



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
POINTVILLE EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

WEDNESDAY 8TH MAY 2024

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 88

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

FLASH FLOOD SNARLS TRAFFIC

Story on Page 2



Antigua and Barbuda's legendary cricket Knights visit four cities for an exciting 'cricket and culture tour' to promote the twin-islands and celebrate a momentous year for Antigua and Barbuda. (Photos courtesy, The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority) *Story on page 8.*

Local News



Flash flood snarls traffic in the south Tuesday afternoon

More than two inches of rainfall fell in the southern corridor of Antigua within a matter of hours that snarled traffic for motorists in the area stretching from Golden Grove to Jolly Harbour.

The Met Office reported that a trough, hovering over the Leeward and British Virgin Islands gave rise to the periodic moderate to heavy showers from around 1:00 pm to about 5:00pm.

According to the Met Office the rainfall was mainly concentrated in the south with St. John's and other areas north to Dunbars and Hodges

Bay only reporting approximately one inch of rain.

A flash flood warning was issued urging motorists and home-owners alike to be mindful and to give priority to protecting life and property during the heavy downpours.

An estimated two to three inches of rain fell which resulted in areas such as Golden Grove, Jennings/Ebenezer, Bolans and Jolly Harbour all reporting some form of flooding.

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) said it did not receive any reports of damage to property nor injury from the floods.

The flash flood warning was later lifted around 5:30 pm Tuesday.

The Met Office however indicated that while Wednesday (today) is expected to see additional showers, it does not anticipate any rainfall close to what some parts of Antigua experienced on Tuesday.

It noted that the system has shifted northward towards Barbuda and therefore it will be continuing to monitor developments on the sister island.

The eastern portion of Antigua experienced none or very minimal rainfall on Tuesday.

THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS
EV AND OFF-ROAD SUV

Ace Enterprises Ltd.

*Model shown with optional accessories.

KGM
Formerly SsangYong

CONTACT US:

AL MILS
764-2011

CLIFTON PHILLIP
724-1787

ICILMA CHASTANET
464-3303

No serious injuries reported in accident involving school children

There were no serious injuries reported following a traffic accident involving a truck and a school bus that was transporting approximately twenty-five students home on Tuesday afternoon.

General Manager of the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, Hubert Jarvis, said the school bus was traveling eastward on the “Willikies Route” when it was allegedly struck by the truck.

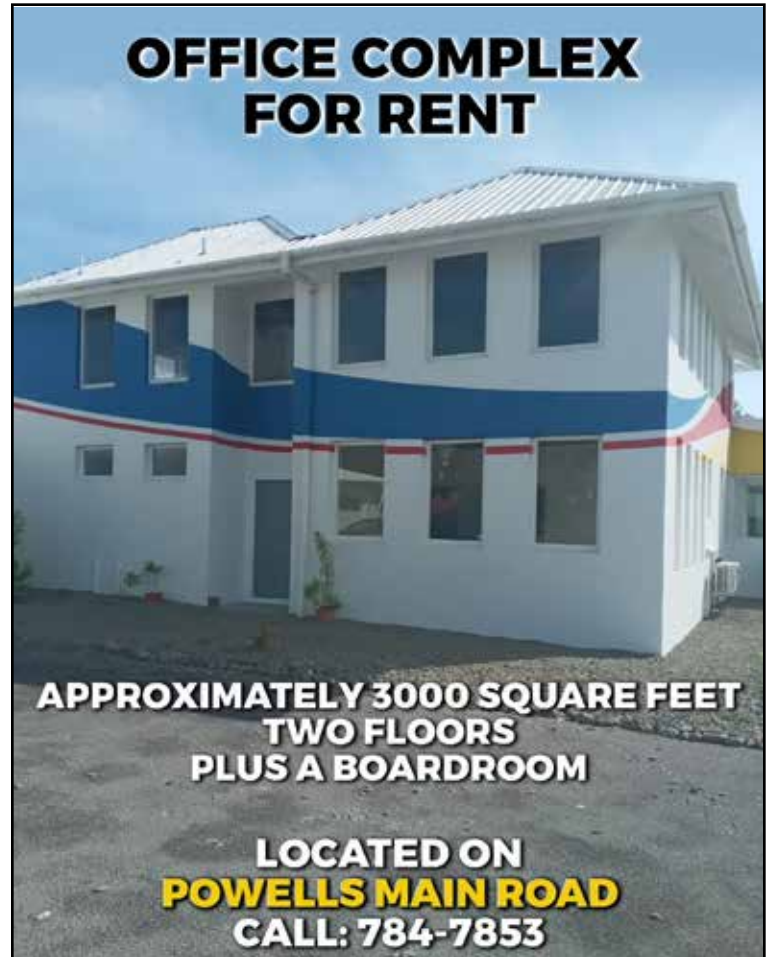
The children as well as the two adults aboard the school bus - the driver and the conductor – were all taken to the hospital where they were examined and treated. The driver reported soreness in one shoulder and he was X-rayed to

determine just how serious his injuries were. He was still at the hospital up to late afternoon Tuesday.

The children were also kept for observation but it was not immediately reported whether any child was kept overnight at the hospital.

The truck was traveling from east to west when the accident happened near the Charlie’s Gas Station on the Sir Sydney Walling Highway (Factory Road). The truck reportedly also struck other vehicles in the process.

There was no immediate word on the condition of the driver of the truck nor any of the other occupants of the vehicles involved in the multi-vehicle accident.



OFFICE COMPLEX FOR RENT

**APPROXIMATELY 3000 SQUARE FEET
TWO FLOORS
PLUS A BOARDROOM**

**LOCATED ON
POWELLS MAIN ROAD
CALL: 784-7853**



 **SUZUKI**
JIMNY 5-DOOR

**Boasting intelligent technologies, an exhilarating driving experience, a bold design and generous space for adventure-seekers
Give us a call at 481-2500 to start your adventure!!!!!!**

Sir Steadroy champions road safety across the country

Attorney General and Minister for Public Safety Sir Steadroy Cutie Benjamin is championing better road safety in Antigua and Barbuda. This is because there has been an increase in traffic accidents, resulting in deaths, destruction of property, and injuries that result in the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center (SLBMC) Emergency Operating Rooms to become full to capacity with injured drivers and passengers, especially on weekends and holidays.

Accordingly, Minister Benjamin wants motorists to exercise due care and precautions when using the roadways. The Minister recently met with relevant stakeholders (including the Police, Transport Board, Emergency Medical Services and the Acting Chief Magistrate), to discuss the increase in serious traffic accidents and to find ways to curb this trend.

Statistics have shown that Antigua and Barbuda recorded 2,448 traffic accidents in 2023 with ten fatalities. From January to April 2024, there



have been 859 traffic collisions, an increase of sixty-seven for the same period in 2023.

Minister Benjamin has decided to tackle the issue of road safety with a view to saving lives and property, avoiding serious injuries and reducing the impact on the healthcare system in Antigua and Barbuda. He wants all to play their part in ensuring the roadways of this twin island nation are safe

for motorists and pedestrians alike.

The Attorney General has announced the introduction of a points system to punish traffic offenders. The Police, Transport Board and the Magistrates Court will be equipped with better resources. The use of breathalyzers has already been made law, and the device will be utilized where alcohol or other intoxicating inputs are suspected.

A&B opens embassy in France

Antigua and Barbuda has launched its Embassy in France, marking a pivotal step in strengthening bilateral relations and cultivating strategic alliances between the two nations.

Spearheaded by Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Foreign Affairs Minister E.P. Chet Greene, this initiative emphasizes Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to global diplomacy.

His Excellency Boris Latour, with extensive diplomatic expertise from

his tenure at UNESCO in Paris, has been appointed as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to France.

His deep familiarity with French culture and society uniquely positions him to bridge the two countries, fostering stronger diplomatic ties.

Establishing this embassy is significant for Antigua and Barbuda, a small island nation aiming to broaden its global reach for mutual benefit.

