

# A&B, TUVALU SECURE GROUNDBREAKING RULING ON BEHALF OF SMALL ISLANDS



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From left: Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne, Attorney General of Vanuatu Arnold Loughman and Former Prime Minister of Tuvalu Kausea Natano.

## A&B, Tuvalu secure groundbreaking ruling on behalf of small islands

Just days before Antigua and Barbuda hosts a major international gathering, the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4), May 27-30, comes an opinion from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) that will have a lasting impact on the environment for decades to come.

On Tuesday, the international tribunal delivered a decision that green groups and leaders of small island nations celebrated as a “groundbreaking victory for ocean and climate protection.”

The International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) announced in an advisory opinion that greenhouse gas emissions are marine pollution under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and parties to the treaty «have the specific obligation to adopt laws and regulations to prevent, reduce, and control» them.

The advisory came in response to a December 2022 submission by the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), which includes Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Niue, Palau, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and Grenadines, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

In a move championed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne in collaboration with the then Prime Minister of Tuvalu, Kausea Natano, a submission was made to the ITLOS Tribunal seeking an advisory opinion on whether major polluters should compensate island states in the Caribbean, such as Antigua and Barbuda as well as those in the Pacific, such as Tuvalu, when they suffered the ravages of rising sea levels and increasingly more powerful hurri-



canes linked to climate change.

“The tribunal’s opinion is an historic legal victory for small island nations, demonstrating their global leadership on this crucial issue for the future of humankind,” said Payam Akhavan, a COSIS legal representative to ITLOS. “It is a manifest injustice that they make negligible contributions to the problem, but suffer the worst effects of rising sea levels and extreme weather events that have brought some to the brink of extinction.”

“As the guardian of the ocean treaty, ITLOS has taken the critical first step in recognizing that what small island nations have been fighting for at the COP negotiations for decades is already part of international law,” he continued, referring to United Nations climate summits. “The major polluters must prevent catastrophic harm to small island nations, and if they fail to do so, they must compensate for the loss and damages.”

COSIS was initiated at COP26 by Tuvalu along with Antigua and Barbuda, whose prime minister, Gaston Browne, welcomed the ITLOS decision, stressing that “small island

states are fighting for their survival” and “some will become inhabitable soon because of the failure to mitigate greenhouse emissions.”

Eselealofa Apinelu, Tuvalu’s high commissioner to Fiji, pointed out that the advisory opinion “spells out the legally binding obligations of all states to protect the marine environment; to protect against the existential threats posed by climate change.”

Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL) Climate & Energy Program director Nikki Reisch noted Tuesday that «to those that would hide behind the weaknesses of international climate treaties, this opinion makes clear that compliance with the Paris agreement alone is not enough.»

“Pledges and promises at annual climate conferences do not satisfy states’ legal duties to take all necessary measures to prevent, reduce, and control the greenhouse gas emissions polluting the marine environment, in line with climate science and the goal of limiting warming to 1.5°C,” Reisch continued.

“We know that doing so requires  
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rapidly phasing out all fossil fuels. States that fail to comply face legal responsibility,” she added. “Protecting the global commons of the oceans and atmosphere is a matter of life and death—not just for entire marine ecosystems and the coastal and island communities most directly dependent on them and at greatest risk from climate change, but for all of humanity and the planet as a whole.”

Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States and the OAS, Sir Ron Sanders is giving the credit entirely to PM Browne and the former Tuvalu PM Kausea Natano,



Barbuda after it was devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017

who jointly sought the advisory opinion. “The work of the impressive international team of lawyers, led

by Professor Payam Akhavan, under the direction of these two prime ministers, produced this vital prece-

dent for safeguarding the rights of small island developing states,” Sir Ron observed.

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## Stay the course...FM Greene urges SIDS4 staff members

With the countdown on for the hosting the largest conference ever to be staged in Antigua and Barbuda, the Fourth Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) just days away, Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene visited the venue on Tuesday as well as met briefly with the staff spearheading the planning efforts.

Minister Greene reminded the staff that Antigua and Barbuda was ‘called names’ when the idea first surfaced that it wanted to host the conference. Just months ago, he added, there was even talk in some quarters that the United Nations should be asked to find an alternative venue. “Now this is all behind us; we have taken care of the ‘big things’, now it is up to us to look about those ‘small things’ that could affect the success of the conference,” he stated.

He told the staff, headed by Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Aubrey Webson, that he always had faith in their abilities to pull off a

successful conference.

“As we count the days and hours before the start of the conference, I feel a sense of satisfaction in watching, following the movement of this exercise project. I think each of you should take pride, great pride in the role you have played individually and collectively as a team. I know there have been tense moments; moments when we second-guessed ourselves but at no time did you lose sight of the assignment or the objective. Without fear of contradiction, I would say that you would all make Antigua and Barbuda proud come next week. All the systems are in place, it is now time to manage those systems,” he remarked.

According to Minister Greene, for him, the three most important elements for a successful conference are the conference centre (venue), the accommodation and the transportation. “Everything else is in-between, including the volunteers, the food and the country’s hospi-



ality,” he stated.

He reported that there are one hundred and thirteen (113) countries registered to participate in the conference, making it the largest SIDS conference ever to be staged.

Ambassador Webson also thanked the staff for their commitment and dedication to the task and he urged them to press ahead with the goal of delivering an excellent conference on behalf of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Minutes before the meeting with the staff, Minister Greene visited the conference hall where he was met by AUA Vice President for Administration, Vernon Solomon, who gave him an update of the progress in preparing the venue and its environs ahead of the opening ceremony on Monday.

Meanwhile, the entire Cabinet will conduct its own tour of the facilities today, Wednesday.



## Antigua and Barbuda to establish ties with Palestine

Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the Organisation of American States (OAS), Sir Ronald Sanders, has received specific instruction from the Prime Minister to establish diplomatic ties with Palestine.

Sir Ron stated that the idea goes beyond the mere recognition of Palestine as a state.

He mentioned, ‘I have started that process, and we had a positive response from Palestine in accordance with the Prime Minister’s request and in agreement with Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene.

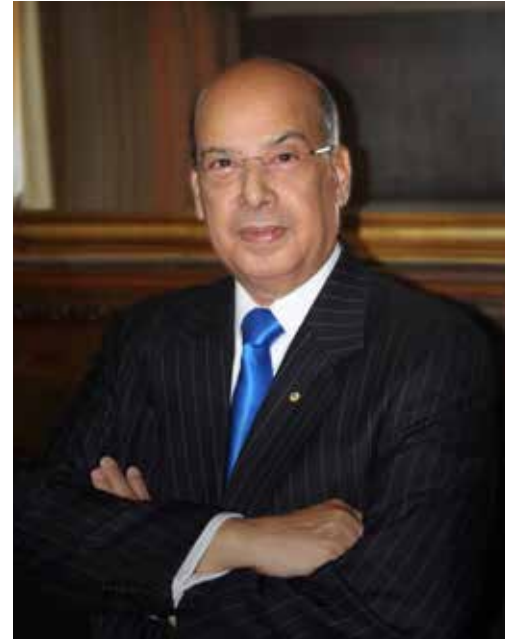
Recently, Antigua and Barbuda was among 143 countries that voted in favour of a resolution adopted by the United Nations General Assembly for the Security Council to reconsider Palestine’s application for membership in

the United Nations.

