

B EXTRAORDINARY SEVEN UNVEILED!!!

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, with Dr. Amit Telang. Antigua and Barbuda is asking assistance from the government of India in a wide variety of areas to help with national development. *Story on page 7.*

Local News



The B Extraordinary Seven unveiled!!!

The unveiling of the seven delegates who will vie for the coveted Queen of Carnival title 2024 took place on Thursday at a special event at the Hodges Bay Club attended by government officials, representatives of the sponsors, family, well-wishers and the media.

The event was the official media launch of the Carnival Festivities 2024 which included the unveiling of the delegates who were also sashed by their respective sponsors.

Minister responsible for the Festival, Daryll Matthew gave brief remarks noting that the response from the business community has been forthcoming and quite encouraging. "We had our corporate partners step up to the plate wanting to support Carnival and so as we are here not just to launch Carnival 2024, I'm even more excited as Carnival evokes much pride and energy in me but I'm sure for every one else as well," he remarked.

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority representative, Shermain Jeremy, said the partnership between the authority and the Festivals Commission enabled them to project Carnival on a global stage. "Together, we aimed to highlight the vibrancy of our culture, the warmth of our people, and the electrifying energy of our Carnival festivities," she stated.

There were also remarks by the Director of Festivals, Petley O'Keiffe as well as performances from Odane Doyle, who gave the welcome in Spoken Word, with Young Destroyer and Claudette Petters performing as well. But the evening belonged to the seven delegates who appeared as the head of the Queen of Carnival Sub-Committee, Brucilla Marsh-Sutton called their names.

Firstly, she announced that the name of the title sponsor of the show – the National Housing Development and Urban

Renewal Company.

- The delegates are;
- Shakkia Carlos Delegate #1 - Miss Arton Capital
 - Desrie Markham Delegate #2- Miss Rawdon and Associates
 - Kevinya Joseph Delegate #3- Miss Cool and Smooth
 - J'amalyn Stevens Delegate #4- Miss Kennedy's Club Ltd.
 - Shania Samuel Delegate #5- Miss Liat 2020
 - Dominique Trotman Delegate #6- Miss Antigua & Barbuda Port Authority Chandera Condington Delegate #7- Miss Furniture Gallery

The seven delegates bring a wide array of skills and background to the pageant. Two are attorneys at law, one is a police officer, two others own their own businesses and one drives heavy-duty equipment, including operates a backhoe. Another contestant is educated to the master's level.

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National Housing and Urban Renewal Company Ltd - Queen of Carnival (Miss Antigua Barbuda) 2024 Competition contestants

Shakkia Carlos (Delegate #1), 23 years old, hails from the village of English Harbour. A graduate of the Antigua State College-Advance Level Department, she is currently a student at the University of the West Indies, Five Islands Campus, focusing on Management with a Concentration in Tourism & Hospitality.

Passionate about pageantry, trucking, and theatre arts, Shakkia is also a business owner in the trucking industry. Despite her petite physique, she is skilled in operating heavy-duty equipment, including backhoes.

Desrie Markham (Delegate #2), 25, is an Attorney-at-Law who was called to the Antigua and Barbudan Bar in December 2022. Currently employed as a Crown Counsel II within the Attorney General's Chambers, Desrie's initial passion was Criminal Law and Criminology, earning her the 'Top Student' award



Shakkia Carlos (Delegate #1) at the University of the West Indies Mona.

However, since then, she has developed a strong interest in Civil Lit-



Desrie Markham (Delegate #2) litigation, along with new passions for Family Law and International Climate Change Law and Policy.

Aside from her legal career, Desrie is passionate about theatre arts. She actively advocates for the National Secondary School Drama Festival and has been an integral member of the National Youth Theatre for the past seven years. Additionally, Desrie is a professional singer, aspiring to share her talent with the world.

Kevinya Joseph (Delegate #3), 26, embodies a blend of peaceful serenity and unwavering determination. With Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business Management, specializing in Health Care, she stands as a testament to her commitment to education and personal growth.

Kevinya is passionate about helping others and encouraging them not to limit themselves, embodying



Kevinya Joseph (Delegate #3)



J'amalyn Stevens (Delegate #4)

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Local News

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a spirit of empowerment and inclusivity. Additionally, she is a trained dancer, expressing herself through movement and art.

J'amalyn Stevens (Delegate #4), 27, is a dynamic young professional with a diverse skill set. She is a certified Yoga, Zumba, and fitness instructor, as well as the visionary behind 'Resistatonez,' an innovative fitness apparel brand.

J'amalyn holds an Associate of Science Degree in Social Science from Antigua State College. Her love for Antiguan culture led her to play steel pan for many years, showcasing her passion for music and her connection to her roots.

Shania Samuel (Delegate #5), 24, is a Police Constable within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, originally from the village of All Saints. A graduate of the Antigua State College Advance Level Department, she remained confident in herself despite any naysayers.

Driven by her passion, Shania decided to apply for Queen of Carnival 2024. Her aim is to inspire and



Chandera Condrington (Delegate #7)



Shania Samuel (Delegate #5)

encourage women who may look like her to remain confident and follow their dreams.

Apart from her career and her involvement in Carnival, Shania loves to sing and considers herself an up-and-coming calypsonian.

Dominique Trotman (Delegate #6), 24, is a skilled graphic designer and the successful operator of her local design business, 'Domino Effect'. Her captivating graphics and artwork have graced numerous establishments throughout the island, showcasing her talent, precision, and creativity.

Currently working as a Graphic and Printing Designer at Signs & Impressions, Dominique demonstrates her skills every day.

Her creativity extends beyond graphic design; she is also a dedicated fashion designer.

Passionate about the arts and the creative community in Antigua and



Dominique Trotman (Delegate #6)

Barbuda, Dominique collaborates on various projects to enrich the local art scene and support emerging talents.

Chandera Condrington (Delegate #7), 26, is an Attorney-at-Law, a proud graduate of the University of the West Indies and the Norman Manley Law School. Admitted to the bar in 2022, she currently serves as a Crown Counsel within the Attorney General's Chambers.

In the past, Chandera excelled as an open-water competitive swimmer, earning the title of the youngest female swimmer in 2011 during the challenging Star Mile swim from Nevis to St. Kitts. She aspires to conquer this nearly three-mile challenge again in the near future.

A musician at heart, Chandera plays both the steel pan and keyboard professionally, showcasing her passion for music and her dedication to mastering her craft.