The embassy will serve as a vital platform to advance the country's interests across Europe.

Key areas of focus include recognizing academic credentials, enhancing legal cooperation, and strengthening air travel links between France and Antigua and Barbuda, as well as with nearby French overseas territories like Guadeloupe.

France is among Antigua and Barbuda's top five trading partners, em-

phasizing the economic importance of this relationship. The embassy will help amplify trade relations and encourage further collaboration across various sectors.

In a recent meeting with the Deputy Director of State Protocol, Ambassador Latour and First Counsellor Timothée Bauer laid the groundwork for presenting credentials to French President Emmanuel Macron, a ceremony planned for the upcoming weeks.



Food Forum takes a deep dive into the food industry

Following closely on its successful launch on Sunday, the organisers of Restaurant Week 2024 held a special event on Tuesday dubbed 'Food Forum 2024: Nourishing the future'.

Held at the Sir John E St Luce Conference Centre, the event consisted of several panel discussions that brought together representatives from all aspects of the food industry to discuss topics regarding food preparation and food sustainability among other matters of interest.

Jointly sponsored by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) in association with Grace Foods, the Food Forum had as its objectives issues such as; promoting sustainable and ethical food sourcing practices, exploring the integration of traditional culinary methods with global influences, fostering networking and collaboration among

culinary hospitality professionals and to highlight innovative approaches to food preparation and presentation.

The target audience for the Food Forum was chefs and restaurants, food and beverage managers and hospitality stakeholders.

Some of the topics examined by the expert panellists include; The future of Farm and Sea to Table, Culinary traditions in a globalized world, Sustainability in the Culinary World, Innovations in Food and Beverages and the Business of Food: Trends and Future Outlook.

At the opening exercises for the Food Forum, Chief Executive Officer of the ABTA, Colin C. James said the event aimed at bringing chefs, food enthusiasts, tourism experts, hospitality leaders and sustainable advocates under one canopy.

"Our mission in including this forum in Restaurant



Week is to shake things up gastronomically; to ignite dialogue on sustainability, farm and sea to table practices, to highlight our culinary traditions particularly the fusions of our African, European and later Middle Eastern cultures.

"We want to discuss innovation and global fusion. The ABTA today will be the official Pot Spoon. Let's stir the pot of creativity, fostering collaboration and innovation in the culinary and hospitality industries," he

remarked.

Special Projects and Events Manager at the tourism Authority, Shermain Jeremy, described the Food Forum as a cornerstone event of Restaurant Week.

"It brings significant attention to our local cuisine, boosts tourism, and fosters a deeper appreciation of our culinary arts.

"Today's forum is designed with clear objectives that reflect our commitment to the future of gastronomy," she noted.

Presentation for Heritage Essay competition

The winner of the Heritage Essay competition organized jointly by the Antigua and Barbuda Reparation Support Commission (ABRSC) and the Journalism Club at the Antigua State College – Brianna Henry – was presented with her prize at a brief ceremony last Friday.

For her winning essay, Henry wrote on the topic ‘The CARICOM case for reparatory justice for the crimes of slavery and the genocide of indigenous people: What are the most assuring strategies for the achievement of reparations and why are youth voices important to the movement’.

As the overall winner, Henry received a collection of books on the topic of reparation as well as others related to Africa. She also received a cash prize of EC\$200.00.

Two students - Neilisha Maragh and Kadian Hewitt



Ambassador Anthony Mamba Liverpool (left) presents certificate to winner of ABRSC's essay competition, Brianna Henry (right)

– received special mention for their submissions as well as EC\$150.00 each along with a set of books.

The Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission is a government appointed body whose mandate includes, inter alia:

Organize activities to include education and awareness programmes concerning reparations for the enslavement of our ancestors and establish links with organizations with similar mandates.

ABRSC is a member

of the CARICOM REPARATIONS COMMISSION (CRC) mandated by the CARICOM Heads of Government [July 2013] ‘to establish the moral, ethical and legal case for the payment of reparations by the former colonial European countries, to the nations and people of the Caribbean Community, for native genocide, the transatlantic slave trade and a racialized system of chattel slavery’.

The Antigua State College Journalism Club aims to ‘educate the public (starting with our school) regarding events, news etc. for a more empowered society’. Its members are an enthusiastic group of individuals attending the Antigua State College brought together by the common passion of ‘Empowerment through expression’ and the belief in using their voices to spread awareness. Its president is Diego Bascomb.

Minors charged with housebreaking

Three minors are arrested and charged jointly by the police for committing multiple offences.

A 12-year-old boy of Clare Hall, a 15-year-old boy of Villa, and a 17-year-old boy of Yorks, were arrested and jointly charged by the police with two separate counts of Housebreaking and Larceny.

The three minors allegedly broke into a home on Fort Road on April 19 and stole a PlayStation 5,

one iPad 11pro, one HP laptop, and one D-Link camera. They were also charged with Malicious Damage to one D-Link solar camera.

Additionally, the 12 and 15-year-olds were jointly charged for breaking into another home on Fort Road on April 24 and stealing one black 40-inch Samsung Television, two pairs of slippers, a PlayStation 3 console, a mobile phone, a laptop computer, and a neck chain from a

woman.

Meanwhile, the police arrested and charged 23-year-old Quaniel Joseph of Golden Grove for the Larceny of one folding tent. He is accused of unlawfully entering the property of a Golden Grove woman and stealing her yellow and blue 10x12 tent from her garage. The tent is said to be valued at \$600. The offence occurred sometime between April 19 and 24.

Gemonites stage Special Night of Music for Mothers' Day

The West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) Gemonites Steel Orchestra will stage a special evening of pan music in a concert slated for Sunday May 12, Mothers' Day, to be held at the Ballroom of the Royalton Hotel at Deep Bay.

Spokesman for the WIOC Gemonites, Joseph "Jawatto" Henry says the event – Another Side of Pan usually forms part of the steel band's annual Moods of Pan festival. That aspect of the programme was canceled last year due to problems related to an appropriate venue with the Sir Dean William Lake Cultural Centre now undergoing repairs.

"Because of the lack of an adequate venue we were forced to cancel that aspect of the 2023 Moods of Pan event. However, we made a pledge to host the event within the first quarter of 2024," Henry explained.

He added that although the event was not originally planned for May 12, it now falls on Mothers' Day, noting that there is no better treat for the mothers in the society.

"This event starts at 6:30 pm with a mini cocktail and patrons will be entertained by the Gemonites Steel Orchestra. Following some socializing, the audience will then be invited to enter the ballroom where the main event will take place.

"You are then invited to be immersed with the sweet sound of pan music at its best featuring pan icon, Aubrey 'Laco' Samuel which promises to be a treat. The night gets even more enjoyable with the feature act the Shell Invaders of Trinidad and Tobago," he revealed.

Henry said the audience will be thrilled with this twenty-five-member ensemble which promises to be



WIOC GEMONITES PRESENTS

Another
SIDE OF PAN

SUNDAY 12 MAY **6:30 PM**

MUSIC NIGHT
ROYALTON RESORT BALLROOM

FEATURING MUSIC BY
 SHELL INVADERS || EPIC BAND || AUBREY LACU SAMUEL
 WIOC GEMONITES

TICKETS \$270
 COCKTAIL RECEPTION INCLUDED





breathtaking. There will also be two special awards for outstanding contribution towards pan development in the state of Antigua and Barbuda. "We look forward to the public's support," he stated.

It should be noted that the Gemonites' Moods of Pan was established in 1999 and has featured all the Who's Who in pan and steel-band throughout the world. The WIOC Ge-

monites is committed to ensuring that pan is kept alive.

The sponsors for this event include Carib Seas/Seaboard, the West Indies Oil Co. Ltd., Jolly Beach Resort, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and Brownie's Bakery. "These businesses were very instrumental in making this event possible and with this, Gemonites extend much thanks and appreciation," he added.

