

# BARBUDA AIRPORT SEEKS ICAO CERTIFICATION

Story on Page 2



The nine delegates who will compete for title of Miss AT&LU/ABLP Labour Queen 2024 were introduced to the senior executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party last Friday. *Story on page 6.*

## Barbuda airport opening to await ICAO certification

The new airport on Barbuda is now completed but the government has decided to delay the opening pending approval from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

That’s the word from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who noted that the delay in opening the airport has nothing to do with the recent case that went before the Privy Council in London.

“First of all, the construction phase of the airport is now complete; we



are now awaiting the approval of the Eastern Ca-

ribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA).

“One of the reasons why we have not had that yet is because we decided to spend a little more time to get the Barbuda Airport International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) certified. So very shortly, if not by the end of this month, certainly by sometime next month we will have the opening,” the prime minister stated.

He added that the government also intends to carry out a further extension of the current runway at the airport to allow it to accommodate direct flights with standard commercial jets that currently utilize the VC Bird International Airport.

The prime minister said he is looking forward to the day when the Barbuda Airport will accommodate

direct commercial flights from major international airports.

Meanwhile, both the prime minister and Senior Counsel, Anthony Astaphan have dismissed suggestions that work on the airport continued in spite of the recent Privy Council ruling.

Both men said the complaint has no merit since the airport has been completed and that secondly, their understanding was that the construction work on the airport was not the subject of the case anyway.

Further, according to Senior Counsel, Astaphan, the court had repeatedly denied enforcing an injunction to halt work on the project. The denials were both at the level of the High Court and affirmed by the Appeal Court, he noted.



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**COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS ON  
IMPORTANT ITEMS TO INCLUDE**

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- 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



## The Senate seeks clarity on money laundering bill

One of two legislative measures for which the government is seeking parliamentary approval in order to meet the requirements of the European Union has been sent back by the Senate to the House of Representatives seeking further clarity.

The measure – the Money Laundering (Prevention) (Amendment) Bill, 2024, came up for debate in the Upper House on Monday, but members said they needed the key provisions explained further to enhance their understanding of the measure.

The Bill focuses on the operation of nonprofit organisations seeking to tighten some of their obligations and to close any loopholes that may exist in the law. “It’s important that we have in place proper legal frame-

work, but not legal framework that is so stringent and so overbearing that legitimate non-profit organisations are hampered, thus creating a situation regarding the framework under which they are governed,” Leader of Government Business in the House Senator Samantha Marshall stated.

The bill now goes back to the Lower House for further review and possible amendments before returning to the Senate.

During the meeting, the Senate did approve the Weapons of Mass Destruction (Prohibition and non-Proliferation) Bill.

That bill had the support from both sides of the aisle and it too is another legislative measure being adopted by parliament to satisfy the

EU requirements in order to have Antigua and Barbuda removed from the list of Non-Cooperative Countries for tax information, more commonly referred to as the EU’s ‘black list’.

Antigua and Barbuda was among twelve countries named on the latest publication issued on February 20 this year.

In a statement, the EU says its list of non-cooperative jurisdictions for tax purposes is part of the EU’s work to fight tax evasion and avoidance. It is composed of countries which have failed to fulfil their commitments to comply with tax good governance criteria within a specific timeframe, and countries which have refused to do so.



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## Health Ministry launches consultation on national medical lab policy

The Ministry of Health is collaborating with Caribbean Med Labs Foundation and the OECS Global Fund Project to host a stakeholder consultation to review the National Medical Laboratory Policy.

The consultation is taking place at the Sir John St. Luce Conference Centre on the Factory Road with participants drawn from both the public and private sectors who are examining legislation and regulations.

The discussions are being led by Wendy Kitson-Piggott and Valerie Wilson of Caribbean Med Labs Foundation.

“Governments accept a responsibility to provide guidance for the structuring and operation of the national medical and public health laboratory service. Governments determine, through the introduction of appro-



appropriate standards, policies and laws, and the clear definition of responsibilities, how laboratory stakeholders and partners in the public and private sector will operate and inter-relate in a manner that ensures effective delivery of the national laboratory service,” the accompanying literature for

the consultation stated.

It added that the Antigua and Barbuda National Medical Laboratory Policy, Legislation and Regulations identify and define laboratory stakeholder responsibilities, providing a blueprint for the development of a strong, reliable, quality-assured and sustainable

national medical and public health laboratory service.

In brief remarks to the opening exercises, Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph emphasized the importance of having a multi-sector approach to the consultative process ahead of establishing a National Medical Laboratory.

“We could not go to parliament as a government without robust input from the private sector in coming up with the best legislation possible to ensure quality and reliable delivery of laboratory services in Antigua and Barbuda,” he declared.

Sir Molwyn described the private sector as being ‘crucial’ and he invited them to engage in a robust discussion of the relevant issues so that they can influence the outcome of the consultation.

