

AMB. WEBSON: WE ARE ALMOST THERE!

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Sir Curtly Ambrose, Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Anderson Roberts and Sir Richard Richardson at Toronto's Albany Club on Saturday. They are officially heading home after a landmark series of public appearances throughout the Greater Toronto Area. *Story on page 10.*

Ambassador Webson: We are almost there!

Preparations for Antigua and Barbuda's hosting of the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) are almost complete with the final touches being put to the conference venue, the newly constructed facility located on the campus of the American University of Antigua.

That's the latest update from the head of the SIDS4 Planning Committee, Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Aubrey Webson speaking at a meeting Tuesday with more than 200 volunteers for the conference at the Sir John E. St. Luce Conference Centre.

"We are far advanced with our



Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Aubrey Webson addresses the gathering.



preparations; we are almost there. We are now working to finalise the outfitting of the conference centre. We believe the conference centre is going to be a major centre in the Caribbean and we are now putting the final touches on that. I think our main work is focused on the conference centre and making it ready," he disclosed.

Amb. Webson said the programme

for the conference is 'all set'. "Antigua and Barbuda should be very proud as our numbers for this conference already exceed those for any previous SIDS conferences. I have just been informed by the UN that the numbers are almost four thousand delegates, now that registration has been closed," he reported. He revealed that he was unsure whether the final totals will have reached there but there was a surge in registration towards the end.

For the conference itself, the agenda has been set and is in place. It will *cont'd on pg 3*



cont'd from pg 2

open on Monday 27 with a cultural event put on by the Ministry of Creative Industries focusing on Antigua and Barbuda's place within the realm of a small island developing states.

This will be followed by an opening ceremony where the UN Secretary General will hand over to Prime Minister Gaston Browne the presidency of the conference. PM Browne will then chair the conference during its duration, although one of the 17 vice presidents will preside from time to time. After that, there will be national statements by each participating country. These statements will likely last for several days.

While this is happening, there will be several round-tables that will focus on finance, climate issues, health and social interactions; the major themes of the conference.



Tuesday 28, will be what has been described as 'a fire-side chat' with the international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the IMF, the Caribbean Development Bank, OECD where they will try work out a new direction for finance. PM Browne and the UN Secretary General will both participate in this forum.

Tuesday afternoon will be a session for the private sector; seeking ways to have them play a more mean-

ingful role in the development of SIDS. On Wednesday evening will be the turn for civil society organisations where they too will share their concerns with decision makers.

On Thursday, the last day, there will be a declaration based on the three major themes and a final declaration, the Antigua and Barbuda Declaration for Developing States will be issued and it will serve as the roadmap for SIDS for the next ten years.

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Security is paramount, says SIDS4 Director of Security Croft

A comprehensive security plan will be in effect for the Fourth Conference of Small Islands Developing States SIDS4, that takes place in Antigua and Barbuda from May 27-30.

Security Director for the SIDS4 conference and Head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Col. Edward Croft, said the security plan includes a traffic management plan, adequate security for the thousands of guests, some of whom include presidents, prime ministers and senior officials of the United Nations among others.

Col. Croft said the security apparatus will bring together all the key security agencies of the country – the police, the defense force, the ONDCP, customs, immigration, the airport, the seaport as well as with assistance from several regional and international agencies.

“Security is paramount; security is quintessential to an enabling environment so we want to make certain there is adequate security arrangements; there is an adequate traffic management plan; and there is a response mechanism to any particular incident.

“We are mindful that even from a disaster point of view that that too, will impact on security. So, we have a team approach and a task force that is comprised of several governmental stakeholders to ensure that there is collaboration, there is adequate communication, there is constant communication and there are means in which we all can support this particular effort to ensure that as we host this conference, that this can be done in a safe and secure environment,” he declared.

According to the director of secu-



Security Director for the SIDS4 conference and Head of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Col. Edward Croft, right.

“Our aim is to ensure that the environment is secure and safe and that the conduct of the plenary and the movement of the visitors to and from the conference venue can be done in a seamless and secure manner,” he emphasized.

As part of the security arrangement, no traffic will be allowed on the Jabberwock Road for the duration of the conference. Only specific vehicles will be allowed into certain areas. The Ministry of Works has completed a bypass road that will connect parts of Hodges Bay to the airport.

Col Croft was among officials who addressed a meeting of over 200 volunteers on Tuesday afternoon at

the Sir John E. St. Luce conference Centre, during which a question was posed about the operation of drones in the area.

His response was quite reticent, “There will be on aerial photography and we have the means to deal with any such attempts to enter the airspace (around or near) of the conference centre.”

The director of security is however appealing to all nationals and residents to come together in a national effort to ensure the safe and orderly staging of this the biggest event ever to take place in Antigua and Barbuda.

“There may be some inconveniences because of the restrictions in the traffic flow because of the movement of VIP’s and others. We are therefore asking for the patience and cooperation of all citizens and residents to help make it a success,” he urged.

St. Kitts and Nevis PM, Dr Terrance Drew to lead delegation to SIDS4

St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew, supported by Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment, Climate Action et. al., Dr. Joyelle Clarke is set to spearhead a delegation to the highly anticipated Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4). The conference will convene at the American University of Antigua in St. John's, Antigua and Barbuda from May 27th to May 30th.

The SIDS conference is a decennial event, occurring once every ten (10) years, with the previous (SIDS3) being held in 2014 in Samoa.

Under the overarching theme of "Charting the course toward resilient prosperity," the SIDS4 Conference aims to critically evaluate the capacity of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to attain sustainable development, with a specific focus on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals. An integral outcome of the conference will be the formulation of an intergovernmental, action-oriented political document geared towards fostering resilience and prosperity in SIDS communities.

Prime Minister Drew expressed, "We anticipate that SIDS4 will allow for a necessary "coming together" of leaders and stakeholders to



St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew

collaborate under the theme of charting a course toward resilient prosperity, and so the Federation is excited to host our National side-event at the Conference venue to discuss the intersectionality of health, human capital, and the climate crisis.

"We understand that island states are considered 'special cases' given our unique vulnerabilities and as such Saint Kitts and Nevis is aiming to fully capitalize on the visibility and collaborative support that this Conference provides", said Dr. Joyelle Clarke. "We look forward to sharing our national vision of a sustainable island state with key stakeholders and investors as we seek to build and foster strategic partnerships."

Importantly, the Federation is ready to join efforts to ensure the actualization of the SIDS4 Outcome Document that will serve as the comprehensive plan of action for the next decade.