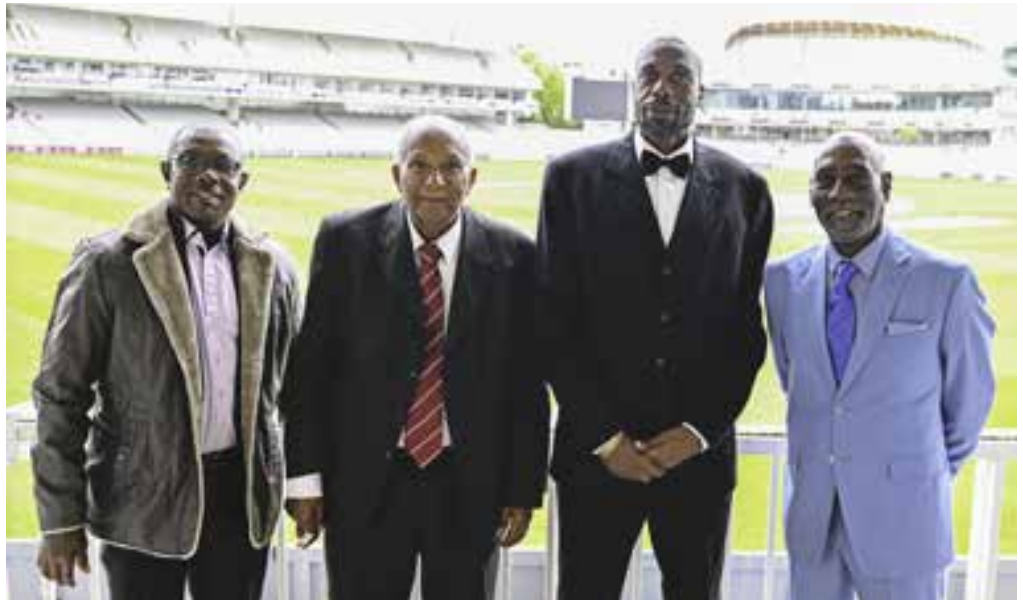
Special Feature



Cricket Legends end triumphant UK tour to celebrate world-class cricket and vibrant culture of Antigua and Barbuda

London, UK – The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority are proudly celebrating a phenomenal UK Tour that showcased the culture and spirit of Antigua and Barbuda and shone a light on a momentous year of international cricket taking place in Antigua’s famous Sir Vivian Richards Stadium this year. The tour coincided with the launch of the *Be Here* campaign which highlights Antigua and Barbuda’s charisma and appeal, highlighting the country as a must-visit destination for 2024 in the coined year of cricket.

Over the course of five action-packed days, Antigua and Barbuda’s iconic Knights, Sir Andy Roberts, Sir Vivian Richards, Sir Richie Richardson, and Sir Curtly Ambrose travelled 800 miles across England and Scotland to meet Cricket fans, dignitaries, destination partners and national media in a roadshow that showcased the vibrant culture and sporting history of Antigua and Barbuda. Guests at each venue were treated to electrifying performances from the band ‘*Spirited*’ featuring Sir Richie



Antigua and Barbuda’s legendary cricket Knights visit four cities for an exciting ‘cricket and culture tour’ to promote the twin-islands and celebrate a momentous year for Antigua and Barbuda. (Photos courtesy, The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority)

Richardson and Sir Curtly Ambrose, who really set the dance floor alight.

In each destination the Knights were interviewed by top tier journalists including the acclaimed BBC, ITV News, talkSPORT, Sky TV and The Times to name a few – taking part in a total of 14 interviews across four days, creating a national media buzz and news headlines across Britain’s

most respected channels.

Cherrie Osborne, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Director of Tourism UK & Europe said, “Hosting the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority ‘*Cricket and Culture Roadshow*’ alongside our esteemed Cricket Knights and the outstanding Spirited Band was a moment of immense pride. By creatively blending our sporting legacy and cultural richness, we’ve distinguished ourselves in a crucial market. Over five action-packed days across England and Scotland, engaging with destination partners, media, and cricket fans, we’ve inspired travellers to join our unique journey in Antigua and Barbuda, where every moment is unforgettable. Our innovative cricket and culture tour will boost awareness of our destination and encourage visitors to experience it firsthand.”

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority’s Cricket and Culture UK Roadshow in numbers:

cont’d on pg 9



cont'd from pg 8

4 legendary cricket Knights

800 miles-travelled

4 UK cities

6 events

750 guests

14 interviews with National Media

180 minutes of uplifting music from Spirited Band

Tuesday 23rd April – London, Lords Cricket Ground

The tour kicked off in London at the world-famous Lords Cricket ground, also known as the “Home of Cricket”. Two hundred guests attended an exclusive black-tie gala event, where VIPs included the Honourable Chet Greene, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Her Excellency High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill. The Knights regaled the audience with cricketing tales and shared their favourite places in Antigua and Barbuda during a lively Q&A session hosted by journalist George Dobell

Wednesday 24th April – Glasgow, Drygate Brewery

In Glasgow, the Knights teamed up with Cricket Scotland for an evening celebrating cricket and Scotland’s qualification for the Men’s T20 World Cup. Hosted by Irish commentator Andrew Leonard the event was attended by VIP’s including Her Excellency High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill, and Cricket Scotland players Chris Greaves, Brandon McMullen, Richie Berrington and



Mark Watt.

Thursday 25th April – Leeds, Headingley Cricket Ground

Sports journalist Jonathan Doidge welcomed the Knights to Yorkshire County Cricket Club, the former stomping ground of Sir Richie Richardson. The Knights filmed on-location interviews with broadcasters before joining 150 guests including England and Yorkshire County Cricket players Joe Root and Adam Lyth for an evening of food, music and celebration.

Friday 26th April – Leicester, St. Martin’s House

In Leicester, a two-part evening arranged in collaboration with Leicester Caribbean Cricket and Social Club started with an inspiring Q&A session followed by a musical extravaganza celebrating Antiguan culture and heritage for Antiguan and Barbudan people living in Leicester-

shire. VIP’s in attendance included Her Excellency High Commissioner Karen-Mae Hill, Dr Iris Lightfoot Chair of Leicester Caribbean Cricket and Social Club and guests from the local community were invited to dance and celebrate with authentic music and Antiguan and Barbudan cuisine from Backyard Food.

Saturday 27th April – Leicester, Leicestershire CCC+

Sir Andy Roberts returned as the guest of honour to his former club, Leicester County Cricket Club where he made history by becoming the first Antiguan and Barbudan to play in the UK, paving the way for future cricketing stars from the West Indies. Sir Andy’s international debut at the club was recognised, and honoured, at the match between Leicestershire CCC and Northants CCC, where the legendary fast-bowler was joined by his West Indies teammate

Sir Vivian Richards.

The momentous year of cricket ahead

All eyes will be on the West Indies this summer, with the ICC Men’s T20 World Cup in June. Antigua and Barbuda’s Sir Vivian Richards Stadium will play an integral part in the competition, hosting eight exciting international matches, ensuring Antigua and Barbuda will be front and centre of the global news coverage. The competition is the first in the ‘Year of Cricket’ for Antigua & Barbuda, with the exhilarating FairBreak Women’s T20 event in July and the Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL24) from August 28th – October 6th, introducing the Antigua & Barbuda Falcons. Additionally, England’s Men’s Cricket will tour the West Indies for a white ball series in November, with matches expected across Antigua and the Caribbean.

Technology



TikTok sues to block US law that could ban app

By Natalie Sherman

TikTok has filed a lawsuit aiming to block a US law that would ban the video app in the country unless it is sold by its Chinese parent company.

In the filing, the social media company called the act an “extraordinary intrusion on free speech rights” of the company and its 170 million American users.

It said the US had put forward only “speculative concerns” to justify the measure and asked the court to stop it.

President Joe Biden signed the bill into law last month, citing national security justifications.

It followed years of debate in Washington, which has claimed that TikTok’s Chinese ownership raises the risk that data on US users could fall into the hands of the Chinese government or be used for propaganda.

