

TOURIST ARRIVALS ON TRACK TO SET NEW RECORDS

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On Thursday, the CIBC Caribbean bank donated six desk-top computers to inmates at His Majesty's Prison who are enrolled in the 'Seeds of Hope' programme, which was started by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus through its Life-long Learning Unit. *Story on page 3.*

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda continues to be an attractive destination to visit

Antigua and Barbuda remains on course to establish new records for tourism arrivals by both air and sea by the end of the year.

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez informed his Cabinet colleagues of the latest figures for arrivals by air from January to April this year, that have already exceeded the figures for the same period for 2019, the record year for tourist arrivals into the country.

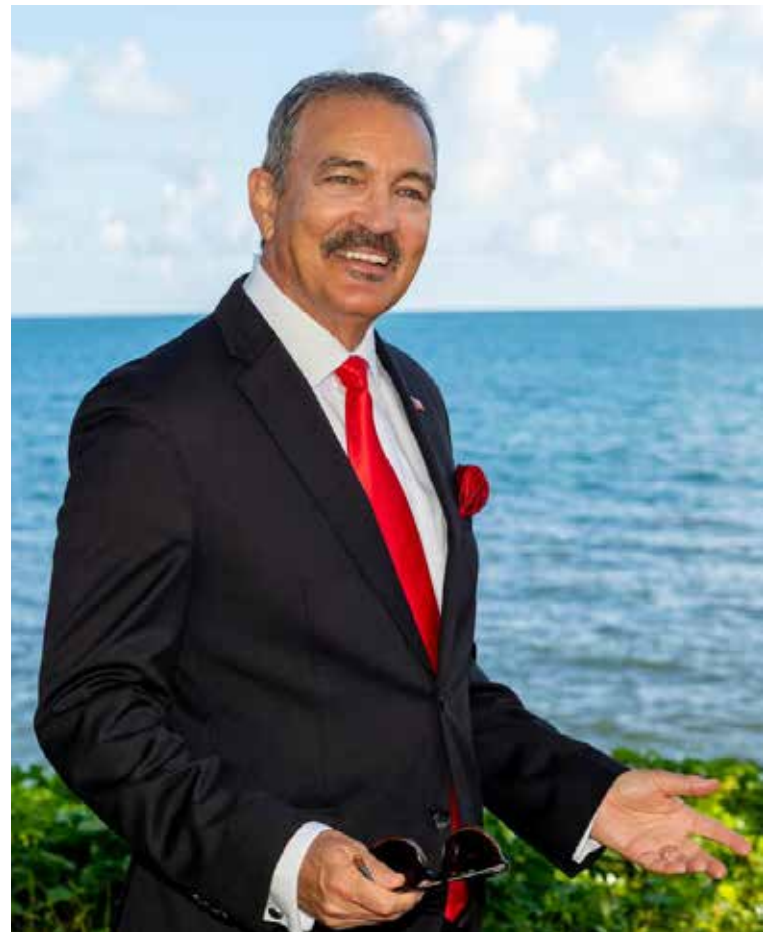
Cabinet Spokesperson Lionel Hurst has credited the great marketing of the staff at the Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority for

the record number of tourism arrivals for the first quarter of the year.

The Minister of Tourism reported that a new record for air arrivals in April 2024 has been achieved.

126,000 air arrivals were recorded for the period of January to April 2024; surpassing the previous record of 118,000 air arrivals during the same period in 2019.

These figures do not include the arrivals from the 4th International Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Conference and the ICC T20 World Cup arrivals, owing to both events



Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez occurring during May and June 2024 respectively.

Hurst says this is welcomed news for the country.

“We have a great marketing team, led by Colin C. James, who has been very good at exciting the marketplace about Antigua and Barbuda.

“Additionally, there has been an accumulation of demand, unmet demand, for vacation and holidays in the post-COVID era and what we are seeing is this pent-up demand being expressed by way of the number of bookings that the hotels and the airlines are receiving.

“So pent-up demand is one, but we have also been very clever with our marketing.

“Once again, we wish to thank the marketing team for all their efforts,” Hurst stated.

According to Hurst the Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez and his team recognized that this is a special period for Antigua and Barbuda in the post COVID period and their efforts have paid huge dividends to Antigua and Barbuda.

“We have to congratulate the minister and team for a job well-done!” he declared.

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Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Wednesday the 19th day of June 2024 at 11:00am the above residential property at Buckley’s Heights.

The property is under the ownership of **LOREAN DENISE ROBERTS (aka DENISE LOREAN ROBERTS)**. The land is a 10,890 sq. ft. (0.25 acre) plot with an approximate 3,841 sq. ft., 2-storey with a partial basement reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms.

The property is in a quiet residential area with a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Trevor Teddy Santos Inc., Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 464-7653 and 562-7653.

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CIBC Caribbean donates six computers to 'seeds of hope' prison programme

An initiative at His Majesty's Prison started by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus through its Life-long Learning Unit (LLU), dubbed 'Seeds of Hope' is attracting the support of the corporate

community.

On Thursday, the CIBC Caribbean bank donated six desk-top computers to the programme to assist the inmates enrolled with the programme with better computer access to complete their

various assignments.

Executive Director of the LLU, Paula Edwards-Lee said the programme was first introduced at the prison in 2022 and already it is 'making waves' in the country. Other entities such as the Transport Board and the Calvin Ayre Foundation have offered scholarships, while recently, Vanessa Kelsick and her husband, have pledged to provide one year's free internet access to the prison for the benefit of those participating in the programme.

"Against that background, we now have today, additional computers that will allow for easier computer and internet access as sometimes the inmates are huddled around one or two computers. I commend CIBC Caribbean for their commitment of care for the people of the Caribbean and I am encouraging the corporate community to recognize that being in prison is not the end of the road, but the start of something new," she stated.



According to Edwards-Lee, participation in the programme provides an 'awakening' for the inmates that even though they are incarcerated they can still be of benefit to their fellow inmates, their families and society as a whole. She added that when the prisoners leave HMP, they are transformed through the programme to be productive members of society.

Speaking on behalf of CIBC Caribbean was Manager of Platinum Banking, Michael Roach, who said through its Adopt-a-Cause program, the bank has donated six desktop computers to His Majesty's Prison.

"At CIBC Caribbean, we recognize that education is a fundamental tool for personal and professional development. It opens doors, creates opportunities, and, most importantly, fosters hope.

"In line with our corporate
cont'd on pg 4



Local News



cont'd from pg 3

rate responsibility, we are dedicated to supporting initiatives that enhance the lives of individuals and communities. We understand that having access to education and technological resources is crucial in today's world. These computers are not just machines; they are gateways to knowledge, skills, and a



brighter future," he stated.