The objectives for the  
*cont'd on pg 5*





## PM Browne welcomes ALBA Executive Secretary

Prime Minister Gaston Browne held discussions with the Executive Secretary of ALBA-TCP, Jorge Arreaza, when he paid a courtesy call at the Office of the Prime Minister on Friday.

Both the prime minister and the executive secretary discussed a wide range of issues including ALBA's 2030 Agenda and the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS)4 that Antigua and Barbuda will host.

“We held an extraordinary work meeting with Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Browne. We analysed the world and geopolitical reality. The PM gave us his contributions to feed the 2030 ALBA Strategic Agenda. We guaranteed full support from the Bolivarian Alliance for the 4th SIDS conference that will be hosted in Antigua and Barbuda from May 27-30,” Arreaza reported on his X social media page.

In the discussion, Ar-



Jorge Arreaza

reaza explained that for the 2030 Agenda, the Alliance is working on several strategic areas involving the comprehensive development of communications and transportation, the promotion of Latin American capital investment, energy integration, respect for the environment, the defense of Latin American and Caribbean identity and culture, as well as the coordination of multilateral positions with countries and blocs in other regions.

ALBA-TCP is a regional bloc formed by Ven-

ezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia.

Founded in December 2004 by the late presidents of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, and Cuba, Fidel Castro, with a joint declaration signed in Havana, the current Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People’s Trade Treaty made significant achievements strengthening the union of member nations.

*cont’d from pg 4*

consultation include sensitizing key laboratory stakeholders to the context for the introduction of the National Laboratory Policy and Legislation in 2024, and the rationale for the regulation of the medical and pub-

lic health laboratory sector in Antigua and Barbuda. It also seeks to introduce and review the Antigua and Barbuda National Laboratory Policy, Medical Laboratories Act 2024, and Medical Laboratories Regulations, 2022, among others.



# Local News



## Labour Queen contestants meet senior party executive

Much excitement filled the air last Friday at the People's Place, with the introduction to the senior executive of the party of the nine delegates who will compete for title of Miss AT&LU/ABLP Labour Queen 2024.

As this was their first appearance before an audience, the delegates made quite an impact with the professionalism and confidence they displayed. Each delegate introduced herself to the audience not just her name but the constituency which she represents.

The appearance before

the executive is just one of a series of events which the delegates are participating in as part of the build-up to the show slated for May 4. This year, the organisers will move the show to a new venue as the Dean William Lake Cultural Centre can no longer accommodate the turn out for the show as its popularity has grown in recent years.

The show is one of the main features of Labour Week, the annual observance each year that culminates with the march through St. John's on La-

bour Day on May 6.

The nine delegates and the constituencies they represent are;

- St. John's Rural East - Shermain Eustache
- St. Paul - Deneka Dublin
- St. John's City South - Shanakay McDonald
- St. Paul - Kenesha James
- St. John's City West - Nevaeh Greene
- St. George - Nechel James
- St. John's City West - Dominique Trotman
- All Saints West - Aliyah Wayne

Aliyah Wayne  
St. John's Rural West - Eddenya Aska







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# Special Feature



**Edwin Ambrose**  
**BSc Accounts & Finance**  
**1998-2004**

It may sound like a catchy militant phrase in English or even in Spanish but for me it means so much more. It serves as a compass that continues to guide me along my life's journey. Until the Victory of my desire's- Until Accomplishments are the stories of my

## Hasta La Victoria Siempre!

journey.

Perseverance until the end is the fundamental life lesson that I learned as student in Cuba. Never give up on anyone, yourself or your goals.

In 1998 I was afforded the life changing opportunity to study in Cuba.

This is the generosity of the Cuban Revolution which is expressed in the solidarity



Edwin Ambrose with Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the region.

The bonds of friendship



and the lessons of the classrooms are forever etched into every fabric of my being. Today, I face each new challenge not with the fear of the unknown but with the hope of achievement and an unrelenting spirit of perseverance. I am now in the vanguard of change revolutionary for humanity.

*Viva Cuba! Viva la solidaridad.*

## Statement of Appreciation/Gratitude

By James Knight

With the coming to power of the People's Revolutionary Government in Grenada, the young people of that country were offered the opportunity to pursue university education in Cuba. The Grenadian embassy in Havana had an officer for student affairs.

Leaders of progressive organizations throughout the OECS, like Tim Hector

of Antigua, saw an excellent possibility of having the scholarships extended to other regional youths, since there was an office in Havana to assist them in communicating with the authorities in Cuba, and with their families back home.

It was a time when there were no diplomatic relations between OECS and that country. Communication of all sorts was difficult.

The first Antiguan students, sent by The Antigua-Caribbean Liberation Movement, went in 1980. I went in 1982. I was curious about medicine, as I was about many other areas of study.