TikTok has maintained it is independent of the government, while parent company ByteDance has said it has no plans to sell the business.

The Chinese government has criticised the law as US “bullying” of a foreign firm and signalled it would oppose a sale.

In a briefing with reporters on Tuesday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the law was “not a ban. It is a divestment”.

She referred further ques-



tions to the Department of Justice which declined to comment.

Under the US law, app stores would be barred from offering TikTok in the US starting in January 2025, unless parent company ByteDance found a buyer. President Biden could extend that deadline by 90 days if talks are making progress.

In the filing with the DC Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday, TikTok said the sale requirement was “simply not possible: not commercially, not technologically, not legally. And certainly not on the 270-day timeline required by the Act”.

It said the measure had unfairly singled out TikTok, creating a “two-tiered speech regime with one set of rules for one named platform, and another set of rules for everyone else”.

It noted that similar attempted bans, including by former president Donald Trump, had met with trouble in US courts.

The company added that

the decision by many politicians, including Mr Biden, to maintain accounts on the app undermined the claims of a security threat.

The US has in the past restricted foreign ownership of broadcast television and radio stations, which require government licences to access public airwaves.

TikTok said its business was distinct, and the government could not dictate ownership of “privately created speech forums”.

It said it had spent more than \$2bn in an effort to address US concerns, creating safeguards on US data.

Jacob Helberg, who leads a committee charged by Congress with monitoring the national security implications of US-China trade, said TikTok’s investments were viewed in Washington as a “deceptive marketing effort”.

He said the lawsuit was “unserious” and failed “to address the national security question at hand”.

But Ashley Gorski, a senior staff attorney at the

American Civil Liberties Union, said TikTok’s lawsuit made a persuasive case that the measure was an effective ban, despite White House claims to the contrary, raising free speech concerns.

“The government can’t impose this type of total ban unless it’s the only way to prevent extremely serious and imminent harm to national security,” she said.

“There is no public evidence of harm that would meet the extraordinarily high bar imposed by the first amendment.”

She said comments by lawmakers, such as US Senator Mitt Romney, who recently tied the widespread support for the measure in Congress to the desire to shape US perceptions of the Israel-Gaza conflict, would make it harder for the US to defend the law.

But Congressman John Moolenaar, the current leader of the committee that helped to craft the law, said he was confident it would be upheld.

“Congress and the Executive Branch have concluded, based on both publicly available and classified information, that TikTok poses a grave risk to national security and the American people,” he said.

“It is telling that TikTok would rather spend its time, money, and effort fighting in

cont’d on pg 12

VACANCY - HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLNESS INSPECTOR

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the position of Health, Safety & Wellness Inspector:

The Health, Safety & Wellness Inspector is a cross-business unit role responsible for maintaining and improving safety in the workplace by identifying and assessing conditions and procedures of work, which could produce accidents and losses. The Inspector will also contribute to developing accident-prevention and loss-control systems & programs and maintaining effective information systems, which identifies hazards and risks along with the steps required to eliminate or control them. The Inspector will further support developing specifications for hazard specific safety devices and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), sourcing and selecting vendors of the required devices and maintaining an appropriate stock of these items.

Key tasks include, but are not limited to the following:

- Notifying Management of accidents or incidents involving employees immediately, on receipt of a report.
- Notifying Management of accidents or incidents involving damage to property within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of report.
- Completing preliminary accident/incident investigations within forty-eight (48) hours of the occurrence of an incident/accident involving an employee or property.
- Training employees in the proper use and maintenance of assigned Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Preparing and maintaining records, inclusive of complaints received, observed safety violations and actions taken.
- Instructing the temporary cessation of tasks whenever there are clear indications of imminent danger.
- Preparing monthly reports in a timely manner.

The ideal candidate should possess the following:

- Minimum of an Associate's Degree or equivalent in Occupational Health & Safety, Industrial Hygiene, Biology, Chemistry or a related field.
- Diploma/Certification in Occupational Health and Safety or related field.
- A suitable combination of experience and qualification.
- Attention to detail with excellent communication skills.
- Proficiency with MS Office suite of applications.
- Possess a vehicle and valid driver's license.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Human Resources Manager
Antigua Public Utilities Authority
P.O. Box 416
Cnr. High Street & Independence Avenue
St. Johns, Antigua
OR Email: hr@apua.ag

Deadline for application is Wednesday 15th May, 2024

** Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged **
"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



Boeing in new inquiry over 787 inspection doubts

By Natalie Sherman

The US has opened a new inquiry into troubled jet firm Boeing, after the company told air safety regulators that it might not have properly inspected its 787 Dreamliner planes.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said it would look into whether staff had falsified records.

It said Boeing was re-inspecting all 787 jets on the manufacturing line.

Boeing will be forced to develop an “action plan” to address concerns about planes already in service, it added.

Boeing did not comment.

Internally, the company told staff last week that the “misconduct” had not created an “immediate safety of flight issue”, according to a message seen by BBC News.

“We quickly reviewed the matter and learned that several people had been violating company policies by not performing a required test, but recording the work as having been completed,” Scott Stocker, head of the Boeing 787 program, said in the email to staff.

The FAA said that Boeing



had come forward “voluntarily” last month to warn that it “may not have completed” inspections required to confirm adequate electrical safeguards where the wings join the main body of certain of its 787 Dreamliners, a large jet often used on international flights.

“The FAA is investigating whether Boeing completed the inspections and whether company employees may have falsified aircraft records,” it said.

“As the investigation continues, the FAA will take any necessary action - as always - to ensure the safety of the flying public.”

It is the latest problem to erupt at Boeing in recent years. In January, an unused

emergency exit door blew off a new 737 Max 9 plane shortly after take-off, thrusting its manufacturing and safety processes into the spotlight.

The incident prompted the temporary grounding of dozens of planes and has forced the firm to drastically slow production, while sparking increased regulatory oversight, criminal investigation and other legal and financial troubles. In March, chief executive Dave Calhoun said he would be stepping down by the end of the year, becoming the most high-profile person to exit the company in the wake of the incident.

Boeing’s reputation had been damaged a few years ago, when two of its 737 Max planes crashed within five

months of each other, claiming the lives of 346 passengers and crew. A 737 Max flown by Ethiopian Airlines aircraft crashed shortly after take-off in March, 2019, following a Lion Air crash in October 2018. That led to the then chief executive Dennis Muilenburg being fired.

Last month, Congress hosted a hearing featuring whistleblowers, including Sam Salehpour who testified that his concerns about the 787 had been dismissed.

Boeing has said it is working to reform its corporate culture to encourage people who see problems to speak out, with a “more than 500% increase” in reports from employees since January.

cont’d from pg 10

court than solving the problem by breaking up with the Chinese Communist Party.”

The law aimed at TikTok is part of a number of actions the US has taken against Chinese technology firms in re-

cent years, as tensions rise between the world’s two biggest economies.

Separately on Tuesday, the Department of Commerce confirmed it had revoked permissions that had allowed US companies to export certain goods to Chinese technology giant Huawei.

The US sharply limited exports of items such as computer chips to Huawei starting in 2019, citing ties to the Chinese military.

The measures hit the company hard but more recently it appeared to mount a comeback.

Guyana: Teachers to resume industrial action on Thursday

CMC - The Guyana Teachers' Union (GTU) on Tuesday announced that teachers would resume their strike action on Thursday as they continue to press the Irfaan Ali government to sit around the table to negotiate salary increases from 2019 to 2023.

But the government has already rejected the union's position and that it will only negotiate salaries for teachers from this year moving forward and not the 2019-to 2023 period.

"Because of the absence of collective bargaining, on the part of the of the government, the Ministry of Education (MOE) to address the conditions under which teachers work, especially as it relates to salaries, we are here to announced that from Thursday, May 9, the strike option will resume in all education districts across Guyana," GTU President Dr Mark Lyte told a news conference.