Comprising 37 United Nations member nations

and 20 associated members of regional commissions, SIDS occupies a unique but challenging position at the forefront of global crises, notably climate change. In the face of mounting challenges such as climate

change and the COVID-19 pandemic, SIDS continuously navigate through cycles of environmental disasters and recovery efforts, putting their resilience and economic sustainability to the test.

SIDS confronts many obstacles including high import/export costs, heavy reliance on external markets, and limited natural resources.

St Kitts and Nevis is ready to join voices with fellow SIDS to champion progressive and tailored action for the sustainable development of small island states.

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Disconnections will be carried out during the period May 13th to May 31st, 2024.

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Stitches 365 receives donation of equipment to boost production

Government-owned garment manufacturing facility, Stiches 365, located at the St. John's Village Main Road, has received a donation of mask-making equipment to boost its production of medical-grade masks for the local market and for export.

The equipment which includes a Hans group automatic line series high speed flat mask manufacture machine, an ultra violet sterilisation chamber and safety box, an industrial compressor as well as fabric rolls, to manufacture surgical masks.

The donation of the equipment was made by Paul

Salmon, owner and managing director of Sentinel Operations, a provider of highly specialised security services to international clients. The donation was made through the efforts of the Antigua and Barbuda High Commissioner to the UK, HE Karen-Mae Hill.

The handover ceremony was attended by Trade Minister E.P Chet Greene, and the Manager of Stiches 365, Lance Bromfield while Paul Salmon and High Commissioner Hill attended virtually from the United Kingdom.

Minister Greene wel-
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comed the gift as an important contribution to the nation's self-sufficiency in producing high-quality medical supplies stating: "I'm here to recognise and to say thanks for the donation of the mask-making machine, donated through the efforts of High Commission Hill in the UK. Her Excellency was able to secure this machine, which in my opinion is a welcomed-addition to Stitches 365 and the ambitions of producing masks on a commercial basis, not only for use in the medical fraternity, but certainly for export across the CARICOM region, starting with the OECS."

The minister said the donation from Salmon was not just a machine; as it represents a partnership, a shared vision and a step forward in boosting the country's productive capacity.

In handing over the equipment to Manager Bromfield, Minister Greene noted that the facility, formerly the Government Garment Manufacturing Initiative, has been doing quite well as it produces school uniforms along with uniforms for corporate Antigua and



Barbuda.

Salmon in response, said: "Although my business operates globally, I have a particular affinity for Antigua and Barbuda. I am delighted therefore, to have been able to source this medical equipment that will make a real difference for the people of these beautiful islands.

"I am grateful to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and its excellent team in London, so ably led by High Commissioner Hill, for their help with administrative practicalities around delivery of the equipment".

The machine's capacity to produce

masks on a large scale has the potential to benefit not only healthcare workers locally but also the wider OECS. The increased availability of masks will also bolster the Government's efforts to ensure that every citizen has access to essential protective gear.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has assured that the installation and operation of the mask-making machine will be overseen by a team of experts to ensure maximum efficiency and output. Training programmes will also be conducted to equip local technicians with the skills necessary to operate and maintain the machine effectively.

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ABHTA continues its mission to celebrate and promote sector advancement

Issued by the ABHTA

In September 2023, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Investment, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union, and the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, jointly produced a State of the Industry Report.

This concerted effort aimed to illuminate the current landscape of the industry as we approached the high-season months, encompassing a comprehensive evaluation of various aspects ranging from occupancy performance to training programs.

The development of this report

was spearheaded by the ABHTA, underscoring the association’s commitment to shedding light on the significance of the sector while fostering collaboration among key stakeholders.

Comprising member properties across all major hotels within Antigua and Barbuda, the ABHTA has listened attentively to its members, with particular emphasis on addressing the industry’s attractiveness in terms of advancement opportunities, training, and remuneration.

Drawing upon data from a sample of its membership and insights from the office of the Labour Commissioner, a salary comparison analysis was conducted, benchmarking

the industry against other key sectors in the economy. See Page 20 of the state of Industry Report 2023.

Highlighted within the report, among other findings, is a positive comparison of wages in the hospitality sector, accentuated by several key benefits in addition to base salaries:

Wages analyzed encompass both a foundational rate and a service charge component, with service charge points varying by season and by property.

Thrift Fund: Initiated in 2010 through collaboration between the ABHTA and ABWU, this fund represents a 2.5% contribution by employees, matched by participating

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Antigua State College to host information session for parents

The Antigua State College will host a special informational session tailored to parents entitled, College Connect: A Parent's Guide to Their Child's College Success, at its auditorium next Thursday.

The ASC says it understands the importance of parental involvement in this process and aims to provide them with the knowledge and resources needed to support their child's educational journey.

Navigating college life can be daunting for stu-

dents transitioning from secondary school and this session will attempt to simplify the journey.

During the session parents will gain insights on the following topics:

“Navigating Admissions: Mastering the Application Process”

A step-by-step guide on how to successfully complete the application.

“Next Steps: What Happens After Submission?”

Learn what happens after submitting the applica-

tion and what the next stages are.

“Programme Deep Dive: Finding the Right Academic Path”

A comprehensive exploration of the programs offered and how they align with career goals.

“Financial Fundamentals: Key Insights for Your College Budget”

An informative discussion on tuition, fees, and budgeting to help you confidently plan for September 2024.

Parents are invited to

come prepared with questions and/or concerns and to engage in meaningful conversation.

The Antigua State College is committed to meeting the academic, technical, vocational, professional and paraprofessional needs of Antigua and Barbuda, through the delivery of its programmes using innovative and technological modes, while providing continual education to satisfy the human development requirements of its citizens.

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properties. Notably, during the pandemic period of 2020-2021, an understanding was reached allowing employees to access funds to mitigate income loss due to hotel closures, amounting to a payout of over EC\$2 million.

Comprehensive Health Insurance Coverage, with a contribution split of 60% by hotel members and 40% by insured individuals, offered by State Insurance Company Limited.

Additional benefits such as meal and meal allowances, uniforms or uniform allowances, transportation, and maternity and paternity benefits further augment the industry's appeal. Furthermore, providing training programs continues to be a cornerstone mission of the Association. Our diverse offerings span from Housekeeping to Supervisory Management, Conflict Resolution, Wedding Planner Consultancy, Co-

ordination, and beyond.