Antigua Carnival 2024 Sponsorship Matrix

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Platinum Citizens by Investment (CIU) Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority	Silver The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus ACB Caribbean West Indies Oil Company Ltd Oasis ABS - Antigua and Barbuda Broadcasting Cool and Smooth Cavalier Rum
Gold State Insurance Company Ltd. APUA – INET ECAB National Housing & Urban Development Premier Beverages	Bronze Caribbean-Airlines Happy Kids Carnival Baby Point Ville Communication
Title Sponsor Citizens by Investment Opening of Carnival Parade State Insurance Company Ltd. Panorama National Housing & Urban Development Queen of Carnival ECAB Mr and Miss. Teenage Pageant ACB Caribbean Jr Party Monarch APUA INET Party Monarch Citizens by Investment Opening of Carnival Parade Oasis T-Shirt Mas Cavalier Rum Calypso Monarch West Indies Oil Company	Carnival Contributor Frank B. Armstrong KFC SUBWAY Antigua FLAVA FM Queen of Carnival Sponsors Furniture Gallery Rawdon & ASSOCIATES Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority Cool and Smooth LIAT 2020 Arton Capital Kennedy's Club Ltd

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Maribel Matos Suero of Nel-lie Pell Street, Villa, Antigua and Barbuda is applying to the Minister of Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



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.

Barbuda Caribana dates released, sponsons named

The programme of events for annual Caribana festivities on the sister isle, Barbuda, have been released with at least one new show added to the line-up.

Matthew John, who heads the Caribana 2024 Planning Committee, has announced that the festival will run from May 16-20 in Codrington. It kicks off with an opening parade in the afternoon on May 16 and then the Teenage Pageant in the evening with seven contestants participating.

On Friday May 17, three contestants will compete in the inaugural Miss Caribana

na Cultural Swimsuit Show where they will model three different swimwear outfits, one of which must be locally made. This show replaces the Caribana Queen Show.

On Saturday May 18, all roads lead to River Dock where the Caribana Beach Day activities will take place. These include an All Star show featuring a number of Barbudan and Antiguan acts where the Original Burning Flames will headline. The Johnny DeSouza Fishing tournament will take place on that day as well.

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Barbuda Caribana 2024

Rhythms of Culture

MISS CARIBANA CULTURAL SWIMSUIT SHOW

FRI. MAY 17 2024
8PM @ CARIBANA CITY
ADMISSION: \$40 • AT THE GATE: \$50
 CULTURE AND RHYTHM TO EXPLORE, BARBUDA'S CARIBANA 2024

Barbuda Caribana 2024

SAT. MAY 18

BEACH DAY

JOHNNY DESOUZA FISHING TOURNAMENT

LOTS OF PRIZES TO BE WON + ENTERTAINMENT BY: CLAUDETTE PETERS, MENACE XL, EMPRESS FT SOCA VILLAN, DJ FLUSH

HOSTED BY: IBIS THE LIVEST AKA CARIBANA IBIS

ALL STAR SHOW

FEATURING ENTERTAINMENT BY: THE ORIGINAL BURNING FLAMES • SMALL AXE BAND • PUMPA

10AM-11PM / @RIVER DOCK
ADMISSION: ADULTS: \$75 • CHILDREN: \$30

Barbuda Caribana 2024

Schedule of Events

APRIL 6 LAUNCH OF CARIBANA	MAY 18 CARIBANA BEACH DAY / JOHNNY DESOUZA FISHING TOURNAMENT / ALL STAR SHOW 10am - 11pm
MAY 16 OPENING OF CARIBANA Parade Starts 2pm Opening Ceremony 5:30pm	MAY 19 CARIBANA CLASSIC HORSE RACE 1pm - 7pm
MR AND MS TEENAGE PAGEANT 7:30pm	CALYPSO/ SOCA MONARCH 8pm
MAY 17 CARIBANA QUEEN SHOW 8pm	MAY 20 JOUVERT MORNING 4am-10am
OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY Backyard Bliss (Purple Haze)	LAST LAP 6pm - 10pm

CULTURE AND RHYTHM TO EXPLORE



Antigua and Barbuda, India discuss wide-ranging issues

Antigua and Barbuda is asking assistance from the government of India in a wide variety of areas to help with national development.

The requests were made during discussions on Thursday between the Indian High Commission for the Eastern Caribbean, Dr. Dr. Amit Telang who paid a two-day visit to St. John's.

During his visit, High Commission Dr. Telang met separately with Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, Foreign

Affairs Minister, E.P. Chet Greene as well as with representatives of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

A source close to the meeting said during the meetings with the government officials a number of requests were made for technical assistance from India. "The Antigua and Barbuda government wants to pursue sourcing medical personnel out of India such as doctors and nurses to help boost

the healthcare system in the country," the source said.

The requests went beyond healthcare to include education, according to the source, as the government wants India to make available specialized teachers, especially in the area of mathematics to join the education system here.

The government officials also voiced their concerns about sustainable energy sources as well as food security and agriculture and they

made an appeal for India to offer technical assistance in this area as well.

In the meeting at the UWI FIC, the Indian delegation was quite pleased with the discussions. Both sides are keen to explore areas of cooperation between Indian universities and the UWI in a number of areas, including by offering courses online to Caribbean students. "We discussed collaboration between the Indian Institute for Management and Technology on how students UWI FIC can pursue courses through this institute as well as with other to educational institutes in India," a team member stated.

Already, the government India offers scholarships to Antigua and Barbuda nationals to pursue studies technical or academic courses. Recently, India offered under its India's Technical and Economic Cooperation programme 15 slots to Antigua and Barbuda nationals. India has also provided defense training for Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force's soldiers and coast guard officers.

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On Sunday May 19, the popular horse racing events will take place during the day, to be followed later in the evening with the calypso/soca show. Seven calypsonians will participate in the calypso segment of the show. Reigning Calypso Monarch, Stabba, has not indicated whether or not she intends to defend her crown. The reigning soca monarch, Yoko, is expected to be among 5 artists competing in this segment.

Meanwhile, PLH development has come forward to sponsor Caribana 'in a big way', according to John. He did not provide a dollar amount but he indicated that the PLH sponsorship will cover the main items such as the light and sound systems for the entire Caribana.

The jouvert (May 20) will be sponsored by Nubu Restaurant. John said other sponsorship has been secured from several of the businesses that operate on the island.