Superintendent of the Prison, Col. Trevor Pennyfeather, said the prison is happy for the donation of the computers to assist with its learning programme within the institution as it places a premium on rehabilitation. "We believe in rehabilitation, and we feel that as an institution we have a mission to ensure that individuals who enter its gates are made productive for their re-entry into society," he remarked.

Clearly, the most emotional moment of the exercise came from the student advisor to the programme who is a prisoner herself, Kenisha Whyte, who not only thanked CIBC Caribbean for the donation of the computers, but who also spoke of the value of the programme on changing lives.

"Being incarcerated, there is a stigma attached to us, and while we are here, the best thing that we can do for ourselves and our community is to make a change. We are not defined by



our crimes, but what we choose to do afterwards.

"Thus, with the support from the corporate community, individuals and others, we are making a wave and we strive to make a difference. There's nothing that is impossible, nor nothing we cannot achieve with a little motivation and a little assistance; even if its from one individual," she expressed in a quiet, unassuming manner.



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Consultations begin on project to install emergency sirens on island

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is to embark on an initiative to install emergency sirens in strategic locations around Antigua as an expansion to the official notification system the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP).

In a statement, NODS said already, it is consulting with key stakeholders on the project.

Local Consultant on the project Refica Attwood held the first of a series of consultations Wednesday *cont'd on pg 6*



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cont'd from pg 5

morning at the NODS headquarters with representatives from the police and defense forces, the fire department, telecoms providers and the department of gender affairs.

Attwood says the consultations will gather knowledge from the technical and telecoms sector in determining how the sirens will work once erected. Matters being discussed include measures to address possible risks, the creation of a training plan for all stakeholders involved and a draft standard operating procedure.

The establishment of the sirens follows the introduction of radio and television interrupters in several media houses namely ABS Radio and Television, Observer Radio, Zoom Radio and Radio Lighthouse.

Director of NODS Sherrod James says meeting

with the stakeholders is important. "You representing your agencies have very vital input for us in determining how this is rolled out, to look at where we need to be, what type of sirens, how we interact and how do we get public participation on a whole in this process", said James.

A second consultation will take place next week, Wednesday June 19, with another group of individuals. The consultative process, which is the first phase of the project, should be completed by October.

The consultations are funded by the European Development Fund (EDF) project entitled "Building the resilience of the CARIFORUM states to Disaster Risks and Climate Change Impacts" (BRICS), through support from the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

ABEC launches educational campaign on replacement card programme

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) is undertaking an educational programme designed to inform registered voters of the process required for replacing expired voter ID cards. ABEC has released a flyer printed in both English and in Spanish explaining the steps needed for voters to apply for and to collect their new ID cards when they are issued.

The process of replacing invalid voter ID cards starts on August 12 in all seventeen constituencies. The constituency offices will open at 8:30 am to 6:00 pm from Mondays to Fridays.

Persons wishing to replace expired voter ID cards must present themselves in person to the constituency offices with two government issued ID's, the expired cards, proof of address as well as documents updating marital status.

ABEC is advising applicants that the process may require them to update their personal information into their system. These include updated photo, signature and validated with a fingerprint.

Neither ABEC nor the government sources have indicated for how long the replacement card process will run.



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **REDI-MIX CONCRETE TRUCK DRIVER.**

Job Functions:

- Perform pre and post-trip check daily to ensure safety and working of the truck
- Documenting any maintenance as required
- Driving truck to job site and unloading
- Assembling concrete chute and attaching chute to truck back
- Protecting truck using protective compound and performing minor maintenance task
- Washing and cleaning of trucks or equipment used in the concrete production line
- Backing truck under loading hopper and starting the mixer to get concrete

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must be able to operate truck and its auxiliaries such as levers, chutes and mixing drums efficiently
- Have a good understanding of mixing procedure and knowledge of adjusting the mixing speed
- A valid truck driver's license
- Have at least 2 years' truck driving experience

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.




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Two Calypso Tents to begin operations this weekend

The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission has announced that two calypso tents it has officially sanctioned are to be in full swing this weekend.

Julees Kaiso Korner Calypso Tent starts at 8 pm, starting this Friday, June 14th and continuing every Friday night.

ABFC Tent City at Rum Runners, formerly Coast Night Club, continues this Saturday at 8 pm, with an entry fee of \$20. Starting Saturday, June 22nd, Tent City welcomes the vibrant backing band of The Real Sweet Benna Band, elevating our talented Calypsonians' performances and experience for our patrons.

Therefore, Calypsonians performing at the ABFC Tent City are

urged to provide their music sheets to the bandleader, Mr Rupert "Junie" Edwards (774 0416), to practice efficiently ahead of their Tent City showcase.

Calypsonians entering the Cavalier Rum Calypso Monarch competition must have a minimum of three (3) performances at any of the two Calypso Tents.

This year's Calypso Quarter Finals are scheduled for Friday, July 5th, at Julees Kaiso Korner Calypso Tent and Saturday, July 6th, at ABFC Tent City. Calypsonians are required to register at their desired Calypso Tent for Quarter Finals participation within Quarter Finals.

Tent City will also open on Friday nights in another exciting devel-

opment, offering a unique blend of Open Mic Soca, Calypso and Picong. This fusion of genres will provide a platform for calypsonians and Soca artists to showcase their musical prowess, creating a relaxed and enjoyable environment for all music enthusiasts. The modest entry fee of \$10 makes this a must-attend event.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, in collaboration with the ABFC, reaffirms its commitment to preserving the rich Calypso tradition and continues actively supporting and promoting local artistic endeavors.

The Ministry of Creative Industries extends heartfelt appreciation to Cavalier Rum, the title sponsor for the upcoming Cavalier Rum Calypso Monarch scheduled for August 2 at 8 p.m. at Carnival City. Their generous sponsorship has been instrumental in bringing this event to fruition, underscoring their profound commitment to fostering the arts and cultural heritage of Antigua and Barbuda.

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NOTICE
JUNIOR CALYPSO AND JUNIOR SOCA ARTISTE MEETING

ALL registered and potential Junior Calypsonians, Junior Party Artistes, their parents and coaches. You are all invited to a very important Orientation Meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024, at St. Joseph's Academy beginning at 5:00 pm. Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission urges all concerned to attend and to be on time.

The USA must listen to the claims of the international community and end the economic war against the Cuban people

Just a month ago, several newspapers and press agencies reported on the news that the Swiss private bank EFG International had agreed to pay the US Treasury Department the sum of 3.7 million USD as a penalty for the crime of allowing its branches to process transactions from Cuban financial institutions intended for the purchase of food, medicine or other essential products for the Caribbean island's population. The news is another example of the US Government's attempt to try to cause, by all possible means, the greatest damage and impact on the daily life of the Cuban people, through the criminal economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed for more than 63 years. The accumulated impact during the more than six decades

of application of the blockade amounts to more than 159 billion dollars.