While recognizing that the granting of membership resides with the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council, the resolution called on the council to act and expand the rights of the State of Palestine as a Permanent Observer in the General Assembly.

Nine countries voted against the resolution, while 25 countries abstained.

Sir Ron expressed hope that the entire process could be formalized within a matter of weeks, stating, ‘The reason for that is, we want to be able to talk to Palestine as we can talk to Israel now through diplomatic channels in a formal and informal way. We can’t have diplomatic relations with one and not have diplomatic response with the



Sir Ronald Sanders

other if we want to try to promote a peaceful settlement,’ the OAS ambassador explained.

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# Local News



## Replacement of Voter's Identification Cards will begin in August

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) says effective August 12 2024, it shall commence a Voter's Identification Cards Replacement Programme.

ABEC has therefore reversed its earlier decision and advice to the General Public that a re-registration exercise would have commenced in

October 2024.

The Commission has met with and held extensive dialogue with all major stakeholders to include all the political parties and the sole Independent Parliamentarian all of whom shared openly their view on legal position being relied upon by the Commission and the measures which the Commission

enunciated to ensure a fair and transparent process.

At its regular meeting held on Wednesday 15, May 2024 ABEC decided that is in the best interest of the electoral process to commence the process of the replacement of the expired cards as soon as practicable.

The Commission is aware that there are currently

over 40,000 residents whose Voter's Identification Cards have expired.

Public relations sensitization will begin in June, which will outline the full details of the process, through promotional avenues to include media interviews, infomercials, social media posts, Public Service Announcements and flyers.

## Antigua and Barbuda Launches Air Conditioner & Hurricane Shutters Programme

The Department of Environment has announced the launch of a groundbreaking Air Conditioner & Hurricane Shutters Programme, spearheaded by the Sustainable Island Resource Framework Fund (SIRF Fund). This initiative falls under the Climate Change Technology and Just Transition of the Workforce Program, managed by the Department of the Environment (DOE) within the Ministry of Health, and the Environment.

The SIRF Fund is dedicated to leveraging donor funding to streamline transaction costs and paperwork while adhering to donor requirements. As an accredited entity to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the DOE is committed to managing these funds for the benefit of the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

International studies indicate that the impacts of climate change are more severe than previously anticipated. Island states like Antigua and Barbuda are particularly vulnerable, facing higher per capita costs compared to larger economies. To address this, the SIRF Fund has adopted a bulk-purchasing approach to acquire climate adaptation and mitigation technologies at factory prices, reducing costs and increasing

market accessibility.

The programme initially offers Gree brand air conditioning units (available in 12,000 BTU, 18,000 BTU, and 24,000 BTU models) and polycarbonate hurricane shutter materials. This initiative aims to support local market transitions by providing about 25% of the necessary technology, thereby fostering economic growth and job creation. Training for installing and maintaining these technologies will be provided by local institutions like ABICE.

This initiative is funded by multiple donors, including the Green Climate Fund Enhanced Direct Access Project and the Adaptation Fund. By purchasing in bulk directly from manufacturers, the SIRF Fund is able to offer these technologies at lower costs than popular online retailers, making them more accessible to the public.

The programme is open to all residents of Antigua and Barbuda. Each household can purchase up to two air conditioning units and six sheets of hurricane shutter material. Participants must provide a utility bill and proof of ID during registration. For residents of Barbuda, additional shipping costs will be covered by the DOE/SIRF Fund.



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Antigua and Barbuda

Installation costs are not covered by the SIRF Fund, and participants can use any local installer. The DOE website provides a list of registered installers to assist consumers. While the SIRF Fund does not offer a warranty, limited warranties are available through these installers. Any flaws identified at the point of installation will be addressed with replacements by the DOE.

The DOE emphasizes transparency and integrity throughout the programme. Stakeholders are encouraged to report any instances of misconduct, such as fraud or corruption, through a designated complaint form.

This programme is designed to not only enhance individual preparedness but also contribute to the overall resilience and sustainability of the community. Residents are encouraged to register and secure their climate-resilient technologies today, joining in the collective effort to build a climate-resilient future for Antigua and Barbuda.

## US Forest Services delivers first-ever Wildland Fire Investigation Training in Antigua and Barbuda

The United States Forest Service (USFS), through its Natural Infrastructure for Caribbean Resilience (NICaR) program, conducted training in Wildland Fire Investigation for key stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda. This training, held on May 17, focused on Wildland Fire Observations and Origin Scene Protection for First Responders, the first of its kind in the country.

Delivered by USFS Fire Prevention Technician Dawn Sanchez and Wildland Fire Investigation Instructors from the Jamaica Fire Brigade, the level one course engaged approximately 50 participants. The training also marked another first with it being delivered by regional instructors. Attendees included representatives from the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Wallings Nature Reserve Inc., Ministry of



Agriculture, Fisheries and Barbuda Affairs, Ministry of Health and Environment, National Office of Disaster Services, Air Traffic Control Department, NGOs, and other organizations.

Inspector Yvette Henry, Head of the Fire Prevention Unit at the Antigua and Barbuda Fire Prevention Department, lauded the training for enhancing the department's fire investigative capabilities and public engagement efforts. "The

NICaR wildland fire investigation training was very informative. We learned a lot today, including crucial details to look for in responding to wildland fires and insights into scene preservation. This training has equipped us to better identify the causes of fires and enhance public education on preventing wildland fires."

Preparedness and Response Manager at the National Office of Disaster Services, Anderson Tuitt,

highlighted the training's timely and relevant, data-driven approach. "This training was very enlightening. As a member of the national organization that manages disasters, we see wildland/bushfires as a hazard, and we must be prepared. The training allowed us to look at causes, which allows you to have data; with data, we are able to make data-driven decisions as to how we manage bushfires."



## Fire at Picadilly

Several acres of land have been scorched by a brush fire that raged overnight in the hills above Piccadilly, in the southeastern section of Antigua.

Firemen at the All Saints Fire Station received a call at 7:10 Tuesday night to respond to the fire.

Fire tenders were dispatched but according to a spokesman, the fire was burning in the hills and at the time posed no threat to properties in the

area.

A decision was made to return to the fire station, but not before someone was designated to report to them should the fire begin to approach any property. "We are on standby," the spokesman stated.

