyers say that he was trapped in a moving car with Megan - real name Megan Pete - while she had sex "right beside" him.

It allegedly happened during a trip to Ibiza in 2022, when he says he was left "embarrassed, mortified and offended".

Mr Garcia has also filed claims that during the same trip, he was taunted about his weight - being told to spit out his food and that he didn't need to be eating.

The court documents say Megan's behaviour "created a hostile work environment" for Mr Garcia, "making the conditions of his employment intolerable".

The lawsuit also includes a number of allegations of breaches of employment law, for which Mr Garcia is seeking financial compensation.

The allegations include a change to his contract which saw him paid "per task" rather than a monthly rate, which he says meant he earned "significantly less".

He also claims he missed out on healthcare benefits after his role was "misclassified" as an independent contractor.

Mr Garcia says that after the trip to Ibiza, he was booked for fewer photo-shoots until June last year when he was told by Megan's management, Roc Nation, that his services were no longer required.

He alleges this was "in retaliation for his complaints of wage and hour violations".

BBC Newsbeat has contacted Roc Nation, which is also named in the court documents alongside Megan, but it has not yet commented on the allegations.

**MON - FRI
9AM TO 11AM**



**HOSTED BY
TROY ALLEN**

TALK YOUR MIND

**CALL: 562-3989 OR 562-2991 | US: 718 285 7889
FACEBOOK LIVE @ POINTE FM99.1**

WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

TikTok vows to fight 'unconstitutional' US ban

TikTok says it will challenge in court an “unconstitutional” law that could result in it being sold or banned in the United States.

President Biden has signed into law a bill which gives the social media platform’s Chinese owner, ByteDance, nine months to divest the app or it will be blocked in the US.

The law has been introduced because of concerns TikTok might share user data with the Chinese government - claims it has always denied.

“We are confident and we will keep fighting for your rights in the courts,” said TikTok boss Shou Zi Chew.

“The facts, and the Constitution, are on our side... rest assured, we aren’t going anywhere.”

In a video posted on the platform, he lambasted the bill and called for people to share their stories of how TikTok had improved their lives.

“Make no mistake, this is a ban - a ban on TikTok, and a ban on you, and your voice,” he said.

In a separate statement TikTok added that it believed “the facts and the law” were “clearly” on its side.

“The fact is, we have invested billions of dollars to keep U.S. data safe and our



platform free from outside influence and manipulation,” it said.

The measure was passed as part of a package of four bills which also included military aid for Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan and other US partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

It had widespread support from lawmakers, with 79 Senators voting for it and 18 against.

“For years we’ve allowed the Chinese Communist party to control one of the most popular apps in America... that was dangerously short-sighted,” said Senator Marco Rubio, the top Republican on the Intelligence Committee.

“A new law is going to require its Chinese owner to sell the app. This is a good move for America,” he added.

TikTok has said ByteDance “is not an agent of China or any other country”. ByteDance insists it is not a Chinese firm, pointing to the global investment firms that own 60% of it.

Experts have told the BBC the bill is “a big deal” but have warned it faces multiple hurdles.

It could take several years before the app is blocked as legal action, likely all the way to the Supreme Court, would delay the process.

In November, a U.S. federal judge in Montana blocked an effort to ban TikTok within the state.

The popularity of the app with young Americans could also be problematic.

“About two in three young people in the US have a TikTok account,” said Andrew Przybylski, professor

of human behaviour and technology at Oxford University.

“The primary challenge is going to be on freedom of speech and freedom of expression.

“The UN Charter on the Rights of the Child is quite specific: young people have a right to information and a right to play, so I think it can be challenged on those grounds.”

Jennifer Huddleston from the Cato institute, in Washington, said any sale might be delayed because of the “considerable” regulatory scrutiny it would attract.

“Nine months is a rather quick timeframe for this size of a transaction - it’s something that is likely to have further regulatory scrutiny even without the requirements in this propos-

cont’d on pg 14



ON AIR

STAY ON POINTE

POINTE FM 99.1

Your **Monday Conversations**,
this and every **Monday!**

6:30pm - 8:30pm

Host Michael Freeland

CALL 562- 3989 OR 562-2991 (US) 718-285-7889 FACEBOOK LIVE @POINTE FM99.1

Regional News



CARICOM continuing efforts to find solution in Haiti - President Ali

CMC - Caribbean Community (CARICOM) chairman, Dr Irfaan Ali says the regional integration movement is continuing efforts to formulate a Haitian-led solution to the current turmoil in the French-speaking CARICOM member state.