Operations related to our country are the subject of constant scrutiny and persecution. This means that for many years US agencies, mainly the Treasury Department, have sought to interrupt, hinder, make more expensive, penalize and confiscate Cuban financial transactions.

The persecution by the United States of financial, commercial and investment transactions related to our country is incessant and obsessive. This has been further reinforced by the arbitrary inclusion of Cuba on the State Department's unilateral list of alleged countries sponsoring terrorism. This is a designation without any



Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba Sergio Martínez Gonzalez

cont'd on pg 10



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **EXCAVATOR OPERATOR.**

Job Functions:

- Operate a large excavator to complete daily production targets
- Load dump trucks, move materials in quarry, level out quarry areas
- Making quarry areas safe
- Maintain cleanliness of machine
- Identify and report safety issues and hazards
- Complete pre-start checks
- Look for areas of improvement or streamline work procedures
- Must comply with company, and governmental health and safety regulations, policies, and procedures at all times
- May be called upon to run other heavy equipment such as but not limited to Dozer and Loader, dump truck
- Work independently and collaboratively with other team members to achieve common objectives.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must have a valid driver's license
- Must be able to safely and effectively operate an Excavator and or other heavy duty equipment
- Minimum 2 years' experience driving and operating an Excavator

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024.** Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **BATCHER.**

Job Functions:

- Mix or blend products, work assembly lines, keep designated areas clean
- Ability to use a computer to operate the equipment that formulates the product
- Perform quality checks on finished products
- Set equipment parameters for operation
- Write routine reports and document routine forms and logs
- Comply with all company policies as well as practice safe work habits in accordance with company's health and safety regulations.
- Ensure that product conforms to customer specifications.
- Maintain communication with systems operator to insure quality work and fluidity
- Communicate with customers in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate a continuous effort to improve operations, reduce turnaround times and streamline work processes.
- Work independently and collaboratively with other team members to achieve common objectives.

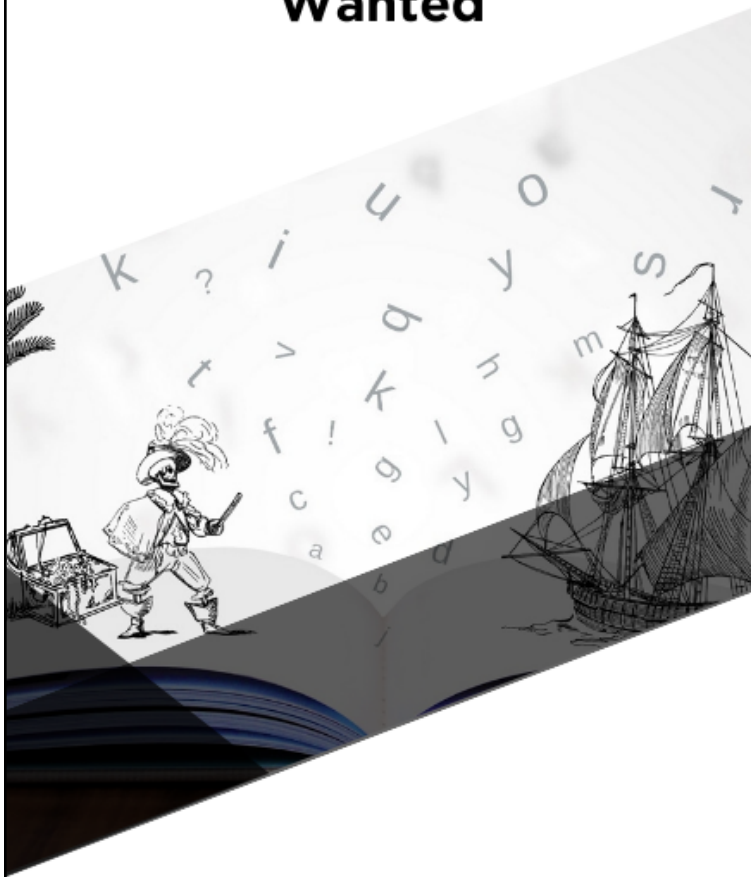
Qualifications & Skills:

- Must have a valid driver's license
- Minimum 2 years' previous experience within a similar field
- Computer literate
- Multi-tasker and ability to work in a team environment
- Excellent customer service

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024.** Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

Commentary

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cont'd from pg 9

basis, authority or international support, to try to justify and toughen the siege against Cuba with which the United States continues to punish the Cuban people. As a consequence, dozens of banks around the world repeatedly refuse to carry out legitimate banking transactions, regardless of whether they are purchases to acquire food, medicines, raw materials, fuel, oxygen, parts and other goods essential to sustaining the economy and society.

Another of the most reprehensible actions due to its violative nature of international law and its cruelty was the impediment of the transfer of fuel to Cuba starting in 2019. That year alone, 53 vessels and 27 companies of different countries were penalized by the U.S. Government. This is a different modality of the blockade, not previously applied, but which responds directly to the efforts to threaten, exercise coercion, instill fear and sanction anyone who is involved in the supply of this important item to the country, from shipping companies, to insurers, reinsurers, banks, people and governments.

The scope of this medieval-like persecution is appalling. It impacts the country's electrical situation, production, and transportation.

Despite enormous efforts by the Cuban government and efforts that do not always have public visibili-

ty, but involve a multiplicity of organizations and actors, the reality is that fear of dealing with Cuba prevails.

While this is happening, spokespersons for the North American Administration, including its embassy in Havana, display the starkest cynicism asking that human rights be respected and the urgent needs and shortcomings of the population in Cuba be addressed.

It is the blockade that is precisely the greatest massive, flagrant and systematic violation of the human rights of all Cubans. Due to its declared purpose and the political, legal and administrative framework on which it is based, it qualifies as an act of genocide under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide of 1948.

The US Government turns its back on the practically unanimous vote of the International Community that, for more than 30 years, has been expressing its total rejection in the General Assembly of the United Nations, of the atrocity of the US coercive measures with which it has shown to the Cuban people who have lived together for more than 60 years. Cuba must be removed without further delay from the spurious unilateral list of alleged countries sponsoring terrorism, a fallacy that has a suffocating impact on our economy.

Sergio Martínez Gonzalez
Ambassador of the Republic of Cuba.