Being a medical doctor was not necessarily a dream of mine. But that's what I was sent to become, and I was able to do so, thanks to the generosity and interna-



tionalist spirit of the Cuban revolution and its people, who sacrificed and shared what they hardly had for themselves, and prepared so many of us for a life far more comfortable than what they have known for more than six decades, and that which has been made increasingly difficult in recent times.

Apart from our governments now engaging diplomatically and productively with Cuba, all those of us who have benefitted from the heroic efforts and phenomenal internationalism of Cuba should spare no opportunity to express sincere gratitude.

## Cuba Appreciation

By Eustace James

I went to Cuba on the Miracle Eye programme. It was a very interesting experience for me.

In spite of the difficulties that Cuba is known to endure, there was the greatest effort to make our experience a comfortable one. What I found most impressive was not just the excellence of the eye care, but the way everything seemed so well organized and executed in such an orderly manner.

It would be interesting to see what greater wonders Cuba could demonstrate



to the rest of us, if it were not being suffocated by the US blockade.

Best wishes to the government and people of Cuba. Thank you and God Bless.



# GERM BUSTER

## TIPS!

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# Caribbean 2024 heat season could climb to near-record heat

If you couldn't stand the Caribbean heat season in 2023, then be prepared to be just as irritable from now until October.

The Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) in its Heat Outlook for April to September 2024 predicts that near record heat can be expected until October, particularly in August and September.

So how hot will the next three to six months be? The outlook says April to June, marking the transition into and early part of the Caribbean Heat Season in the Caribbean Islands and Belize is forecast to be hotter than usual.

Intense (near-) record night-time and daytime heat is expected by August and September.

What are the implications? One is increasingly frequent and possibly intense episodes of heat stress in the vulnerable population and small livestock because of high temperature and increasing humidity in September.

Another implication is the need for cooling will rise earlier and faster than in most other years, peaking in



Dog feeling the heat (Photo credit: iStock)

August and September.

So how many heat wave days can the region expect for April to June 2024? Usually there are 15 to 20 heatwave days inland Belize and Trinidad, 5 to 15 in Jamaica, Cuba and Puerto Rico, and less than 10 elsewhere.

However, for the same period this year, the forecast calls for 50 or more heatwave days inland Belize; 30 to 50 in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and leeward locations in the Windward

Islands. Likely at least 30 heatwave days in Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

Already several islands in the Caribbean region have recorded hot days in April. A heatwave advisory was issued in Grenada on April 6 after the island marked its 8th consecutive day with temperatures above 31.7 degrees Celsius at Point Salines.

Over in Antigua and

Barbuda, an excessive heat warning was issued on April 6 as the Heat Index, or Feels-Like Temperature, was expected to reach a maximum of around 50 °C or 122 °F.

In the British Virgin Islands on April 8, a heat advisory was issued as the BVI Department of Disaster Management noted that a few minutes before 9 am and the temperature in Road Town was 85F with a heat index of 95.



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Jonathan Majors was pictured in Manhattan on Monday as he arrived for sentencing with his girlfriend Meagan Good.

## Marvel star avoids jail and is sentenced to probation

By Helen Bushby

Jonathan Majors has been sentenced to probation after he was found guilty of assaulting his ex-girlfriend, British choreographer Grace Jabbari.

The US actor, dropped by Marvel after his conviction, must now complete a 52-week domestic violence intervention programme.

He avoided up to a year in jail after being convicted of third-degree assault and second-degree harassment last year.

Majors must also continue with mental health therapy, the judge ruled.

Justice Michael Gaffey of the state Supreme Court in Manhattan sentenced Majors to conditional discharge after noting that both sides in

the case agreed the charges did not warrant jail time.

Instead, the judge ruled Majors must complete the “in-person batterer’s intervention programme” in Los Angeles, where the actor lives.

Majors had played villain Kang the Conqueror in the Marvel films.

He starred in *Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania* last February and in Disney+ series *Loki*, now in its second season.

In her impact statement, Jabbari said she had been left in emotional and physical pain.

The court heard Majors and Jabbari were in a car in New York when she saw a text message from another woman on Majors’ phone, which said: “Wish I was kissing you right now.”

Prosecutors say that when she took the phone, Majors grabbed her, twisted her arm behind her back and hit her in the head to get it back.

Ms Jabbari was left with a fractured finger, bruising and a cut behind her ear.

Majors had denied assaulting Ms Jabbari and filed charges against her, claiming she was the one who assaulted him.

Prosecutors said the case lacked merit.

Majors did not comment as he left the courtroom.

In a recent interview with ABC News, the actor said he was “shocked” at the guilty verdict and he believed he would eventually be back to work in Hollywood. “I pray that I do,” he said.





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# Regional News



## Venezuela submits documents to ICJ asserting claim to Essequibo Region



Venezuela has presented documents to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to prove that it is the rightful owner of the disputed Essequibo region that is under Guyanese control.

