

# \$6 BILLION ECONOMY BY YEAR-END!

*Story on Page 2*



Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph at the podium at the opening ceremony of the new expansion of the Emergency Room at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre on Sunday. *Story on page 4.*

## \$6 billion economy by year-end!

The Antigua and Barbuda economy will hit the \$6 billion mark in terms of its size by the end of the year, surpassing St. Lucia in the process, to become the largest economy within the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union.

That’s the prediction of Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Point FM on Saturday as he provided his audience with updates on the latest developments taking place in the country.

“When you look at the growth that we are experi-

encing now, contrast that with what we inherited when we took office back in 2014. We had an economy with a size of \$3.2 billion. So, to expand the economy to \$6 billion in that time you are talking about almost doubling the economy. This is a phenomenal development for any country,” he declared.

The prime minister observed that the benefits of the expanding economy are being felt throughout the society with more people being employed with more disposable income. He also announced that the new Roy-alton Chic hotel at Halcyon



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

Cove will employ eight hundred (800) persons and he is encouraging those who are in need of employment to make immediate applications for those jobs.

On the issue of the economy, PM Browne noted that the achievements did not come easy, as some may want to believe.

“We had to fight for practically all of the projects that are now fueling this economic growth and expansion. Look for example at what is happening with the PLH development in Barbuda.

“Despite strong opposition from the BPM Council, PLH has spent to date, \$700 million dollars and already we see the development transforming the island. Similarly, with the Halcyon Cove hotel. That property was so run down that we were getting reports from guests that cockroaches were overrun-

ning the property. The owners of the lease did not want to give it up so we had to take the matter to court,” he recalled.

The prime minister also drew comparisons between his administration’s handling the economy during and after the COVID-19 pandemic and the UPP’s tenure during the financial crisis of 2011. He noted that while the UPP resorted to making excuses for the fact that the economy declined by 5 percent each year between 2009 and 2014, in contrast, the ABLP administration, facing a much more impactful crisis, COVID-19, has been able to expand the economy by an average of 8 percent each year since the end of the pandemic.

“One administration (the UPP) made excuses, the other saw opportunities to further develop our economy,” he stated.



**RESIDENTS OF FALMOUTH  
COBBS CROSS  
PICCADILLY AND ENGLISH HARBOUR  
ARE INVITED TO A TOWN HALL MEETING**

**HOSTED BY: HON. E.P. CHET GREENE  
PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVE  
ST. PAUL**

**WEDNESDAY 10TH APRIL 2024  
AT COBBS CROSS PRIMARY SCHOOL  
7:30PM SHARP**

**COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS ON  
IMPORTANT ITEMS TO INCLUDE**

- COMMUNITY CLINIC UPDATE
- COMMUNITY CLEANUP AND BEAUTIFICATION
- PARK AND RIDE
- NOISE POLLUTION
- COBBS CROSS SCHOOL COMPUTER LAB
- COMMUNITY FIRE TENDER AND GARBAGE TRUCK
- CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS (ENGLISH HARBOUR AND FALMOUTH)
- NEW COMMUNITY CEMETERY
- CENTRAL SEWAGE SYSTEM



## LIAT 2020 completes first series of 'demo-flights'

LIAT 2020, the newly created airline launched by the Antigua and Barbuda government has completed a series of training flights over the weekend.

Informed sources say two flights took off from the VC Bird International Airport on Saturday afternoon to St Kitts and back and another two similar flights were made on Sunday morning.

These flights were done under the close supervision of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA), the regional authority that has oversight for all aviation-related matters in the Eastern Caribbean.

These flights form part of the process by which the new airline will attain its Air Operator's Certificate (AOC). It needs these certificates before it can commence regular scheduled flights.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne was on the *Browne and Browne* Show on Pointe FM radio on Saturday afternoon, when word reached him about the flights and immediately, he made the announcement to the listening/viewing audiences.

This was followed by a rush of congratulatory comments and postings as the news was warmly and enthusiastically welcomed by

members of the public.

It is anticipated that additional training flights will take place during this week to fulfill the requirements ahead of the granting of the AOC.

LIAT 2020 is a joint venture undertaking of the government of Antigua and Barbuda and the Nigerian airline, Air Peace.

That company will make available three aircraft to the new company as



part of its contributions into LIAT 2020. Those planes should arrive in Antigua and Barbuda shortly.



### BRAND AND COMMERCIAL MANAGER

DEADLINE: 11TH APRIL, 2024

The West Indies Oil Company Ltd (WIOC) is one of the premier petroleum service providers in the Caribbean. The Company is on a steady growth trajectory with the current expansion of its facility and new service offerings and therefore is investing in innovation, technology and its people. To help take the Company through this exciting phase, WIOC has a career opportunity for the right professional:

#### Role Profile:

The ideal candidate must drive the development of the company's brand strategy and manage its commercial sales activities by delivering marketing innovation aligned to the Company's business strategy. The professional must utilize innovative approaches to promote opportunities and resources to build the business as an energy solutions provider. Responsibilities include: the strategic assessment of market opportunities, trend tracking, concept validation, product and service delivery, working closely with internal teams to maintain and extend WIOC's market share. Lead and manage the Company's communication, public relations and marketing activities to its stakeholders in line with the company's Mission, Values and overall Strategy, whilst providing strategic assessments and recommendations of new product/service opportunities.

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#### Qualifications and Required Skills

- Preferably a Masters degree in Marketing or Business Management.
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role.
- Strategic and Creative Thinking skills: ability to assess sophisticated situations and make decisions while clarifying the path to follow.
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to influence and manage relationships across functions and job levels to achieve desired goals.
- Strong communication skills: strong command of grammar (oral and written), assertive, clear, able to convey technical content into easy-to-understand concepts and ideas.

#### Application Process

Please email CVs to: [recruitment@westindiesoil.com](mailto:recruitment@westindiesoil.com). Closing date for receipt of applications is April 11th, 2024. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

## Sir Molwyn draws 'a line in the sand'

Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph has declared 'war' on the issue of poor service that is often meted out to patients and other users of the country's main healthcare facility.

Speaking at the opening of the new expansion of the Emergency Room at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre on Sunday, Sir Molwyn declared that such inferior services to patients will be no more.

The minister has been visiting the hospital daily over the past several months and he reported that he has observed first-hand, the poor service, a source of much complaints from the public about the institution. He noted that while the majority of people will speak of their experiences at the institution in



Sir Molwyn Joseph calling out workers who deliver poor service at SLBMC

a positive manner, there is a minority whose experiences have not been positive. He urged the hospital's staff not to ignore the experiences of those in the minority.