In addition to these efforts, the ABHTA has undertaken several initiatives to bolster the sector's significance and foster growth:

Primary School Visitation: Collaborating with the Schools Tourism Awareness Programme under the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation, and Investment, the ABHTA aims to provide primary school students with firsthand knowledge of the hospitality industry, facilitated by dedicated hospitality professionals.

Unveiling Hospitality Professionals: A profiling initiative aimed at showcasing the contributions of individuals within the industry, highlighting their dedication and expertise.

Junior and Pastry Chef Competitions: In response to a decline in interest in culinary professions post-pandemic, these initiatives seek

to ignite passion at the secondary school level, and generate interest among the culinary fraternity, fostering a love for the culinary arts. These programmes have been executed in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, and Investment.

Looking ahead to an upcoming season marked by significant events such as the SIDS Conference and the ICC World T20 Cricket, the hospitality industry remains vibrant and poised to continue making a positive impact on the economy of Antigua and Barbuda.

The ABHTA expresses gratitude for the ongoing collaboration and support of all industry stakeholders as we collectively strive to promote the destination, advance training initiatives, whilst cultivating an optimal and beneficial working environment for employees within our membership.

Cricketing greats conclude historic tour of GTA, Canada

West Indies cricketing giants and legends of the sport - Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Anderson Roberts, Sir Richard Richardson, and Sir Curtly Ambrose - are officially heading home after a landmark series of public appearances throughout the Greater Toronto Area. Their visit was orchestrated by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) and its local partners as part of the Cricket and Culture Tour which kicked off in the UK last month.

“There is no better time to come visit us in Antigua and Barbuda” said Tameka Wharton, ABTA Director of Tourism, Canada. “There is so much happening with cricket matches all summer long, romance month in June and Antigua Carnival in early August. On top of that Canadians can get to Antigua and Barbuda so easily with direct flights on Air Canada and with WestJet adding a mid-week Wednesday flight in June in addition to its standard Sunday flight.”

The Knights’ visit came at an exciting time for the future of cricket in Canada, as a growing South Asian and Afro-Caribbean diaspora continues to bolster the sport into becoming the country’s fastest-growing sport. Additionally, 2024 marks Canada’s first time to play in the ICC Men’s



Cricketing greats Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Richie Richardson, Sir Andy Roberts, and Sir Curtly Ambrose raise the flag of Antigua and Barbuda in a photo with the Dallington, Woodbine, and Don Valley school cricket teams.

T20 World Cup, with Antigua and Barbuda set to host eight exciting matches at its Sir Vivian Richards Stadium.

“Canada’s qualification for the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup is a monumental achievement for the country, and spells well for the future of cricket in Canada.” said Sir Vivian Richards.

From May 8 through May 12, the Knights maintained a robust itinerary that included several media interviews, broadcast appearances including Breakfast Television and a handful of headline events to celebrate cricket.

On Thursday, May 9, the Knights met with students, youth players, and staff at

Dallington Public School and were also joined by Woodbine, and Don Valley school teams in North York, where they offered words of encouragement and some choice batting and bowling tips to the next generation of Canadian cricketers.

“In Antigua and Barbuda, cricket is huge, and we have produced a number of great international players. We are thrilled to see more and more Canadians embracing the game as we have,” said Sir Curtly Ambrose.

On Friday, May 10, the Knights participated in the ICC T20 Trophy Tour and assembled for the high-profile “A Night with the Knights” at the Galaxy Grand Convention Cen-

tre in Brampton. The food and entertainment inclusive event saw Sir “Richie” Richardson and Sir Curtly Ambrose take to the stage to perform as part of Antigua and Barbuda’s famed Spirited Band, energizing those in attendance with an eclectic setlist.

The Consulate General of Antigua and Barbuda partnered with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority to hold a Saturday, May 11 brunch in honour of the Cricket Legends’ visit at Toronto’s storied Albany Club.

The Knights had an opportunity to also meet, congratulate and offer some tips to The Canadian Men’s National Team in attendance

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Nearly 40% of dirty money is laundered in London and UK crown dependencies

By Patrick Wintour
 Diplomatic Editor
 Guardian Newspaper

Deputy foreign secretary urges Cayman and British Virgin Islands to implement UK law requiring public registers of funds

Nearly 40% of the dirty money in the world is going through the City of London and other crown dependencies, the UK's deputy foreign secretary has said.

Andrew Mitchell added the crown dependencies and overseas territories will face fresh demands from the Foreign Office to comply with UK laws setting up public registers of beneficial share ownership.

Since legislation was passed in the House of Commons in 2016 the UK has faced prevarication from overseas territories which are reluctant to set up public registers that disclose the ultimate owners of funds in tax havens.

Speaking to the Bright Blue thinktank, Mitchell said: "On the issue of dirty money, it is important to

recognise that Britain has a dog in the fight. According to some estimates, 40% of money laundering around the world – this is money often stolen from Africa and Africans by corrupt businessmen, bent politicians and war lords and so on – 40% of that money comes through London and overseas territories and crown dependencies."

He added that "crown dependencies and the overseas territories have not yet done as much as they must do".

Mitchell predicted that with David Cameron as foreign secretary, the UK would "see a greater emphasis now on introducing these open registers of beneficial ownership".

He warned: "If these overseas territories and crown dependencies want to have our king and our flag, then they must also accept our values, which is why we are so intent on ensuring dirty money cannot flow in and from there."

The minister said that during the British charring of the G8 group of industri-

alised nations in 2016, Lord Cameron put the attack on dirty money and the importance of open registers of beneficial ownership "front and centre".

It is widely accepted that after his resignation as prime minister in 2016 the momentum inside the government about fighting corruption in the overseas territories dissipated.

Nevertheless, in 2018 the UK passed a law requiring the government to issue a draft order in council imposing beneficial ownership registers by 2020, following a Conservative backbench revolt.

Mitchell, then a backbencher, was one of the rebel Tory MPs.

The British Virgin Islands and the Cayman Islands have still not introduced public registers, and are now citing European court of justice (ECJ) rulings to place restrictions on those able to access the registers. Neither the BVI or the Cayman Islands are subject to ECJ rulings.

In 2013 the BVI financial services minister Lorna

Smith said the government would not push ahead with plans to implement publicly accessible registers because of an ECJ ruling she said could infringe on people's human rights.

The Cayman Islands government soon afterwards said: "We are currently progressing to provide access to those members of the public who meet the 'legitimate interest test' required by that case. This will include access to parties who are genuinely seeking information so as to prevent or combat money laundering and terrorist financing (for instance media and civil society organisations under specific circumstances per the ECJ judgment).