A video shared by Vice President Delcy Rodríguez on social media showed Venezuelan representatives loading over 10 boxes of documents into a Mer-

cedes-Benz Sprinter van for transport to the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands where the ICJ sits.

“The truth of Venezuela will prevail against the territorial dispossession committed through a fraudulent and criminal award. All of Venezuela, in national union, will recover Guayana Esequiba through the Geneva Agreement. It’s time for the truth!” Rodríguez wrote on X, formerly known as Twitter.

Venezuela’s decision to present evidence came as a shock for many as they previously objected to the ICJ settling the dispute since the government believes it has no jurisdiction to do so.

In a statement, Venezuela said delivering the documents does not imply its consent or “the recognition of the jurisdiction of the Court in the territorial controversy over Guayana Esequiba, nor of the decision it may adopt on this matter.”

Venezuela is holding firm to the position that the only way the land dispute with Guyana can be settled is by using the Geneva Agreement of 1966, which both countries signed on to.

Caracas said it continues to have mistrust in neutrality of international or-

*cont'd on pg 15*

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## Dominican Republic national jailed for involvement in international drug ring

CMC – A Dominican Republic national, who was part of an international drug ring that uses various Caribbean ports in their international efforts to distribute cocaine in the United States, has been jailed for more than 13 years.

According to court documents, Lazaro Viton Rodriguez, 55, was sentenced to 13 years and one month in prison for his role in an international conspiracy to distribute more than 2,000 pounds of cocaine for unlawful importation into the United States.

The documents noted that from 2014 through May 2019, Rodriguez participated in a drug trafficking network based in the Dominican Republic that transported cocaine from South America, through the Caribbean, to the United States.

The court was told that the drug trafficking network



used vessels, such as sailing yachts and sport fishing boats, to transport the cocaine, often stopping in various Caribbean ports while transporting the cocaine to give a cover of legitimacy to each voyage.

One of these vessels, the Casablanca, was interdicted by the US Customs and Border Protection's Marine Interdiction Unit in November 2018 as it entered US

waters near Key Biscayne, Florida. Officers boarded and searched the Casablanca, seizing more than 327 kilograms of cocaine.

Rodriguez was involved in purchasing, registering, and maintaining vessels used by the drug trafficking network to transport cocaine. He assisted in registering vessels in the names of straw purchasers, constructed secret compart-

ments on the vessels to hide the cocaine, and coordinated with crew members via satellite phone as they sailed to locations in the Caribbean to pick up cocaine.

Rodriguez pleaded guilty in November last year to participating in a conspiracy to distribute five kilograms or more of cocaine for importation into the United States.

The case against Rodriguez had been supported by the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) while acting Assistant Deputy Chief Melanie L. Alsworth and Trial Attorneys Samantha Thompson and Janet Turnbull of the Criminal Division's Narcotic and Dangerous Drug Section prosecuted the case.

### *cont'd from pg 14*

organisations as they continue to in favour US and UK interest in Guyana.

“Some actions of the International Court of Justice in the Guyana Essequiba case have fuelled this mistrust, especially taking into account the energy interests behind the unilateral demand of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana,” Venezuela said.

“The most serious of them has been

accepting and processing Guyana's claim without Venezuela having ever given its consent to the jurisdiction of the Court. No provision of the Geneva Agreement allows such action to be justified. Furthermore, Venezuela is one of the 119 States that does not recognise the mandatory jurisdiction of the Court.”

Venezuela stated it will not be bullied by Guyana the US or United Kingdom in its quest to settle the territorial dispute.

## Germany faces genocide case over Israel weapon sales

By Matt Murphy

Nicaragua has asked the UN's highest court to halt German weapons sales to Israel at the start of a landmark case.

Germany is accused of breaching the UN genocide convention by sending military hardware to Israel and ceasing funding of the UN's aid agency.

Berlin rejects the claims and will present a defence to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Tuesday.

In 2023 some 30% of Israel's military equipment purchases came from Germany, totalling €300m (\$326m; £257m).

The allegations build on a separate case taken by South Africa in January, where judges in the Hague ordered Israel to take "every possible measure" to avoid genocidal acts. The court also ordered Hamas to release all hostages taken from Israel during its 7 October attacks immediately.

Israel rejects accusations that it is engaging in genocidal acts in its campaign in Gaza, and has insisted it has the right to defend itself.

More than 33,000 have been killed in Israel's offensive in Gaza, the Hamas-run health ministry there says, the majority of them civilians. Gaza is on the brink of famine, with Oxfam reporting that 300,000 people trapped in the north have lived since January on an



Demonstrators gathered outside the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague on Monday.

average of 245 calories a day.