Up to press time, there were no further developments regarding the fire.

It was the 52 fire call for the year for that station.



## Bulk waste clean-up carried out in St. Phillip's North spearheaded by Randy Baltimore

There was much activity in the St. Phillip's North constituency over the past weekend when teams mobilized by community activist, Randy Baltimore, carried out an extensive clean-up of bulk waste in the community.

In a press release issued to Point Express newspaper, Baltimore said his dedication to serving his community knows no bounds as he led another successful bulk-waste clean-up event in the vibrant neighborhoods of Seaton's, Glanvilles, and Carty's Hill within the St. Phillip's North constituency. The event brought together volunteers from all walks of life, uniting under the common goal of making their community a cleaner and more pleasant place

to live.

"Randy's leadership and passion for positive change shone brightly as he inspired others to join him in taking action for the betterment of their shared environment. The event was not just about cleaning up waste; it was about fostering a sense of unity and empowerment among neighbors, showing that when people come together, they can achieve remarkable things," the release stated.

It added that Randy Baltimore's tireless efforts continue to make a difference, one clean-up at a time, leaving a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of those he touches with his unwavering commitment to building a stronger, more connected community





## ABLP/AT&LU Labour Queen Committee says thanks to sponsors

The committee responsible for planning the highly successful, ABLP/AT&LU Labour Queen show, 2024, will host a prize giving ceremony when it will honour both the nine contestants as well as the many individuals and businesses which donated prizes.

Head of the Labour Queen Committee 2024, Sharilyn James, said the prize giving ceremony was planned for a previous date but that it was postponed due to inclement weather and that a new date will be set.

The winner of this year's pageant, Aliyah Wayne, representing the All Saints West constitu-

ency, will receive a cash prize of \$4,500.00 as well as a host of other prizes.

Addenya Aska the 1st runner-up will collect \$3,500.00 and other prizes while Kenisha James, representing St. Paul, who was adjudged 2nd runner-up will receive \$1500.00 and other prizes.

Aliyah as the reigning Queen will receive a 50" Flat Screen TV from Cool and Smooth, Addenya a 32" Smart TV from Town House Mega Store and Kenisha will also get a smart TV from Total Imports.

Each contestant will receive a gift from Andrew Hadeed of all locally made products from Jwem268.

The unplaced contestants will receive monetary prizes from the ABLP Queen's Committee as well as complementary circum-navigation tours from Wadadli Cats.

They will also receive 2 day-passes from Jolly Beach Resorts.

The list of donors to the pageant include the following; Hadeed Motors Ltd, Cool & Smooth, WIOC, Roberts & Co Attorneys at Law, Town House Furnishings, Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Hon. Sir Steadroy Cutie Benjamin, Hon. E.P Chet Greene, Hon. Maria Vanessa Bird, Senator Clement Antonio, Ambassador Patrice Luke, Michael Joseph, Regis

Burton, Lesley Ann Yearwood, Dean Jonas, Island Sanitation Plus, Hospitality Services Inc. and Caribbean Environment Education Services. Rakaman Construction, ABS Radio and Television, WTP Radio, Pointe FM Radio and Point Express newspaper, Twin Island Media, Electronics Now, Needle & Threadz, Make-up by Charity, Chosen Sounds, Raynel Carroll, and Jessey Fyre,

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## Good journalism matters

By Rev. Paul Edwards

Finally, the day has come. For quite some time I have been thinking about writing an article on journalism, but never get around to doing so. Let me make it clear that I am not a journalist, but I read as well as listen to the news. I listen to the reporters, and I follow social media. And many times, what I read and hear is biased, partisan, and misleading.

Journalism can be defined as the act of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting information. It is the discipline of collecting data, verifying its authenticity, and crafting it into a structured narrative for the audience's consumption. Journalists serve as messengers and interpreters of events and facts, providing context, analysis, and insights that help the public make sense of the world around them.

In a time where trust in media is declining around the world it has become even more important to support good, accurate journalism – which is defined as content that is ethical, independent, critical and of public interest.

There are several factors that make something “good journalism.” One is that it's accurate. Another is that it's fair to the facts. A third is that it informs the public without manipulation of any kind. For example, let's say I am reporting on the prime minister, and I don't like him (or her). My audience should not be able to detect any personal biases that I might have. I should cover that person in the same accurate and fair manner as I would cover someone I *do* like. It's not my job as a reporter to distort the facts to generate outrage. I'm a reporter not a commentator. Commentators offer opinions, many of which are based either on emotional reactions (“This is an outrage!!!”) or partisan responses (“Our side is the best; the other side is horrible.”) The facts may indeed be outrageous, but my duty as a reporter

is to tell the story responsibly and ethically, rather than intentionally trying to inflame the public.

The goal of good journalism is to keep the public informed. Any healthy democracy must have accurate and honest reporting because the public needs reliable information to decide which candidate or which party to support. Dishonest reporting could manipulate public opinion, stirring people up against some minority group or some political party or some organization. It's not my job to stir people up or tell them who to support. It's my job to gather the facts and then tell the story, so they will understand the issues. My first duty is to the facts, and to making sure the audience receives the most accurate information.

Journalists have a responsibility to be accurate and honest in their reporting. They should provide the public with complete information without bias or distortion. This means they should not slant the news to favor one side over another. They should also be transparent in their reporting, providing the public with complete and accurate information. Additionally, they should remain objective, refraining from using their own opinions and personal biases in their reporting.

With the advent of the digital age, the importance of Journalism has undergone significant transformations. From print newspapers and radio broadcasts to television and now online platforms, the mediums may have changed, but the essence remains the same. Good Journalism challenges perspectives, educates communities, and instigates positive change.

All journalists should read if they have not done so, The Journalist Creed developed by the esteemed journalist, Walter Williams. This Journalist's Creed is a moral framework that encapsulates



Rev. Paul Edwards

the guiding principles and responsibilities of journalists in upholding the truth and serving the public interest. It is said that it serves as a clarion call for journalists to adhere to the highest ethical standards while reporting the news. The Journalist's Creed not only underscores the significance of capturing accurate information but also emphasizes the crucial role journalists play in safeguarding democracy and informing society.

### Conclusion

Journalistic integrity is essential for ensuring accuracy and impartiality in reporting, and it is increasingly important in today's media landscape. Unfortunately, the lack of journalistic integrity has had several consequences, including a decrease in the accuracy and impartiality of news reporting, a decrease in public trust in the media, and a decrease in the ability of citizens to make informed decisions.

To restore journalistic integrity, news organizations need to recognize the importance of accurate and impartial reporting, invest in investigative journalism, create an environment that is conducive to accurate and unbiased reporting, and invest in fact-checking. Furthermore, news organizations need to prioritize accuracy and impartiality in their reporting, create a culture of journalistic integrity, and hold their journal-

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## BMW and Jaguar used banned China parts - US probe

By Peter Hoskins

BMW, Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) and Volkswagen (VW) used parts made by a supplier on a list of firms banned over alleged links to Chinese forced labour, a US congressional report has said.