In more Caribana developments, the Cabinet has made a decision that will help resolve one of the major hurdles affecting Barbuda's Caribana, the movement of people between the two islands.

Cabinet sources say, pending approval from the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), the new airline, LIAT 2020 will be asked to help take revelers to Codrington for Caribana 'at a very low cost'. If permitted, the planes will use the new airport on the outskirts of Codrington as the one in the centre of town is not able to accommodate the new aircraft.

UWI FIC receives Citation for its expansion's Master Plan

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus has earned a Citation from the Society of College and University Planning for its expansion planning concept drawings.

The UWI FIC Master Plan was selected for a Special Citation for Excellence in Planning of a New Campus by The Society of College and University Planning (SCUP) in the 2024 SCUP Excellence Awards.

The Jury comments are expected in late May.

“It is fitting that the first ever fully planned UWI Campus received this sort of recognition. I am hopeful that the Antiguans and Barbudans will appreciate the high standards being aimed at by the UWI within the Antigua and Barbuda space even in the built environment,” writes one official of the UWI on hearing the news of the award. He also personal-

ly congratulated prime Minister Gaston Browne for his vision and dedication in bringing the university into being.

“This is an excellent moment for the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda and the UWI. I put it in that order because the establishment of the Five Islands Campus was really the results of a very bold decision by the government of Antigua and Barbuda which took a decision that many people questioned to have a landed UWI campus in the country. The award is therefore a tribute to that boldness, the vision of the UWI family, particularly to include my predecessor, Prof. Denzil Williams. I feel like an imposter here because in a way he should be part of the celebration,” he stated.

The UWI FIC Principal takes the view that as the newest campus within the UWI network, FIC benefits from

some of that newness; including the fact that it will be the first totally planned UWI campus. He noted that the other campuses grew in an ad hoc way over time but the UWI FIC has been planned from the outset and an international firm, was engaged to develop the master plan so that the campus would not evolve in an ad hoc manner.

“It is therefore a tremendous honour and tribute for the planning expertise within the UWI, the vision within UWI and the government of Antigua and Barbuda, that having taken the decision, to plan in concrete details from the outset, is now reaping rewards like the citation from this global body which looked universities across the world,” he declared.

SCUP unites a wide cross-section of professionals who are looking to advance excellence in higher education planning.



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A&B national appointed to head Blue Economy Centre at UWI FIC

The University of the West Indies (The UWI) has announced the appointment of Dr. Branson D. Belle as the Executive Director of the Centre for Excellence for Oceanography and the Blue Economy at The UWI Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Centre aims to advance research and training in oceanography and sustainable maritime industries, contributing to the development of the blue economy in the Caribbean region.

Dr. Belle, an Antiguan national, brings over 20 years of experience in cutting-edge technology development from renowned universities and research institutes. He obtained his Ph.D. in Magnetic Materials from the University of Manchester



Dr. Branson D. Belle (UoM), where he also earned a Master's degree in Electronic and Electrical Engineering with First Class Honours, and spent a year at ENSEEIHT in Toulouse, France. He was awarded the F.C. Williams (2000), IEEE (2001) and the Sir William Siemen (2003) awards for most outstanding academic achievements in his years at UoM. Belle then obtained an Overseas Research Scholarship award to pursue his PhD in Magnetic Materials at UoM.

After his Ph.D., Dr. Belle worked as a Research Associate with Nobel Prize winners Professor Sir Andre Geim and Professor Sir Kostya Novoselov. He co-founded 2-DTech Ltd, a materials and technology company later acquired by Versarien PLC. For the past nine years, Dr. Belle has been a senior scientist at SINTEF, one of Europe's largest research institutes, working in the departments of Smart Sensor Systems and Sustainable Energy Technology. He has published over 30 peer-reviewed papers in prestigious journals and secured over \$7 million in grant funding.

"I am thrilled to be joining UWI FIC," said Dr. Belle. "After more than 25 years abroad studying and working with some of the world's

leading scientists and companies, I look forward to bringing this experience back to Antigua and Barbuda to further assist in the build out of the campus and nation building."

Pro Vice-Chancellor and Campus Principal Professor Justin Robinson noted that the addition of Dr. Belle to the CoBE will be a significant boost to The UWI Five Islands Campus. "The UWI Five Islands Campus is fortunate to be able to attract a scholar of Dr. Belle's global stature at such an early stage in its development.". He also noted that "Dr. Belle, a distinguished son of the soil will lead the charge as the campus builds out a vibrant research culture." Dr. Belle's appointment becomes effective August 1, 2024.

89 yacht from eleven countries to participate in ASW 2024

It's the day before the start of the 2024 edition of Antigua Sailing Week, 2024, with nearly ninety boats registered to take part representing eleven countries including Antigua and Barbuda.

Sources close to ASW reported that there 89 boats, from near and far including, United States, the UK, Germany, France, Sweden, Italy, Finland, Holland, Ireland, Barbados, 10 boats from Antigua have registered for the races. They will compete in 13 classes of races. The first encounter – the Round the island race is Saturday, with 22 boats taking part, only one Antigua and Bar-

buda boat, Huey Too, competing.

The second edition of Wingfoiling competition started Thursday and goes on to Friday and Saturday. Nine (9) Wingfoilers are taking part. There are both professional and leisure class. The first event was held in 2023, and was hugely popular.

New is Dragon Class, a one-design class. Paul Ho Jensen, who lives in Antigua will compete, he is a previous world champion and Olympic gold medalist.