"We anticipate that this enhanced framework will be introduced no later than [late-]2024."

On Monday, Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne raised some of the same issues made public by this senior official of the UK government.

PM Browne questioned why poor Caribbean states with a miniscule fraction of world trade and financial dealings were constantly being punished and black or grey listed, when much of the business in financial dealings is channeled through London or the overseas territories.

cont'd from pg 10

who will participate in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup this year.

Tameka Wharton added "these Antigua and Barbuda events exemplify the true meaning of our tagline: "The beach is just the beginning...."

For more details on the exciting events happening in Antigua and Barbuda this

summer, visit: <https://visitantiguabarbuda.com/sports>

For T20 World Cup match and scheduling information, visit <https://www.icc-cricket.com/tournaments/t20cricket-worldcup>

For more information on Antigua and Barbuda, head over to <https://www.visitantiguabarbuda.com/>

Biden hits Chinese electric cars and solar cells with higher tariffs

By Natalie Sherman

US President Joe Biden is ramping up tariffs on Chinese-made electric cars, solar panels, steel and other goods.

The White House said the measures, which include a 100% border tax on electric cars from China, were a response to unfair policies and intended to protect US jobs.

China has already criticised the plans, which were signalled in advance.

Analysts said the tariffs were largely symbolic and intended to shore up votes in a tough election year.

They follow months of criticism by former President Donald Trump, who is running for the White House against Mr Biden and has argued his rival's support for electric cars would "kill" the US car industry.

Mr Biden on Tuesday vowed that he would not let China "unfairly control the market" for electric vehicles and other key goods, including batteries, computer chips and basic medical supplies.

"If the pandemic taught us anything - we need to have a secure supply of essentials here at home," he said.

The tariffs announced on Tuesday will hit an estimated \$18bn worth of imports, the White House said.

As well as a rise from 25% to 100% on electric vehicle tariffs, levies on solar



cells will increase from 25% to 50%.

Tariff rates on certain steel and aluminium products will more than triple to 25%, up from 7.5% or less.

The moves expand sweeping border taxes that the US imposed on Chinese goods under Mr Trump, citing unfair trade practices.

During the Biden administration's review of the measures, the government received nearly 1,500 comments, the vast majority of them from business owners arguing that they were driving up prices for everyday Americans, and asking them to be removed.

Mr Biden's decision to leave the tariffs in place and expand them into new areas - even as persistent US inflation has weighed on his approval ratings - is a testament to the dramatic shift in trade views for both political parties in the US, which had

long championed the benefits of global commerce.

Wendy Cutler, a former trade official for the US who is now vice-president of the Asia Society Policy Institute, said she believed Americans were willing to accept higher priced cars, in exchange for helping to protect US companies and jobs.

"We've seen this movie before - with solar, with steel and [aluminium], and when it comes to cars and other products the United States needs to get ahead of the curve," she said.

"It's all about trade-offs and maybe in the immediate term cars become more expensive but in the longer term we want to have a competitive industry here."

In a briefing with reporters, White House officials denied that domestic politics had influenced the decision.

They said Beijing had shown no sign of moving

away from practices that harm the US, including rules that force western companies to share information with the aim of stealing it and subsidies that have put firms in a position to pump out products well beyond expected demand.

"They're flooding the market," Mr Biden said. "It's not competing - it's cheating."

The White House said the tariffs were targeted and it did not expect them to stoke inflation, contrasting their approach with that of Mr Trump.

The former president, who once called himself a "tariff man", has campaigned on a proposed across-the-board 10% tariff on foreign imports, which could jump to 60% for goods from China.

He has also attacked Mr Biden for promoting elec-
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tric vehicles, a move he has argued will destroy US car companies, key employers in states such as Michigan that will be key election battlegrounds in November.

Erica York, senior economist at the Tax Foundation, said both candidates were “heading down the same path” of higher barriers to trade and looking inward “rather than looking at what we can do on the policy front that would actually make our sectors more competitive”.

She said the administration’s promotion of the tariffs as strategic was a “euphemism for protection for sectors that are politically important for this administration”.

“It comes down to a political economy calculus rather than what makes the most economic sense or what’s most affordable for US consumers.”

The US already imposes steep tariffs on electric vehicles made in China, which has made sales of such cars negligible.

But Washington has been watching warily as sales by Chinese companies in Europe and other countries increase.

White House officials said ensuring that green technologies were not dominated by a single country was critical to making the transition successful and sustainable in the long run.

While moves targeting electric vehicles are likely to have minimal practical effect, the business world is

waiting to see if Europe will take similar steps, said Natasha Ebtehadj of Artemis Investment Management.

The European Union and the UK are among the other places debating moves to curb imports of Chinese-made electric cars, even at the risk of slowing their adoption.

“It’s not really a surprise to investors or to Chinese companies, especially in the run-up to an election where both candidates are not really pro-China,” she said.

“Given the relatively small volume of imports to the US, it’s maybe more interesting what happens next

in Europe.”

The US and China have been locked in a trade war since 2018, when Mr Trump imposed tariffs on some two thirds of goods imported from China, at the time worth an estimated \$360bn.

The measures prompted retaliation by Beijing, a stand-off that ended in a détente in early 2020 when Mr Trump reduced the rate of some tariffs, while China pledged to boost its purchases from the US.