At least 8,000 BMW Mini Cooper cars were imported into the US with components from banned Chinese firm Sichuan Jingweida Technology Group (JWD), according to the report by Senate Finance Committee chairman Ron Wyden's staff.

"Automakers' self-policing is clearly not doing the job," the Democrat Senator said.

BMW said it had "strict standards and policies regarding employment practices, human rights, and working conditions, which all our direct suppliers must follow".

It added it had taken steps to "halt the importation of affected products and will be conducting a service action with customer and deal-

er notification for affected motor vehicles".

Jaguar Land Rover told the BBC it "takes human rights and forced labour issues seriously and has an active ongoing programme of human rights protection and anti-slavery measures".

VW did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Mr Wyden also urged the US Customs and Border Protection agency to "supercharge enforcement and crack down on companies that fuel the shameful use of forced labour in China".

The report added Jaguar Land Rover had imported spare parts which included components from JWD after the company was put on the banned list.

JLR said it has now identified and is destroying any stock it holds around the world that include this component.

In February, VW said thousands of its vehicles, including Porsches and Bentleys, had been held by



Thousands of Mini Coopers were imported into the US with components from banned Chinese firm.

authorities because they had a component in them that breached America's anti-forced labour laws.

VW had voluntarily informed customs officials about the issue, the report said.

Congress passed the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA) into law in 2021.

The legislation is intended to prevent the import of goods from China's north-western Xinjiang region that are believed to have been made by people from the Uyghur minority group in forced labour con-

ditions.

JWD was added to the UFLPA Entity List in December 2023, which means its products are presumed to be made with forced labour.

China has been accused of detaining more than one million Uyghurs in Xinjiang against their will over the past few years.

Authorities have denied all allegations of human rights abuses in Xinjiang.

"The so-called Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act by the US is not about forced labor but about creating unemployment. It does not protect human rights but, under the guise of human rights, harms the survival and employment rights of the people in Xinjiang," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said.

"China strongly condemns and firmly opposes this. We will take measures to resolutely safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises."

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ists accountable for their reporting.

Journalistic integrity is essential for ensuring accuracy and impartiality in reporting, and it is increasingly important in today's media landscape. It is essential for news organizations to recognize the importance of journalistic integrity and to make a commitment to providing accurate and impartial reporting. Doing so will help ensure that the public can make informed decisions

and that the media is seen as a reliable and trustworthy source of information.

I close with a quote from Morman Freeman. It may not have anything to do with the article; but I think it is something to think about. He gave a definition of STUPID. This is his definition:

*Knowing The Truth*

*Seeing The Truth*

*But Still Believing The Lies: Morgan Freeman*

# Diddy assault video cements fall of hip-hop icon

By Emma Vardy

CCTV video footage confirmed what many people in the music industry knew was brewing: a moment of reckoning for one of the most influential hip-hop artists in history.

The clips of Sean “Diddy” Combs kicking his former girlfriend Cassie Ventura - as she lay motionless on the floor - cemented his downfall, despite his apology after the leak.

“I don’t see a path for him to come back from this,” said Amy DuBois Barnett, the former editor-in-chief of *Ebony* magazine, who has written about hip-hop culture.

Mr Combs’ reputation in the industry had been “chequered for some time,” added Barnett. “Many people were aware of his pretty unbridled temper.”

Diddy - formerly known as P Diddy, Puff Daddy or Puffy - is one of the best-selling and most acclaimed artists of all time, with three Grammy Awards and millions of record sales to his name.

For years, nothing really affected Diddy’s rise to icon status as an artist, producer and businessman. There were negative stories in the industry, said Ms Barnett, but much of it stayed out of the public eye.

Last November, Ms Ventura settled a lawsuit against Mr Combs - in which she accused him of rape and sexual trafficking - for an undisclosed sum. But Mr Combs’ lawyer said the settlement was “in no way an admission of wrongdoing”.

Celebrities continued to voice support for him afterwards - but that his position unravelled with the CCTV video obtained by CNN and published last week.

The assault shown in the footage is



Sean “Diddy” Combs

brutal. After kicking Ms Ventura like a football, Mr Combs, wearing just a towel, is seen dragging her across the floor.

The video appears to be a compilation of surveillance footage angles dated 5 March 2016, which CNN said was filmed at the InterContinental Hotel in Century City, Los Angeles. In her lawsuit, Ms Ventura had described a March 2016 incident at that hotel, in which Mr Combs allegedly attacked her.

A string of lawsuits have since been brought against Mr Combs for abuse, sexual misconduct and rape. When they were filed, the rapper called the accusations “sickening” and said the alleged victims were looking for “a quick pay day”.

But the video of the assault on Ms Ventura undermined his denials.

Combs was silent for two days after its release, before posting an apology to Instagram, admitting it was him in the tape and calling his actions “inexcusable”.

“I was disgusted then when I did it,” he said, “and I’m disgusted now.”

“I went and I sought out profes-

sional help,” he continued. “I got into going to therapy, going to rehab. I had to ask God for his mercy and grace. I’m so sorry.”

Combs did not mention Cassie Ventura in his apology, and her lawyers hit back, saying: “Combs’ recent statement is more about himself than the many people he has hurt.”

The apology was “too little too late,” said Camron Dowlatshahi, an entertainment lawyer in Los Angeles. “It shows the short-sightedness of Diddy, thinking he’s not going to be held accountable and that he has enough money to take care of everything.”

Barnett, who has written about misogyny in the rap industry, described the statement as “the most ill-advised apology ever”. She suggested it was from the “classic ‘famous man’ playbook: deny, deny, deny. Get caught. Apologise, then talk about going to therapy.”

“No-one’s taking it seriously, particularly because he previously accused Cassie and others of being gold-diggers. That really angered a

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lot of people in the music industry.”

In April, news helicopters on both the US east and west coasts filmed police raids on mansions linked to the rapper. They were part of an ongoing criminal investigation by law enforcement into sex trafficking.

The man who was idolised as a hip-hop legend has been lying low since then.

Family pictures with his daughters posted to Mr Combs’ Instagram account are in stark contrast to the images of him carrying out a violent assault.

The Los Angeles District Attorney’s Office said on Friday that it would not be able to bring charges due to the statute of limitations for assault. So where does the CCTV video, and the ongoing investigation, leave his career?

In his music, Diddy has often relied on collaborations with other A-list stars. His last album featured Mary J Blige, The Weeknd, 21 Savage, and John Legend. He is extremely unlikely to be able to recreate such productions now.

But whether there will be an effect on his vast number of listeners is less clear. Fitness company Peloton has banned his music from its workout playlists already, according to TMZ, but other companies are yet to comment.