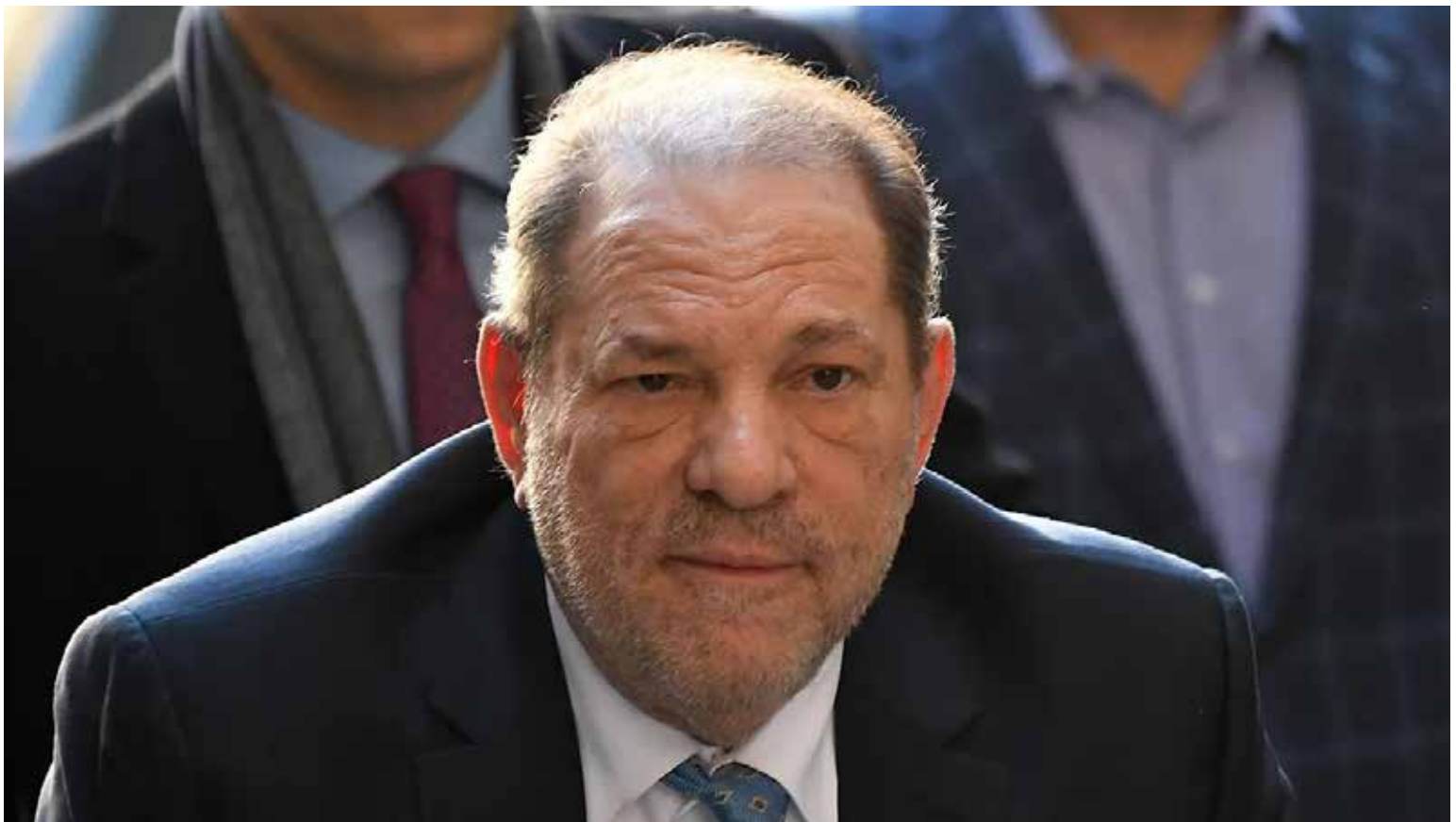
The main social event - Reggae in the Park – will have it's 13th staging of an event described as always very popular. This year, it's Jamaican reggae

artist Sanchez who will be the headline act. Lay Day is at Pigeon Beach on Wednesday.

The day when most residents look forward to journeying out to English Harbour, Dockyard Day, is on Saturday 4th May.

The atmosphere at English Harbour is said to be gradually building up. For ASW, several professional crews are coming in and boats are still arriving.

The internationally popular Antigua Classic Regatta has just ended, on Sunday. A much more informal affair, less about serious racing and more about beautiful boats, from many countries.



Harvey Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction overturned in New York

By Graeme Baker

Disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction in New York has been overturned, on the basis that he did not receive a fair trial.

The New York Court of Appeals said prosecutors in the pivotal #Me-Too case called witnesses whose accusations were not part of the charges against him.

The court said that meant he was unfairly tried for past behaviour, and ordered a new trial.

Weinstein, 72, remains in prison. He was separately convicted of rape in LA.

The Silence Breakers, a victims' group, called the reversal "disheartening and profoundly unjust", while lawyers for victims said the decision to retry was a "leap backwards" and "tragic".

Weinstein's lawyer, Arthur Aidala, hailed the reversal as a win for the legal system.

"There are still people who are very unpopular in our society, but we still have to apply the law fairly to them," Mr Aidala said at a news conference in New York City.

"In this courthouse behind us, at that trial, the law was not applied fairly to Harvey Weinstein."

In an interview with the New York Times, he said the decision was a victory "for every criminal defendant in the state of New York".

The court reached a 4-3 ruling on Thursday, stating that the trial "erroneously admitted testimony of uncharged, alleged prior sexual acts against persons other than the complainants of the underlying crimes."

The decision also said the trial judge compounded the error by letting

Weinstein be cross-examined in a way that portrayed him in a "highly prejudicial" light.

"The remedy for these egregious errors is a new trial," the court found.

Judge Madeline Singas, one of the dissenters, however said that with the decision, "this Court continues to thwart the steady gains survivors of sexual violence have fought for in our criminal justice system".