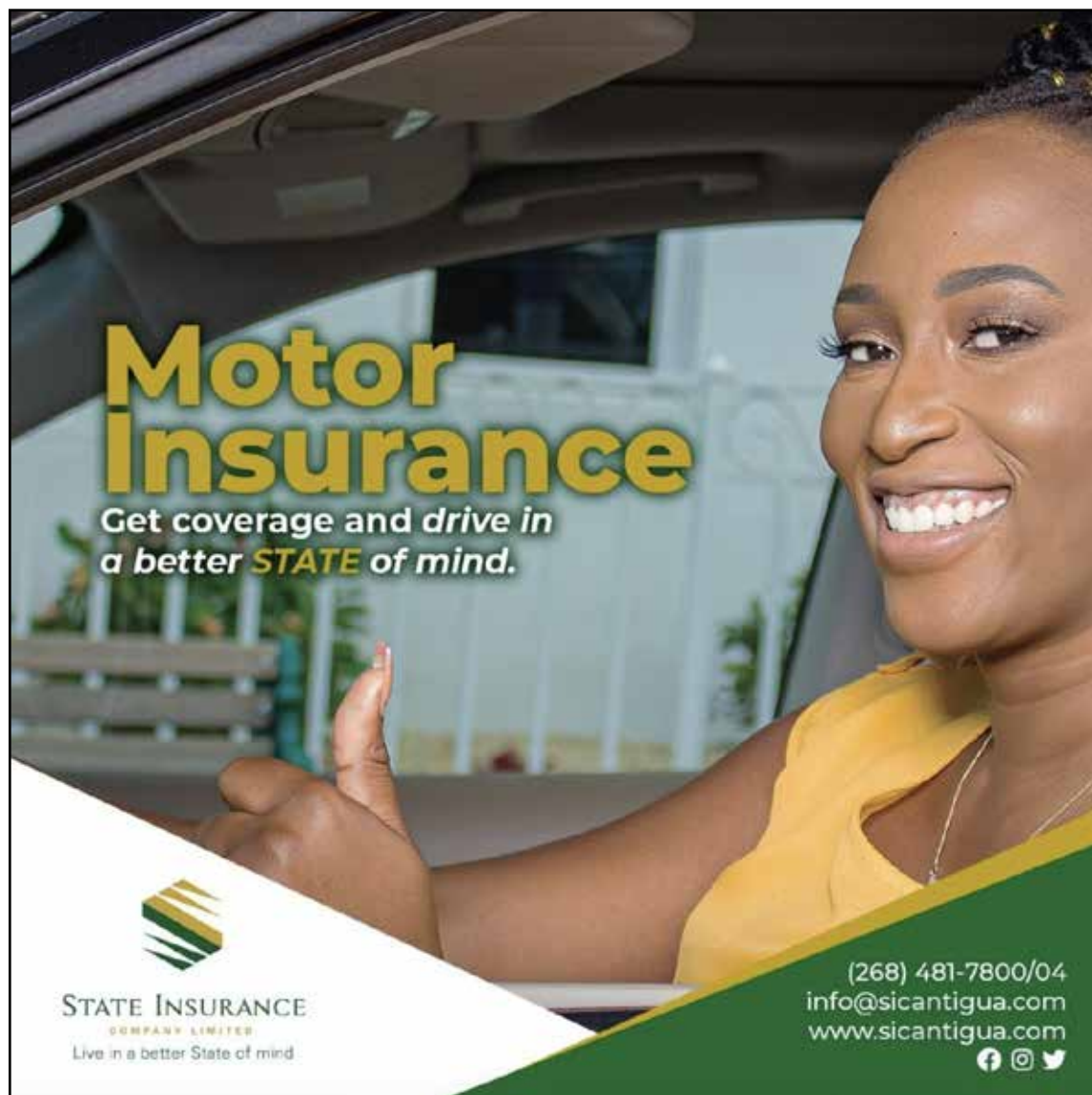
Those promises have fallen short, but the tariffs have since yielded more than \$200bn according to the US in new border taxes

for the US government, while prompting a major reshuffling of global trade patterns.

Much of that sum has been paid by everyday Americans in the form of higher prices for furniture, footwear and other goods.

However, in a research note, Oxford Economics described the latest plans as “more symbolic bark than bite”.

The firm said they were likely to lift inflation by a negligible 0.01 percentage points, while weighing on growth in a similar way, calling the effect a “rounding error”.



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The area around Mount Marapi has seen several similar disasters in the past six months.

‘Cold lava’ sweeps villages near volcano, killing 41

By Kelly Ng

At least 41 people were killed after flash floods and “cold lava” flowing from a volcano hit the western Indonesian island of Sumatra.

Hours of heavy rain on Saturday swept torrents of ash and rocks down Mount Marapi, the most active volcano in Sumatra.

The mudslides inundated two districts, swept people to their deaths and damaged more than 100 homes, mosques and public facilities.

Seventeen people are still missing. Survivors recounted how they fled as the “cold lava” - a mixture of volcanic material and pebbles that flow down a volcano’s slopes in the rain - flowed towards their homes.

“I heard the thunder and the sound similar to boiling water. It was the sound of big rocks falling from Mount Marapi,” Rina Devina, a 43-year-old housewife from the Agam district told AFP news agency.

“It was pitch black, so I used my cellphone as a torch. The road was muddy, so I chanted ‘God, have mercy’ over and over again,” Ms Devina said.

The mother of three added that a neighbour’s house had been “flattened by big rocks” and four of her neighbours died.

The phrase cold lava is a translation of the term “lahar” in Indonesian and Tagalog. Temperatures range between 0°C and 100°C, according to

how they are formed, but are typically below 50°C, according to several academic reports on the phenomenon.

A moving lahar resembles a “roiling slurry of wet concrete” that can grow in volume as it incorporates other debris in its path, said the US Geological Survey.

By Sunday afternoon, rescuers had found 19 bodies in the worst-hit village of Canduang in Agam district and recovered nine other bodies in the neighbouring district of Tanah Datar, according to the National Search and Rescue Agency.

Berliana Reskyka, another Agam resident, spoke of his experiences helping his injured neighbours.

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Dominica's President urges action on Haiti's "catastrophic" situation

CMC - Dominica has expressed deep concern over the "horrendously dangerous state" of increasing deadly gang violence in Haiti, describing the situation as "catastrophic."

President Sylvanie Burton, speaking at a ceremony to accept the credentials of the Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to Dominica, the most Reverend Santiago De Wit Guzman, said the situation in Haiti should be of concern to all.

"We have no doubt that the Holy See and his Holiness share similar concerns at the current catastrophic situation in Haiti," Burton said.

She said Dominica remains "resolved to working with the Holy See and the rest of the global community to resolve matters of major concerns which endanger our sustainable growth and development and peaceful way of life".

The number of people



President of Dominica, Sylvanie Burton.

killed and injured in Haiti due to gang violence significantly increased in 2023 – 4,451 killed and 1,668 injured. The number of victims skyrocketed in the first three months of this year, estimated at 1,554 killed and 826 injured.

Gangs continue to use sexual violence to brutalise, punish and control people and women have been raped during gang attacks on neighbourhoods,

in many cases after seeing their husbands killed in front of them. Some women are forced into exploitative sexual relations with gang members.

In her address, Burton there is need to be cognizant of the fact that "only in unity will be able to face the challenges that lie ahead, most of which we believe surface as a result of ideological differences that could be result through dialogue and nego-

tiations.

"Dominica and other small island developing states are the ones most impacted by several of those global challenges that continue to hinder our development and advancement," she said, adding these include regional conflicts and wars, inequalities, terrorism, climate change, lack of economic opportunity, unfair trade practices to name a few".