"In the institution itself, there are those who do not live up to their requirements to serve. This is the time for truth telling! I speak from the point-of-view of witness-

ing some of the delivery of health care service in this institution that do not meet the standards. Let us all agree to something today that we will reach out with a commitment to elevate our services to the level of excellence because the people deserve it," he exclaimed.

Sir Molwyn pointed to the location of the expansion as one of the main entrances to the hospital, noting 'we must start there'. He stressed that everyone associated with the institution should feel a sense of responsibility to ensure that the institution delivers a higher quality of service to its public.

He revealed that his pres-

ence at the hospital over the past several weeks was more than as 'a watchman', 'foreman' or other terms used to describe him pejoratively. "I'm a little bit more than that, I'm also a listener and I listened to the people accessing services at the hospital. Let me tell you, the tolerance for anyone showing disrespect to anyone using this hospital is no longer alive today," he declared.

He said every employee must understand that there is 'zero tolerance' for disrespect. The minister added that he especially invited the various heads of department to attend the function for them to hear from him directly.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

#### *Invitation to bid on the Government House restoration initiative – Architect and Site manager*

The Heritage Trust (Antigua and Barbuda) Inc. authorized by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda to manage the Government House Restoration Initiative is pleased to announce that Stages 1 and 2 of the restoration 2023/2024 have been progressing as planned. In preparation for Stage 3, the Board of Directors has identified the need for the services of an Architect and Site Manager.

Qualified and experienced professionals registered to operate in Antigua and Barbuda are therefore invited to submit bids to provide the services required. Professionals interested in bidding to provide the services of architect and site manager may collect the bid documents from the Office of the Governor General during business hours from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm or can request the document via email ([htab2023@gmail.com](mailto:htab2023@gmail.com), copied to [govgenab@gmail.com](mailto:govgenab@gmail.com))

The deadline for submission of an expression of interest is Monday April 22, 2024, by 3pm via email or physical copy delivered to the Office of the Governor General.



Opening of the expansion of the Emergency Room at SLBMC



## 30-year anniversary of A&B-Cuba relations marks 'a significant milestone'



Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba celebrated the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations last Saturday.

In his address to mark the occasion, Prime Minister Gaston Browne says the occasion was 'a significant milestone' in the relationship that started back in 1994 between former Prime Minister, Sir Lester Bird and the revolutionary leader and former President of Cuba, Fidel Castro.

That decision, according to the prime minister, was motivated by their foresight that the friendship would prove to be resilient and fruitful.

"Indeed, our partnership has yielded incalculable benefits for the peoples of Antigua and Barbuda, and Cuba. Cuba has provided over three hundred (300) scholarships to Antiguan and Barbudans, transforming lives, and harnessing the potential of youth in key areas such as health, engineering, sports, education and culture," he noted.

PM Browne also spoke to the value of Cuban scholarships. "Cuban scholarships became a gateway to higher education for many, bolstering human resource development, and preparing the workforce for a rapidly

changing environment.

In addition, Cuba has improved access to comprehensive, quality healthcare services in Antigua and Barbuda through its Medical Brigade. Operation Miracle, a joint initiative between Cuba and Venezuela, allowed Antiguan and Barbudans to receive free surgeries and treatment for a wide array of ocular conditions," he observed.

Also delivering an ad-

dress to mark the occasion was Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, who pointed to the scores of Cuban healthcare technicians helping to bolster the healthcare delivery system in Antigua and Barbuda.

Despite its limited resources, Cuba has been one of the first countries to respond to Antigua and Barbuda in times of natural disasters.

"Cuba has always been a 'first responder' to crises

and catastrophes such as Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017, and the COVID-19 pandemic, through the provision of swift emergency assistance, despite the imposition of decades-long embargo," he stated.

He said Antigua and Barbuda will continue working alongside Cuba to tackle global challenges such as climate change as well as jointly striving to overcome developmental hurdles.

## JOB OPENING

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### Accounting Clerk

- ⊗ High School Diploma with 5 CXC's including English and Math or quantitative subject, Degree in Accounting, Finance or Business Administration is an asset
- ⊗ Minimum two (2) years of accounting experience, or equivalent business experience in a similar environment
- ⊗ Solid understanding of basic accounting principles

### Bookkeeper

- ⊗ Certificate or Diploma in Accounting or Finance
- ⊗ Minimum of 3 years experience in a similar role
- ⊗ Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, particularly Excel
- ⊗ In depth knowledge of general accounting theories and procedures

Applications should be addressed to:  
The Human Resource Manager  
St John's, Antigua  
email: [humanresources.ntw@gmail.com](mailto:humanresources.ntw@gmail.com)

We thank all applicants for their interest, however, only those short-listed will be contacted.

## Booby Alley Project expected to move forward in coming weeks

Work on the now vacant Booby Alley lot is expected to get under way in a matter of weeks.

This is according to Chief of Staff in the Prime Minister's Office Lionel 'Max' Hurst who made the revelation on Friday morning during the Post-Cabinet Press Briefing.

"We are weeks away from having the Chinese team come to Antigua and one of the first things they will do is fence the area because it is a construction site and then we will see containers coming from elsewhere for the purpose of building the homes

that we expect to be erected thereon," Hurst said.

Soil testing and other specific assessments were carried out by the team already.

The rejuvenation project, which will have assistance from the Chinese government, was originally announced in 2018 and was a key pledge of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is the Member of Parliament for the area, St John's City West.

In October 2018 to be exact, the government accepted a grant from China to construct 250 homes in to-

tal, encompassing North Street to St John's Street on Wilkinson's Cross; west on St John's Street to Mariner's Lane; south on Mariner's Lane to North Street; and east on North Street to Wilkinson's Cross.

But for years several delays including the COVID-19 pandemic and the relocation of residents saw the project being pushed back for several years.

It was just last April that the final two homes were removed from the area in Point, finally making way for the project to go full steam ahead.

## Two vessels say goodbye to Antigua and Barbuda...for now

The 2023-24 winter cruise tourism season is winding down as two vessels called at the St. John's Harbour on Saturday on their final visit for the season. This as the Antigua Cruise Port begins the countdown to 500-thousand cruise passengers, expected shortly.

Operations Manager, Rawle Reynolds, is reporting that Saturday saw the end of the home-porting exercise for the season as the Star Flyer leaves Antigua and Barbuda and the region and will make its way across the Atlantic to Portugal. "We will welcome Star Flyer back to our shores on December 1st 2024," he stated.