Nicaragua says Germany's arms sales to Israel, which totalled \$326.5m last year - a tenfold increase on 2022 - make it complicit in Israel's alleged war crimes.

Components for air defence systems and communications equipment accounted for most of the sales, according to the DPA news agency.

Germany was also one of 15 Western nations which suspended funding for the UN's Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) over allegations that some of the agency's staff were involved in the 7 October attacks on Israel.

According to papers filed with the ICJ, Nicaragua wants the UN's top court to order Berlin to halt weapons sales and resume funding of the aid agency, one of the few international bodies still operating in Gaza.

It says in the absence of such measures, "Germany is facilitating the commission of genocide and is failing in its obligation to do everything possible to prevent the commission of genocide".

Speaking as the trial opened, Alain Pellet, a lawyer for Nicaragua, said it was "urgent that Germany suspend continued sales.

"Germany was and is fully conscious of the risk that the arms it has furnished and continues to furnish to Israel" could be used to commit genocide, he told judges.

Berlin has rejected the allegations, but has remained tight-lipped about its legal strategy ahead of the hearings.

"We note Nicaragua's lawsuit and we deny the allegations as unjustified," government spokesman Wolfgang Buechner said.

Chancellor Olaf Scholz has been a vocal supporter of Israel's right to self-defence, but he has faced in-

creasing domestic hostility to the continuation of arms sales to the country.

On Sunday, a group of civil servants wrote to the German leader calling on the government to "cease arms deliveries to the Israeli government with immediate effect".

"Israel is committing crimes in Gaza that are in clear contradiction to international law," the statement said, citing January's ICJ ruling.

In January's case, the ICJ ruled that "at least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the Convention".

Michael Becker, a law professor at Trinity College Dublin, told the BBC that there was uncertainty about states' obligations to prevent genocide or ensure respect for humanitarian law. The case against Germany, he said, could potentially help clarify the issue.

Critics of Nicaragua's case have highlighted the country's chequered human rights record.

The government of President Daniel Ortega has jailed opponents and banned protests. In March, the UK's mission to the UN accused the government of a "relentless" crackdown on human rights.



## Total solar eclipse: Continent watches in wonder during once-in-a-lifetime event

By Holly Honderich

Across Mexico, the US and Canada, inside a ribbon of land stretching 155 miles wide but more than 4,000 miles long, tens of millions of people craned their necks, tilted their heads to the sky and watched in wonder as the day turned to night.

What many saw on Monday was a phenomenon like no other: the Moon moving between the Earth and the Sun, extinguishing its light in a total solar eclipse.

The path of totality spanned the continent, beginning over the warm sands of a Mexican beach town, darkening the skies above the the crashing waters of Niagara Falls, before ending its journey on the shores of Canada's Newfoundland.

It left a sense of awe in its wake, a reminder of our planet's place in the universe.

The eclipse was first seen around Mazatlán, Mexico, on the country's western shores at 11:07 local time (19:07 BST).

At first, the Moon's outer edge seemed to just be touching the Sun. Then it devoured more and more until cheers erupted as all finally went dark - save for the the silvery glow of the "corona" effect of the Sun around the Moon's outline.

A thousand miles away in Dallas, Texas, 11-year-old Ady Walton-King was



Hundreds watch the sky on the viewing platform of the Edge in New York.

waiting, weeks of pent-up excitement ready to burst.

She had learned all about the eclipse in her fifth-grade class at Dallas Academy and on Monday morning, she laced up her shoes and tucked four pairs of eclipse glasses into her pink purse - one for herself, one for each parent, and one for her little sister, Abigail.

Just before it started, Ady sat down beside her dad, Ryan, on a school field in central Dallas and lifted her gaze upward.

And then it happened.

It all felt slow, she said, as she described the Texas afternoon turning dark. "It looked like the Moon was biting the Sun, but without the teeth marks."

Clouds slid in and out, occasionally blocking the eclipse from view until the Sun had vanished, nothing left but little flares of light

around the Moon.

"I didn't think it would be like that," Ady said. "It was really dark out. I thought it would be like evening dark, but it was pretty close to pitch black."

The temperature dropped suddenly and, just as she had been taught, animals fell silent.

"As it started to get lighter the crickets were there, and the birds started singing. It was really crazy," she said. "I'm sad it's over."

From there, the eclipse moved on, carving its path north-east through the United States.

For some, the solar phenomenon was marked by a personal milestone, with hundreds of Americans joining one of several mass wedding events dotted across the path of totality.

In Russellville, Arkansas, 300 couples from across

the country signed up, saying 'I do' just before the sky went black. As the sky brightened, the group cut wedding cakes and danced - all part of the aptly named Total Eclipse of the Heart festival.

Following the Moon one state over, in Ellsinore, Missouri, was amateur astronomer Darcy Howard, who had driven from her home in central Arkansas to be sure bad weather didn't block her view.