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Opinion



Establishing even handedness: Antigua and Barbuda and Palestine

By Sir Ronald Sanders

On Friday, 14 June 2024, Antigua and Barbuda and the State of Palestine established diplomatic relations, advancing the step taken in 2011 when Antigua and Barbuda declared its recognition of Palestine as a State.

The agreement, signed in New York, by Antigua and Barbuda's Foreign Minister E. Paul Chet Greene, and Palestine's Ambassador with Ministerial rank, Dr. Riyadh Mansour, emanated from a decision by Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, which was endorsed by the country's Cabinet.

Prime Minister Browne tasked me with the responsibility for negotiating the text of the agreement between Antigua and Barbuda and the State of Palestine. This diplomatic move was strategically sensitive, given the complex dynamics of the Palestine-Israel conflict over Gaza.

Since achieving independence, Antigua and Barbuda, like many nations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, has maintained diplomatic relations with Israel. The decision to extend similar relations to Palestine was made not to repudiate ties with Israel but to provide equitable diplomatic recognition to both states, thereby supporting our role in fostering global peace

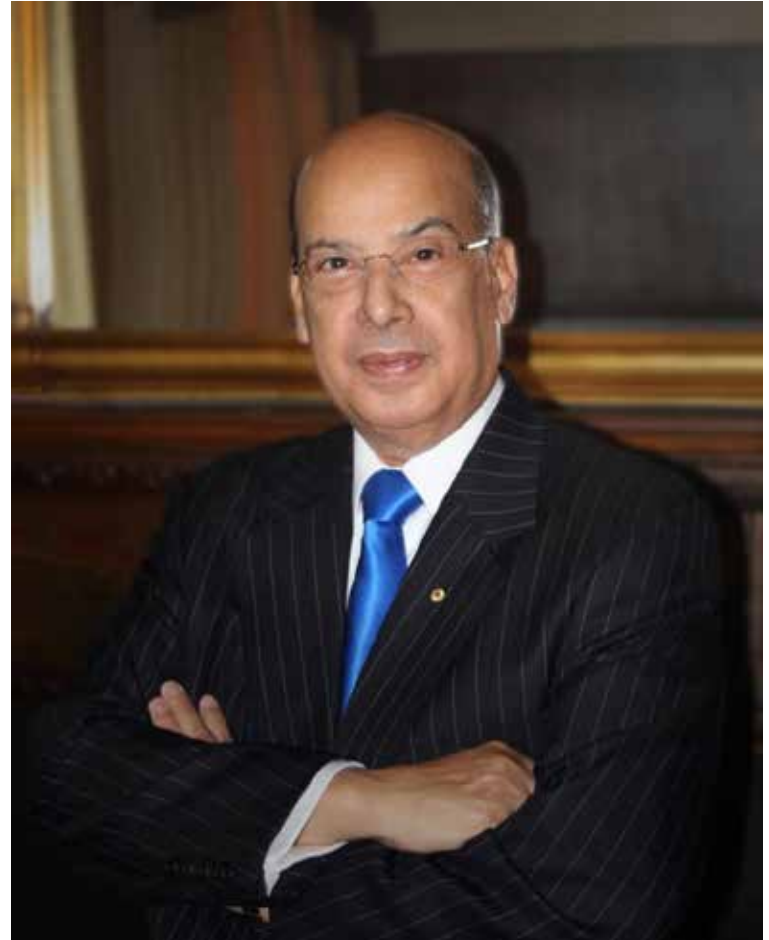
and security. Such a role could not be played with credibility and authority, if diplomatic relations exists with only Israel.

Critics may argue that Antigua and Barbuda, a relatively small Caribbean state, should avoid entanglement in the complex politics of Middle Eastern affairs.

However, the recent actions of other small states within the European Union—such as Ireland, Norway, and Spain—illustrate a broader trend. These nations have recognized the State of Palestine, challenging the perspectives of larger EU members and underscoring the importance of self-determination and respect for sovereignty. This principle is crucial for small countries, whose fate should not be dictated by the geopolitical interests of more powerful nations.

The intractable conflict between Israel and Palestine has persisted without resolution since 1947, when the United Nations, then dominated by European nations and the victors of World War II, partitioned Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. Notably, at that time, no Caribbean countries except Haiti were UN members, and the majority of African nations, still under colonial rule, lacked representation.

This European-dominated decision-making process



Sir Ronald Sanders

left many regions without a voice, a historical oversight that small states today are working to correct, even in the face of enormous pressure.

The declaration of the State of Palestine by the Palestine Liberation Organization in 1988 marked a significant shift. By then, the global context had evolved with many former colonies gaining independence and joining the international community.

This period saw a swift recognition of Palestine by 78 countries, a movement primarily driven by nations previously marginalized in

global decision-making.

Currently, 144 UN member states recognize the State of Palestine. This growing consensus challenges the earlier resistance by some Western nations and highlights the persistence of Israel's policies perceived as aiming to subjugate the Palestinian people.

The increasing global recognition of Palestine not only bolsters the Palestinian people's claim to self-determination but also bolsters efforts to reinvigorate the stalled peace process, including by moderate groups

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in Israel who are fed-up with living in a state of interminable war.

While Antigua and Barbuda unequivocally condemns the violence by Hamas against Israel, as well as the disproportionate responses by Israeli forces, it advocates for a balanced approach that supports the creation of two secure and peaceful states. This vision aligns not only with international legal principles of peace and human rights, but also with justice and fairness.

The role of small states in global diplomacy is not merely symbolic; it can be pivotal. The involvement of countries, such as Antigua and Barbuda, brings a unique perspective shaped by histories of colonization and struggles for self-determination.

By participating actively in international diplomacy, small states

can help mediate conflicts and push for solutions that larger nations alone have not achieved.

The voice of small states is the voice of moral suasion and truth.

And it is a role that is acknowledged in powerful councils of the world, such as the Congress of the US, where on June 12, 2024, the Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Gregory W. Meeks, singled out Antigua and Barbuda for its leadership role with 24 member states of the Organization of American States “to condemn Russia’s continued aggression in Ukraine”.

In this Antigua and Barbuda was on the side of the principles of the UN Charter and international law, including repudiation of aggression and invasion.

The establishment of diplomatic relations with Palestine reflects An-

tigua and Barbuda’s commitment to upholding international law and contributing to peace. It underscores the influence small states can exert in the international arena, championing justice and equality

Overcoming history is not easy but if the legacy of ills is not remedied, the world will continue to be plagued by injustice, unfairness and conflict from which no nation, large or small, will escape. Leaders like Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, exemplify the courage needed to steer these critical decisions, demonstrating that small states can indeed play a significant role in addressing global issues.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

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Special Feature



Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela celebrate 42 years of diplomatic relations



Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs E.P Chet Greene

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda presents its compliments to the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in St. John's, and wishes to request that the following message from the Honourable E.P Chet Greene, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs of Antigua and Barbuda, be transmitted to H.E. Yvan Gil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of

the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, on the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela.