ACP also said a big 'thank you' to AidaPerla



for a wonderful season as the vessel takes its leave from Antigua and Barbuda to travel across the Atlantic for the Canary Islands and then on to Portugal. ACP will welcome the AidaPerla back to the St. John's Harbour on November 3rd 2024.

The Arvia of P&O Cruises completed its home-porting calls in March after making nine such calls for the 2023-24 season.

Saturday's arrivals total amount to 3,769 passengers which now shows that from 1st January 2024 to 6th April 2024 Antigua and Barbuda welcomed 453,859 passengers, a mere 46,141 passengers short of 500,000 passengers for this calendar year.

Reynolds anticipates that the half a million-passenger mark will be achieved 'in a matter of weeks'.





## Date set for Media launch for 2024 Queen of Carnival delegates

The Festivals Commission says this year’s Queen of Carnival delegates will make their first official public appearance at the Carnival Media Launch on Thursday, April 25th, 2024.

The Festivals Commission conducted the screening for the 2024 Queen of Carnival contestants on Saturday, April 6th, 2024. Nine hopefuls, eight in-person and one via Zoom, were judged in four categories: Interview, Swimwear, Performing Talent, and Cocktail Attire.

During the Interview, judges adjudicated mastery of the English language, delivery, content, diction, clarity, and fluency. In the Swimwear segment, the young ladies were judged on muscle tone, poise, and carriage in their personal selections. The Cocktail Attire segment is adjudicated on impact, carriage, and poise. The young ladies had two minutes to display their talent, with judges looking for authenticity, interpretation, originality, natural talent, presentation, and relevance.

The panel, led by Calvin Southwell, a pageant expert, along with Shermain Jeremy (2002 Queen of Carnival and Jaycee’s Caribbean) and Sharon Herbert (First Runner-Up Queen of Carnival 1996), adjudicating the screening process. Reflecting on the experience, Ms. Jeremy remarked, “This was one of the most demanding tasks for me. These young

women are not only beautiful but also highly educated and talented. Among them are attorneys at law, one with 19 grade 1’s, and nearly all are degree holders or in pursuit of one. We even had candidates with bachelor’s and master’s degrees.” She also advised, “Those who didn’t make it should walk away confidently and consider trying again next year.”

Senator Shenella Govia, Junior Minister of Carnival, confirmed the return of Brucella Marsh-Sutton and Shane Marsh from Marsh

and Marsh Productions as Co-Chairs for the Queen of Carnival 2024. Senator Govia stated, “Re-appointing Marsh and Marsh Productions was an obvious choice after they elevated the Queen of Carnival 2023 to new heights, resulting in a show that was eagerly awaited, impeccably executed, and successful, as demonstrated by the record-breaking attendance.”

She added, “The young ladies’ level of preparedness was impressive, and I expect it will contribute to a

highly competitive show that blends cultural heritage with modern appeal.”

Additionally, the reality series “Crowned” will make a comeback, continuing on the same platform as in previous years.

The series offers the audience an intimate look at the contestants’ journey to the competition and doubles as a promotional vehicle for the Queen of Carnival show. Ischikelle Corbin, reigning Queen of Carnival and Jaycees Queen, will host the show,



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## Rural North MP teams up with private sector group to donate food packages

Over the weekend, Parliamentary Representative for St. John's Rural North, Charles 'Max' Fernandez, joined forces with TSG Water Resources (AB) to launch a comprehensive food package distribution initiative, aimed at providing vital support to some of the most vulnerable individuals within his com-

munities. With a steadfast commitment to community welfare, Fernandez, alongside his dedicated team and the collaboration of TSG Water Resources (AB), undertook the task of personally delivering over 200 essential food packages to elderly and vulnerable residents in the areas of Yorks

*cont'd on pg 9*



## CIBC contributes to improve mathematics pass rate

CIBC Caribbean has teamed up with well-respected mathematics tutor, Derrick Nicholas, to conduct a number of Math Camps, where students' particular weak areas are tackled and more personalized attention is provided.

The bank has donated \$10,000 to assist in the funding of these camps. The Easter Camp is now taking place at the St. Mary's Secondary School for over 50 3rd, 4th and 5th form students.

Nicholas explained that he has been hosting Math Camps for the past three years, targeting various student demographics.

He said that corporate sponsors such as CIBC have made it possible for these camps to be held at no cost to the parents as invariably the children who need the most help are from families who are at the lower end of the economic ladder.

Following this camp another one is being planned



for the summer.

This one will be very important as those students whose education was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic will be entering 5th Form and will need the additional tutoring.

"I am fully committed to doing my part to ensure that the mathematics results at CSEC improve. I would like to thank CIBC for readily

agreeing to support this programme and for recognizing the importance of math literacy in Antigua and Barbuda."

During the presentation Jesseca Ormond, the bank's Human Resource Officer said that CIBC Caribbean was very happy to partner with Nicholas in the hope that these math camps will contribute to an upward trend

in how math is received and applied by our youth.

"It's not just about memorizing formulas; it's about learning how to think logically and creatively. Math is everywhere, shaping our daily lives and driving innovation in society," she added.

The math camps are designed to booster the pass rates for mathematics in the country.



*cont'd from pg 8*  
and Cedar Grove.

Reflecting on the initiative, Fernandez emphasized, "As global food prices surge, it becomes increasingly imperative to extend a helping hand to those facing hardship. While the government's active voucher program remains steadfast, we remain committed to supplementing these efforts by providing additional support to those in dire need."

The distributed packages, meticulously assembled with essential dry goods, canned items, and toiletries, were distributed over the course of Friday and Saturday last week, ensuring timely relief to those in need.

Manager of TSG Water Resources (AB), Anthony Goings remarked, "We are honoured to have partnered with the community team led by Mr. Fernandez in this noble cause. At TSG Water Resources (AB), we recognize the importance of giving back to the community, and this initiative resonates deeply with our core values."

Looking ahead, Fernandez reiterated that the weekend's endeavour marks just the beginning of a series of impactful events and initiatives planned for the year. These include a comprehensive bus tour, support for upcoming sports camps, a health fair, back-to-school distributions, and ongoing community outreach efforts throughout St. John's Rural

North.

As the collaboration between MP Fernandez and TSG Water Resources (AB) continues to exemplify the power of collective action in addressing societal challenges, it underscores the profound impact that dedicated leadership and corporate social responsibility can have in uplifting communities and fostering resilience.



## PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

### APUA Water Business Unit Addresses Reduced Production of Reverse Osmosis Plants

**ST. JOHN'S Antigua, April 5th, 2024 - The Antigua Public Utilities (APUA) Water Business Unit is issuing a public advisory to inform customers about the reduced production of various Reverse Osmosis (RO) plants, resulting in shorter service periods or longer intervals between service days.**

Over recent months, APUA has encountered significant challenges due to unfavorable sea conditions, leading to a drastic impact on production at both the Ffyres and Fort James Reverse Osmosis Plants. Consequently, the Water Business Unit has had to reroute distribution from alternative sources to compensate for the reduced output from these affected plants.

"We understand the inconvenience and discomfort experienced by our customers due to the reduced production of our RO plants," said Mr. Ian Lewis, Water Business Unit Manager. "We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused and assure our customers that we are working tirelessly to address this issue."

As a consequence of increased demand and limited supply, some customers, particularly those situated further from alternative sources, may have experienced low water pressure or intermittent service. APUA assures customers that every effort is being made to rectify the situation promptly.

"We are fully committed to delivering reliable and high-quality water services to our customers," Mr. Lewis emphasized. "To address this challenge, we have expedited the procurement of replacement membranes, which are expected to significantly enhance the production capacity of the affected RO plants upon successful installation."

While efforts are underway to minimize disruptions to service, customers are encouraged to conserve water during this period of reduced production. APUA will continue to provide updates and communicate any changes to service schedules through official channels.

# Revel without a clause

By Tony Deyal

Even though I no longer go to the horse races, some people still call me a “bookie”. Others call me a “book worm”. They’re so completely off the track that I rail at them.

What I am is a book dragon, and not just an ordinary one like the Komodo, which suffers from reptile dysfunction. I dig reading. I am a bibliophile. My nights before I sleep and my weekends are all booked up. The advice I got from a librarian was, “Son, believe in your shelf”.

I took it up and now have three with a fourth coming to hold my writing only. While I found out at university that the best college degree to become a successful fiction writer was journalism (especially in Trinidad), despite not being a bookie I do things by the books and not just the book.

With the extreme heat that we in the Caribbean are experiencing these days, I came up with a foolproof way to avoid sunburns. Stay inside the house and read all day.

There are a lot of people like me who read past bedtime and sometimes don’t sleep until the next morning when it’s time to go to school or work. Some have book hangovers.

After drinking a lot of coffee (or tea) to finish reading a good book, they are upset because they just

cannot start another one right away. Interestingly, I often told my daughter what my mother demanded from me when she went by the light switch in my bedroom, “Put down the book and go to sleep. You have to catch the bus in the morning to go to school.”

I always answered (and my daughter did the same), “Oh gosh! Just let me finish this chapter first, please. It going too well for me to put down.” My father was concerned about the cost of electricity, so he just shouted a couple times: “You wasting electricity. You know how much that cost?”

Then he came into the room and switched off “the current”. What he didn’t know is that I had his “torchlight” under my coverlet, and as soon as he left, I said, “Let there be light”, and even though I wasn’t deep into Genesis and the King James Bible, somehow God and I became friends, “And God said, Let there be light and there was light./ And God (and I) saw the light and it was good.”

He even divided the light from the darkness. If there is anything I learnt, no book lover goes to bed alone, and some are lucky to have the Almighty with them as well.

Mark Twain, the American writer and humourist, saw writing as part of the bigger picture. He believed, “Good friends, good books,



Tony Deyal

and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.”

Long before Twain, Marcus Tullius Cicero, a Roman statesman and philosopher, put it bluntly, “A room without books is a body without a soul.”

And getting back to my dragons, I have to drag this in from the English-writer Neil Gaiman, “Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.”

I definitely won’t go so far to try that but will stick wit Groucho Marx, American comedian and actor, “Outside of a dog, a book is man’s best friend. Inside of a dog it’s too dark to read.” Mark also said, “I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.”

Some of the other great authors also make reading

as important as writing.

Earnest Hemingway, the American novelist and short-story writer, was clear about where books stood in his life: “There is no friend as loyal as a book.” C.S. Lewis went for tea the same way I go for coffee, “You can never get a cup of tea large enough or a book long enough to suit me.” But Frank Zappa, the musician and band leader of “The Mothers of Invention”, cut it short and to the point: “So many books, so little time.”

So much for writers reading, but what about the writing and what writers think is the right thing?

Essentially, like their writing, they move from what seems to be the ridiculous to the sublime. Winston Churchill is first on my list with, “From now on, ending a sentence with a preposition is something up with which I will not put.”

*cont’d on pg 11*



*cont'd from pg 10*

Stephen King found his real horror was, “The road to hell is paved with adverbs.”

American comedian and writer Stephen Wright joked: “I wrote a few children’s books. Not on purpose.” Ruth Rendell, one of my favourite writers of thrillers and psychological murder mysteries, advised those who didn’t know how to get into the book world: “I get a lot of letters from people. They say: ‘I want to be a writer. What should I do?’ I tell them to stop writing to me and get on with it.” Then one of my humourists, Irving S. Cobb, commented, “If writers were good businessmen, they’d have too much sense to be writers.”

American author Jessamyn West spoke for all of us with, “Writing is so difficult that I often feel that writers, having had their hell on earth, will es-

cape all punishment thereafter.”

And the one that is biblically true and without the Lord helping me this time, “If Moses were alive today he’d come down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments and spend the next five years trying to get them published.”

My first newspaper columns were in the Trinidad Guardian and subsequently the Trinidad Express. I then got a scholarship for Carleton University in Canada. Knowing that none of us from the Caribbean were white, and even though I had good Canadian friends in my classes and even taught several, I started my column “Blackadaisical”.

It was very much based on something that US columnist and editor Doug Larson, who had advised people like me that “Wisdom is the reward you get for a lifetime of listening when

you’d have preferred to talk”.

He wrote, “If the English language made any sense, lackadaisical would have something to do with flowers.” In my case, it was flour. I had to do my own self-raising, and I did it with books and more books.

And for children, I can tell them to respond as I did when one of my colleagues asked me, “Tony, boy. How many books you read in your lifetime?” My answer was, “I really don’t know. Unless you lick me down now with a big stick or shoot me, I’m not dead yet.”

*Tony Deyal was last seen quoting Mark Twain, “I was sorry to hear my name mentioned as one of the great authors, because they have a sad habit of dying off. Chaucer is dead, so is Milton, so is Shakespeare and I am not feeling very well myself.” You can say that again!*



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## Solar Eclipse: Sky watchers hope for clear weather

Millions are hoping for clear skies as anticipation grows ahead of Monday's total solar eclipse.

Forecasters are predicting cloudy conditions in northern Mexico, Texas and parts of the Great Lakes region.

Better weather is expected in western Mexico and parts of the US Midwest, with clear spring skies likely in New England and Canada.