"We believe that enough patience was exhibited by the union to allow MOE/Government to arrive at a satisfactory position regarding salary increases for teachers. The repeated salary impositions in December 2021, 2022, and 2023 are a clear indication that the government is unwilling to engage the GTU meaningfully. The strike will officially resume on Thursday, May 9, 2024 and continue until further notice."

Three months ago, the GTU started strike action, but halted the action 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."

"We have considered that. Everything is a risk when we took the matter to court it was a risk, when we stood out there for 29 days it was a risk and I believe that the situation at hand warrants the risk," GTU president said.

In Guyana, Grade A school head teachers take home GUY\$280,000 (One Guyana and the lowest take-home is about GUY\$90,000 com-

pared to a number of Caribbean countries where teachers with a Bachelor's Degree earn more than US\$2,000.00

The GTU President said that the strike from Thursday would be a "resumption", based on the High Court's decision that the strike was "lawful and legitimate" because government had refused numerous efforts to go to the bargaining table over a protracted period of time.

Against that background, the GTU insisted that the strike from Thursday would be legal.

"The court ruled that our strike was legally done and this is a resumption or continuation of the strike, so based on the court's ruling, we are following all the steps needed for the process of collective bargaining to take place and so we believe that the strike is legal there are those who are going to come out and say it's illegal, it's racial, it's political but the teachers understand that it's our bread and butter."

Lyte said the Minister of Education Priya Manickchand, Minister of Labour Joseph Hamilton, Chief

cont'd on pg 14

Regional News



St Vincent PM says evidence against CDB former president is 'flimsy'

CMC - St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves says "unsuccessful attempts" had been made to impugn the character of the former president of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) Dr Hyginus "Gene" Leon, whom he described as "a distinguished son of our Caribbean civilisation from St Lucia".

Last month, lawyers representing Leon gave the CDB until May 4 "to negotiate an amicable separation" indicating also that their correspondence should be viewed "as our client's pre action protocol letter" regarding the entire situation.

In the three-page letter dated April 21 and headlined "Re: Dr Hyginus 'Gene' Leon, Resignation and Constructive Dismissal, the St Lucia-based law firm, Fosters, said it would be moving to the courts in Barbados "or any other jurisdiction more appropriate, to enforce our client's legal and constitutional rights".

Gonsalves asked then what are the next steps in "addressing this debacle" saying "it certainly does not suit the bank to have its folly forensically examined

in excruciating detail in the robust legal system in Barbados or elsewhere."

"I do not have to read and spell for the Governors of the Bank; The former president, Mr Leon, has been injured, and as he has suffered loss and damage, certain things flow inexorably from all this. The Bank ought to address this with the same urgency with which it acted at the start of this awful saga; and the Bank ought to act with a large generosity of spirit," Gonsalves said.

He said for him "Gene Leon's integrity remains intact, though unsuccessful attempts were made to have it impugned. He comes out of this sordid matter without blemish or wrong doing attached to him. This distinguished son of our Caribbean civilisation ought not to be lynched, metaphorically, any further".

In January it was disclosed that Leon, had been sent on administrative leave until April this year, as "an ongoing administrative process" continued at the region's premier financial institution.

The CDB has remained mum on the circumstances surrounding the decision to



Dr Hyginus "Gene" Leon.

send the economist on administrative leave, with the acting president Isaac Solomon, confirming at a bank news conference in February that "there is an internal administrative process involving the president".

In a five-page letter sent to the chairman of the CDB Board of Governors, Harjit Sajjan, who is also Canada's Minister of International Development, Gonsalves wrote that he had refrained from making any commentary, "save in private" on the contretemps between the bank's governorship and leadership and Leon.

He said as a result of

"an unswerving commitment to the maintenance of the CDB's integrity, and an abiding concern for our region's further ennoblement" he is now compelled to speak "in print".

In the May 2, 2024 letter, a copy of which has been obtained by the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC), Gonsalves said he was in Africa when the matter came to public attention, but that "wisdom and experience instinctively commended in me a patience an calm, knowing that sun brightens stone even as the greener leaves explode, and all the rivers burn.

"Accordingly I offered no opinion of judgement on whether the Bank's institutional mechanisms were mobilised correctly in a juridical sense upon the receipt

cont'd from pg 13

Education Officer Saddam Hussain and the Chief Labour Officer were informed Tuesday about the impending resumption of the strike on Thursday.

But there has been no response as yet

from the authorities.

The GTU said that notification of strike action has also been copied to the International Labour Organisation, Caribbean Union of Teachers and Education International.

cont'd on pg 15

cont'd from pg 14

by them of a complaint or complaints from one or more unidentified “whistleblower(s): said Gonsalves, an attorney and one of the region’s longest serving head of government.

He said he “harboured no suspicion that the swift reference under the rules” of the Bank to a selected investigating firm was affected by other than an unsullied motivation for the good of the Bank and its President.

“I entertained no thought that the reception of the whistleblower(s) and the inexorable reference to an investigating process was infused with malice, ill-will or other jaundiced vice. Certainly, I saw no dark arts of a metaphoric Brutus in any conspiracy to slay Caesar,” Gonsalves wrote.

But he said he was “uneasy about the speed and peremptory manner upon which the entire expedition was launched, inclusive of the seizure or detention of the president’s electronic devices and his dispatch on administrative leave with a dazzling promptitude by a body of three persons, all accomplished “under the rules”.

Gonsalves also made reference to the attempts by the leaders of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which he described as “the most-tightly drawn integration mechanism in the Caribbean,” sought to “prod the Bank’s governorship in the direction of sense and sensibility on the matter-at-hand”.

Gonsalves acknowledged that the OECS has “no formal locus standi” within the Bank.

“Rather than responding directly with a deserving respect and prudence to the Chairman of the OECS, the distinguished Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. The Honourable Terrence Drew, the Canadian Chairman, Pro tempore, of the Bank’s Governors...parceled out this responsibility to an American law firm acting on behalf of the Bank”.

In his letter, which is also copied to the members of the Board of Governors, Gonsalves wrote that the “law firm’s haughty, nay rude, response, lacking in elemental civility or good manners, brought the metaphoric shutters down on civilised discourse in respect of Prime Minister Drew’s legitimate concerns.

“The doubtful conduct of the Canadian Chairman, Pro Tempore, and the disdainful riposte of the American law firm, manufactured a foul stench which is yet to be dissipated,” Gonsalves, said, noting that an editorial in a “prestigious daily newspaper” in Jamaica “has already, rightly, etched in its public record, its disapprobation of the stances of the Canadian Chairman, pro tempore, and the American law firm”.

Gonsalves said that the swiftness of the CDB to send Leon on administrative leave, the dismissive nonchalance of Prime Minister Drew’s queries and the US law firm’s “contemptuous relay of the Chairman’s instructions, all conspired to create the public perception that the Bank’s President had committed egregious wrongs”.

He said it also gave the perception that the “informed “inner circle” was seized of more than a hint of the existence of some salacious “smoking gun” or other grievous ammunition, weighty enough to torpedo the President once and for all.

“There was in some quarters a thinly disguised, even though subdued, glee of the President’s demise amidst a sanctimonious murmur of prophesy” Let justice roll down as waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream”.

Gonsalves noted that the day before the investigator’s report was to be submitted and considered by the board of governors, Leon submitted his resignation with which his lawyers “publicly reaffirmed as constructive dismissal”.

He said that the investigator’s report is “available to those entitled to it as a right”.

“I have read it carefully. It contends are threadbare and underwhelming. The report seeks to weave tattered threads into a twisted fabric upon which to ground a narration to justify the Bank’s actions; but it has failed, and all persons of reasonableness, judicious temper and balanced judgement, would so conclude.”

Gonsalves wrote that on the central salacious allegation ‘which excited the prurient at home and abroad, there was absolutely no evidence; the story makes amusing reading, if the matter of the Bank’s President’s peremptory removal from office was not so serious.

“This allegation, and the imputations connected thereto, probably had its origin in a mind suffused by a starched Anglicanism, or an obsessive Evangelical purity laced with hypocrisy and misogyny,” he added.