President Ali said Guyana and the rest of CARICOM remain resolute in their pursuit of peace and stability in the region.

“We also as a country support every effort to build safe societies, societies in which any act of terror, or

“So, we will continue to work until all members of the human family can achieve that important human desire of living in peace and building prosperous and harmonious societies,” he told the handing-over ceremony for GUY\$110.8 million (One Guyana dollar=US\$0.004 cents) in humanitarian aid for Palestine.

Ali said that the situation in Haiti is also being monitored.



CARICOM Chairman, President of Guyana, Dr Irfaan Ali.

In 2023, the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was formulated to extend the Community’s Good Offices to the Government of Haiti and Haitian stakeholders. The group has engaged a wide range of actors, including Haitian politicians, political parties, the religious community, the private sector, the diaspora, and civil society.

To facilitate this return to normalcy, Prime Minister, Ariel Henry has since resigned, paving the way for creating a Transitional Pres-

idential Council.

“We have been spending a lot of time supporting efforts there. We have also dedicated resources as a government,” Ali said, adding that the EPG will receive continuous support from Guyana, as the group aims to aid the return of fully functioning state institutions.

Recent reports indicate that gang violence has surged in Haiti, as the country continues to spiral.

According to a recent UN report, more than

2,500 people were killed or wounded across Haiti from January to March.

A US military plane – which landed in Port-au-Prince, on Tuesday – bringing non lethal material for the country’s security forces.

The airport has been closed since March 4, this year, and ports have been out of service in an area almost totally controlled by gangs.

The United Nations Tuesday reported that its humanitarian colleagues say that the procurement of essential supplies, including food and medicines, is becoming increasingly challenging – with the international airport closed, main ports barely functioning and roads leading out of the capital blocked.

“Fuel availability has also become a pressing issue with prices soaring on the black market and transportation costs on the rise,” the UN spokesman added.

cont’d from pg 12

al,” she said.

“The question remains - what does it mean to even sell TikTok in the US, is that truly possible, and what would a buyer look like?”

Exactly who would be able to buy and operate it is also a big question - the price would likely be in the tens of billions of dollars, meaning there would be few potential buyers.

Brooke Erin Duffy, associate professor of communication at Cornell University, said TikTok users in the

US had been bracing themselves for a ban “for quite some time”.

“The Senate decision injects a heightened level of uncertainty into the livelihoods of countless content creators, influencers, and small business owners,” she said.

If it is not sold in time, the app could be blocked in the country - the US says this is because it is concerned TikTok could be used to spy on Americans, or to spread propaganda.

TikTok gathers similar kinds of data to other apps, but the US is con-

cerned this data could fall into the hands of the Chinese government - claims the company has always contested. Elsewhere, the firm has agreed to suspend its TikTok Lite rewards programme, which pays users to spend time on the app in France and Spain.

European Commissioner Thierry Breton said the feature was “toxic and addictive”, particularly when used by children, and threatened to block it unless action was taken.

The EU said its investigation into the feature would continue.

Archbishop Malzaire calls for an end to the public discord in Grenada

CMC - The leadership of the Province of Castries, Antilles Episcopal Conference, says it is “deeply saddened by the situation unfolding in Grenada where a priest there has announced plans to launch a petition to remove the Bishop, Clyde Harvey from office.

In a statement, signed by Archbishop Gabriel Malzaire, the Metropolitan Archbishop of Castries, the Province of Castries said that it was also saddened by “the continued public display of disregard for leadership, and the policies and processes of the Church”.

Less than a week after the Roman Catholic Church in Grenada announced that a truce had been brokered ending a feud between Bishop Harvey and Father Gerald Paul, the priest has announced plans to get the Trinidadian born bishop removed from Grenada.