The total solar eclipse, the first to cross the continent since 2017, will first hit land on Mexico's west coast.

It will track north-east across heavily populated areas and several major cities in three countries.

Some areas along the path of totality - where the moon totally obscures the sun - will experience darkness for nearly four-and-a-half minutes.

According to Nasa, 31.6 million people live along the path of totality, and millions more are expected to travel to catch a glimpse of the celestial event.

At the Starry Night RV park in Fort Worth, Texas vehicles full of eclipse watchers were rolling in to set up camp ready for the big moment.

Owner Lindsey Kuhn told the BBC: "It's becoming quite a big deal, people have driven here from all



over."

"I've been trying to explain to my daughter that it's going to get dark, she asked 'will we have to go to sleep?'"

"We're going to be together, put on our glasses and take a selfie, it's once in a lifetime for us."

Except during the period of totality, special glasses are needed to view the partial stages of the eclipse. Experts advise that regular sunglasses won't work and looking at the sun, even through a camera or smartphone, can cause eye damage in seconds.

Special events are being planned in towns and cities across the path.

Nasa and its partner organisations are hosting more than 100 events, including a gathering where

the eclipse will first be visible from land in Mazatlan, Mexico and festivals at the Cotton Bowl stadium in Dallas and at Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indiana.

Crowds will fill a football stadium in Carbondale, Illinois, where the path of Monday's eclipse will intersect the path of the last solar eclipse to travel across the United States, in 2017.

More than 300 couples plan to get married under eclipse skies in a mass wedding in Russellville, Arkansas.

"We've just never seen a total solar eclipse before so we can't wait to experience that while getting married as it's happening," said Miriam Maxey, who is marrying her fiance Nicholas. "This is a memory we'll take with us for the rest of our lives."

Authorities in Niagara Falls, Canada, expect up to one million visitors hoping to see mist from the famous cataract turn pink - if the weather co-operates. Forecasters with the US National Weather Service (NWS) predicted heavy cloud cover in the region.

In its latest eclipse forecast Sunday, the NWS also warned of potential severe weather including heavy rain, tornados and hail which may affect travel in Texas and nearby states. The view in San Antonio is expected to be almost entirely obscured by clouds.

Scientists will take advantage of the eclipse to perform experiments, launch rockets into the sky, observe animal behaviour and study the sun's elusive

*cont'd on pg 14*



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## British Royal Navy makes multimillion-dollar drug seizure in Caribbean

CMC - The British Royal Navy says its warship HMS Trent seized drugs with a street value of £16.7 million (US\$21.1 million) in two separate blows to drug runners in the Caribbean.

The Royal Navy said British sailors, Royal Marines and a US Coast Guard team on HMS Trent intercepted a smuggling speedboat immediately following a port visit to Martinique.

“The warship launched her fast sea boats, piloted by Royal Marines of 47 Commando, to intercept the speedboat, seize the drugs and detain the crew before darkness fell,” said the Royal Navy on Friday.

“Less than 48 hours later, HMS Trent was back in action, working with a US Coast Guard patrol aircraft to track and intercept another speedboat,” it added.

Across the two operations, the Royal Navy said the HMS Trent seized 200kg of cocaine and other drugs, with an estimated



street value of £16.7 million.

“The flexibility shown by my ship’s company to move straight from high-level defence engagement activity in Martinique straight into successful boarding operations is a testament to their dedication and professionalism,” said Commanding Officer, Commander Tim Langford, on Friday.

“The level of cooperation between the Royal Navy, US Coast Guard and

other partners has been excellent, and has been key to making these seizures possible,” he added.

The Royal Navy said the latest operations mean HMS Trent has now seized drugs worth £307m since it began operating in Caribbean at the end of 2023.

In February, the warship seized £220.56m of cocaine and other drugs, having seized £70.1m of cocaine in January, the Royal Navy said.

“These interceptions

demonstrate the Royal Navy’s commitment to disrupt and dismantle the operations of drug traffickers across the world,” said British Defence Secretary Grant Shapps.

“I congratulate the ship’s company for their invaluable efforts to keep illegal drugs off our streets,” he added.

The Royal Navy said “these successful interceptions not only disrupt criminal networks in the UK but also underscore the Royal Navy’s vital role in maintaining maritime security and upholding international law in the region.

“The level of cooperation between the Royal Navy, US Coast Guard and other partners has been excellent,” it added.

**cont’d from pg 12**

corona - the star’s bright outer atmosphere.

Some schools are closed or have allowed students to be absent on Monday, while others planned special viewing events.

The American Automobile Association said demand for hotel rooms and

rental cars spiked ahead of the eclipse and warned travellers not to attempt to take pictures or video while driving.

If the weather affects Monday’s event, North American eclipse watchers will have a while to wait. The next total solar eclipse widely visible from the US and Canada will occur in 2044.



## Commonwealth condemns Venezuela's Essequibo law

CMC - The Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Patricia Scotland, has voiced support for the stance taken by President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali, after President Nicolás Maduro of Venezuela promulgated the Organic Law for the Defence of Essequibo earlier this week.

In a statement on Saturday, Scotland said she received a letter from Ali, who expressed concern that Venezuela's next move would be to implement its plan for the "seizure of Guyana's sovereign territory."

According to Scotland, by this new law, Venezuela purports to exercise control over two-thirds of the sovereign territory of Guyana. This legislation appears to create a new state in Venezuela, the Head of State of Venezuela will have the power to elect a governor, and the National Assembly of Venezuela will have legislative functions in this territory. Also, all political maps of Venezuela will now include the "state of Guyana Essequiba".

The International Court of Justice (ICJ), on 1 December 2023, unanimously indicated its Order on Provisional Measures on the dispute between Venezuela and Guyana. It states, pending the Court's final decision in the case,

"The Bolivarian Repub-



Baroness Patricia Scotland. Photo: Commonwealth.

lic of Venezuela shall refrain from taking any action which would modify the situation that currently prevails in the territory in dispute, whereby the Co-operative Republic of Guyana administers and exercises control over that area."

In reference to Venezuela's April 3rd promulgation, the Commonwealth Secretary-General noted:

"Venezuela's latest actions appear to directly contravene the ICJ Order and also the spirit of the 14 December 2023 Joint Declaration of Argyle for Dialogue and Peace between Guyana and Venezuela where both states agreed to use international law and diplomatic means to address the contro-

versy and to refrain from escalating the conflict."

"The Commonwealth affirms that the ICJ process is the appropriate and lawful means to address the matter under international law."