R Kelly continues to get millions of monthly listeners on Spotify, despite convictions for child sexual

abuse.

Meanwhile, Kanye West experienced a peak in his monthly listeners last year, despite being dropped by brands for expressing antisemitic views.

Those who passed by Diddy’s star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame this week reflected on what the video meant to the rapper’s fans.

“It’s career-ending. I don’t know how he’s going to come back from this,” said Mar Anthony, a Los Angeles local. “I was a fan when I was a kid, listening to Every Breath You Take (I’ll Be Missing You). But

what he did and the music, they’re two different things.

“It’s the same thing with Michael Jackson,” he said, nodding towards another Walk of Fame star that lies not far away - in an apparent reference to allegations of child abuse made against that star.

Diddy “definitely deserves what is coming to him”, said Prince Laurenz Hamlin, who was visiting LA. “But he still has built a legacy in the music industry. I think people will have to separate the art from the artist.”

One woman, after snapping a photo of Combs’ star,

simply muttered “predator” as she walked away.

It is unclear who is currently advising Sean Combs. The law firm that previously issued denials on his behalf has said it no longer represents him.

Despite the civil lawsuits there have been no criminal charges filed against him. But the ongoing police investigation will no doubt be weighing heavily on the rapper.

“The Department of Homeland Security was involved [in the raids],” said Mr Dowlatsahi. “Just that fact alone shows the severity of what’s going on here.”

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## Guyana: Talks to end teachers strike end in stalemate

CMC - The discussions between the Guyana Teachers Union (GTU) and the Ministry of Education (MoE) concerning a 20 per cent interim salary increase, which was awaiting final negotiations and required a clear timeframe for mediation, concluded Monday evening without resolution.

A statement issued by the Ministry said it “maintained that there be strict adherence to the 1990 agreement and that the grievance procedure be followed as per the said agreement.

“In this regard, the MoE indicated to GTU that they must end the strike before conciliation can commence on the impasse,” the statement said.

“The Ministry of Education insists that the Guyana Teachers’ Union acts in good faith and honours this agreement. Conciliation cannot commence until the strike has ended and a state of normalcy returns.

“The Ministry of Education reiterates its readiness to work together to determine a multi-year agreement from 2024,” the statement added.

No date has been fixed for the two sides to meet in the presence of the Chief Labour Officer, Dhaneshwar Deonarine.

GTU president Dr. Mark Lyte said the union is maintaining its position re-



Guyanese teachers holding placards at a recent protest. Photo: Guyana Teachers Union.

garding the demand for the pre-negotiation’s payout, saying it is a “safety net for teachers who take a stand with the union” because of government’s history of negotiating in bad faith.

“Given our experience in the past, we cannot compromise on that...An interim payment is necessary to bringing the situation to normalcy,” he told reporters.

Lyte said that the interim payment would be a guarantee that the Irfaan Ali government would be serious about the negotiations, and any additional increases emerging out of negotiations whenever they are held would be an addition.

The GTU said that the

strike by the teachers would continue.

Three months ago, the GTU began the industrial action, but halted it after filing a Court case over the government’s planned decision to slash the salaries of striking teachers and to also discontinue deducting union dues from the teachers from the union.

Teachers went back to work as the Court case was being heard. An earlier effort at mediation at first appeared to be working, but then the government started to insist that it would only be dealing with negotiations for this year moving forward.

With the government signalling that it would be appealing Justice Sandil

Kissoon’s judgement to the Guyana Court of Appeal and with the likelihood that the case going to the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the country’s final court of appeal, the GTU said it was aware of the risk of ultimately losing the case but was prepared to return to the streets for a “liveable salary that is compatible with our years of training and experience”

The GTU is demanding salary negotiations from 2019 to 2023, while government is refusing to budge from offering a new multi-year agreement from 2024.

The GTU’s proposal provides for 25 per cent in 2019 and 20 per cent for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

## Sint Maarten to dissolve Parliament paving way for snap election

By **Melissa Wong**

A surprising turn of events in Sint Maarten as after only 18 days being in government, Prime Minister Dr Luc Mercelina announced the invocation of Article 59 to dissolve Parliament in order to organise a snap election after the government lost its majority support in Parliament.

The coalition government led by Prime Minister Mercelina was formed by the political parties United Resilient St Maarten Movement (URSM), Democratic Party (DP), Nation Opportunity Wealth (NOW) and Party for Progress (PFP) following the 2024 Parliamentary election in January. The MPs for these parties were officially sworn in on May 3.

In Sint Maarten there are 15 parliamentary seats, with eight required to form a majority. Former Prime Minister Silveria Jacobs lost the election earlier this year after she did not have a majority to form a government, and returned as an MP.

However on Monday, in a media conference Jacobs, who leads the National Alliance party announced a new coalition had been formed after MP Kevin Maingrette from the Nation Opportunity Wealth (NOW) party withdrew his support for the cur-

rent coalition government and joined forces with the political parties National Alliance (NA) and United People's party (UP).

Prime Minister Dr Luc Mercelina in a State of the Nation media conference today addressed the surprising development surrounding the member of parliament who retracted his support from the coalition government.

"This has been a surprise for all coalition partners forming this government.

"You cannot in 18 days in government have a total impression and feeling about the functioning of a government that comes in and encounters a ravished and bankrupt status of a country.

"For in 18 days to make the conclusion that you feel yourself uncomfortable with people that are working day and night the past 18 days to make this country a great country again.

"I am aware realising the reaction of the people of this country how they have reacted on what has transpired I am convinced that by an upcoming election, the people will have a firm standpoint about what they want for the future of their country."

Prime Minister Mercelina says he yesterday



Sint Maarten PM Dr Luc Mercelina.

invoked Article 59 of the Constitution of the Country of Sint Maarten and has sent Article 59 in a decree to the Governor of Sint Maarten for ratification for the government to be able to dissolve Parliament and organise a snap election as soon as possible for country Sint Maarten.

PM Mercelina says while it was difficult decision for him to make he

believes it is best for the people of Sint Maarten to decide what to do with those politicians.

The prime minister adds he has already contacted and had deliberations with the Governor and Central Voting Bureau to come to an agreement on the specific date to call a new election. This is expected to be called within three months.

# Naples region rocked by more than 150 earthquakes

By Laura Gozzi

Homes were evacuated and many schools closed after a flurry of earthquakes hit the area around Naples in southern Italy.

More than 160 earthquakes were recorded on Monday evening and overnight.

The strongest, of magnitude 4.4, happened around 20:00 local time (18:00 GMT) near the town of Pozzuoli. Italy's National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology (INGV) said it was the strongest quake in the region for 40 years.

Gaetano Manfredi, the mayor of Naples, acknowledged that residents may be scared - but said officials were "paying attention".