“I will defy that suspension, I will be saying mass here every Sunday and continuing my church activities as usual,” Father Paul said, adding that “I am going to be writing to Rome and to the (Papal) Nuncio, the Pope’s representative, who represents all the churches in the Caribbean... and also I will be writing to Rome to tell my part of the story.

“Secondly, I will begin a campaign to unseat Clyde Harvey as Bishop of Grenada,” he told the congregation, saying “we have had enough of that foolishness”.

Earlier this month, Bishop Harvey said that Father Paul had “not been suspended because of what he had said about Gaza” but for his continued “lack of respect” for the church and his “pronouncements that often stray from the truth”.

“I wish to state...Father Gerard



Archbishop Gabriel Malzaire.

Paul had not been suspended because of what he said about Gaza. His sentiments have been echoed by many in and out of the Catholic Church. The Church is very concerned and will continue to speak out about the unjust situations in the world, including Gaza, Ukraine, Haiti and Sudan,” Bishop Harvey said in a video statement.

The Trinidadian-born Bishop said that the church would continue with that policy, while being active in caring for persons “in the midst of these situations”.

The controversy began on March 27, 2024 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and subsequent statements made by Father Paul on various media platforms in which he accused the church here for not condemning the situation in Gaza.

“I call upon the Church today to get its freedom and to get its voice and speak up for justice,” the priest said, while calling the Gaza War a ‘wholesale slaughter’ of Palestinians and Muslims,” he added.

In his statement, Archbishop Malzaire said the series of “errant actions” which occurred at and following a church service on March 27 this year “has brought disrepute to the Church and immeasurable hurt to the faithful.

“It has now become necessary for the leadership to intervene and to take

action in accordance with the right order of the Church,” he said, adding that Bishop Harvey “is the rightfully appointed bishop” and “must be respected as such.

“As required by Canon law, he submitted his resignation on attaining his 75th birthday. The Holy Father, Pope Francis, by letter of January 2024, asked him to remain as bishop of the diocese with full duties and rights until a new bishop is chosen and duly appointed”.

Archbishop Malzaire said that consistent the policies and processes of the Church, “it is expected that any instruction which Bishop Harvey... issues to members of the clergy in the Diocese of St. George’s in Grenada must be adhered to.

“Any objection to such instruction must follow the requisite internal processes of enquiry and resolution. It is not the practice nor the desired position of the Church to address internal differences publicly”.

He said as Archbishop of the province, he is prepared “to urgently hear and consider any objections” which Father Paul may wish to make concerning his suspension “or any complaints against the bishop.

“It must be clear that the removal of a bishop must also follow due process. The Church is governed by its own system of laws and procedures and these must be respected and followed. Until such time that the actions of Bishop Harvey are overturned by a lawful process, then they stand and should be respected and followed”.

Archbishop Malzaire said he is calling on the faithful in Grenada to ensure that “the present tensions in the diocese may soon give way to a stronger, united Christian community”.



Hundreds of people were injured in the Amia bombing and 85 were killed.

Argentina seeks arrest of Iranian minister over 1994 bombing

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Argentina has asked Interpol to issue an arrest notice for the Iranian interior minister, Ahmad Vahidi.

The request comes less than two weeks after a court in Argentina held Iran responsible for the 1994 attack on a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires, in which 85 people were killed.

Mr Vahidi was in Pakistan earlier this week as part of an Iranian delegation which is now in Sri Lanka.

Argentina said it had also asked the two countries to detain Mr Vahidi.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry said in a statement that Interpol had issued a so-called “red notice”.

While a red notice alerts police in member countries about internationally wanted fugitives, it does not constitute an arrest warrant.

Interpol cannot compel police to arrest someone for whom a red notice has been issued, it is up to the member country to decide whether to make the arrest.

The Iranian delegation, which includes President Ebrahim Raisi, arrived in Sri Lanka earlier on Wednesday.

However, AFP news agency reported that Mr Vahidi was not seen accompanying the president upon arrival in Sri Lanka.

Iran’s official news agency reported that Mr Vahidi was back in Iran on Tuesday, without referring to the red notice.

The Argentine Foreign Ministry said it wanted Mr Vahidi as “one of those responsible for the attack on [the Israeli-Argentine Mutual Association cultural centre] Amia”.