The Secretary-General pointed to her earlier statements of 1 November and 1 December 2023 on the matter as well as the 11 December 2023 Outcome Statement of the Commonwealth Ministerial Group on Guyana (CMGG).

She also referenced the Concluding Statement of the Sixty-Fourth Meeting of the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group, issued on 12 March 2024, and the Secretary-General noted,

"I am encouraged by the

firm and consistent support from the entire Commonwealth family for the Government and people of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana. I also call on member states to give whatever support they may feel appropriate to Guyana in this time of need."

"I offer my continued support, and that of the Commonwealth, to help resolve the matter by peaceful means."

The commonwealth secretary-general urged the Government and people of Venezuela to abide by the principles of international law and to manage the dispute in ways that guarantee the peace and stability of the Caribbean region.



## Mexico cuts diplomatic ties with Ecuador after Jorge Glas arrest

By **Jemma Crew**

Mexico is cutting ties with Ecuador after police stormed the Mexican embassy in Quito to arrest former Ecuadorian Vice-President Jorge Glas.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said they had “forcibly entered” the embassy in a “flagrant violation of international law”.

Glas took refuge in the embassy last December after Ecuador issued an arrest warrant against him for alleged corruption.

Glas’s lawyer said he was innocent.

He has now been flown under police guard to the city of Guayaquil, and is expected to await trial in a maximum security prison.

Glas served as Ecuador’s

vice-president between 2013 and 2017. He was relieved of his duties because of mounting corruption allegations against him.

Later that year he was sentenced to six years in jail in connection with corruption at the Brazilian construction giant Odebrecht. Prosecutors said he took \$13.5m (£10.2m) in bribes.

He was released from prison in November but Ecuadorian authorities then issued another arrest warrant alleging further allegations of corruption, triggering Glas to seek refuge in the Mexican embassy.

On Friday, Mexico said it had granted Glas political asylum “after a thorough analysis” of the situation - an action Ecuador viewed as illegal.

“Ecuador is a sovereign nation and

we are not going to allow any criminal to stay free,” Ecuador’s Presidency said in a statement.

It said Glas, who had been “sentenced to imprisonment by the Ecuadorian justice system”, had been arrested and “placed under the orders of the competent authorities”.

Photographs from the scene show police scaling a wall and metal fence at the embassy’s closed entrance.

Mexico’s Mr Obrador, writing on X, said he had ordered the immediate suspension of diplomatic ties as a result.

“Police from Ecuador forcibly entered our embassy and detained the former vice-president of that country who was a refugee and processing

*cont’d on pg 17*



## Boeing plane engine cover falls off prompting investigation

By Michael Race

Airline regulators in the US have begun an investigation after an engine cowling on a Boeing 737-800 fell off during take-off and struck a wing flap.

The Southwest Airlines flight returned safely to Denver International airport at about 08:15 local time (15:15 GMT) after originally departing to Houston.

The aircraft had 135 passengers and six crew members on board and rose to about 10,300 feet (3,140m) before landing.

The incident comes amid manufacturing and safety concerns at Boeing.

Southwest Airlines said its maintenance teams would review the Boeing 737-800 after its cowling, which covers the plane's engine, fell off. The airline confirmed it was responsible for maintenance of such parts.

"We apologise for the inconvenience of their delay, but place our highest



priority on ultimate safety for our customers and employees," a statement said.

The plane was manufactured in 2015 according to regulator Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) records, and the 737-800 is an earlier generation of the 737 from the latest Max model.

Both aircraft are powered by CFM56 engines - a joint venture between General Electric Aerospace and Safran Aircraft Engines.

The FAA said the Boeing aircraft was towed to the gate after landing.

Boeing declined to comment when approached by BBC News, referring questions to Southwest for information about the airline's plane and fleet operations.

Southwest said it would fly passengers on another plane to Houston about three hours behind schedule.

Boeing has been under

scrutiny following a dramatic mid-air blowout in January, in which passengers on the flight from Portland, Oregon, to California narrowly escaped serious injury.

On Friday, it was announced Boeing paid \$160m (£126m) to Alaska Air to make up for losses the airline suffered following the emergency.

Regulators temporarily grounded nearly 200 Boeing 737 Max 9 jets after a door plug fell from the Alaska aircraft shortly after take-off.

Boeing has been trying to repair its reputation for years after crashes in 2018 and 2019 involving a different version of the 737 Max plane killed 346 people.

Its popular 737 Max planes were subsequently grounded globally for more than 18 months.

*cont'd from pg 16*

asylum due to the persecution and harassment he faces.

"This is a flagrant violation of international law and the sovereignty of Mexico."

Hours later, Nicaragua also cut off diplomatic ties with Ecuador as a result of the "unusual and reprehensible action", a government statement quoted by AFP said.

A number of diplomats were injured in the incident, according to Alicia Bárcena,

Mexico's secretary of foreign relations.

Tension between Mexico and Ecuador has been mounting in recent days. On Wednesday, Mr Obrador made remarks, considered "unfortunate" by Ecuador, about violence during last year's election - won by Ecuadorian President Daniel Noboa.

The following day Ecuador declared the Mexican ambassador a persona non grata and said she should leave the country.

# Sports News

## Blackhawks make winning start in defense of ABCA's Super40 Cup

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks got off to a successful start in defense of their title in the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup on Saturday.

The Blackhawks cruised to a 10-wicket win against the Jennings Tigers in their opening-round encounter in the limited-overs competition at Ball Beef in Liberta.

After winning the toss and opting to bat, the Jennings Tigers were dismissed for 96 in 33.5 overs. Matthew Miller made 33, and Emmanuel Lawrence got 26. Left-arm spinner Kadeem Phillip snapped up four for 13, and Jaco Benjamin claimed three for 21.

Opener Kofi James then slammed an unbeaten half-century to lead Liberta to victory at 99 without losing a wicket in 12.5 overs. James slammed an unbeaten 68 off 49 balls, including eight fours and three sixes. Tarek Charles hit 20 not out off 32 balls.

Combined Schools, the New Winthorpes Lions, Pigotts Crushers, and Empire Nation also made winning starts to their campaigns in the Super40 Cup.



Tyrone Williams Jr.

Combined School trounced the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles at Bethesda by 200 runs in Bethesda. Captain George Elvin hit a half-century as Combines Schools made 225 off 39 overs after losing the toss and being sent in to bat.

Elvin struck 64 off 61 balls, with eight fours and a six, and Shamar Pereira scored 42 off 45 balls. Oshane Simon took two for 24, Makali Tonge claimed two for 46, and captain Teron Payne captured two for 58.