Hundreds of tents were erected in Pozzuoli and some residents stayed on the streets for much of the night, though others opted to stay elsewhere with relatives.

Local media reported that several families were considering leaving the area altogether due to the number of low-level quakes that have occurred in the last few months.

One outlet quoted a Naples resident as saying they had never felt such a strong quake.

"This time it was rough, it felt like it would never end," a man told *Il Mattino* newspaper.

While no significant



Pozzuoli residents, some with pets, waited out the tremors at camps set up by the Italian government's Civil Protection department.

damage to structures has been reported, some schools in Naples remained shut on Tuesday for inspections - and a women's prison in Pozzuoli was evacuated as a precaution.

Mr Manfredi warned "there could be more serious quakes" in the future and said officials needed to "manage this emergency situation with which we might have to live for months".

"I can't tell people not to be scared, because that's normal, but I can tell Neapolitans that we are paying attention and monitoring [the situation]," he continued in a statement.

"Never before has this territory been more closely watched, so let's try and live as normally as we can."

Pozzuoli sits near

the Campi Flegrei (Phlegraean Fields), a large volcanic caldera - a sort-of sinkhole - left after an eruption that is thought to have occurred tens of thousands of years ago.

The plain, which is home to more than 800,000 people, has in the last year seen an increase in seismic activity and bradyseism - a process that leads to a change in the height of the surface of the land, causing said quakes that Campi Flegrei residents have experienced.

The INGV has previously said that an eruption of the Campi Flegrei would require a large accumulation of magma below the land surface and, as a result, volcanologists would be able to spot the signs well in advance.

The Italian government recently updated its mass evacuation plan for the so-called "red area", which would be most exposed to the consequences of an eruption there. Under the plan, 500,000 residents would be evacuated inland with buses, boats and trains in the space of 72 hours.

However, one Pozzuoli resident told Italian media that people were uninformed about the evacuation plan, leading to some "panicked reactions" during Monday's quake.

"People lost their minds. They started running out into the street and - most dangerous of all - they got into their cars, trying to escape," a man called Giovanni told *Il Messaggero*. "Chaos ensued."



## US signals support for possible ICC sanctions over Israel warrants

By Sam Cabral

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has suggested he will work with lawmakers on potential sanctions against the International Criminal Court as its prosecutor seeks arrest warrants for senior Israeli officials.

Mr Blinken told a congressional hearing he was “committed” to taking action against the “profoundly wrong-headed decision”.

His comments come amid a Republican push to impose sanctions on ICC officials, which may see a vote as soon as this week.

The United States is not a member of the court but has backed previous prosecutions, including the ICC’s arrest warrant for Russian President Vladimir Putin over the war in Ukraine.

At a Tuesday hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, James Risch, its top Republican, asked whether Mr Blinken would support legislation to address the ICC “sticking its nose in the business of countries that have an independent, legitimate, democratic judicial system”.

“We want to work with you on a bipartisan basis to find an appropriate response. I’m committed to doing that,” the secretary of state said.

Mr Blinken said “there’s no question we have to look at the appropriate steps to take to deal with, again, what is a profoundly wrong-headed decision”.

The ICC’s chief prosecutor Karim Khan announced on Monday that he had applied for arrest warrants against Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant.

Mr Khan is also seeking arrest warrants for three Hamas officials - Yahya Sinwar, its leader in Gaza, Mo-



Protesters disrupted Antony Blinken’s testimony to the US Senate on Tuesday.

ammed Deif, the commander of its Qassam Brigades military wing, and Ismail Haniyeh, the head of its political bureau.

US President Joe Biden said on Monday it was “outrageous” to apply for arrest warrants. There was “no equivalence - none - between Israel and Hamas”, he added.

Mr Blinken’s remarks echoed the broader pushback in Washington over the court’s decision.

At least two measures imposing sanctions on the ICC had already been introduced in Congress as the court ramped up its inquiry into Israel’s handling of the war in Gaza.

Support on Capitol Hill appears to be coalescing around a bill launched earlier this month by Texas Republican Chip Roy.

The Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act would target ICC officials involved with the case by blocking their entry to the US, revoking any current US visas they hold, and prohibiting them from any property transactions within the country - unless the court ceases its cases against “protected persons of the United States and its allies”.

At least 37 lawmakers in the Republican-led House are now co-sponsoring the legislation, including Elise Stefanik, the chamber’s third highest-ranking Republican.

Ms Stefanik is fresh off a visit to Israel, where she met with Mr Netanyahu, spoke at the Knesset and met with the families of hostages trapped in Gaza.

The court “equivocates a peaceful nation protecting its right to exist with radical terror groups that commit genocide”, she told the BBC in a statement.

Andy Barr of Kentucky, another Republican supporting the bill, said further pursuit of the ICC’s case against Israel must “be met with the full force of our sanctions”.

Less clear, however, is whether Democratic lawmakers will get behind the effort.

The party’s moderate and liberal wings have grappled with Mr Biden’s Israel policy for months, as young progressive voters have pushed the president to more sharply criticise the Netanyahu government’s operations in Gaza.

Ohio’s Greg Landsman, one of a  
*cont’d on pg 18*

## Bridges wins ABWU Invitational road cycling race

Experienced cyclist Jyme Bridges held off a strong challenge from Dave Garrett to clinch the Elite Male Division and win the overall title at the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) Invitational Cycling Road Race.

Bridges edged out Garrett by two seconds to win the road race, which covered approximately 57 miles and was staged by the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) from the ABWU's headquarters in St. John's to the St. James' Club and Villa in Mamora Bay in St. Paul's Parish.

Bridges won the Elite Male class in two hours, 41 minutes, and 33.99 seconds, while Garrett came in second by clocking two hours, 41 minutes, and 35.19 seconds. Abbiel Flemming finished in



The top three finishers in the Elite Male Division on the podium in the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) Invitational Cycling Road Race on Sunday, May 19, 2024. From left to right: Dave Garrett, Jyme Bridges, and Abbiel Flemming. (ABCF)

third place in the same division.

Lone competitor Telesha Choy captured the female division with a time of two hours, 41 minutes, and 0.48 seconds.

Top Antiguan cyclist Ta-

jhe Browne did not compete in Sunday's race, and Aiden Tonge capitalized by clinching the Junior Male ahead of Jomari King in a photo finish.

Tonge crossed the finish line in two hours, 50

minutes, and 11.22 seconds, while King clocked two hours, 50 minutes, and 11.23 seconds.

Brent George won the Sports Class with a time of two hours, 46 minutes, and 38.56 seconds. Tacuma Davis came in second, and Miguel Williams finished in third place.

Jason Adams claimed the Masters Division in two hours, 55 minutes, and 23.84 seconds. Patrick Peters came in second, and Edward Henry finished in third place.