The Apostolic Nuncio extended the greetings of the Holy father during the ceremony, adding "the Holy See and this beloved nation of Dominica enjoy a very strong and cordial diplomatic relationship, both at bilateral and multilateral levels.

"It is our hope that the relationship continues to grow and benefit our people and institutions. I assure today of my personal commitment to continue the good work towards strengthening these ties," he added.

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"There were some who were crying, hysterical, because some of their family members were not yet accounted for. There were also those who discovered their loved ones have died," Berliana told BBC Indonesian.

The deluge is the latest in a series of natural disasters that have resulted, at least in part, from human activities, environment experts told BBC Indonesian.

"Flash floods and cold lava mudslides continue to recur and increase in

intensity due to excessive exploitation of natural resources and haphazard development," said Wengki Purwanto, the director of the West Sumatra branch of the Indonesian Forum for Environment.

"As a result, disasters repeat themselves every year. In fact, they increase in frequency every year. The distance between one disaster and the next becomes closer," he said.

The area around Mount Marapi has seen several similar disasters in the past six months.

Last 5 December, 23 hikers were killed when the volcano erupted while in February this year, flash floods damaged dozens of homes in the Tanah Datar.

Just last month, days of eruption threw huge clouds of ash - up to a height of 2km - into the sky. Flights in the region were disrupted, roads closed, and more than 11,000 people were told to evacuate.

Marapi translates from the local Minang language to "Mountain of Fire".

Bahamas: Police officer warns parents following weekend deaths of teens

CMC – A senior police officer in the Bahamas has admonished parents, urging them to be more involved in the lives of their children as police prepare to lay charges against two 15-year-olds following the murders of two other teenagers over the weekend.

Chief Superintendent Chrislyn Skippings told a news conference that a feud which began in high school escalated with the murders of two teenagers who were shot in separate incidents over the weekend.

“You should know who your children’s friends are,” she said, adding “if for some reason you see friends of your children not coming around or there is something negative being said, as a department, we want you to come in and sit down and have a conversation with us.

“We have to resolve these conflicts going on that our young people seem unable to resolve among themselves. We see 15- and 16-year-olds with firearms in their hands; something is wrong with that.

“Whoever placed weapons in their hands, we’re going to come for you. We cannot allow you to destroy our young people. Fathers, you, too, have a role to play – go and seek out your children, your boy children ... give them the support that they need,” the senior police officer warned, noting also that the police are looking for ways to prosecute parents if they allow their children to roam the streets at night.

“Parents, it’s time for you to start parenting your children properly. I can



Bahamas' Chief Superintendent, Chrislyn Skippings.

assure you we are going to look and find areas within the statute where we can also place you before the courts, because you have to be accountable for your children’s actions.”

Skippings said that conflict between the teens began in junior high school and involved a simple assault that was never reported to the police or the boys’ parents. She said had the incident been reported to police, the deaths could have been prevented.

According to the police, the 18-year-old was on the basketball court with two other men when they were approached by three men

dressed in hooded jackets. There was a confrontation that led the victim to leave the area, but one of the men in the hooded jacket pulled out a gun and opened fire on the group, hitting the 18-year-old.

In the second murder, the police said that at about 3.15am (local time) on Saturday, the 15-year-old was asleep in his bed, when someone forced open a bedroom window and fired shots inside, hitting the teenager multiple times. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Their deaths have pushed the murder toll to 49 so far this year.

Republicans flock to court to show they stand with Trump

By Anthony Zurcher

When Donald Trump's criminal trial began, his courtroom entourage consisted of a gaggle of lawyers and campaign aides. This week, it's started to look more like a preview of July's Republican National Convention.

With Michael Cohen, Mr Trump's former lawyer and pivotal witness for the prosecution, on the stand, the number of prominent Republican officeholders in attendance has expanded dramatically.

On Tuesday, Speaker of the House Mike Johnson - the top Republican in the US - met the former president at the courthouse in Manhattan, greeting him with a smile and a nod. Then, while the hush-money trial was still ongoing, he gave a brief statement to the press outside.

"I am disgusted by what is happening here," he said, "what is being done to our entire system of justice."

Mr Trump denies 34 counts of falsifying business records related to a hush-money payment to porn star Stormy Daniels during the 2016 presidential campaign. New York prosecutors are using a novel legal theory to argue that the alleged cover-up amounts to election interference.

Mr Johnson called the trial a "sham" and a "dis-



Speaker Mike Johnson (left), former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy (centre) and Congressman Cory Mills at the trial on Tuesday.

grace," said Cohen was a proven liar, and claimed that Mr Trump was being targeted by his political opponents to keep him off the presidential campaign trail as he tries to win back the White House. He even boasted about the size of the crowd at Mr Trump's Saturday campaign rally in New Jersey.

It was a dramatic show of support by the man second in line to the US presidency, and it came just a week after Mr Johnson survived a challenge to his congressional leadership from within his own party - a challenge that fizzled, in part, because Mr Trump repeatedly spoke out in his favour.

If the mutually beneficial relationship between Mr Trump and Mr John-

son was on full display on Tuesday, it was emblematic of how intertwined Mr Trump's legal fate has become with the fate of the Republican Party during this election year.

A parade of US senators and congressmen, top Republican officials, and campaign aides trail in behind the former president each morning as a physical show of political unity.

Many have sat behind the former president in the courtroom or stood nodding while he has given his impromptu press statements before and after the day's trial.

They have given their own press conferences, as well, directly challenging the veracity of the prosecution's witnesses and questioning the political

motivations of the presiding judge's family. Those are topics Mr Trump is prohibited from addressing because of a court-issued gag order for which the former president has been fined 10 times for violating. Further transgressions could land him in jail for contempt of court.

Some Republicans, like Senators Tommy Tuberville of Alabama and Rick Scott of Florida, as well as multiple state-level officials, seem content to use their attendance to gain favour with their party's leader and share a portion of the spotlight that the trial has generated.

Others may have more immediate interests.

This week several rumoured vice-presidential
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France prison van attack: Huge manhunt after prison officers killed in ambush

By Laura Gozzi

Two French prison officers have been killed in an ambush on a prison van near Rouen in Normandy.

Prisoner Mohamed Amra - known as "The Fly" - was being taken from court to a prison when a car rammed the prison van at a toll booth.

Gunmen then opened fire at prison officers, with two officers killed and two critically injured.