In reply, the Bethesda Golden Eagles crashed to 25 all out in 7.4 overs. Fast bowler Glen Williams grabbed seven wickets for 19 runs.

The New Winthorpes Lions snatched a 14-run win against the WES Rising Sun Spartans in New Winthorpes. The Lions made 201 off their 40 overs after being sent in to bat, with Bartlette Henry getting 67 and Shavon Moore scoring 48 off 45 balls.

All-rounder Shane Burton bagged three for 16, and captain Kerry Mentore claimed three for 31.

The Rising Sun Spartans were



Kofi James

dismissed for 187 in 34 overs. Hilroy Andrew struck 40 off 36 balls, and Burton scored 39 off 35 balls. Orandel Boston took three for 24, and captain Nino Henry captured three for 35.

The Pigotts Crushers prevailed by five wickets against the All Saints Pythons in Pigotts. The Pythons were sent in to bat and made 148 for nine off their 40 overs.

Kadeem Josiah cracked 43, and Sean Joseph Jr. made 30. Demari Benta had three for 21, Vishal Gobin

*cont'd on pg 19*



Kadeem Henry



## Freeman's Village drop crucial points at the top of Second Division

Leaders Freeman's Village dropped crucial points in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

Freeman's Village lost for the third time in the competition, suffering a surprising 4-1 defeat against Golden Grove at the Golden Grove playing field.

Arnel Walsh scored in the fifth minute, and Terrence Spencer scored in the 10th minute to give Golden Grove a two-nil lead at half-time. Tyler Anthony scored in the 80th minute to give Golden Grove a three-nil lead.

Adrian Benjamin scored a consolation goal for Freeman's Village in the 88th minute, and Nyique Baptiste scored the final goal for Golden Grove in the 90th minute.

Their third defeat in 16 matches allows Freeman's Village to remain as Second Division leaders with

39 points, one ahead of Sea View Farm in second place.

Their ninth win in 16 matches allows Golden Grove to remain in ninth place on goal difference by advancing to 28 points.

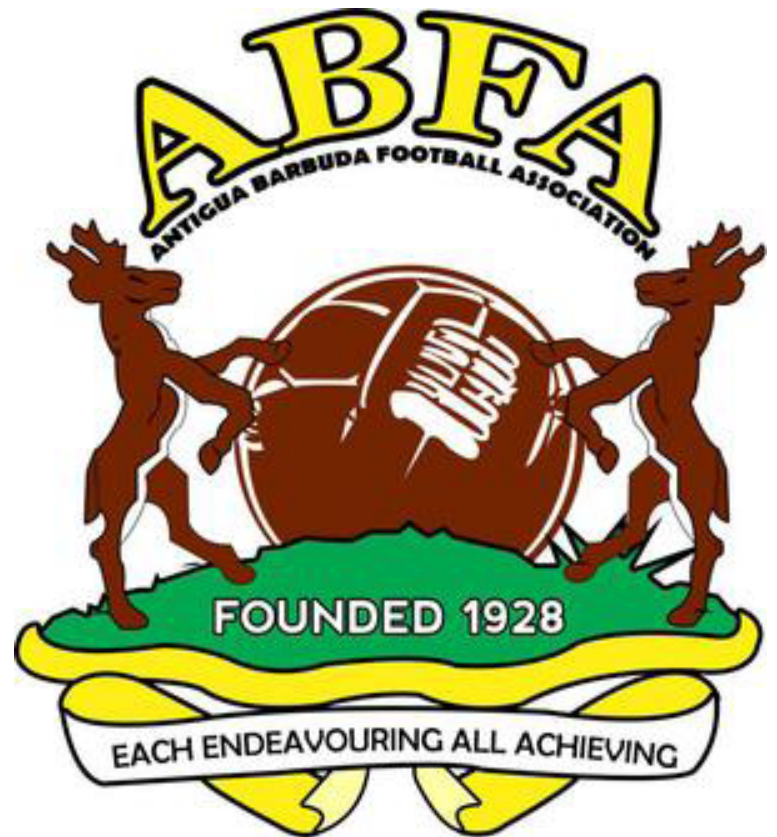
Bethesda remains in third place after suffering a 3-2 loss against West Ham at the Princess Margaret School playing field.

Dale Barton scored in the 4th minute, Lloyd Sheperd had a 28th-minute conversion, and Keithroy Richards scored in the 77th minute for West Ham.

Chunsae Martin scored both goals for Bethesda with conversions in the 50th and 86th minutes.

Their fourth loss in 17 matches means Bethesda will remain in third place with 33 points. West Ham will also remain in 15th place by advancing to 12 points after securing their third win in 15 matches.

English Harbour continued to lose ground to the front-runners, crashing to a



3-0 defeat against Lingies CPTSA Wings at the English Harbour playing field.

Kimani Gyles scored twice with goals in the 22nd and 69th minutes, and Chademe Miller had a 24th-minute conversion for the CPTSA Wings.

English Harbour will remain in sixth place with

30 points after suffering their fifth loss in 17 matches. Their seventh win in 15 matches allows the CPTSA Wings to remain in 11th place on goal difference with 24 points.

Soccer Academy will remain in eighth place after romping to a 10-0 victory against the Earthquakes at the ABFA Technical Center.

Michael Peters scored six goals, Keyondre Hewlett struck a hat-trick, and Tajjah Christian had the other conversion for Soccer Academy.

Their eighth win in 13 matches carries Soccer Academy to 29 points, while the Earthquakes will remain in 12th place with 19 points after crashing to their seventh defeat in 14 matches.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

bagged two for 19, and skipper Kadeem Henry claimed two for 20.

The Crushers achieved victory at 154 for five in 24.3 overs. Henry slammed 82 off 59 balls, with 14 fours and a six, while Josiah captured four for 27.

Opener Tyrone Williams Jr. slammed a century as the Empire Nation crushed the Bolans Blasters by 165 runs at Rising Sun. Williams Jr. struck 116 off 90 balls, with eight fours and six sixes, as Empire Nation made 294 off 39.5 overs.

Justin Athanaze cracked 48 off 27 balls, with four sixes and three fours; captain Kenrick Scott hit 41; and Damian Lowenfield scored 34. Pacer Taiem Tonge picked up three for 71, Winston Nelson had two for 34, and Derek Mourillon claimed two for 41.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters were dismissed for 129 in 24.4 overs. Orlando Peters top-scored with 33 off 35 balls. Jalen Harris bagged four for 24, Javaughn James claimed two for 16, and leg-spinner Micah McKenzie took two for 30.