Lone competitor Elite Thomas won the Cadet 11-14 Class in two hours, 38 minutes, and 48.48 seconds.

Twenty-one cyclists participated in Sunday's road cycling race, which was also supported by the ABWU, APUA Inet, Paradiso Water, and Gatorade.

### cont'd from pg 17

few Democrats who voted last week to reverse Mr Biden's pause on a weapons shipment to Israel, told the BBC he hopes Congress will issue a bipartisan rebuke of the ICC "to send the strongest message possible".

"The decision [to seek arrest warrants] will only further inflame tensions and divisions, embolden anti-Israel conspiracies, and ultimately, it will undermine the credibility of the ICC," he said in a statement.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson urged Chuck Schumer, the Senate's top Democrat, to sign a letter on Tuesday inviting Mr Netanyahu to address a joint meeting of Congress.

In March, Mr Schumer called for new elections in Israel but he described the ICC's case on Monday as "reprehensible".

But some left-wing Democrats have expressed their support for the ICC's actions.

Minnesota Congresswoman Ilhan Omar said the court's allegations are "significant" and the US must support its work as it has done on past occasions, including in the case of Libya.

"The application for arrest warrants is merely the beginning of a judicial process," she wrote in a statement on Monday.

"The ICC has been a functioning court – it has seen convictions, acquit-

tals, and dismissals, as we would expect from an impartial and non-political judicial body."

It remains unclear whether any sanction efforts have yet gathered the support needed to advance through either the Republican-led House or the Democrat-controlled Senate.

White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre told reporters Tuesday that administration officials were discussing "next steps" with lawmakers.

Watching from across the world in Russia, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that its adversary's "attitude and willingness to use sanctions methods even against the ICC" was "more than curious".

## Simmons to assist Papua New Guinea at T20 World Cup

Former West Indies head coach Phil Simmons says he is looking forward to being back in his homeland of Trinidad and Tobago while assisting Papua New Guinea through their ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup campaign in which they will rub shoulders with the Caribbean side.

Simmons, 61, joins the Oceania side as a specialist coach, and he will provide Papua New Guinea's head coach Tatenda Taibu with some added experience and knowledge of playing in Caribbean conditions during the June 1-29 showpiece, which will also see games being played in the United States of America (USA).

"My role here is as a con-

sultant coach and how I put across my experience, not just playing in World Cups, but playing in the Caribbean and the things that we should be looking at to make sure we do it right in the Caribbean and especially the venues that we play at," Simmons shared.

Having built a strong reputation working with international sides such as Zimbabwe, Ireland, and Afghanistan, Simmons, who has played the sport for 14 years and coached for a further 18 years, was pressed for time to spend in the Caribbean and, as such, welcomed the opportunity to spend some time in the twin island republic.

"It's been a long time in the game. It's always brilliant to come home, always bril-



Phil Simmons

liant to come back to any part of the West Indies you know how beautiful it is here. I'm looking forward to getting home, which is Trinidad. Having people come here, me getting back here, it's always a great thing, it's always something to look forward to," he declared.

Simmons, who recently joined the Papua New Guinea

squad in their pre-World Cup training camp in St. Kitts, expressed pleasure with what he has seen so far.

"Their energy is unbelievable. Their warm-ups alone, got me tired. The guys look like they have settled in really well. In training, we started to get out in the middle of their game, so they started on some of the things they have to do here in the Caribbean, and it's nice to see the energy that's among this squad," Simmons said.

"I've known the head coach (Taibu) for a long time, and he's always been energetic. There is always a lot of energy, but the players seem to be pushing him where that is concerned, and so I like that atmosphere in the team, I like the liveliness in the team," he added.

Papua New Guinea will contest Group C alongside the West Indies, Afghanistan, New Zealand, and Uganada. They will open against the Caribbean side on June 2, at the National Cricket Stadium in Guyana.

### Success for young Antiguan boxer in St. Martin

Young Antiguan boxer Osahar "The Real Powerhouse" Browne punched his way to success in French St. Martin over the weekend.

The 15-year-old Browne won his bout in the junior heavyweight division as he represented Antigua and Barbuda against a fighter from French St. Martin.

Browne, who was

accompanied by coach Anthony Severin of Uprising Gym, won the bout after the referee stepped in to stop the fight in the second round.

**Right:**

Young Antiguan boxer Osahar Browne, left, holds his trophy alongside coach Anthony Severin after winning his junior heavyweight fight in French St. Martin on Saturday, May 18, 2024. (Photo courtesy of the Uprising Gym)



## King honoured to lead West Indies for the first time

Opener Brandon King will captain the West Indies for the first time when they take on South Africa in three T20Is from May 23-26 at Sabina Park in Kingston, Jamaica.

The 29-year-old has scored 1,150 runs in 47 T20Is at an average of 28.04 since his debut against Afghanistan in Lucknow, India, in 2019.

Captaincy is not new for King as he most recently captained the Jamaica Scorpions in the West Indies Championship after leading the Jamaica Tallawahs in last season's Caribbean Premier League.

"Definitely," was King's response when asked about whether or not it is an honour to lead the regional side for the first time.



Brandon King

"It couldn't be scripted better. It's an honour to lead the West Indies in any capacity and even more to do it at home so I'm very happy," he added.

In addition to leading the Windies for the first time, King also expressed joy at getting to do it in his home country Jamaica.

"Obviously, extremely happy. I'm always excited to play at home. It's good

that we get some cricket in especially leading up to the world cup. It brings some excitement to the fans so I'm happy about it," he said.

The squad recently had a training camp in Antigua and King is looking forward to the squad getting an opportunity to get some match practice ahead of the world cup set for June 1-29.

"Match practice is something that you can't

replicate in training. We're coming from a training camp and this is our opportunity to put those plans and skills in place so we're very much looking forward to it," he said.

Despite some regular squad members being missing from the squad due to the IPL playoffs, King says the players present are looking to implement some of the plans that many hope will lead to West Indian success at the world cup.

"A few of the guys aren't here as yet but I think the communication has been clear with the whole group. We know how we want to play and the guys that are here, we're looking to implement that in this series and see how it goes," he said.

## Bravo joins Afghanistan as bowling consultant for T20 World Cup

The Afghanistan Cricket Board has appointed former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo as their bowling consultant for the 2024 T20 World Cup, to be held in the Caribbean and the USA from June 1-29.

Afghanistan have already arrived in St. Kitts and Nevis and are expected to begin a 10-day preparatory camp, during which Bravo will join the team.

Bravo, part of the two-time T20 World Cup-winning West Indies side, retired from international cricket after the 2021 T20 World Cup but continues to play in T20 leagues around the world.