Several hundred police officers and gendarmes have been deployed to carry out a manhunt.

French President Emmanuel Macron wrote on X that "everything is being done to find the perpetrators".

Prosecutors identified the inmate who was freed

as Mohamed Amra, born in 1994.

Amra was convicted of burglary on 10 May and had been indicted by prosecutors in Marseille for a kidnapping that led to a death.

The 30-year-old inmate is said to have ties to a gang in the southern city of Marseille, which has been plagued by drug-related gang violence.

At the time of the ambush which led to his escape he was being transported back to jail in the town of Évreux after attending a morning court hearing in Rouen.

The ambush took place around 11:00 (09:00 GMT) near a toll booth on the A154 motorway.

The officers were shot with "heavy weapons" by



Mohamed Amra

the prisoner's accomplices, according to French Justice Minister Eric Dupond-Moretti.

The attackers escaped in a car which police believe they have now recovered, abandoned near the toll gate where the attack happened.

Roadblocks have been

set up across north-west France, with police following up on every tip-off.

Speaking to the media following a crisis unit meeting, Mr Dupond-Moretti confirmed that two officers had died.

"One leaves behind a wife and two children who were meant to celebrate their 21st birthday in two days. The other leaves a wife who is five months pregnant," he said.

"Everything - and I mean everything - will be put in place to find the perpetrators of this vile crime," Mr Dupond-Moretti said, adding that the perpetrators were "people for whom life has no value".

They would be found and punished "in a way that is proportionate to the crime", he said.

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contenders have joined Mr Trump in the courtroom. The VIPs have included Senator JD Vance of Ohio, Congressman Byron Donalds of Florida and former Republican presidential candidates Vivek Ramaswamy and North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum.

On Tuesday, the latter three filled the first row of benches behind Mr Trump in the courtroom, as if waiting their turn to audition for the party's presidential ticket. (They were gone by mid-morning, perhaps more interested in the cameras outside the courtroom than the testimony inside it.)

Mr Trump's criminal trial is unchart-

ed territory, and there is no playbook for how members of a political party should handle their former president - and their current presumptive presidential nominee - sitting in the criminal dock.

In the early days of the trial, few Republicans showed up. But after Senator Scott attended last week, a trickle has turned into a flood, only further blurring the lines between the political and the legal in the New York courthouse.

If there was ever any doubt that Mr Trump's trial would turn into a political spectacle, that question has now been firmly answered - and the proceedings are far from over.

Pakistan win T20 series over Ireland

DUBLIN (AP) — Pakistan blew away Ireland by six wickets and won their Twenty20 series 2-1 on Tuesday.

The Pakistanis chased down 193 with 3.1 overs to spare on Sunday to level the series and had no problems overhauling Ireland's 178 for seven on Tuesday with three overs remaining.

Captain Babar Azam and Mohammad Rizwan crushed the home side's bowling in a second-wicket stand of 139 runs.

Babar lashed 75 off 42 balls and Rizwan clobbered 56 off 38. They were out in consecutive overs, with Pakistan on the verge of victory.

Successive sixes by Azam Khan wrapped it up for Pakistan as they reached 181 for four.

"Big tournament coming up and this is good practice," Babar said with the T20 World Cup next month.

Rizwan hardly saw the strike in the first three



Pakistan's Azam Khan bats during the third T20 International match between Ireland and Pakistan at the Castle Avenue Cricket Ground, Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday, May 14, 2024. (AP)

overs, but once he lost his opening partner Saim Ayub, he opened up. Rizwan hit three sixes and four fours.

Babar struck four sixes in one Ben White over — the 14th — and finished with five sixes and six fours. His 39th fifty-plus score broke Virat Kohli's record in T20s.

Ireland was looking

good for eclipsing Sunday's total halfway through their innings.

Captain Lorcan Tucker and opener Andy Balbirnie blazed 85 runs for the second wicket. Balbirnie made 35.

Tucker hit 73 off 41 with 13 boundaries, but when he was caught at deep extra cover, Ireland folded

in the face of outstanding death bowling.

Shaheen Shah Afridi finished with three for 14 off four overs, Mohammad Amir claimed one for 32, and Imad Wasim captured one for 23.

Pakistan will travel to England for a four-match T20 series, which will start next Tuesday.

Roman Hill and Pacesetters claim wins in ABNA's netball league

There were wins for Roman Hill and the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters in the opening round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) League on Monday.

Roman Hill beat the All Saints Attackers 37-15 in their first encounter in the mixed division at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Akiel Hazelwood sank 26 of 37

attempts, Carl Kirby converted six of seven shots, Jamila Fitz scored three of six tries, and Ariel Alexander netted two of five attempts for Roman Hill.

Andris Anthony converted 13 of 18 attempts, and Keaddy Martin scored two of three shots for the All Saints Attackers.

Pacesetters prevailed 24-18 against the Under-21 National Team in an A

Division encounter.

Penelope Adams sank 11 of 14 attempts, Krizia Duncan scored 11 of 20 shots, and Kishorna Aubrey converted two of three tries for the Pacesetters.

Jheneira Pierra sank nine of 14 shots, Stacia Henry converted six of 12 attempts, and Jahida Payne scored two of five tries for the Under-21 National Team.

Flow supports 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup

C&W Communications has been announced as the Official and Exclusive Telecommunications Supporter in the Caribbean for the upcoming 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Part of the Liberty Latin America group of companies, C&W Communications is the leading entertainment and communications provider in the Caribbean with operations in 20 markets with the brands Flow, Flow Business, C&W Business and BTC.

The company's services are underpinned by over 50,000 kilometres of the most modern subsea and terrestrial fibre networks in the region.

As the Official Telecommunications Supporter for the event in the Caribbean, C&W Communications will provide innovative telecommunications services and support to ensure seamless connectivity and communication throughout the tournament. From high-speed internet access to reliable mobile networks, C&W Communications will play a crucial role in keeping players, officials, fans, and stakeholders connected and engaged during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

C&W Business will also provide internet connectivity services for the tournament's official media



Chief Executive Officer, C&W Communications Inge Smidts

hub at the Lloyd Erskine Sandiford Centre in Barbados, the host venue for the final.

This first-of-its-kind remote media hub for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will feature minimum 200Mbps download/upload speeds and can facilitate 200 travelling journalists from around the world who will be able use the hub as a central location for the tournament where they can view all tournament matches and participate in a full-range of in-stadia media activities.