BEGINS

“Your Excellency:

On behalf of the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, I wish to extend heartfelt congratulations to you and to the Gov-

ernment and people of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on the occasion of the 42nd Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Antigua and Barbuda and Venezuela.

Drawing inspiration from the late Simon Bolívar's vision for a united region, the Government and people of Venezuela have played a leadership role in fostering regional integration between Latin America and the Caribbean.

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Venezuela is a valuable and stalwart partner to Antigua and Barbuda. Our partnership can be described as “ironclad” and “abiding,” and is underpinned by a profound sense of solidarity. People-to-people linkages serve as a key pillar of our partnership.

Over the years, our two countries have expanded cooperation in many areas, most notably in energy, health, and social development, amongst others.

The Simon Bolivar Pre-School is the country’s first government-operated early development centre and was established with the assistance of the Venezuelan Government. Moreover, the Venezuelan Institute of Culture and Cooperation continues to administer free Spanish classes to Antiguan and Barbudans desirous of learning the language.

In addition, Venezuela has also provided free medical treatment to Antiguan and Barbudans with eye problems through Operation Milagro and has helped to strengthen energy security in Antigua and Barbuda through the PetroCaribe initiative. In 2015, Petroleum of Venezuela S.A. (PDVSA) obtained a 25% participation in West Indies Oil Company (WIOC), allowing for joint investments that would be advantageous for both peoples.

In 2017, Venezuela military aircraft landed in Antigua to deliver much-needed

relief items, such as water, food and emergency supplies for Barbuda, after the devastation wrought by Hurricane Irma. In 2020, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela donated medical supplies to combat the effects of COVID-19. Venezuela further provided airlift support to repatriate citizens and students of Antigua and Barbuda from the Republic of Cuba.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda congratulates Venezuela on its many achievements as a nation and is highly appreciative of the bilateral cooperation that has made a substantial contribution to strengthening the social fabric of our country. In addition, I look forward to working with you, Your Excellency, to further strengthen the excellent relations which exist between our two countries as hemispheric partners, and as close and longtime friends.

On this joyous and momentous occasion, please accept, my best wishes for the continued success, prosperity and well-being of Venezuela and its people.

E.P. Chet Greene, M.P.
Minister

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Agriculture, Trade and Barbuda Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Embassy of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in St. John’s the assurances of its highest consideration.



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US submarine pulls into Guantanamo Bay a day after Russian warships arrive

A US Navy submarine has arrived in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in a show of force as a fleet of Russian warships gather for planned military exercises in the Caribbean.

U.S. Southern Command said the USS Helena, a nuclear-powered fast attack submarine, pulled into the waters near the US base in Cuba on Thursday, just a day after a Russian frigate, a nuclear-powered submarine, an oil tanker and a rescue tug crossed into Havana Bay after drills in the Atlantic Ocean.

The stop is part of a “routine port visit” as the submarine travels through Southern Command’s region, it said in a social media post.

Other U.S. ships also have been tracking and monitoring the Russian drills, which Pentagon officials say do not represent a threat to the United States.

“This is not a surprise. We’ve seen them do these type of port calls before,” Pentagon spokeswoman Sabrina Singh said Wednesday when asked about the Russian drills. “We of course take it seriously, but these exercises don’t pose a threat to the United States.”

The exercises, how-



Russia’s Kazan nuclear-powered submarine arrives at the port of Havana, Cuba, Wednesday, June 12, 2024. A fleet of Russian warships reached Cuban waters on Wednesday ahead of planned military exercises in the Caribbean. (AP Photo/Ariel Ley)

ever, come less than two weeks after President Joe Biden authorised Ukraine to use US-provided weapons to strike inside Russia to protect Kharkiv, Ukraine’s second-largest city.

Russian President Vladimir Putin then suggested his military could respond with “asymmetrical steps” elsewhere in the world.

Singh said it wouldn’t be a surprise to see more

Russian activity around the United States in such global exercises.

The drills are in international waters, and US officials expect the Russian ships to remain in the region through the summer and possibly also stop in Venezuela.

Russia is a longtime ally of Venezuela and Cuba, and its warships and aircraft have periodically made forays into the Caribbean.

Russian ships have occasionally docked in Havana since 2008, when a group of Russian vessels entered Cuban waters in what state media described as the first such visit in almost two decades.

In 2015, a reconnaissance and communications ship arrived unannounced in Havana a day before the start of discussions between US and Cuban officials on the reopening of diplomatic relations.

Lawyers in Vybz Kartel case want Crown denied ‘second bite of cherry’

The legal team for entertainer Vybz Kartel and his co-appellants on Wednesday concluded their arguments against the Court of Appeal ordering a new trial for the men.

Attorney John Clarke, in concluding submissions for the appellants, urged the court to tell the prosecution, “No! No! No! You won’t get a retrial.”

The team had argued over a two-day span that a retrial would be a breach of the constitutional right of the men, among other things.

As it relates to Vybz Kartel, attorney Isat Buchanan submitted reports that spoke to the failing health and mental condition of his client, while arguing that to put his client through a retrial would only serve to further damage his health.

Attorney for appellant Kahira Jones, Iqbal Cheverria, also cited a report on the mental condition of his client as he bolstered arguments for the court to deny the Crown the opportunity of a retrial.

Cheverria also cited the \$70-million debt his client incurred as a result of the first trial, the poor condition in which he’s being held, the prosecution’s weak forensic evidence and his inability to start a trial as reasons to deny a retrial.

The attorney said the prosecution should not be



The Court of Appeal in downtown Kingston. (Photo: Loop News)

allowed to strengthen its forensic evidence against Jones.

Attorney Alessandra LaBeach, who also appears for Vybz Kartel and Shawn ‘Shawn Storm’ Campbell, argued before the panel of three judges led by Justice of Appeal Marva McDonald-Bishop, that the evidence against Campbell was weak. In light of this, she said it would be unfair for him to be retried.

She said her client was merely in a taxi with the men and was not transporting them as alleged by the prosecution.

Vybz Kartel, whose real name is Adidja Palmer, along with Andre St John, Jones, and Campbell were charged with the murder of Clive ‘Lizard’ Williams’ in 2011 and convicted in 2014. However, they had their convictions quashed by the

Privy Council in March this year, and the matter sent back to the Court of Appeal for it to decide whether they should be retried.

The appellate court started hearing submissions on the matter on Tuesday. The prosecution is set to start making their case for a retrial on Thursday.