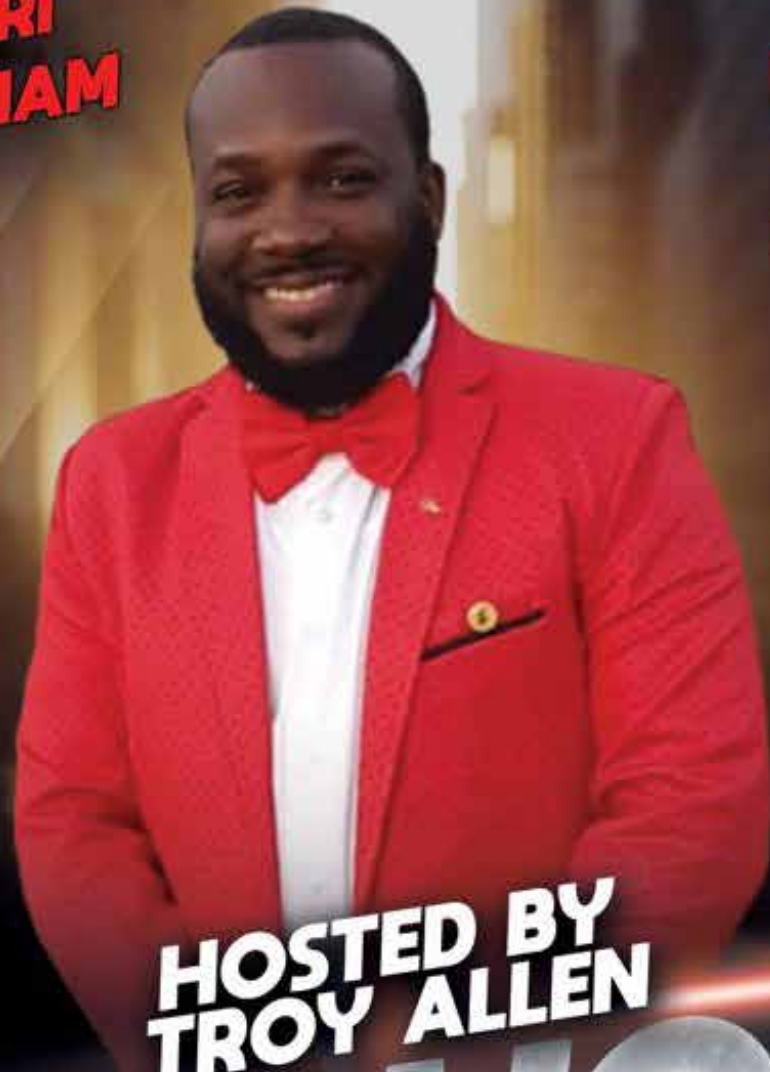
Accusations against Weinstein began in 2017 and sparked the #Me-Too movement, which exposed sexual abuse at the highest levels of the Hollywood film industry and beyond.

He faced two trials. In New York, he was jailed for 23 years in 2020 for sexually assaulting a former production assistant in 2006, and raping an aspiring actress in 2013.

He was last year sentenced in Cal-

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Regional News



Haiti PM Ariel Henry resigns as transitional council is sworn in

Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry resigned on Thursday as a new council was sworn in to lead the country gripped by deadly gang violence.

A recent outbreak of violence forced officials to move the ceremony from the National Palace to the outgoing prime minister's office.

Mr Henry agreed to step down last month after armed groups blocked his return to the country.

Gangs now control most of the capital, Port-au-Prince.

They have capitalised on the power vacuum left by the prime minister's exit and expanded their control



Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, officially resigned from his role on Thursday.

over swathes of the country, which has effectively become lawless in places.

Mr Henry said he would resign after being prevented

from returning from Kenya, where he had signed a deal to import a multinational security force in a bid to restore law and order. His

resignation was formally presented in a letter signed in Los Angeles, dated 24 April.

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ifornia to 16 years for raping an Italian model and actress in a Beverly Hills hotel in 2013. That conviction is not affected by the appeal decision in New York.

Weinstein also faces two charges of indecent assault in the United Kingdom.

He currently remains in prison at Mohawk Correctional Facility in New York state. He was previously extradited to LA to stand trial.

It will now be up to Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose predecessor Cyrus Vance brought the case, to decide whether to retry Weinstein in New York.

"We will do everything in our power to retry this case, and remain steadfast in our commitment to survivors of sexual assault," said Emily Tuttle, a spokesperson for Mr Bragg.

Mr Bragg's office is separately in the midst of a criminal hush-money trial against former president Donald Trump.

Douglas Wigdor, a lawyer who represented eight of Weinstein's accusers, said the decision was "tragic" and "a major step back in holding those accountable for acts of sexual violence".

"Courts routinely admit evidence of other uncharged acts... the jury was instructed on the relevance of this testimony," he added.

"It will require the victims to endure yet another trial."

Lindsay Goldbrum, who represented six Harvey Weinstein victims, said the appeal court's criticism of the use of witnesses not directly connected to the charges was a "leap backwards" and damaging to future cases.

She said that the witnesses had

"nothing to gain personally from participating in the trial. Their only goal was to give a voice to dozens of other women who suffered so much".

Gloria Allred, who represented the key prosecution witness Mimi Haley, said that her client would consider testifying again in any new trial "even though the process of testifying was gruelling and retraumatising for Mimi".

The Silence Breakers said that the decision "does not diminish the validity of our experiences or our truth; it's merely a setback. We continue to stand strong and advocate for that change. We will continue to fight for justice for survivors everywhere".

Weinstein co-founded the Miramax film studio, whose hits included Shakespeare in Love, which won best picture at the Academy Awards, and Pulp Fiction.



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Regional News



Oklahoma dad could face jail time in Turks and Caicos for ammunition

The story of American tourist Ryan Watson, who was arrested and charged in the Turks and Caicos Islands for one count of possession of ammunition, has gained the attention of US media which reports the Oklahoma dad could possibly face at least 12 years in prison under the TCI's gun laws.

The situation has prompted the US Department of State to share for US travellers to the TCI, an Embassy alert message posted by the US Embassy in Nassau which reminded US

citizens to check their bags and not carry ammunition or firearms to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Watson was held at the Howard Hamilton International Airport on Friday, April 12, 2024, after US media reported that four deer rifle rounds were inadvertently left and found in his luggage.

The American tourist is currently on \$15,000 bail but is not allowed to return to the US as he was made to surrender his passport and other travel documents. His

matter was adjourned to Friday, June 7, 2024, for a Sufficiency Hearing.

A CBS News report on Wednesday showed Watson's wife, Valerie Watson, hugging their two young children as she returned to the US from the TCI after spending 10 days in legal limbo, as what was supposed to be a fun trip to celebrate her husband's 40th birthday on the Caribbean Island turned into a nightmare.

Family members are fearful now about when Watson will be able to see

his children again.

According to the Emergency Information for American Citizens on the US Embassy's website in Nassau, firearms, ammunition (including stray bullets), and other weapons are not permitted in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) as TCI authorities strictly enforce all firearms-and-ammunition-related laws. The penalty for travelling to TCI with a firearm, ammunition, or other weapon can result in a minimum custodial sen-

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Nine members of the transitional council have now been sworn in, seven of which have voting powers. Mr Henry's finance minister, Michel Patrick Boisvert, will serve as the interim prime minister.

Mr Boisvert said the country was at a "crossroads" in its search for solutions to overcome the political crisis, which was harming the population, property and infrastructure.

The council will try to restore order and democratic rule in Haiti, and is backed by other Caribbean nations and the US.

It will set the agenda of a new Cabinet, form a national security council and appoint an electoral commission to pave the way to a vote.