Gonsalves said that the “flimsy” nature of the evidence presented in the investigator’s report and the “concocted narrative of malfeasance or wrong-doing, lack persuasiveness; there is nothing compelling here.

“Indeed, the evidence, taken at its highest, leaves a reasonable and fair-minded reader, whether in the councils of the Bank or in the taverns across any Caribbean country, with the inescapable conclusion that the President was, from the outset, the victim of a stitch-up job,” Gonsalves wrote.

In his letter, Gonsalves said that the people of the Caribbean “may rightly demand to know why an American firm, and not one of the inestimable value from the Caribbean, was chosen to conduct the investigation of Gene Leon.

“And what is the paternity and history of this firm? I am sure that the people of our region may wish to know, too, how much has the Bank paid for the investigation of and report on Gene Leon,” Gonsalves said, urging all stakeholders “let us bring it all to an end.”

International

AROUND THE WORLD



Donald Trump and Stormy Daniels face off on tense day in court

For years, Stormy Daniels and Donald Trump have been locked in a public battle over an alleged sexual encounter, a hush-money deal paid by the former president's fixer, and their respective efforts to own the very public narrative.

Those tensions - and the salacious details that surround them - spilled out in court on Tuesday when Ms Daniels took the stand in Mr Trump's criminal trial to face him in court for the first time.

The former adult-film star, wearing loose-fitting black clothes and her hair pinned back, did not look at the former president for most of the day, except when she noted his dark blue suit after she was asked to point him out.

She spent much of her time on the stand recounting the sexual encounter that she claims to have had with the defendant - an act that sparked the allegations at the heart of the case - and pushing back at his legal team's scathing questions.

Mr Trump, meanwhile, spent parts of her evidence cursing and shaking his head. That prompted a warning from the judge, according to court transcripts published at the end of the day.

The former president faces 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. The charges stem from an alleged attempt to conceal a \$130,000 payment to Ms Daniels aimed



Donald Trump in the Manhattan criminal court on Tuesday.

to keep her quiet about the purported tryst.

He has pleaded not guilty and denies any sexual encounter with her, though he has acknowledged that his ex-lawyer, Michael Cohen, paid her a sum to keep quiet about her claims.

As the woman who received the money, Ms Daniels was expected to appear in court at some point. But her testimony on Tuesday brought the most dramatic day of the trial yet.

She provided such lurid details about her encounter with Mr Trump that the former president's lawyers called for a mistrial. Justice Juan Merchan acknowledged "there were some things that would have been better left unsaid" and warned prosecutors not to ask for specifics of such a personal nature.

The details, which she has previously shared, included her claim that they did not use a condom, that she spanked Mr Trump with a magazine, and the answers she allegedly elicited from the former pres-

ident about his wife.

The trial has already dredged up an underworld of tabloid publishers and Hollywood lawyers, one of whom was employed by Ms Daniels to broker the hush payment. Her testimony on Tuesday appeared to be a step too far for the judge as well as Mr Trump's defence team, however.

Early in the day, Mr Trump's lawyers sought to have Justice Merchan limit what prosecutors could ask Ms Daniels about their alleged sexual encounter in 2006, and the pair's two subsequent meetings.

The prosecution argued they needed to ask Ms Daniels about it to establish intent for the pay-out. Despite tighter parameters, Ms Daniels' scandalous details still spilled out in unusually long answers.

This is not the first time Ms Daniels has shared the details of her alleged sexual encounter with Mr Trump. Since the deal came to light, she has told her story on na-

tional television, in a self-titled documentary, to America's most famous broadcast journalist and in her book, *Full Disclosure*.

But this was the first time she shared it while the man she claims to have had sex with sat just a few feet away.

In the morning session, the witness appeared nervous, speaking at such a brisk pace that both the prosecutor, Susan Hoffinger, and Justice Merchan asked her to slow down. At times, it also appeared that her evidence got away from prosecutor Ms Hoffinger, who received a stern warning from the judge to better control her witness.

The adult-film star kept her eyes on the jury while taking the court back to 2006, when she first encountered Mr Trump decked out in golf attire at a celebrity tournament. He asked her to join him for a meal, she recalled.

Ms Daniels told the court that she initially did not want to have dinner with Mr Trump, but her publicist encouraged her, saying "What could possibly go wrong?" The line drew laughs from some in the courtroom. She then described arriving at Mr Trump's suite later for dinner, where she said he met her at the door wearing silk pyjamas.

Ms Daniels told the court that she later went to the bathroom and, after coming back out, found Mr Trump lying in bed wearing only boxer

cont'd on pg 17

South Africa building collapse: Trapped man texting family as search for missing goes on

Among those still trapped under rubble after a five-storey building collapsed in South Africa is Delvin Safels, who was on one of the lower floors when the structure collapsed, his father Dion told the BBC.

Rescuers have traced Delvin's location but are struggling to reach him.

The 29-year-old has been sending voice notes to his parents and girlfriend, telling them how much he loves them.

He is in pain, with an arm and a leg pinned down, and it is cold and dark.

"I believe my son will come out alive," his father Dion said.

He has been camping nearby since Monday, hoping that his son would emerge. He vacillates between despair and hope.

"He is a strong boy, I think he will be rescued to-



night or soon."

More than a day after the apartment building collapsed, rescuers are still searching for 41 people still unaccounted for in the southern coastal city of George.

At least 34 people have so far been removed from the rubble, seven of whom have been confirmed dead.

Survivors and loved ones of other people still trapped also remain at the scene.

One man who spoke to the BBC on condition of anonymity recounted his escape.

He was on the top floor when the building collapsed but only suffered a small cut to his hand. His friend is missing.

"I saw one guy was working and then 'boom' and I saw the whole building collapsed... I'm also traumatised. It is very sad," local councillor Theresa Jeyi said.

The cause of the collapse, which happened while the building was under construction, is being investigated.

The rescue effort includes 200 people with sniffer dogs,

heavy lifting equipment and a search removing concrete blocks and debris by hand.

It is a long and slow process and the entire rescue operation is expected to take between four and five days.

"They will then begin a process of lifting the different floors off each other," said Colin Deiner, chief director for disaster management.

"There is a possibility people could still be alive," he added.

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa said his thoughts were with the families of people who died in the incident and called for the investigation to "bring closure to the community and prevent a repeat of this disaster".

The city's mayor, Ald Van Wyk, sent his condolences to the families "and all those affected who continue to wait for word of their loved ones".

cont'd from pg 16
shorts and a t-shirt.

They had sex, she said, and maintained that there was consent. Still, she told the court, the encounter had left her disoriented.

Mr Trump's lawyers objected multiple times to prosecutors' line of questioning before they cross-examined Ms Daniels.

Prosecutors had ensured that guardrails the court had imposed on Ms Daniels' testimony had flown off, attorney Todd Blanche said. Her details about Mr Trump were "unduly prejudicial" to the point that they did not believe they could be fixed during cross examination.

"This is the kind of testimony that

makes it impossible to come back from," Mr Blanche said.

While Justice Merchan did not grant a mistrial, he largely agreed that the "witness was a little difficult to control", and said Ms Hoffinger would talk to Ms Daniels about keeping her answers concise.

"The degree of detail that we're going into is just unnecessary," he said.

Mr Trump's lawyer Susan Necheles led a tough cross-examination aimed at undermining Ms Daniels' motives and recollections. The two women were nearly yelling at each other at times.

The exchanges grew deeply tense, as Ms Necheles brought up Ms Daniels' statements about Mr Trump, questioned

her parenting, and implied she had fabricated some of her recollections.

"You're making this up as you sit there, right?" Ms Necheles said.

After court, Mr Trump told reporters that he thought the proceedings were "going well".

Listening to every word were the jury members who will ultimately weigh the merits of Ms Daniels' evidence.

It was hard to tell what those 12 New Yorkers made of the day. They remained stoic, showing no emotion as the heated back-and-forth played out before them.