She had seen many eclipses before today, two totals, one annular and two partials. "Each one has its own fingerprint," she said.

Totality today, at around 13:56 local time (18:56 GMT) brought an "eerie twilight", Ms Howard said, with dusky colours dotted all along the horizon. The corona was nearly as

*cont'd on pg 18*

# Sports News



## More success for Liberta in Super40 Cup

Reigning champions the PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks continued their successful start in defense of their Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup on Sunday.

The Blackhawks made it two wins in as many games by beating the Pigotts Crushers by 25 runs at the Pigotts playing field.

Ex-Crushers captain El-

roy Francis Jr. returned to haunt his former side, slamming 91 off 95 balls with seven fours and three sixes to guide the Blackhawks to 214 for seven off their allotted 40 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Malique Walsh chipped in with 41, while Tyree Moore claimed two for 20 and Essan Warner picked up two for 23.

In reply, the Crushers

were dismissed for 189 in 35.1 overs. Opener Jewel Andrew hit 53 off 40 balls, with four sixes and five fours, and captain Kadeem Henry struck 51 off 32 balls, including seven fours and three sixes. Liberta's skipper, Karima Gore, captured four for 38.

Empire Nation and Combined Schools also made it two wins in as many matches. Empire

Nation beat the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles by eight wickets in Bethesda.

Bethesda crashed to 92 all out in 34.2 overs after winning the toss and batting. Jalen Harris grabbed three for 15, leg-spinner Micah McKenzie took two for 14, and Tyrone Williams Jr. claimed two for 15.

Williams Jr. then

*cont'd on pg 19*

*cont'd from pg 17*

bright as a full moon. "The sense of other-worldliness was all around," she said.

The 70-year-old has loved the cosmos since her childhood, since her father showed her the Big Dipper, the North Star and the Milky Way, and bought her her first telescope.

"I was hooked," she said. "I can look through a telescope and see Jupiter... I can see Saturn. And when I see that in space, I know all is right with the world."

By 15:13 local time (20:13 GMT), the total eclipse had plunged the mid-western state of Ohio into darkness.

In Cleveland, where eclipse-watchers were graced by clear skies, the Sun's corona was clearly visible, a brilliant halo framing the moon.

The stars came out in the middle of the day, a sight met with cheers and fireworks, a mid-April New Years Eve.

Many big American cities were not lucky enough to be on the path of totality - but the spectacles were still awe-inspiring. In New York, hundreds of people crowded onto the viewing platform of the Edge skyscraper in Manhattan to see what they could see.

They did not leave disappointed as the sun shrank to a crescent-like sliv-

er of light that cast an unearthly pale gloom over the city.

Tourists had crowded along both sides of the border at Niagara Falls, where the eclipse path crossed from the US into Canada.

Here, the weather offered a formidable challenge, with thick grey clouds mostly obscuring the sky from view.

But just in time for totality - to the audible delight of the crowd - the clouds parted to reveal the black-hole Sun.

Nearby, on a Niagara City Cruise, 309 people celebrated by record-breaking - dressing up as the Sun to break the Guinness World Record for 'Largest gathering of people dressed as the Sun'.

The relentless motion of the heavenly bodies meant that the phenomenon did not last long, and it was Montreal that next got its chance to be plunged into temporary night.

In Montreal, 20,000 people crowded onto a field on McGill University's campus for an event held by the school's Trottier Space Institute.

"We had been expecting 8,000," programme administrator Carolina Cruz-Vinaccia said after. The weather was perfect, clear and bright skies. At the moment of totality, the crowd

erupted at once, she said.

"I still can't quite find the words for how cool this was," she said. "We're still coming down."

Crowds were smaller on Newfoundland's Fogo Island, on Canada's east coast - one of the last places the totality could be viewed.

Bethany Downery, a Newfoundland native who works for the European Space Agency, tuned into the spectacular view from the Fogo Island Inn, nestled right against the Atlantic Ocean.

The skies were overcast, she said, but the clouds moved miraculously in time to catch near totality.

And with that, a day of collective wonder and celebration reached its conclusion. But it had left a permanent mark on many of those who had witnessed it.

In Dallas, a few thousand miles back along the path, Ady Walton-King was making plans.

Texas will not be in the path of totality again for another 300 years, so she'll have to travel for the next one in North America, in 2044.

And by that time, she'll even more an expert on total eclipses. "I want to be a scientist by the time that happens," she said.



*cont'd from pg 18*

slammed 50 not out off 37 balls as Empire Nation achieved victory at 96 for two in 13.4 overs.

Combined Schools secured a four-wicket win against the New Winthorpes Lions in New Winthorpes. The Lions won the toss and batted, but were bundled out for just 77 in 25.5 overs.

Fast bowler Glen Williams grabbed three for 15, J'Quan Athanaze bagged three for 21, and Antwone Willock had two for 15.