Its non-renewable mandate will expire on 7 February 2026, when a new president is expected to be sworn in.

The White House welcomed the swearing in of the council, calling it a "critical step towards free and fair elections".

Thursday's ceremony itself was caught up in the gang violence sweeping the country. Gunfire heard near the National Palace, where it was meant to take place, forced a change of venue to the prime minister's office, known as Villa d'Accueil.

Gangs who had previously attacked the palace promised to derail the ceremony. On Wednesday, police used tear gas to disperse crowds on nearby streets.

One of Haiti's most powerful gang leaders, Jimmy Chérizier, issued a threat in a social media video: "Whether or not you're installed, this message is for you: Brace yourselves."

Mr Chérizier, also known as Barbecue, is the most prominent figure in a loose alliance of gangs known as Viv

Ansanm (Live Together), which controls around 80% of Port-au-Prince.

Last month, he said he would consider laying down weapons if armed groups were allowed to take part in talks to establish the new government.

He said he was "not proud" of the spiralling violence in Haiti, and warned the crisis could continue if groups like his - which rail against "corrupt politicians" - are not part of a future government.

The situation in Haiti was described as "cataclysmic" by the United Nations in a report published last month.

It said more than 1,500 people had been killed and 800 injured in the first three months of 2024.

The report detailed the "harrowing practices" of the gangs, which are accused of using extreme violence and sexual abuse as a means of punishment and control.

tence of twelve (12) years.

The alert reminded all travellers that declaring a weapon in their luggage with an airline carrier does not grant permission to bring the weapon into the Turks and Caicos Islands and will result in arrest. It stated TSA screening in the United States may not identify ammunition in their baggage and that it is the traveller's responsibility to ensure their baggage is free of ammunition and/or firearms.

"If you bring a firearm or ammunition into TCI, even inadvertently, we will not be able to secure your release from custody. You are subject to TCI laws and must follow local law enforcement procedures," the alert said.

On Tuesday, April 23, a statement from the Attorney General's Chambers and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions indicated that the Court of Appeal had certified application of mandatory minimum firearms sentences.

The statement said Section 3(3) of the Firearms Ordinance CAP 18.09 requires the Supreme Court to impose a mandatory minimum sentence and a fine for certain firearms offences, except in circumstances where the court finds that there are exceptional circumstances, in which case the court must still impose both a sentence of imprisonment and a fine but which are proportionality consistent with the exceptional circumstances.



Ryan Watson.

The court must ensure that the custodial sentence and fine are in keeping with the dominant purpose of Parliament in enacting the law, deterrence, is reflected in the length of the term and the quantum of the fine.

It was further stated that the Firearms Ordinance applies to all persons present within the Turks and Caicos Islands, regardless of status or origin.

The Parliament of the Turks and Caicos Islands had amended the Ordinance in 2022 to stiffen the penalty for possession and use of firearms with the stated intention of deterring such crimes in the Islands.

It was noted that in five separate cases within a two-year period the Supreme Court found that there were exceptional circumstances, and only imposed fines. In those cases, the defendant pleaded guilty to charges of possession of an unlicensed firearm and ammunition under the Firearms Ordinance.

The judges found that there were "exceptional circumstances" and concluded that sentencing was therefore at large.

Four of the offenders were fined and one was given a custodial sentence below the mandatory minimum. The opinion of the Court of Appeal, the higher court, was sought to confirm the true position of the law.

At the request of the then Learned Director of Public Prosecutions, Eugene Otuonye KC, and instructed by the Cabinet of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Attorney General, Rhondalee Braithwaite Knowles OBE KC, applied to the Court of Appeal seeking clarification as to whether the facts of those cases did actually constitute exceptional circumstances in keeping with legal principles and whether, in any event the Ordinance allowed the Supreme Court to impose non-custodial sentences.

The decision handed

down by the Court of Appeal clarified the law, certifying that where exceptional circumstances exist the court has no jurisdiction to impose a non-custodial sentence. It can impose a custodial sentence for a term and a fine in a quantum that is fair and just in the circumstances, consistent with the exceptional circumstances and having regard to the dominant purpose of Parliament in enacting the law.

However, it must give its reasons for so doing so, including any reduction in sentence.

Acting Director of Public Prosecutions, Dr Angela Brooks welcomed the certification by the Court of Appeal and confirmed that since the recent amendments to the Firearms Ordinance, eight firearms and ammunition prosecutions in total were done involving tourists from the United States, three of which are currently before the court with each of the defendants on bail.

More arrests as US campus protests against Israel's war in Gaza continue to spread

Police have made arrests at Atlanta's Emory University and University of Southern California cancelled a graduation ceremony as campus protests against the war in Gaza continue.

Emory officials said protesters not connected with the college entered the campus grounds early on Thursday.

Police used chemical sprays to disperse them when they refused to leave.

A week after protests began at New York's Columbia University, they have spread to dozens of colleges in the US.

The Emory protesters said they were supporting Palestinians but also voicing their objection to a police training centre in Atlanta.

Plans for the centre have been controversial locally and the project has been dubbed "Cop City" by opponents.

In a statement, Emory said that outside protesters were later joined by "members of the Emory community" and that the group was "disrupting the university as our students finish classes and prepare for finals".

Several dozen were arrested, the university said, but declined to give exact numbers or say if any had been charged with crimes.

Atlanta Police said that they used chemical irritants but denied reports that they fired rubber bullets against



Atlanta police used chemicals to disperse the protesters but deny reports that they fired rubber bullets.

protesters.

One of the protesters shown on video being detained by police identified herself as Noelle McAfee, chair of Emory's philosophy department.

Ms McAfee said she was observing what she described as a peaceful protest when police began to move in and the protesters started to march.

"It went from a peaceful protest to mayhem in the matter of a minute," she said. She said she froze and was detained.

Also on Thursday, the University of Southern California cancelled its main commencement ceremony scheduled for 10 May, citing new safety measures.

"As a result, we will not be able to host the main stage ceremony that traditionally brings 65,000 students, families, and friends

to our campus," the university said in a statement.

The USC decision comes after police made multiple arrests when confronting protesters there on Wednesday and ordering the dismantling of an encampment.

It is also after USC said earlier this month that Muslim student Asna Tabassum would no longer be permitted to deliver a speech as valedictorian due to unspecified security threats.

The spate of campus protests began at Columbia University in New York City last week. The university called in New York police and more than 100 people were arrested.