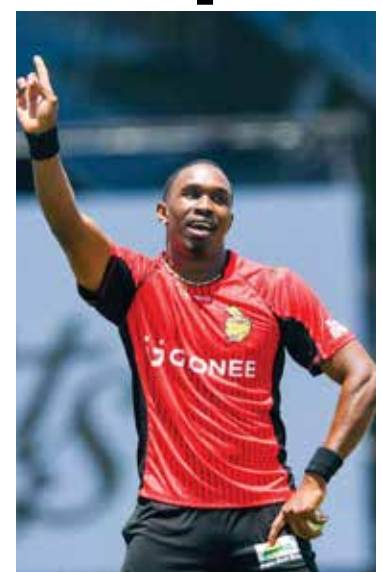
Earlier this year, he featured for even-

tual champions MI Emirates in the IL T20. He is currently the leading wicket-taker in T20 cricket with 625 wickets in 573 games.

Bravo is also the bowling coach of five-time IPL champions Chennai Super Kings, a position he took over after retiring from the IPL in December 2022.

Afghanistan play their first warm-up game against Oman on May 29 followed by the second one against Scotland on May 31.

At the World Cup, Afghanistan are placed in Group C alongside West Indies, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Uganda. They start their campaign against Uganda on June 5 in Providence in Guyana.



Dwayne Bravo

## Jennings United among winners in First Division football league

Jean Pierre Williams and Kemon Samuel both scored twice as Jennings United recorded a 7-2 victory against Lion Hill in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division League.

Williams scored in the 12th and 59th minutes, and Samuel had conversions in the 54th and 56th minutes. Terrol Ponde scored in the 17th minute, Daryl Massicot converted a penalty kick in the 26th minute, and Dravid Benjamin scored in the 65th minute for Jennings United.

Tequaine Teague scored in the 69th minute, and Gavin Henry had a 75th-minute conversion for Lion Hill.

Jennings United will remain in fifth place by advancing to 34 points after claiming their 10th win in 17 matches.

Lion Hill will remain in sixth place with 22 points after suffering their eighth defeat in 18 matches.

Bolans snatched a 2-1 win against the Young Lions of Old Road at the ABFA Technical Center. Joel Mar-



Players of the Jennings United football team

tin scored in the 16th minute, and Taiem Tonge had a 24th-minute conversion for Bolans. Akeem Mason scored the lone goal for the Young Lions.

Bolans will remain in seventh place in the 11-team round-robin competition by advancing to 20 points after securing their sixth win in 19 matches.

The Young Lions will remain in the cellar on 12 points after suffering their 15th defeat in 19 matches.

Police remain in fourth place on goal difference after snatching a 2-0 win

against Five Islands at the ABFA Technical Center.

Stephen Hughes scored in the 18th minute, and Clinton Daniels had a 70th-minute conversion for the Police to claim their 12th win in 18 matches.

It allows the Police to advance to 39 points, the same as the Attacking Saints, who remain in third place via a superior goal difference but have played 19 matches.

Five Islands remain in second place but have lost ground to the leaders, the Potters Tigers. Their fourth defeat in 18 matches has left

Five Islands on 40 points, three adrift of the Potters Tigers, who also have a game in hand.

Fort Road and Bendals played to a 1-1 draw at the Fort Road playing field. Ken Murray squandered a good chance for Bendals to take the lead when he failed to convert a penalty kick in the 6th minute.

But Brandon Michael scored in the 24th minute to give Fort Road a one-nil lead at halftime. However, Bendals salvaged a draw and a share of the points when Darren Stevens scored a 66th-minute equalizer.

The result meant that Bendals finished their First Division campaign with 16 points from their quota of 20 matches.

Their second draw in 19 matches allows Fort Road to advance to 14 points with one game remaining.

### cont'd from pg 22

The Antigua Masters game against St. Kitts at Ronald Webster Park was rained out. But the Antigua Masters beat St. Maarten by four wickets at Sandy Ground to record their only win in the five-team round-robin tournament.

St. Maarten made 110 for nine off their 20 overs. Rapheal Baptiste scored 23, Lar-

ry Baptiste made 19, Romain Doonauth got 17, and Dane "Bangadoo" Weston chipped in with 16. James Cornelius claimed two for 10, and Dean Williams took two for 28.

The Antigua Masters achieved victory at 111 for six in 14.3 overs. Rolston Phillip struck 42, Gershum Phillip cracked 24, and Gregg Skepple got 18. Larry Baptiste picked up two for 26.

## Antigua and Barbuda miss out as St. Kitts retain LI Masters title

Antigua and Barbuda gave a good account of themselves, but it was the players of St. Kitts that captured and retained this year's Leeward Islands Masters cricket title in Anguilla over the weekend.

Inspired by Elsroy Powell, who captured the player of the series and the man of the match awards, St. Kitts retained the title by pulling off a 20-run victory against Nevis in the final of the T20 competition at Ronald Webster Park in Anguilla.

St. Kitts made 168 for four off their allotted 20 overs after being sent in to bat. Elsroy Powell slammed 58 not out, Greg Stanley struck 50, and Robert Murray got 30. Patrick Newton claimed two for 25.

In reply, Nevis was restricted to 148 for eight off their 20 overs. Col-



St. Kitts Masters captain Shane Jeffers with the Leeward Islands championship and player of the series trophies.



The Antigua Masters cricket team

lin Walwyn hit 63, Stuart Williams cracked 34, and Joel Simmonds made 19. St. Kitts captain Shane Jeffers grabbed three wickets for eight runs, and Elsroy Powell captured two for 27.

It was the second time that St. Kitts beat Nevis in the tournament after claiming a 28-run victory when both sides met in the preliminary stage.

St. Kitts made 164 for five, and Nevis was restricted to 138 for four, with Stuart Williams getting 73.

Antigua Masters failed to advance to the final after losing to Nevis by six wickets at Sandy Ground. Antigua made 170 for four off their 20 overs. Ian Gore hammered 66 not out, Dean Everson hit 32, Rolston "Triss" Phillip struck 29, Neil Thomas got 18, and Gregg Skepple cracked 17 not out. Rakeesh Subnarine captured three for 25.

Nevis achieved victory by scoring 173 for four with seven balls to spare.

Marvin Hamilton slammed 61, Junior Mills struck 51, and Rakeesh Subnarine got 20. James Cornelius picked up two for 31.

Antigua Masters lost by 23 runs against Anguilla at Sandy Ground. Anguilla made 195 for nine off their 20 overs.

Andros Bowen cracked 66, Kali Rodgers got 28, Desmond Olivera struck 25, and Terry Adams scored 16. Dean Williams captured four for 45, and James Cornelius took three for 37.

Rolston "Triss" Phillip fell short of a century by one run as the Antigua Masters were dismissed for 172 in 18.4 overs. Phillip hammered 99, Gershum Phillip struck 26, and Ian Gore made 19.

Eversley Bright picked up three for 33; Rolando Wright claimed three for 38; and Chaka Hodge took two for 38.

*cont'd on pg 21*