# Sports News



## Wins for Bullets, Hoppers, and Villa Lions in Premier League

Pigotts Bullets, Greenbay Hoppers, and Aston Villa Lions all recorded wins in their opening round matches in the second round of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

The Bullets shot their way to a 3-0 win against Swetes in the opening game of a triple-header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Isaac Hughes opened the scoring in the 4th minute, Seigel Rodney had a 32nd-minute conversion, and Akeem Isaac scored the final goal in the 75th minute.

Pigotts Bullets advance to 20 points after winning their fifth game in 15 matches, while Swetes remain on eight points after losing for the 11th time in 15 games.



Players of the Villa Lions football team.

The Greenbay Hoppers came from behind to snatch a 2-1 win against John Hughes in the second game on Saturday. Devontae Loo-by's 24th-minute conversion gave John Hughes a one-nil lead at halftime.

But John Hughes was

reduced to 10 men in the 42nd minute when Dashorn Browne was expelled after receiving a red card for violent conduct.

Hoppers secured victory courtesy of two late goals, which were scored by Javorn Stevens in the 71st

minute and Yoandir Puga Estevez in the 82nd minute.

Their ninth win in 15 matches carries the Greenbay Hoppers to 28 points, while John Hughes remains on 19 points after slumping to their eighth defeat in 15

*cont'd on pg 21*

## Potters Tigers narrow gap on Five Islands in First Division

Second-placed Potters Tigers narrowed the gap on leaders Five Islands in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League on Friday.

Brian Davis and Jamore Benjamin both scored twice as the Potters Tigers moved to within four points of Five Islands with an 8-0 drubbing of Bendals at the Bendals playing field.

Davis scored in the 16th and 44th minutes, and Jamore Benjamin had conversions in the 78th and 90th minutes.

Keon Greene opened the scoring with a 13th-minute conversion; Ken Murray scored an own goal in the 20th minute; Javorn Benjamin had a 38th-minute conversion; and Ordel Samuel scored in the 83rd minute for the Potters Tigers.

Their 11th win in 14 matches carries the Potters Tigers to 36 points, four adrift of Five Islands, who have played 15 matches.

Bendals remain in eighth place with 12 points after suffering their ninth defeat in 15 matches.

There was success as well for Lion Hill, who recorded a 2-0 win against Bolans at the Jennings playing field.

Goals by Jeron Samuel in the 15th minute and Marcus Marquis in the 40th minute gave Lion Hill their fifth win in the First Division League.

The result allows Lion Hill to remain in sixth place by advancing to 18 points from 14 matches. Bolans remain in seventh place with 13 points after losing for the eighth time in 13 matches.



## CWI appoints Ramesh Subasinghe as WI Academy head coach

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has announced the appointment of a new head coach for the West Indies (WI) Men's Academy, marking a pivotal step in advancing the organisation's commitment to excellence in cricket development.

Following an extensive and meticulous selection process, Ramesh Subasinghe has emerged as the ideal candidate to lead the WI Academy into a new era of performance and growth.

Before his appointment to CWI, Subasinghe, a former Sri Lankan first-class cricketer, served as the head coach of the New Zealand Cricket Men's Development Programme and the Otago Cricket Associations Pathways Head Coach and Talent Development Manager. He holds an ICC Global Level 3 coaching qualification and is a qualified coach development with New Zealand Cricket.

Besides his qualifications, Subasinghe has exhibited significant expertise in critical areas, including developing and implementing high-performance systems, technical remediations and



sports bio-mechanics, team and individual holistic skills development, injury prevention and bowling loads management.

The recruitment process for the head coach of the West Indies Men's Academy attracted significant global interest, with 53 applicants vying for the position.

Through a stringent vetting process, 12 candidates were shortlisted, representing diverse cricketing backgrounds and expertise. Ultimately, six individuals hailing from Guyana, Jamaica, the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Sri Lanka were identified as finalists, reflecting CWI's dedication

to inclusivity and global talent scouting.

Enoch Lewis, CWI Board Director and Chair of Cricket Development and Performance Committee; Miles Bascombe, Director of Cricket; Graeme West, High-Performance Manager; and Oneka Martin-Bird, HR Manager; were all part of the selection process and all contributed to a comprehensive assessment of each candidate's qualifications, experience, and vision for cricket development in our region.

On becoming the new Men's Academy Head Coach, Ramesh Subasinghe stated, "Joining CWI pres-

ents an incredible opportunity for me to contribute to the organisation's new strategic vision and build on their existing High-Performance programmes, working with their best young cricketers. I look forward to collaborating with the exciting natural talent and the passionate cricketing communities in the West Indies."

Subasinghe's appointment represents a significant investment in the future of West Indian cricket, as he brings a wealth of technical knowledge, strategic insight, and a passion for player development to the role.

His leadership will be instrumental in shaping the next generation of cricketing talent in the region. Subasinghe will start his role on May 1, 2024, and will be based full-time at the CWI Headquarters at Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.

games. The Villa Lions secured a 3-1 win against the Willikies Warriors in Saturday's final encounter. Samoel Rodriguez scored the opening goal in the eighth minute, and Joylan Sinclair converted a penalty kick in the 24th minute to give the Villa Lions a two-nil lead at halftime.

Kwame "Munchie" Kirby scored Villa's third and final goal in the 51st minute, and Phil Nicholas scored a consolation goal for Willikies in the 69th minute.

Their eighth win in 15 matches carries the Villa Lions to 26 points, while the Willikies Warriors remain on 17 points after losing for the sixth time in 15 games.

## Williams to leave role as head coach of LI Hurricanes

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) has announced that it has been notified by Stuart Williams that, after four years with the franchise, he will not be renewing his contract with the board as head coach at the end of the current regional first-class season.

According to a LICB media release, “This announcement by coach Williams, though surprising, is respected, and as such, the LICB wishes to express its gratitude to Stuart Williams for his dedicated service and leadership during his tenure with the team.

“Under his guidance, the Hurricanes have shown remarkable progress and determination on the field.”

The release adds, “President of the LICB, Enoch Lewis, describes coach Williams as a tremendously hard worker with an undisputable passion for LI cricket.”



Stuart Williams (CWI Media)

He pointed out that Stuart has been of service to LI cricket as a player since he was a teenager, and since then he has served in various administrative capacities for a combined service of over thirty-five (35) unbroken years.

“I want to use this opportunity to thank him profusely for his commitment and to wish him every success in his life away from LI Cricket. While he has stepped away as coach, I trust that he would be willing to continue to play a role in the development of

LI cricket if called upon.”

According to the release, Williams had this to say: “After serving the board in my capacity as head coach these past few years, I believe that the franchise has advanced to a more structured level from where I inherited it.”