The movement against the Israeli war in Gaza has now reached dozens of college campuses across the country.

Activists have been call-

ing for universities to "divest from genocide" and to stop investing large school endowments in companies involved in weapons manufacturing and other industries supporting Israel's war in Gaza.

Chisato Mimura, a law student and protest leader at Yale University in Connecticut, told the BBC that activists are upset at President Joe Biden as well as their school officials for "quite literally funding and equipping the weapons used in genocide".

"But instead, what they're doing is completely putting their full weight behind it," she added. "We are well aware of the prominent role they are playing."

Israel strongly denies any suggestion that it is committing genocide in the Palestinian enclave, though

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Tanzania floods and landslides kill more than 150 - PM Kassim Majaliwa

By Alfred Lasteck

At least 155 people have died in floods and landslides in Tanzania following heavy rains caused by El Niño, the prime minister has said.

Kassim Majaliwa warned that the rains might continue into May, and urged families to leave flood-prone areas.

About 200,000 people and more than 51,000 households were already affected by the disaster, he added.

Heavy rains have also swept through neighbouring Kenya and Burundi, causing a humanitarian crisis in the region.

Giving a report to Tanzania's parliament on the situation in his country since January, Mr Majaliwa said that in addition to the 155 people killed, 236 had been injured.

"The heavy El Nino rains, accompanied by strong winds, floods, and landslides in various parts of the country, have caused significant damage.

"These include loss of life, destruction of crops, homes, citizens' property, and infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and railways," he added.

A resident in northern Tanzania's Siha district told the BBC that his home had been destroyed.

"I have nothing left, everything has been wiped away," he said.

In Kenya, President William Ruto



Many thousands have had to leave their homes, such as these people in the Coastal region earlier this month.

has ordered the army to help with rescue operations, as heavy rains pounded large parts of the country, including the capital, Nairobi, where homes in some slum areas have been swept away, along with furniture and other goods.

More than 10 have died in Kenya this week, bringing the death toll to at least 45 people since March, the Red Cross said.

In Burundi, heavy rains have displaced nearly 100,000 people.

BBC Weather's Chris Fawkes says that one of the biggest drivers of the rains is the Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD).

The IOD - often called the "Indian Niño" because of its similarity to its

Pacific equivalent - refers to the difference in sea-surface temperatures in opposite parts of the Indian Ocean.

During a positive phase, the waters in the western Indian Ocean are much warmer than normal and this can bring heavier rain regardless of El Niño.

However, when both a positive IOD and an El Niño occur at the same time, as was the case last year, the rains in East Africa can become extreme.

One of the strongest positive IOD patterns on record coincided with one of the strongest El Niño patterns in 1997 and 1998, with severe flooding reported. These caused more than 6,000 deaths in five countries in the region.

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the International Court of Justice has said the accusation was "plausible".

Some of the protests have been accused of antisemitism. A number of Jewish students have said they have felt unsafe at Columbia and at other univer-

sities, although other Jewish students have joined the demonstrations.

At Columbia, the university administration have set a midnight deadline to reach a deal with student protesters to avoid further disruption.

In a news conference,

university spokesperson Ben Chang said that if no agreement was reached, "we will have to consider options for restoring calm to campus", but did not outline any specific measures that would be taken.

Mr Chang said the university was preparing for

further protests on Thursday evening.

Earlier on Thursday, Minnesota Democratic congresswoman Ilhan Omar visited the campus. Her daughter, Isra Hirsi, was one of the protesters cleared from the university by police last week.

Sports News



Teams to battle in semi-finals of Parish League competition

Four teams will compete in the semi-finals of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Sir Richie Richardson Limited Overs Championship this weekend.

Freetown will take on Mahico in the first semi-final at Clare Hall on Saturday, and Stingray City Seaton will clash with Masters in the other encounter at Seaton on Sunday.

Nigel Browne and Llewellyn Simon will umpire at Clare Hall, and Otis Burton and Garfield Jacobs will officiate at Seaton.

Meanwhile, action in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup will resume with the seventh and eighth rounds of matches this weekend.

Cup-holders PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks will be seeking to extend



their unbeaten run when they host Empire Nation at Ball Beef in Liberta in one of five matches on Saturday, starting at 11 am.

Jennings Tigers will face Combined Schools in Jennings, and Pigotts Crushers will entertain Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in Pigotts.

The New Winthorpes Lions will meet the All

Saints Pythons at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints, and the WES Rising Sun Spartans will clash with the Bolans Blasters at Rising Sun in St. John's.

The CUB Bethesda Golden Eagles will face the Bolans Blasters in Bethesda in one of five matches in the eighth round of the 40-over competition that will also take place on Sunday at 11 am.

Empire Nation will meet the Jennings Tigers in Jennings, and Combined Schools will challenge the WES Rising Sun Spartans at Rising Sun.

The All Saints Pythons will tackle the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks at Mack Pond in All Saints, and the Pigotts Crushers will clash with the New Winthorpes Lions in New Winthorpes.

Five Islands end Golden Grove's unbeaten run in Primary School Cup

Five Islands have ended the unbeaten run of reigning three-peat champions Golden Grove in the Primary School Cup football competition.

Five Islands Primary romped to an emphatic 6-2 victory over Golden Grove Primary in their Group A affair at the Golden Grove playing field in the latest round of matches.

It was the third win in as many games for Five Islands Primary,

while Golden Grove Primary suffered their first defeat after winning their previous three matches.

Olivia David, Bendals, and Urlings Primary all recorded wins in their latest matches in Group A. Olivia David Primary snatched a 3-2 victory against Jennings Primary.

Bendals Primary beat Old Road Primary 3-0, and Urlings Primary also recorded a 3-0 victory against Foundation Mixed School, which

lost for the fourth time in as many games.

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

Liberta Primary also snatched a 3-2 victory against JT. Ambrose Primary in their Group B encounter. But Buckley's Primary and CT. Samuel

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Wins for Flyers II and Rebels in ABBA's Division 2 League

The EZ Fit Flyers II and Rebels recorded wins in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League on Wednesday night.

The Flyers extended their unbeaten run, soaring to their seventh win in as many games with a 91-71 drubbing of Jim Nance Jan Serv Fearless Crew in the second game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Donte Trimmingham produced 26 points, nine assists, and five rebounds; Craig Massiah sank 22 points; Sadiq Phillip converted 16 points and grabbed 19 rebounds; Javonte Daley had 10 points, 12 rebounds, seven assists, and five steals; and Harry Rashaun chipped in with six points and 12 rebounds for the Flyers II.