Combined Schools achieved victory by scoring 78 for six in 26.1 overs. Captain Nino Henry claimed three for 19, and Asher Murray Cornelius captured two for 26.

The Jennings Tigers and WES Rising Sun Spartans recorded their first wins in the competition on Sunday. The Tigers crushed the Bolans Blasters by 84 runs in Jennings.

The Tigers made 244 for seven off their 40 overs after being sent in to bat. Emmanuel Lawrence hit 58, Kief Baltimore slammed 49 off 33 balls, including five fours and three sixes, and opener Jahiem Africa got 34.

Orlando Peters picked up two for 15, Ondre Peters took two for 35, and Winston Nelson claimed two for 53.

In reply, the Bolans Blasters were dismissed for 155 in 35.2 overs. Orlando Peters cracked 53. Morton Browne captured five for 30, Matthew Miller had three for 21, and left-arm spinner Glenton Williams claimed two for 28.

The Spartans trounced the All Saints Pythons by 50 runs at the Rising Sun playing field. Rising Sun made 147 all out in 32.5 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Owen Graham got 30. Off-spinner Demetri Lucas bagged four for 18, Justin Robinson claimed two for 18, and Kadeem Josiah took two for 32.

In reply, the Pythons crashed to 97 all out in 17.5 overs. Opener Sean Joseph Sr. got a top score of 29. Captain



Elroy Francis Jr.

Kerry Mentore snapped up six for 21, and Michael Harilall captured three for 19.

Players of Jennings Grenades football team

Top three teams secure wins in Premier League

As expected, the top three seeded teams made winning starts in the second round stage of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

Reigning champions and top seed Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades strengthened their position on retain-

ing the title by maintaining their perfect unbeaten run with a 3-0 victory against the bottom team Empire in the second game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Eugene Kirwan scored twice with conversions in the 43rd and 56th minutes after Sherman Augustin opened the scoring for the Grenades with a 13th-minute conversion.

The Grenades remain top of the league by advancing to 45 points with their 15th win in as many games.

It was the 12th defeat in 15 matches for Empire, which remains in the cellar of the 15-team competition with five points.

Malcolm Stewart scored twice as the second-seeded All Saints United consolidated their position in the runner-up spot with a four-nil drubbing of SAP in the last game on Sunday.

Stewart scored in the second minute of added time in the first half and in the 49th minute. Sean Tomlinson opened the scoring with a 15th-minute conversion, and Kwazim Theodore scored the other goal for All Saints United in the 65th minute.

It was the 13th win in 15 matches for All Saints United, who remain in second place by advancing to 40 points. It was the eighth loss in 15 matches for SAP, which remains in 11th place with 13 points.

Third-seeded Old Road tightened their grip on third place with a four-nil victory against Parham in Sunday's opening encounter.

Chantomoi Joe Dean Taylor scored twice with goals in the 20th and 42nd minutes. Raheem Deterville had a 25th-minute conversion, and Shackwon Simon scored in the first minute of added time (90+1 minute).

Old Road advanced to 34 points after securing their 11th win in 15 matches, while Parham remains third from the bottom of the standings with eight points after losing for the ninth time in 15 games.

## Paragons 2 and Chargers Eagles win again in female Division 2 volleyball league

Paragons 2 and TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles continued their perfect start to the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) inaugural Female Division 2 development league on Sunday.

Paragons 2 recorded their third win in as many games by snatching a hard-fought 3-2 victory against Royal Cruisers 2 in the second game of a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Paragons 2 won the opening set 25-20, and Royal Cruisers 2 drew level by winning the second set 29-27. Paragons 2 regained their lead by securing the third set 25-6, but Royal Cruisers 2 levelled the match at 2-2 by clinching the fourth set 25-22.

Paragons 2 eventually prevailed by winning the fifth and deciding set 15-12, as the Royal Cruisers 2 lost for the third time in as many games.

The Chargers Eagles won for the second time in as many games, easily overpowering Starz 2 Juniors 3-0 by winning 25-20, 25-18, and 25-13. It was the second loss in as many matches for the Starz 2 Juniors.

But Starz 1 Seniors and



The Paragons 2 female volleyball squad

Pytonz have maintained their unbeaten runs in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League.

Starz 1 Seniors secured their third win in as many games in the female division 1 league with a 3-1 victory against Royal Cruisers 1.

They prevailed 25-20, 25-18, 8-25, and 25-9 in one hour and 43 minutes, sending the Royal Cruisers 1 to their third loss in as many games.

The Pytonz claimed their fourth win in as many

games by easing past the High Flyerz 1 in approximately one hour in their men's division 1 encounter.

The Pytonz prevailed 25-18, 25-6, and 25-17 as High Flyerz 1 suffered their second loss in four games.

The Jets recorded their first win in the female division 1 league by snatching a 3-2 victory against former champions Paragons.