As court adjourned, Justice Merchan issued his usual instruction to the jurors once more: Please remember to keep an open mind.

Success for Antiguan drag racers at regional meets

Drag racers from the Antigua and Barbuda Drag Racing Association (ABDRA), along with their ambassador, Jason “Watty” Marsh, achieved some success during engagements at a number of regional meets this year.

Several drag racers, including the United States-based Ambassador Marsh and his Marsh Built team, were successful in competitive racing at recent meets in Jamaica, and St. Vincent and

the Grenadines.

The Marsh Built team and seven supporters achieved success in Jamaica with El Heffe (4-wheel-drive Honda) and a blue front-wheel-drive Honda.

Right off the trailer, Ambassador Marsh set a new record for a front-wheel drive in Jamaica, driving the blue Honda car to clock an impressive 8.9 seconds.

Ambassador Marsh also drove El Heffe to set a new record in the quarter mile.

He drove El Heffe to an impressive 7.9 seconds on the first pass. It was bettered in the second pass by clocking 7.8 seconds, and it set the new record of 7.71 seconds in the final pass with a cracked head.

Three drag racers went to St. Vincent and were also quite successful. Mario Mack’s Mitsubishi finished second in the 11th-second class. Pressure Terrel, driven by his son Jaheim Simon, finished second in the

14th-second class.

Former Leeward Islands and national cricketer, Anthony “Butters” Lake broke out of the 13th-second class on the first pass.

Earlier this year, a team traveled to St. Lucia in February for their Independence Drag Meet. A total of six cars represented Antigua and Barbuda, along with a soon-to-be nationalized drag racer, 45NYC.

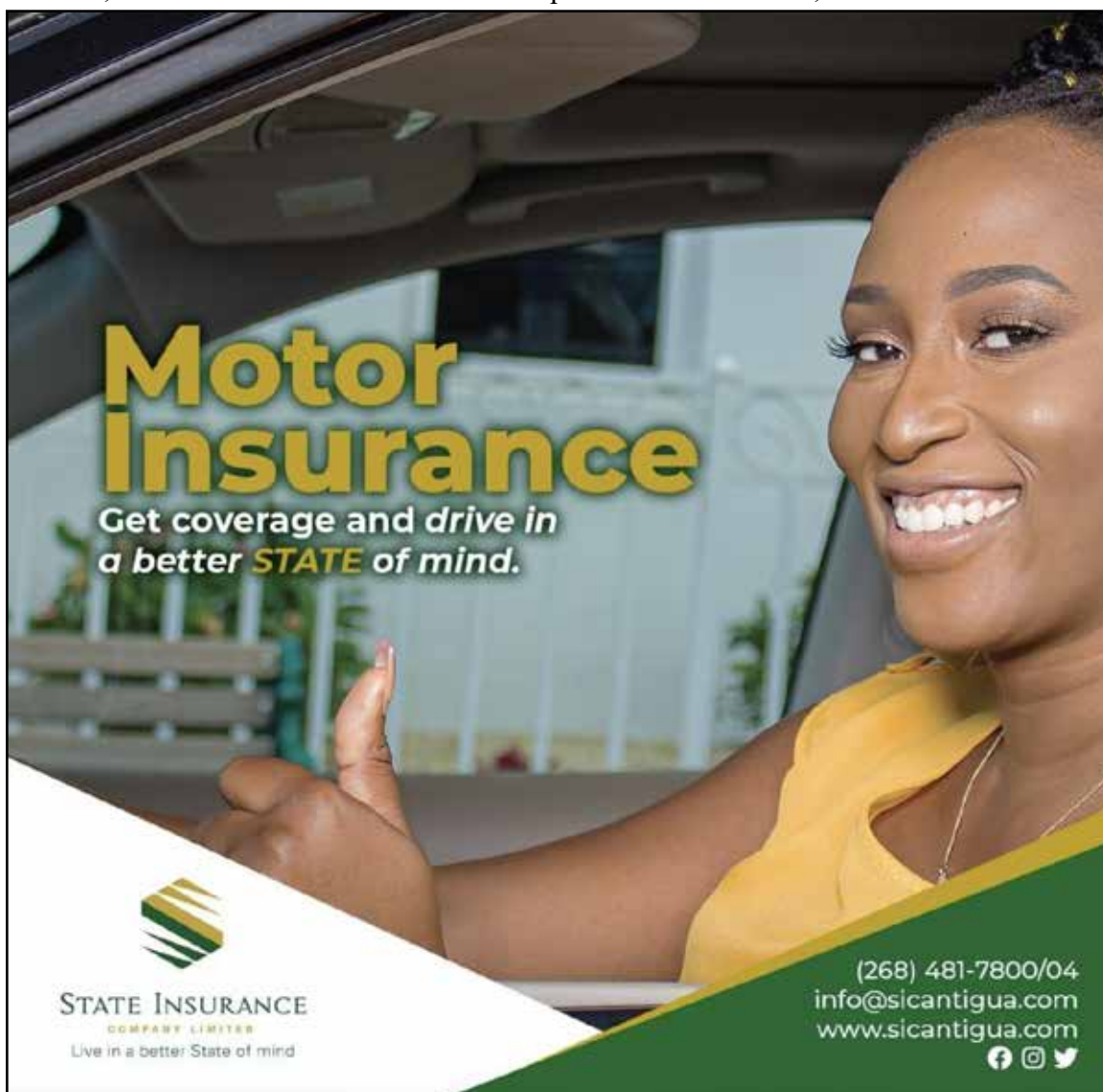
All six cars performed exceptionally well in their classes, which included Kess Imports 2 Helter Skelters, Mario Mack Mitsubishi, Sani Pro’s Evo, Niko Antonio’s Starlet Bam Bam, and Jason Thomas’s 240sx.

Bam Bam was the winner in his class; Mario Mack also won his class; and Skelter and another racer shared the winnings in the top class.

Ambassador Marsh, driving Skelter, clocked 8.8 seconds in his first pass and ran a time of 8.9 seconds in the quarter mile right off the trailer.

The ABDRA takes this opportunity to congratulate the drivers and teams on their regional success.

The association is reminding the general public that racing is illegal on the roadways of Antigua and Barbuda, but ABDRA provides a safe environment in which to do so at the North Sound International Raceway.



Motor Insurance
Get coverage and drive in a better **STATE** of mind.

STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED
Live in a better State of mind

(268) 481-7800/04
info@sicantigua.com
www.sicantigua.com

Facebook Instagram Twitter

Wins for Paragons 2 and Starz 2 in female development volleyball league

Paragons 2 and Starz 2 have notched up wins in the latest matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Female Development League at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Paragons 2 maintained their perfect run with a 3-1 victory against Da Squad in an encounter that lasted for two hours and 13 minutes.

The Paragon 2 prevailed 25-23, 25-16, 24-26, and 26-24 against Da Squad 2, which suffered their third defeat in five games.

Starz 2 claimed their second win in five games by pulling off a 3-1 victory against the Dynasty Queens, who lost for the second time in four games.

In a match that lasted two hours and 10 minutes, Starz 2 prevailed against the Dynasty Queens 25-13, 25-11, 15-25, and 25-18.

Pytonz also maintained their perfect run in the Men's Division 1 competition in the ABAVA's Local League.

Pytonz claimed their ninth win in as many games with a 3-0 victory against High Flyerz 1, which lost for the fifth time in nine games.

The Pytonz took an hour and 21 minutes to dispatch the High Flyerz 1, as they won the encounter 25-21, 25-21, and 25-19.



The Starz 2 female volleyball team

Former Female Division 1 champions Paragons claimed their third win in six games by securing a 3-0 victory against the Jets, who lost for the fourth time in six games.

The Paragon beat the Jets 25-19, 25-22, and 25-22 in an hour and 17 minutes.

Reigning women's and men's division 1 champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad and Stoneville, respectively, maintained their successful form in their latest encounters in the ABAVA's Local League.