On Wednesday, the attorneys for the appellants continued from where they left off Tuesday, as they sought to have the court order the men’s freedom.

Buchanan said an expert is set to give evidence that the technology evidence on which the prosecution is relying has been tampered with, which led to a brief exchange with McDonald-Bishop. Buchanan, in raising this point, sought to show the weakness of the prosecution’s case.

But the judge said that

even if the technology evidence was not in the picture, the prosecution could still rely on its eyewitness.

However, Buchanan shot back that the eyewitness wasn’t reliable and argued that he had been inconsistent in his evidence, and with the technology evidence provided by the Crown.

He noted also that the witness had denied writing a statement, while pointing to the death of the prosecution’s handwriting expert.

Buchanan said the men would be put at a disadvantage in a retrial as the defence wouldn’t have the benefit of cross-examining the handwriting expert.

The attorney argued that there are deficiencies in the prosecution’s case and that it is not in the interest of justice to order a retrial be-

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Kenyan policeman shoots magistrate in open court

By Basillioh Rukanga

A senior Kenyan police officer has been shot dead after he opened fire at a magistrate in court in the capital, Nairobi.

The chief inspector opened fire on Makadara Principal Magistrate Monica Kivuti shortly after she made a ruling in a case reportedly involving his wife.

The officer is said to have been angered by the court's decision to cancel her bail after she had absconded.

The officer, identified as Samson Kipchirchir Kipru-to, who is in charge of a police station in Londiani in western Kenya, then pulled out a gun and shot the magistrate, injuring her.

Other officers in court responded immediately, with one of them shooting the offending policeman and killing him.

In the process, three other officers were injured, a police report said.

The magistrate and the injured officers are being treated in hospital.

The judiciary said the magistrate had “cancelled the bond for an accused person who had jumped bond and had failed to offer satisfactory explanations for jumping bond”.

“Immediately this decision was pronounced, a person shot at the magistrate and injured her on the hip,” it said in a statement.

It noted initial reports



The policeman was angered by a court decision.

that indicated “that the shooter is a police officer who is married to the suspect”.

The national police service said the officer was in the court for “unknown rea-

sons”.

Investigations are continuing to establish the circumstances that led to the shooting, it said.

The incident inside a courtroom has come as a shock to Kenyans.

The police have often been accused of being involved in extra-judicial killings but no such incident has been reported inside court.

The judiciary has said it will enhance security measures and has assured judicial staff and other court users of their safety and security.

“As the judiciary family, we wish our colleague a quick recovery. We also send our condolences to the family of the officer who lost his life in this unfortunate incident,” said chief registrar of the judiciary Winfridah Mokaya.

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cause this would give the prosecution an opportunity to fix those deficiencies.

He said this was tantamount to giving the prosecution a “second bite of the cherry”.

Buchanan also argued that the men's rights were breached by the way the Crown obtained its evidence, which also led to a brief exchange with McDonald-Bishop who reminded that illegally obtained evidence can be admissible, based on its probative value.

She said such evidence wouldn't be admissible only in situations where its prejudicial nature outweighs its probative value.

Outlining grounds other than Vybz Kartel's poor mental and physical health — a heart that is functioning at 50 per cent

and autoimmune illness Graves' Disease — Buchanan said his client is in a financial bind and family responsibilities that is made worse by the fact that he's unable to work.

He said a retrial would further damage his client physically, financially and mentally. He noted that his client is further burdened by the fact he had to bear his own cost for the appeal going to the Privy Council level.

The argument was also made that the men wouldn't get a fair trial due to the reported issue of jury corruption for which they were not responsible.

He said the ordering of a new trial would be difficult for the men as the trial would take a long time before it gets off the ground and be lengthy due to its complex nature and number of witnesses involved.



Hungary Prime Minister Viktor Orbán called the fine “outrageous and unacceptable”.

EU court fines Hungary €200m over its asylum policy

By Mallory Moench

The European Union’s top court has fined Hungary €200m (£169m) for failing to follow the union’s asylum policies.

The court will also issue a penalty of €1m a day until it changes its policy.

The European Court of Justice said Budapest was in breach of a 2020 judgement that it had violated EU laws by forcing asylum seekers to travel to Belgrade or Kyiv to apply for a travel permit to enter Hungary.

Hungary’s Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, in a post on X, said the fine for “defending the borders of the European Union” was “outrageous and unacceptable” and said “it seems that illegal migrants are more important to the Brussels bureaucrats than their

own European citizens”.

Hungary has taken a hard line on migrants from outside the EU since more than one million people entered the country in 2015, most fleeing war in Syria. The Hungarian government erected border fences and tried to stop many from crossing.

EU law states that everyone fleeing persecution in their home country has the right to ask for international protection, and cannot be removed to their home if there is a serious risk of death or torture.

In a press release on Thursday, the EU court said Hungary “deliberately” avoided applying EU policy and its failure “constitutes an unprecedented and extremely serious infringement of EU law”.

The failure included the country

unlawfully detaining people applying for international protection and not respecting their right to remain in Hungary until an appeal on their application was exhausted, the court said.

The court said Hungary’s failure to follow EU laws passed responsibility on to other EU countries and undermined solidarity.

A new EU policy on asylum that aims to speed up the asylum process requires member countries to either take in thousands of migrants from «frontline» nations, such as Italy, Greece and Spain, or provide extra funding or resources instead.

In response, Hungary vowed not to take any irregular migrants, regardless of any pact.

Hungary will take over the rotating presidency of the EU on 1 July.

Sports News



Rising Stars continue to lead ABNDA's 3-hand domino competition

The Rising Stars have maintained the lead in the opening three-hand competition of the 2024 Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) domestic season after the latest round of matches.

The Rising Stars retained their place at the top of the standings by advancing to an overall total of 584 points after the eighth round of matches in the Three-Hand Competition, which is being conducted in the accumulated points format, at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos.

They consolidated their hold on first place in the 20-team round-robin competition by scoring 78 points to finish second in their eighth-round match, which was won by Dominatrixx with 82 points, and Triple Dynamite came in third with 69 points.

The win allows Dominatrixx to jump from 12th to eighth place with an overall

total of 514 points, while Triple Dynamite advances from fourth to third place with a total of 559 points.

The B team of Willikies Super Stars also held on to second place by advancing to an overall total of 574 points.

The Willikies Super Stars B team and Parham Strikers were awarded 70 points each for winning their eighth-round encounter by default against the Ramblers, who failed to show up for their match.

The A team of Willikies Super Stars, who occupied third place after the seventh round of matches, and Eagle Eye International were given byes and did not compete in the eighth round of matches.