Paragons took the opening set 25-23, and the Jets drew level by winning the second set 25-16.

Paragons won the third set 25-18, but the Jets were able to draw level for the

second time by winning the fourth set 25-11.

The Jets clinched the fifth and deciding set 19-17 to snatch victory in the match that lasted two hours and 17 minutes. It was the third loss in as many games for the Paragons.

Defending men's division 1 champions Stoneville recorded their fourth win in five games with a 3-0 win against High Flyerz 2 Phoenix, who lost for the second time in three matches.

Stoneville took just an hour to dispatch the High Flyerz 2 Phoenix 25-17, 25-14, and 25-12.





Trinidad and Tobago's fast bowler Shannon Gabriel, left, and all-rounder Yannic Cariah

## Gabriel, Cariah return to Red Force squad for final two rounds of four-day championship

Fast bowler Shannon Gabriel and all-rounder Yannic Cariah will provide added experience to the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force outfit as they look to move up the West Indies Four-Day Championship table.

With just two rounds of matches left in the regional first-class season, the Red Force sit sixth on the eight-team standings with 51 points from five games. The Leeward Islands Hurricanes currently lead the table with 81.2 points.

Gabriel took a back seat earlier in the season with Jayden Seales available to play the first five matches of the campaign.

However, with Seales unavailable for the final two games due to his commitment to play in the England County Championship with Sussex, Gabriel has made himself available for the final two matches.

Meanwhile, Cariah is also avail-

able following his stint in the Bangladesh Premier League T20, and Jyd Goolie also comes back into the team after recovering from injury, which kept him out of the previous game.

Veteran leg-spinner Imran Khan was left out of the squad having played just one game for the Red Force this season. Joshua Da Silva will captain the team with Bryan Charles serving as vice-captain.

The Red Force will take on the Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) in round six at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground from April 10-13.

In the other sixth round matches starting on Wednesday, the Jamaica Scorpions will take on the Guyana Harpy Eagles at Sabina Park, Jamaica.

The Leeward Hurricanes will meet the Barbados Pride at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad, and the West

Indies Academy will challenge the Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.

In the seventh and final round from April 17-20, the Combined Campuses and Colleges will oppose the Guyana Harpy Eagles at UWI SPEC in Trinidad, and the Jamaica Scorpions will tackle the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force at Sabina Park in Jamaica.

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes will clash with the Windward Islands Volcanoes at the Queen's Park Oval in Trinidad, and the West Indies Academy will face the Barbados Pride at the Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua.

T&T Red Force squad: Joshua Da Silva (captain), Brian Charles (vice-captain), Vikash Mohan, Kjorn Ottley, Amir Jango, Jason Mohammed, Tion Webster, Anderson Phillip, Shannon Gabriel, Terrance Hinds, Jyd Goolie, Yannic Cariah, and Khary Pierre.

## Massiah among winners in Sunday Golf Showdown

Three golfers, Dion Massiah, Johnathan Piggot, and Dave Christian, were among the major winners during the inaugural Senator Clement Antonio Sunday Golf Showdown at Cedar Valley over the weekend.

Massiah, who is the country's number-one-ranked player, produced an outstanding display during the two-part championship to walk away with the most cash from the event.

After finishing as the runner-up in the morning kitty, where he collected one hundred EC dollars, the veteran golfer then outlasted



Johnathan Piggot, right, accepts his cash prize from Jermaine Kentish.

a star-studded field to claim the five-hundred-dollar top prize in the Jermaine Kentish Birthday shootout.

Massiah's main rival, the sensational Siyolo Joseph, collected four hundred dollars for his second-place finish, while Greens Keeper at Cedar Valley, Joel Pascall, earned three hundred for finishing in third place.

Massiah said he feels good about winning the event in which he was given a tough challenge.

"I am feeling good. It was a tough challenge because we had a lot of good players. It came down to the end with me and Siyolo. He happened to miss his par putt, and I parred the hole," Massiah said.

"I am the number one ranked



Dave Christian, right, accepts his cash prize from Jermaine Kentish.

golfer in Antigua and Barbuda, so I had to show the fight. I could not give up that easily."

Earlier in the day, Piggot and Christian won cash prizes as well. Piggot took home three hundred and forty dollars, and Christian claimed three hundred dollars after capturing the overall low gross and low net, respectively, in the Sunday Morning Kitty.

Close to 20 golfers took part in the events, which also saw Dan Archibald collect a monetary prize for being the best-dressed golfer.

Apart from Senator Antonio, sponsorship also came from Ivan Hixon, Johnathan Piggott, and Newman Wynter of Eighteen Plus Restaurant.



Dion Massiah, right, accepts his cash prize from Jermaine 'Buffy' Kentish at Cedar Valley Golf Course on Sunday, April 7, 2024.