Argentina has in the past accused Mr Vahidi, who led the overseas operations arm of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (ICRGC) at the time of the attack, of being one of the masterminds behind the bombing.

The attack on the cultural centre was the deadliest in Argentina’s history. Three hundred people were injured in the explosion, which killed 85.

Iran has always denied any involvement but on 11 April, Argentina’s Court of Cassation - the country’s highest criminal court - ruled that Iran had planned the attack and that the Iran-backed group Hezbollah had carried it out.

The court called it a “crime against humanity”.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry dismissed the ruling, saying the court had made “baseless and unsubstantiated claims” for the sake of “political goals and objectives”.

Argentina is home to Latin America’s largest Jewish community.

The community was the target not only of the Amia bombing but also of a previous bomb attack, in which a suicide bomber drove a lorry loaded with explosives in to the Israeli embassy, killing 29 people.

Argentina has long blamed Iran and the Islamist group Hezbollah for that attack as well as the one on Amia.

Spain's PM Pedro Sánchez halts public duties as wife faces inquiry

By Paul Kirby

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez has suspended public duties to “stop and reflect” on whether to remain in the job, after a court opened a preliminary inquiry into his wife.

In a statement, the Spanish leader said he urgently needed to decide “whether I should continue to lead the government or renounce this honour”.

The court said it was responding to corruption claims against Begoña Gómez.

Mr Sánchez said his wife would defend her honour and work with the judiciary.

The complaint against Begoña Gómez was raised by anti-corruption campaigners Manos Limpias (Clean Hands), who have taken part in a number of high-profile court cases in recent years and are led by a man linked to the far right.

The Spanish prime minister said he would make a decision on his future before the media on Monday 29 April, after reflecting whether it was worth remaining in office “despite the mud” that the right and far right were trying to turn politics into.

In a lengthy statement on X, Mr Sánchez complained of a “strategy of harassment” over months aimed at weakening him politically and personally targeting his wife.

The court did not give details of the accusations against Begoña Gómez other than to say it had begun investigating allegations of influence peddling and corruption on 16 April.

However, El Confidencial website said on Wednesday that the inquiry was looking into her links to private companies that had secured government money or public contracts.

In particular, it cited a “sponsor-



Pedro Sánchez posted a lengthy statement on X saying his wife Begoña Gómez would defend her honour (file pic).

ship agreement” involving tourism group Globalia and a foundation she ran in 2020 called IE Africa Center. In 2020, Globalia secured a €475m (£407m) bailout for its airline Air Europa, as part of a series of government rescue packages for companies during the Covid-19 crisis.

Spain's conservative Popular Party (PP) demanded explanations in parliament earlier on Wednesday, to which the prime minister said simply that he believed in justice “despite everything”.

Spanish media said he had left parliament for his Madrid residence visibly upset. Hours later he accused PP leader Alberto Núñez Feijóo of working with far-right party Vox to bring him down.

“I am not naive. I realise they are denouncing Begoña, not because she has done anything illegal - they know there is no case - but because she is my wife,” he complained in his statement.

Political allies expressed support for Mr Sánchez, who has been in power since 2018, but his decision to suspend public duties comes at a tense

time for his Socialist party ahead of European Parliament elections in June and elections in the Catalonia region of north-eastern Spain next month.

He was due to take part in a Catalan campaign launch in Barcelona on Thursday.

Pedro Sánchez leads an awkward coalition that includes two Catalan separatist parties, which were persuaded to join the government in return for an amnesty that covered a banned Catalan referendum on secession in 2017.

Without the support of the Catalan Republican Left (ERC) and Together for Catalonia (JxCat) he would not have been able to stay in power, following an inconclusive election last year.

Opposition parties were outraged by the amnesty, which also means the former Catalan regional leader Carles Puigdemont will stand in next month's regional vote, seven years after he fled imminent arrest and went into exile in Belgium.

Mr Puigdemont is still facing a terrorism case but believes the amnesty will enable him to return to Spain.

Top two teams drop points in First Division League

The two top teams in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division dropped crucial points on Tuesday in the race for promotions to next season's Premier Division League.