Legacy Lightning moved from sixth to fourth place with an overall total of 554 points after finishing second in their latest encounter.

Fire Police scored 74 points to beat Legacy Light-



ning with 73 points and the A team of Full Clip with 71 points.

Legacy Thunders advance from seventh to fifth place with an overall total of 535 points, while the A team of Full Clip move up to joint seventh place with Highly Favoured with 520 points apiece.

Double Six Diamond scored 86 points to beat the Unstoppables with 68 points and Legacy Thunder with 63 points.

The A team of Bolans

Revellers recorded 81 points to prevail against Highly Favoured with 78 points and Double Six Ice with 65 points.

Bravo scored 78 points to beat the B team of Full Clip with 75 points and the B team of Bolans Revellers with 60 points. Bravo are currently second from the bottom of the standings with an overall total of 413 points.

The B team of Full Clip is in the cellar with an overall total of 409 points.

ABTA to stage trials for 2024 CARIFTA Triathlon and Aquathlon

The Antigua and Barbuda Triathlon Association (ABTA) will stage trials for CARIFTA at Ffyes Beach on Saturday at 7 am.

Athletes will be competing in various age group events to gain selection to represent Antigua and Barbuda in this year's CARIFTA Triathlon and Aquathlon in Barbados on August 17-18.

A triathlon is an athletic contest consisting of three different events, typically swimming, cycling, and long-distance running.

An aquathlon is a multisport race consisting of continuous running and swimming elements. Competitors complete a swim immediately, followed by a run over various distances.

Athletes compete for the fastest overall course completion, including the time transitioning between the disciplines.

These are the events for the 2024 CARIFTA triathlon and aquathlon:

11-12 male and female age groups
Triathlon: 200-meter swim, 5-kilometer cycling, and a 1.25-kilometer

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Celtics beat Dallas to take 3-0 lead in NBA Finals

DALLAS (AP) — Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown shared a long hug after helping Boston avoid the biggest collapse in an NBA Finals game since at least 1997.

The reward? The Celtics stars are on the brink of joining the litany of big-name predecessors to put a banner above the parquet floor back home.

Tatum scored 31 points, Brown had 30 and the Celtics held off a furious Dallas rally to move to the verge of a record 18th championship with a 106-99 victory over the Mavericks on Wednesday night for a 3-0 lead.

Brown finished with eight rebounds and eight assists as the Celtics extended their franchise record with a 10th consecutive playoff victory and moved to 7-0 on the road this postseason.

They can win the series and break a tie with the Lakers for most NBA championships with a victory Friday in Dallas. And Boston can forget about nearly blowing a 21-point lead with 11 minutes to go.

Boston also improved to 10-1 in these playoffs



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, left, drives against Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic during the second half in Game 3 of the NBA basketball finals in Dallas, Wednesday, June 12, 2024. (AP)

without Kristaps Porzingis after the 7-foot-2 Latvian was ruled out before the game because of a rare tendon injury in his lower left leg sustained in Game 2.

The status of Porzingis for the rest of the series appears in doubt, but it might not matter. None of the previous 156 teams to face a 3-0 deficit has rallied to win an NBA playoff series.

The Mavs almost pulled off a crazy comeback to avoid the big hole — 13 years after Dallas had the

biggest fourth-quarter rally in the play-by-play era of the NBA Finals (since 1997) when a 15-point comeback in Game 2 started its run to the franchise's only title against Miami.

Boston led 91-70 at the end of a 20-5 run early in the fourth quarter before Dallas answered with a 22-2 spurt to get within a point with 3 1/2 minutes remaining.

Problem was, Luka Doncic picked up his sixth foul with 4:12 remaining

when a challenge was unsuccessful before Kyrie Irving, who scored 35 points, hit a jumper to get Dallas within one.

Tatum and Brown saved the Celtics from there, with some help from Derrick White, who scored 16. Those three combined for the remaining 13 Boston points to get the Celtics within a victory of their first title since 2008, and just the second since 1986.

The Celtics have led 3-0 in the NBA Finals only once, finishing off the Lakers in a sweep in 1959. The first step for Dallas is trying to avoid getting swept in a seven-game series for just the second time in franchise history.

<p><i>cont'd from pg 20</i></p> <p>run. Aquathlon: a 250-meter swim and a 1.25-kilometer run.</p> <p>13-15 male and female age groups.</p> <p>Triathlon: a 400-meter swim, 10-kilometer cycling, and a 2.5-kilometer run. Aquathlon: a 500-meter swim and a</p>	<p>2.5-kilometer run.</p> <p>16-19 and 20-21 male and female age groups.</p> <p>Triathlon: 750-meter swim, 20-kilometer cycling, and a 5-kilometer run. Aquathlon: a 1,000-meter swim and a 5-kilometer run.</p>
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Bangladesh deny Netherlands to close in on Super 8 spot

Shakib Al Hasan starred as Bangladesh put themselves on the verge of qualification for the Super 8 stage at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup with a 25-run victory over the Netherlands at the Arnos Vale Ground in St. Vincent on Thursday.

Shakib was the standout batter on the day with an unbeaten 64, helping his side post 159 for five off their 20 overs on a surface where big-hitting was far from straightforward.

And the Bangladesh bowlers completed the job, restricting the Dutch to 134 for eight in the chase, 25 runs short.

Each of the top five in the Netherlands batting order reached double figures, with the match seemingly in the balance for long stretches of their reply.

But wickets fell too frequently for the Dutch to sustain their required run-rate, and their attempt fizzled out with the target still 25 runs away at the end.

Wickets from Taskin Ahmed (2/30) got the ball rolling for Bangladesh, as he dismissed opener Michael Levitt (18) and cleaned up Tim Pringle (1) off the final ball of the match to seal the win in style.

Max O'Dowd (12 from 16 balls), Vikramjit Singh (26 from 16 balls), Sybrand Engelbrecht (33 from 22 balls) and Scott Edwards (25



The Bangladesh team huddle after taking a wicket against the Netherlands in their Group D match in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown, St. Vincent, on Thursday, June 13, 2024. (ICC/Getty Images)

from 23 balls) all threatened to play the knock that turned the match in their team's favour, but some clever pace-off bowling from Bangladesh ensured that the run rate never went out of their control.

Rishad Hossain finished with three for 33 from his four overs, and Mustafizur Rahman delivered a masterclass with economical returns of one for 12 from his four.

Taskin, Tanzim Hasan Sakib (1/23) and Mahmudullah (1/6) were the other wicket-takers as Bangladesh took control of their fate in Group D.

It was the Dutch who struck the first blow of the day, winning the toss and opting to bowl first following a short rain delay.