Rifiki Harris produced 29 points, nine steals, six rebounds, and five assists; Romel Diggs sank 14 points and grabbed 10 rebounds; Ronel Gomes converted 12 points and claimed seven steals; and Ricky Willock scored 10 points and snatched five rebounds for the Fearless Crew, who lost for the third time in nine games.

The Rebels grabbed their fourth win in nine games with a 74-65 victory against the Wadadli Elite in the first encounter on Wednesday.

Buell Henry converted 19 points and claimed 10 rebounds; Tyndale



Telemaque produced 17 points, eight rebounds, and five steals; Kirwan Peterson had 17 points, seven rebounds, and seven assists; and Bruce Whyte chipped in with eight points, 10 rebounds, and five assists for the Rebels.

Jayleyle Joseph sank 19 points

and grabbed 13 rebounds; Davique Osbourn converted 15 points; Orion Seraphine produced 11 points, nine rebounds, and five assists; and Aidan Christian scored 10 points and claimed 14 rebounds for the Wadadli Elite, who lost for the fifth time in nine games.

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Primary could only battle to a 3-3 draw in their other Group B affair.

T.N. Kirnon Primary, which finished as runner-up in last year's Primary School Cup, extended their unbeaten run to

four matches in Group C.

TN. Kirnon Primary recorded their fourth win in as many games by snatching a 2-1 victory against Potters Primary at the TN. Kirnon Primary School playing field.

It was the first defeat

for Potters Primary, which had won two and drawn one of their three previous Group C matches.

New Winthorpes Primary claimed their third win in as many matches in Group C with a 4-1 victory against Pigotts Primary.

Villa Primary suffered their fourth loss in as many games, falling to a 4-0 defeat against Pares Primary.

Greenbay Primary recorded a 3-1 victory against Sunnyside Tutorial School in the other Group C encounter.

Sports News



Players of the Jennings Grenades football team. The Grenades will retain their Premier Division League title with a victory against the Villa Lions in their penultimate match of the season on Saturday.

Ottos Rangers and Willikies Warriors fought to a 1-1 draw in a rescheduled second round encounter in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Wednesday.

Following a goalless first half, D'Jarie Sheppard put Willikies ahead with a 62nd-minute conversion, and

Ron Sealy scored the equalizer in the 84th minute to salvage the draw for the Ottos Rangers at the ABFA Technical Center.

The match was rescheduled after it was postponed last Sunday due to a waterlogged field at the ABFA Technical Center.

The result carries Willikies to 18

points from 17 matches, and the Ottos Rangers move on to 12 points from 16 matches.

The second round of the Premier Division will continue with a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

Cup-holders Jennings Grenades

Pytonz remain unbeaten in men's volleyball league

Pytonz extended their unbeaten run in the men's Division 1 of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League on Wednesday night.

The Pytonz secured their eighth win in as many games with an easy 3-0 straight-set victory against the Invaders at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Pytonz needed an hour and one minute to prevail 25-12, 25-12, and 25-9 against the Invaders, who lost for the sixth time in eight games.

Reigning champions Stoneville stayed within touching distance of the Pytonz by beating TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity 3-0 to record their seventh win in eight games.

Stoneville took an hour and 11 minutes to wrap up their 25-18, 25-16, and 25-22 victory against the



The Pytonz men's volleyball team

Chargers Velocity, who will remain in the cellar after losing for the eighth time in as many games.

High Flyerz I also recorded a 3-0 straight-set

victory against the Sharks in another men's Division 1 affair.

They claimed their fourth win in seven games in an hour and six minutes.

The High Flyerz 1 prevailed 25-8, 25-14, and 25-19 against the Sharks, which lost for the seventh time in eight games.

Former champions Paragons claimed their second win in five games by snatching a hard-fought 3-2 victory against Stoneville in the female Division 1 Local League.

The Paragons took two hours and 27 minutes to prevail 25-27, 25-13, 26-28, 25-18, and 15-13 against Stoneville, who lost for the third time in five games.

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will retain the Premier League title with a victory against the Villa Lions in the last game of Saturday's triple header at 8 pm.

A 17th win in as many matches will give the unbeaten Greenades, currently on 48 points from 16 games, an unassailable 51 points with one match remaining.

All Saints United, who are their closest rivals in second place with 43 points from 16 games, can only attain a maximum of 49 points by winning their remaining two

matches.

All Saints United will face Swetes in the last game of another triple header at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday at 8 pm.

In Saturday's other encounters, Green City will take on Parham at 4 pm, and the Ottos Rangers will tackle Empire at 6 pm.

In the other two matches on Sunday, Garden Stars will challenge Pigotts Bullets at 4 pm, and Old Road will clash with the Greenbay Hoppers at 6 pm.



Captain Tanez Francis (red cap) holds the trophy after Jennings Secondary School won the Schools' Under-19 Boys' two-day cricket title at the Rising Sun Playing field on Wednesday, April 24, 2024.

Jennings capture schools' Under-19 two-day cricket title

Jennings Secondary captured the two-day title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Under-19 boys' division championship on Wednesday.

Led by national and Leeward Islands youth player Tanez Francis, Jennings Secondary won the title by beating Pares Secondary by four wickets in the two-day final at the Rising Sun playing field.

Pares Secondary was dismissed in their first innings for 54 in 19.3 overs. Mekali Tonge struck 31. Francis, who

is the captain of Jennings Secondary, captured six wickets for 11 runs in 9.3 overs.

Dale Johashen claimed two for 11, and Giovanni Thomas picked up two for 28.

In reply, Jennings Secondary was dismissed in their first innings for 101 in 25.2 overs. Francis cracked 41. Mekali Tonge picked up three for 10 in seven overs, William Pitman took two for 12, and Goodwin had two for 29 in eight overs.

Pares Secondary was dismissed in their second innings for 82 in 23.5 overs. Mekali Tonge made 23 and Taryari Tonge scored 19. Francis grabbed five wickets for 38 runs in 11.5 overs to finish with a match haul of 11 for 49.

Jennings then secured the title by achieving their victory target of 36 for the loss of five wickets in nine overs. Mekali Tonge captured four for 16, and Watson claimed two wickets for nine runs.