The Potters Tigers move ahead of Five Islands on goal difference at the top of the First Division after being held to a 1-1 draw by Lion Hill at the Golden Grove playing field.

Keon Greene gave the Potters Tigers a 1-0 halftime lead with a 35th-minute conversion, but Shemarrah Andrew scored in the 78th minute to snatch the equalizer for Lion Hill.

Lion Hill will remain in sixth place, advancing to 22 points after salvaging their fourth draw in 16 matches.

Their fourth draw in 16 matches carries the Potters Tigers to 40 points, the same as Five Islands.

Five Islands lost for the second time in the competition, falling to a 3-1 defeat against the Attacking Saints at the Five Islands playing field.

Prince Walters scored twice with conversions in the 42nd and 85th minutes, and Joshua Samuel scored in the 63rd minute for the Attacking Saints. Samuel Semper scored in the 15th



Players of the Attacking Saints football team. The Attacking Saints beat Five Islands in their First Division encounter at Five Islands on Tuesday, April 23, 2024. (File photo) minute for Five Islands.

Their second defeat in 16 matches allows Five Islands to remain on 40 points and slip into second place on goal difference behind the Potters Tigers.

The Attacking Saints move into third place with 36 points after securing their 11th win in 18 matches.

Daryl Massicot and Terry Ponde each converted twice to lead Jennings United to a 6-0 victory against the Young Lions of Old Road at the ABFA Technical Center.

Massicot scored in the 48th minute and converted a penalty kick in the 65th minute, and Ponde had conversions in the 72nd and 75th minutes. Marcus Joseph scored in the 62nd minute, and Rasheed Lambert had an 87th-minute conversion for Jennings United.

Jennings United will remain in fifth place by advancing to 28 points after recording their eighth win in 15 matches. The Young Lions remain in the cellar with nine points after losing for the 14th time in 17 matches.

Flyers wrap up ABBA's Division 1 League title

The EZ Fit Flyers wrapped up the round-robin league title in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division One Championship on Tuesday night.

The Flyers finished at the top of the league standings with a record of nine wins and one defeat after soaring to a 95-45 victory against the Spanish Heat in their last preliminary round encounter at the JSC Sports Complex.

It means that the Flyers have clinched the top seed in the playoffs, in which they are the defending champions after soaring to the title last season.

Adonis Humphreys produced 16 points, 19 re-

bounds, and five blocked shots; David Hernandez converted 14 points and claimed nine rebounds; and T-Shawn Lewis scored 14 points and snatched five rebounds for the Flyers.

In support, Craig Mas-siah scored 10 points; Se-lassie Brathwaite had nine points and nine rebounds; and Donte Trimmingham

chipped in with eight points and eight rebounds.

Steven Matthew converted 19 points, and Damian Floyd scored eight points and claimed nine rebounds for the Spanish Heat.

The Honourable Daryll Matthew Ottos Clippers claimed their third win in *cont'd on pg 19*

Legacy Lightening make good start to ABNDA's three-hand domino competition

Legacy Lightening has taken an early lead in the opening three-hand competition of the 2024 Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) domestic season.

Legacy Lightening posted the highest score during the opening round of matches in the Three-Hand Competition, which is being conducted in the accumulated points format, at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos.

Legacy Lightening chalked up 90 points to prevail against Bolans Revellers A with 64 points and Ramplers with 51 points.

Triple Dynamite occupy second place after posting 86 points to win their opening encounter against Highly Favoured with 64 points and Full Clip B with 56 points.

Double Six Diamond, Legacy Thunder, and Willikies Super Stars B are in joint third place after scoring 82 points to win their respective opening round matches.

Double Six Diamonds won their encounter against



Players compete during the opening round of matches in the ABNDA's three-hand domino competition at its headquarters in Ottos. (Photo courtesy of ABNDA)

the Willikies Super Stars A with 75 points and Dominatrixx with 74 points.

The Legacy Thunder claimed victory against the Bolans Revellers B with 74 points and the Rising Stars with 67 points.

The Willikies Super Stars B prevailed against Double Six Ice with 77 points and Bravo with 52

points.

Full Clip A scored 80 points to win their other opening round match, prevailing against Fire with 71 points and Eagle Eye International with 70 points.