Aryan Dutt proved tricky to get away in the Powerplay, picking up the wickets of Na-

imul Hossain Shanto and Litton Das, with the latter falling to an outrageous catch by Sybrand Engelbrecht.

A fiery partnership between Tanzid Hasan (35 from 26 balls) and Shakib Al Hasan saw Bangladesh accelerate towards a competitive score.

Paul van Meekeren stemmed the flow of the runs when he had Tanzid caught in the deep, and Tim Pringle struck to remove a bogged down Towhid Hridoy (9 from 15 balls), as pace off the ball proved the most effective option for the Dutch on a sticky surface.

But Bangladesh were able to add late runs as Netherlands returned to their death bowlers, with Shakib playing a superb hand, allowing Mahmudullah (25 from 21 balls) and Jaker Ali (14 from

7 balls) to let fly at the other end.

Pace went the distance for the Dutch, for whom off-spinner Aryan Dutt (2/17 in 4 overs) and medium-pacer Paul van Meekeren (2/15 in 4) proved by far the most effective bowlers.

And 160 proved too big a target in the end, leaving the Netherlands facing a likely first-round exit.

The result puts Bangladesh in control of their fate in Group D and the likely qualifiers along with South Africa. Nepal are up next for the Tigers, but that result may not matter depending on the outcome of other group matches.

The Netherlands still have an outside chance of qualifying, but the permutations are complicated with just one match, against Sri Lanka, still to play.

T.N. Kirnon and Five Islands to clash in Primary School Cup football final

T.N. Kirnon Primary and Five Islands Primary will battle for the Ministry of Sports Primary School Cup football title today.

Like last year, both teams will clash in the final at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's at 4

pm. The final will be preceded by a playoff for third place between losing semi-finalists Freeman's Village Primary and St. Peter's Primary at 3 pm.

The final was originally slated to take place

on Friday, June 6, but the match was rescheduled as the schools requested some additional time to prepare after students finished their final term exams.

There was also a change in venue for the final and the playoff for third place,

which were initially slated to take place at the ABFA Technical Center at Paynters.

But the two matches were switched to the Rising Sun playing field to give as many students, parents, and spectators as possible the opportunity to witness the games.

T.N. Kirnon Primary and Five Islands Primary advanced to the final after securing wins in the semi-finals at Buckley's Primary School's playing field.

T.N. Kirnon Primary, which finished as the runner-up to three-peat champion Golden Grove Primary last year, booked their spot in the final after eliminating Freeman's Village Primary 2-0 on penalties in the semi-finals.

T.N. Kirnon Primary and Freeman's Village played to a 2-2 draw at the end of regulation, sending the game to be decided in a best-of-three penalty shootout.

Five Islands Primary, which lost to Golden Grove in the final in 2022, advanced to this year's final by romping to a 7-1 victory against St. Peter's Primary in the other semi-final.

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figures of four for 16.

But Rutherford managed to hang around, anchoring his side's pursuit of a competitive total. And the fight paid off big time for the 25-year-old.

Rutherford turned the final five overs into his own 'Powerplay' of sorts, blasting five sixes and two fours.

He brought up his 50 on the final ball of the 19th over and pounded 18 runs off the final six deliveries as Mitchell Santner had no answers with the ball.

The Guyanese slugger produced one of the innings of the tournament so far, registering an unbeaten 68 off 39 balls. Rutherford scored all 37 runs in the closing partnership with Gudakesh Motie, which became a new 10th wicket record in ICC T20 World Cup history.

In reply, Devon Conway was out cheaply, as momentum stuck with the hosts at the start of the New Zealand innings. But Finn Allen was determined to ensure New Zealand's Powerplay went more smoothly than the Windies'.

He made 26 off 23 before finding Russell at deep backward square leg, as the Black Caps finished the first six overs at 36 for two.

It was unclear if anyone in New Zealand's line-up would source some Rutherford-like form, as Kane Williamson (1

off 2) and Rachin Ravindra's (10 off 13) efforts both stalled cheaply.

And the hosts officially had the Black Caps on the ropes when Motie ripped one straight past the outside of Daryl Mitchell's bat, taking the top of middle stump with a scorching ball.

With five overs to go, New Zealand required 65 runs for victory, as Glenn Phillips and James Neesham went about rebuilding momentum.

But hope further faded next ball as Alzarri Joseph forced Neesham to sky one – Brandon King showed a safe pair of hands when the ball finally made it back down.

It was all on Phillips to pull off a miracle chase for the Black Caps, who struck four key boundaries to help grow optimism.

But Joseph's lethal spell continued, beating another batter for pace. Phillips put one high and Powell was underneath it, forcing the 27-year-old to depart for 40 off 33 balls.

Joseph's four for 19 and Motie's three for 25 made sure the hosts maintained control in the field.

And despite Santner's best efforts, slugging an unbeaten 21 off 12 balls at the death, the West Indies officially booked their spot in the second round with their impressive victory.

West Indies beat New Zealand to progress at T20 World Cup

Co-hosts the West Indies are officially through to the next stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, pulling off a clutch 13-run win over fellow tournament heavyweights New Zealand at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on Wednesday night.

Middle-order batsman Sherfane Rutherford was the hero for the home side, producing one of the innings of the tournament to help the West Indies to 149 for nine off their 20 overs.

The Kiwis' hopes of progressing through Group C hang only by a thread after New Zealand was restricted to 136 for nine to crash to their second-straight defeat.

Having made three changes to the line-up beaten convincingly by Afghanistan, the Kiwis displayed signs of sharp purpose early. And Trent Boult made it count, dismissing West Indies opener Johnson Charles in the first over.

Nicholas Pooran rode some luck for three quick boundaries, becoming the West Indies' highest T20I run-getter, moving past



The West Indies players celebrate with left-arm spinner Gudakesh Motie, third right, after he dismissed New Zealand's skipper Kane Williamson during their Group C match in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. (ICC/Getty Images)

Chris Gayle. But New Zealand took ascendancy, dismissing Pooran and then Roston Chase to catches.

The wicket of captain Rovman Powell capped off a dominant Powerplay for the Kiwis – leaving the West Indies reeling at 23 for four at the six-over mark with bowler Tim Southee picking up two of

the scalps.

It was left for the hosts' middle and lower order to pick up the pieces when opener

Brandon King's dismissal became the Black Caps' fifth blow with the ball.

Rutherford and Akeal Hosein took some initiative, combining for a sixth

wicket stand of 28 runs off 27 balls. Hosein made 15 off 17 before departing.

Andre Russell kept the West Indies' total climbing slowly, chipping in for a quick-fire 14 off seven balls, including a six.

Russell was one of Boult's four wickets, who finished with impressive

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