Chief Executive Officer, C&W Communications Inge Smidts said, "C&W Communications has a long and proud history of keeping the Caribbean connected to the things that matter

most, and this partnership underscores our dedication to supporting the love of cricket, camaraderie, and the spirit of competition – values that resonate deeply with us as an organisation, our customers and the communities we serve.

"As the official Caribbean telecommunications and ICT provider for the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, we look forward to connecting millions of fans across the Caribbean and around the world to the excitement and passion of this premier sporting event."

ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 Tournament Director Fawwaz Baksh said, "Cricket possesses immense power to unite people and the strategic part-

nership between ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and Flow allows us to do this, as we aim to develop the sport of cricket across the Caribbean and partner with Corporate Caribbean and other stakeholders.

"We are thrilled to have Flow as the exclusive Presenting Partner for the T20 World Cup's volunteer programme, and we look forward to ensuring this collaboration helps us to deliver an out of this world tournament."

More than 900 volunteers from across the West Indies will participate in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Volunteer Programme, which will serve as a cornerstone for supporting various aspects of the tournament including hospitality, logistics, and fan engagement.

As the presenting partner for the volunteer programme in the Caribbean, Flow will also play a pivotal role in ensuring volunteers are fully prepared to elevate the experience when tens of thousands of fans, media, players, and officials visit the West Indies in June.

The 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup will blast off on June 1 with the tournament's first match featuring the USA against Canada at the Grand Prairie Cricket Stadium in Dallas, Texas.

Rebels and Court Martials end regular season campaigns with wins

Rebels and Court Martials secured wins in their final games in the round-robin league in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division on Monday night.

The Rebels ended their league campaign by securing their sixth win in 12 encounters with a 72-62 victory against the Honourable Daryll Matthew Ottos Clippers in the first game of a double header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Zuri Nesbitt produced 19 points, nine rebounds, and five steals, and Tyn-dale Telemaque converted 13 points and grabbed 16 rebounds for the Rebels.

In support, Ryan Noel sank 10 points and snatched 13 rebounds; Kareem Blair scored 10 points and claimed nine rebounds; and Buell Henry had eight points, 10 rebounds, and five steals for



the Rebels.

Amare Browne shot a game-high 27 points; Joshua Salmon converted 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; and Antoine Browne scored 12 points

and snatched eight rebounds for the Ottos Clippers.

It was also the final game in the league for the Ottos Clippers, which suffered their eighth loss in

12 encounters.

The Court Martials wrapped up their league campaign by claiming their sixth win in 12 encounters with a 66-60 victory against the EZ Fit Flyers 2 in the second game of Monday's double header.

De-Lorngé Jules produced 31 points, eight rebounds, and five steals; Baldwin Anthony sank 12 points and grabbed 16 rebounds; and Proctor Tru-vaurnie converted nine points and grabbed 20 rebounds for the Court Martials.

Sadiq Phillip produced 18 points, 15 rebounds, and seven steals; Na-heem Joseph converted 11 points and snatched nine rebounds; and Javonte Daley had 10 points, seven rebounds, and five assists for the EZ Fit Flyers 2, which suffered their second loss in 11 games.

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Master Ballerz on goal difference.

Kluivert Ferdinand scored a hat-trick as FC Master Ballerz moved ahead of Sea View Farm into second place by romping to a 6-1 victory against English Harbour at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Ferdinand had conversions in the 75th, 76th, and 80th minutes. Shareem Richards opened the scoring in the 26th minute, Gawayne Allen scored in the 49th minute, and Brandon Satchell converted a penalty in the 65th minute for FC Master Bal-

lerz.

Oshane Blackwood scored a consolation goal in the 37th minute for English Harbour, who suffered their seventh loss in 21 matches to remain in eighth place with 36 points.

Their 15th win in 21 matches carries FC Master Ballers level with Sea View Farm on 49 points. FC Master Ballerz, who have a superior goal difference than Sea View Farm, will face Lingies CPTSA Wings in their final encounter.

Kion Jackson scored twice as Urlings prevailed 2-1 against Soccer

Academy in their penultimate second-round encounter at the Urlings playing field.

Jackson had conversions in the 43rd and 71st minutes, while Michael Peters scored in the 32nd minute for Soccer Academy.

Their 13th win in 21 matches has allowed Urling to leapfrog Soccer Academy into fourth place by advancing to 44 points.

Soccer Academy dropped from fourth to fifth place on goal difference by remaining on 41 points after suffering their fourth loss in 21 matches.

Scorpions secure promotion to First Division

Freeman's Village Scorpions have secured promotion to compete in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division next season.

The Scorpions became the first of two teams to gain automatic promotion after winning the ABFA's Second Division title by snatching a 2-1 victory against Bethesda in their second round group stage encounter at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday.

Darius Hector had a ninth-minute conversion, and Kahlique Kellman scored in the 45th minute to give Freeman's Village a two-nil halftime lead. Chunsae Martin scored for Bethesda with a 65th-minute conversion.

Bethesda were reduced to 10 men when they lost the services of Chevez Davis in the 60th minute. Davis was sent off after he picked up a second caution (yellow card), which resulted in an automatic red card and the expulsion of the offender.

Their 18th win in 21 matches carries the Freeman's Village Scorpions to an unassailable 54 points with one match remaining.



Players and supporters of the Freeman's Village Scorpions football team after beating Bethesda to win the Second Division title at the ABFA Technical Center on Monday, May 13, 2024. (ABFA Media)

Bethesda, who also have one game left, will remain on 37 points after suffering their sixth defeat in 21 matches.

Sea View Farm conceded the title to the Scorpions by crashing to a 3-2 defeat against Golden Grove at the Golden Grove playing field.

Nyique Baptiste snatched the winner for Golden Grove in the 81st minute after his teammate Tyler Anthony had scored a 67th-minute equalizer to draw the home team level

at 2-2.

Markland Wright converted a penalty in the 41st minute to give Sea View Farm a 2-1 halftime lead. Rhezal Gomes scored the game's opening goal in the 18th minute to put Sea View Farm ahead, but Te'rique Smith scored an equalizer for Golden Grove in the 36th minute.

Their 13th win in 21 matches allows Golden Grove to remain in sixth place on goal difference by advancing to 41 points.

Their fourth loss in 21 matches has seriously reduced Sea View Farm's chances of finishing second and claimed the other automatic promotion spot into next season's First Division.

Sea View Farm dropped from second to third place on goal difference as they remained on 49 points with one game remaining against Real Blizzard. The result also allowed Sea View Farm to be overtaken by FC

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