Parham Strikers and Unstoppable gained byes and did not compete in their opening round encounters. Twenty clubs are

participating in the first three-hand competition of the new season.

Action in the ABNDA's first four-hand competition of the new season also commenced at its headquarters in Ottos.

Willikies Super Stars, Ramplers, and Bolans Revellers all won their encounters in the opening round of matches in the four-hand competition.

The Willikies Super Stars scored 42 points to defeat Double Six with 30 points. Ramplers prevailed 44-32 against Eagle Eyes, and Bolans Revellers secured a 35-26 victory against Dominatrixx.

cont'd from pg 18

nine games by clinching a 70-57 victory against MJ Gray's Green Phoenix in their Second Division affair.

Amare Browne shot a game-high 34 points; Attiene Davis converted 16 points and grabbed 12 rebounds; Antoine Browne had eight points, eight assists, and six steals; and Ricaldo Heywood scored

six points and snatched 15 rebounds for the Ottos Clippers.

Tyreke Lewis sank 23 points and claimed five rebounds; Isaac Perez scored eight points and grabbed 12 rebounds; and Nicholas Simpson chipped in with seven points and 10 rebounds for MJ Gray's Green Phoenix, who suffered their ninth loss in as many games.

Usain Bolt named Ambassador for 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Olympic legend Usain Bolt as an ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup, which will be played in the West Indies and USA from June 1 to 29.

The announcement comes a few weeks ahead of the start of the biggest cricket carnival spectacle ever that will inspire a new generation of fans. Bolt's global appeal alongside his out of this world athletic achievements and ability to transcend boundaries makes him a perfect fit for the biggest T20 World Cup ever.

Bolt created history at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio when he achieved the 'Triple-Triple', three gold medals at three consecutive Olympic Games.

His journey to worldwide stardom started at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing where he won the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 4x100-meter, all in world record times.

Bolt currently holds world records in the 100-meter, 200-meter, and 4x100-meter with times of 9.58 seconds, 19.19 seconds, and 36.84 seconds. His first world record was in the 100m in 2008 when he posted a time of 9.72 secs in New York.

He lowered it to 9.69 secs at the 2008 Olympic



Sprint legend Usain Bolt named ambassador for the 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup. (CWI Media)

Games in Beijing and then to 9.58 secs at the 2009 World Championships in Berlin. He holds the three fastest times ever run: 9.58, 9.64, and 9.69 seconds.

As an ambassador, Bolt will play a key role in promoting the event, starting with a cameo appearance in next week's release of the event's official anthem music video alongside iconic artists Sean Paul and Kes.

The eight-time Olympic gold medalist will also attend T20 World Cup matches in the West Indies and be part of fan engagement events promoting the sport within the United States.

Usain Bolt expressed his excitement about his new role, saying, "I am thrilled to be an ambassador for the upcoming ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Coming from the Caribbean where cricket is a part of life, the sport has always held a special place in my heart, and I look forward to attending West Indies matches at the World Cup and making a contribution to the growth of cricket globally.

"While I will of course be supporting West Indies at the World Cup, getting the sport into the US is big for cricket. It's the biggest sports market in the world and the energy that we will bring for the T20 World Cup is a huge opportunity leading towards cricket's inclusion in the LA Olympics in 2028."

ICC Chief Executive Officer, Geoff Allardice said, "Usain Bolt is a global icon, we are thrilled to have him on board as an Amba-

sador for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 to engage with a new generation of fans.

"His passion for cricket is well known, making him the perfect fit for this role. Alongside his world record breaking achievements and energetic personality, he will add another exciting element to the World Cup."

The ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 is set to be action packed with Bolt's presence adding a new level of excitement for fans globally.

Fans can look forward to seeing the world's best teams battle it out for glory, with the World Cup opening match seeing co-host USA taking on Canada at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday, June 1.

President Shallow anticipates fruitful discussions at Caribbean Cricket Conference

Dr. Kishore Shallow, President of Cricket West Indies (CWI), is eagerly anticipating the forthcoming regional conference on West Indies Cricket at the Hyatt Regency in Trinidad and Tobago on April 25 and 26.