Female Division 1 champions Da Squad extended their unbeaten run as they claimed their sixth

win in as many games with a 3-1 victory against Stoneville.

It took Da Squad an hour and 32 minutes to prevail 19-25, 25-14, 25-18, and 25-8 against Stoneville, who lost for the fourth time in six games.

Stoneville cruised to their eighth win in nine games with a straight-set 3-0 victory against Phoenix High Flyerz 2 in the Men's Division 1 League.

Stoneville secured victory in an hour and 10 minutes by prevailing 25-18, 25-21, and 25-15 against the Phoenix High Flyerz 2, who lost for the sixth time in nine games.

Starz1 claimed their fifth win in six games with

a 3-0 victory against the bottom team, the Royal Cruisers, in the Female Division 1 League.

Starz1 took an hour and nine minutes to prevail 25-17, 25-17, and 25-20 against the Royal Cruisers, who remain in the cellar after losing for the sixth time in as many games.

The Print Xpress Renegades secured their sixth win in nine games with a 3-0 victory against the Invaders in the Men's Division League.

The Renegades wrapped up the match in an hour and 17 minutes, prevailing 25-16, 25-15, and 25-13 against the Invaders, who lost for the seventh time in nine games.

Blackhawks to host Spartans in semis in quest to retain Super40 Cup

Cup-holders PIC Insurance Liberta Blackhawks remain on course for a successful title defense of their Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) Super40 Cup.

The Blackhawks will enter this weekend's semi-finals as the top seed and will host the fourth-seed WES Rising Sun Spartans in their final four encounter at Ball Beef on Saturday at 11 am.

The second-seed New Winthorpes Lions will clash with the third-seed Jennings Tigers in the other semi-final in New Winthorpes on Sunday at 11 am.

The final four were confirmed following the ninth and final round of matches in the preliminary stage of the 40-over one-day competition last weekend.

The Blackhawks suffered their first loss in the competition, losing by three wickets against the New Winthorpes Lions in New Winthorpes.

The Blackhawks were dismissed for 101 in 32.5 overs after they were sent in to bat. The Lions achieved victory by scoring 104 for seven in 25.5 overs. Shavon Moore struck 36 off 34 balls, and Miandre James picked up three for 29.

The Rising Sun Spartans snatched a two-wicket win against the Pigotts Crushers at Rising Sun



Players of the Liberta Blackhawks

in St. John's. The Crushers were dismissed for 89 in 22.4 overs after being asked to bat first.

Jewel Andrew hit a top score of 41 off 25 balls, while Shane Burton snapped up four for 12, and Martin Singh captured three for 28.

The Rising Sun Spartans achieved victory by scoring 90 for eight in 22 overs. Demari Benta picked up four for 29, and Richie Thomas claimed three for 23.

The Jennings Tigers prevailed by 51 runs against the Caribbean Union Bank (CUB) Bethesda Golden Eagles in Bethesda.

The Jennings Tigers were dismissed for 96 in 24.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Oshane Simon took four for 20.

In reply, the Golden Eagles were bundled out for 45 in 16.2 overs. Samuel Peters snapped up five for 23.

The All Saints Pythons and Empire Nation recorded wins in the other two matches.

The Pythons prevailed by five wickets against the Bolans Blasters at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Amos Christian struck an unbeaten 32 as the Bolans Blasters made 146 in 39.4 overs after winning the toss and batting. The Pythons' captain Andra Samuel claimed four for 38, and spinner Kadeem Joseph captured three for 26.

Mario Albert hit an un-

beaten half century to lead the All Saints Pythons to victory at 148 for five in 23.2 overs. Albert slammed 76 not out off 49 balls, and opener Akeem Blackman scored 31.

The Empire Nation crushed Combined Schools by 159 runs at the Factory Grounds. Empire Nation made 203 off 37 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Xaveek Toppin struck 47 off 51 balls, and opener Zianni Da Silva cracked 43 off 48 balls. Left-arm pacer Yanique Watley claimed three for 22.

In reply, Combined School was bundled out for 44 in 13.5 overs. Javaughn James grabbed seven wickets for 27 runs in seven overs.

ICC say 'robust security plan' for T20 World Cup amid threat reports

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - A robust security plan has been put in place for the T20 World Cup in June, the organisers of the competition said on Monday after reports of a possible threat to the global showpiece surfaced in the Caribbean media.

Trinidad & Tobago Prime Minister Keith Rowley told the 'Sunday Express' about a possible security threat to the 20-team event to be co-hosted by West Indies and the United States.

"Given the fact that bad actors can choose to misbehave in any way possible, it makes it virtually impossible to completely seal off all opportunities," he said.

Cricket West Indies and the game's global governing body, International Cricket Council (ICC), sought to allay any such fears in a joint statement.

"We work closely with authorities



in the host countries and cities, and continually monitor and evaluate the global landscape to ensure appropriate plans are in place to mitigate any risks identified to our event," they said.

"We want to assure all stakeholders that safety and security of every-

one at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup is our number one priority and we have a comprehensive and robust security plan in place."

The biggest T20 World Cup will be played across nine venues, including six in the West Indies.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

2 DAYS WAYS SAVE



\$16.99

- *2 pcs
- Biscuit
- Drink



\$19.99

- Zinger / CCB
- Drink

limitations apply



Strictly Business ends Buckley's 3J's unbeaten run

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business ended the unbeaten run of Marco Inc. Grill Box Buckley's 3J's in the We the People (WTP) 98.5 FM Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) 30-over men's competition on Sunday.

The Buckley's 3J's suffered their first defeat in four matches, losing by two wickets against Strictly Business in the competition, which is hosted by the ABSCA along with its corporate sponsors, Everyday Store 24/7, Alva Joseph, Natural Construction, Enforcers, and Goody's Taxi Services and Tours.

Buckley's 3J's won the toss and batted, scoring 129 for eight off 23 overs. Richie Thomas hit 24 not out, and Randino Turner made 24. Melvin Charles captured three for 44, and Owen Graham picked up two for 14.

Strictly Business achieved victory by scoring 133 for eight in 22.1 overs. Melvin Charles cracked 62 not out, and Martin Singh made 14. Richie Thomas took two for 21, D'Andre Harris claimed two for 23, and Steve Martin had two for 33.

There was success as well for the Dredgers, as they snatched an eight-run victory against Lee's Landscaping 300. Dredgers made 102 in 24.3 overs. Tyrone Williams hit 24, and Brent Bloodman got 18.

Justin Pereira claimed three for 27, Vernel Isadore took three for 29, and Zach Thomas picked up two for 30.

In reply, 300 crashed to 94 all



The Rackaman Construction Strictly Business softball cricket team

out in 27.2 overs. Kennedy Tonge hit 24, and Vernel Isadore got 16. Ricky Buckley snatched three for 14, and Brent Bloodman claimed two for 10.

However, Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets and Sisserou had to share points after their encounter was abandoned due to rain, which left the pitch wet and unfit to play.

Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors and Alzzari and Sharon Joseph Flyers recorded wins in the St. John's Co-operative Credit Union ABSCA's 15-over female competition on Sunday.

The Survivors prevailed by nine wickets against the Jennings Rockets Cricket Club. Kushana David scored 24 as the Jennings Rockets were restricted to 48 for seven off their allotted 15 overs.

Sacha Michael picked up two

wickets for five runs, Lokuehl Pelle claimed two wickets for eight runs, and Gale Lee captured two for 12.

Sacha Michael slammed 27, and Kimberly Anthony scored 13 as the Survivors achieved victory at 51 for one in 9.1 overs.

Alzzari and Sharon Joseph Flyers soared to a 33-run victory against the Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets.

The Flyers made 96 for four off their allotted 15 overs. Gaynell O'Garro and Makada Samuel each made 28, and Terez Parker scored 23. Cheryl Williams claimed two wickets for eight runs.

In reply, the Bullets were restricted to 63 for six off their 15 overs. Anita Frank struck 17 not out, and Cheryl Williams got 12. Makada Samuel picked up two wickets for eight runs.