As stakeholders convene under the banner “Reinvigorating West Indies Cricket - A Symposium for Strategic Collaboration and Innovation,” Dr. Shallow acknowledges the significant strides taken by CWI as it navigates a new four-year cycle and strategic plan.

“While we have made considerable progress within CWI, setting the stage for a brighter future for West Indies Cricket, it’s essential to recognize that there is no quick fix addressing the complex challenges facing our sport,” remarked Dr. Shallow.

“It requires sustained effort and participation from all stakeholders involved.”

Dr. Shallow emphasizes the need for shared responsibility in driving positive change within the cricketing community.

“While CWI shoulders a significant portion of the responsibility, we understand that meaningful progress cannot be achieved in isolation,” he stated.

“It is crucial for all stakeholders, including CARICOM Governments, territorial boards, and other relevant entities, to actively engage and contribute to the advancement of West Indies Cricket.”

The upcoming conference provides a platform for collaborative efforts aimed at addressing critical areas such as infrastructure development, investment in grassroots, youth, and



President of Cricket West Indies, Dr. Kishore Shallow. (CWI Media)

women’s cricket, and other aspects of sports development.

Dr. Shallow expresses optimism about the potential outcomes of the conference, stating, “Together, we can forge sustainable solutions that will propel West Indies Cricket to new heights of success and prominence on the global stage.

“We remain committed to building upon the progress we’ve made and charting a course towards a vibrant and prosperous future for West Indies Cricket,” affirmed Dr. Shallow.

“Through collective action and shared responsibility, we are confident

in our ability to overcome challenges and realize our vision for the sport.”

The CWI delegation at the conference will be led by President Dr. Kishore Shallow along with Vice President Azim Bassarath, CWI directors, chief executive officer, director of cricket, business planning manager, and head coaches Andre Coley and Daren Sammy.

Additionally, other key members of the CWI organization will also be present to contribute to the discussions and deliberations. The conference will be live-streamed on Cricket West Indies’ official YouTube channel.

West Indies name Academy squad for Ireland tour

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has unveiled the squad selected for the upcoming West Indies Academy tour of Ireland, which is slated to take place from June 8 to 29.

The tour will comprise five matches, encompassing three 50-over matches and two four-day matches against Ireland's Emerging Men's Team. It signifies a reciprocal tour following Ireland's visit to the West Indies in November 2023.

"We continue to be methodical in our approach by exposing our academy players to various opposition and conditions across different formats. This is key to their development and fosters resilience and adaptability," said Miles Bascombe, CWI Director of Cricket.

Nyeem Young will continue as captain, with Teddy Bishop as vice-captain for both formats.



Jewel Andrew



Kelvin Pitman

"Nyeem's leadership qualities have been evident throughout his tenure, notably steering the Academy team during the Super50 and West Indies Championship campaigns. His continued captaincy is a testament to his exceptional leadership skills and contribution to the team," noted Graeme West, CWI's High Performance Manager in reference to Young.

Regarding Bishop's selection as vice-captain, West highlights, "Teddy Bishop's elevation to vice captaincy underscores his growing stature within the team. His adept handling of leadership responsibilities during Young's absence and his invaluable experience with the West Indies A team and senior teams make him an ideal choice for the role."

Matthew Forde is the only contracted academy player not selected. Forde is vying to be selected for the



Nyeem Young

ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

The squad also included two Antiguan, fast bowler Kelvin Pitman and middle-order batsman and wicket-keeper Jewel Andrew. Nevisian wicket-keeper and batsman Carlon Bowen Tuckett is also included in the squad.

Full Squad: Nyeem Young (captain), Teddy Bishop (vice-captain), Kadeem Alleyne, Jewel Andrew, Ackeem Auguste, Joshua Bishop, McKenny Clarke, Joshua James, Jordan Johnson, Leonardo Julian, Johann Layne, Ashmead Nedd, Kelvin Pitman, Ramon Simmonds, and Carlon Tuckett.

The coaching and support staff accompanying the squad are as follows: Head Coach: Ramesh Subasinghe; Assistant Coach: Rohan Nurse; Physiotherapist: Neil Barry; Strength and Conditioning Coach: Shayne Cooper; and Manager and Team Analyst: Kesh Ramphal.