

# GOV'T OFFERS TO HOST OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY NEXT YEAR

*Story on Page 2*



Caption (Left to right. Hubert Jarvis – General Manager ABTB, Josette Payne – MVIC Supervisor ABTB, Sherrylaine Bowens – Project Officer ABTB, Linell Lovell West – Chief Licensing Officer ABTB, Shirlene Nibbs – Chairperson ABHTI Board of Directors & Raynel Carroll – Executive Director ABHTI) *Story on page 10.*

## Antigua and Barbuda offers to host OAS general meeting

Fresh on the heels of the successful hosting of the SIDS4 conference at the end of May, Antigua and Barbuda is making an offer to host the 55th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organisation of American States (OAS) slated for June next year.

The offer was conveyed through the country's Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders at an OAS meeting in Washington on Tuesday.

Sir Ronald said Antigua and Barbuda makes the offer because it cherishes the OAS and the foundational principles enshrined in its Charter.

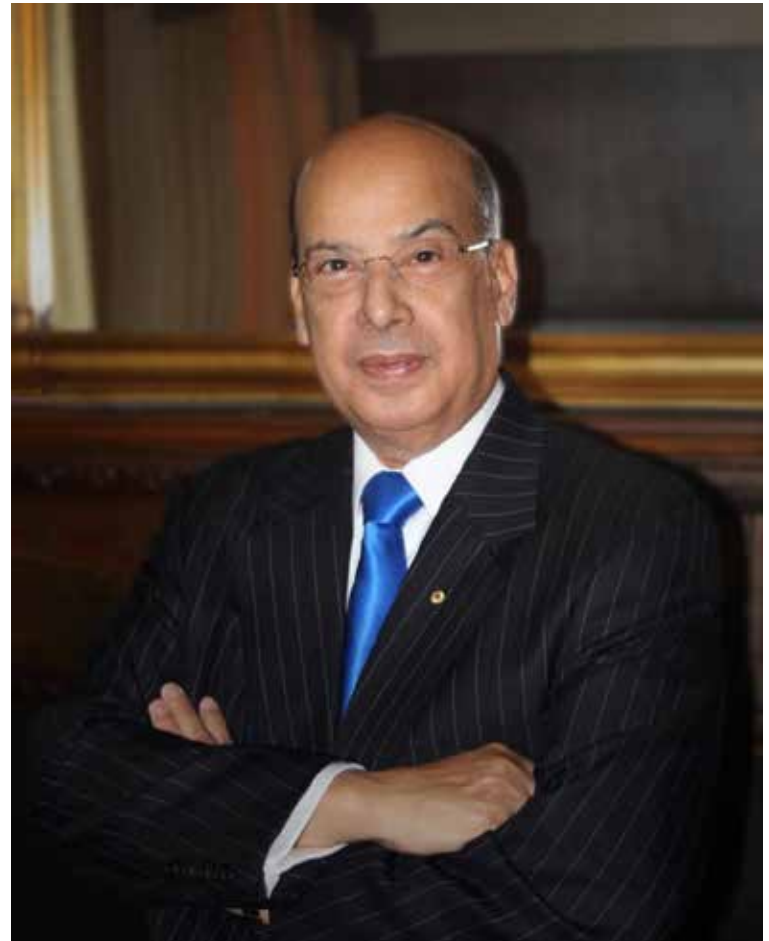
He said the country recognizes the challenges to democracy and the rule of law in the Americas; challenges that would be far more daunting without the

collective efforts within the OAS.

“That is why Antigua and Barbuda is steadfast in its support for the OAS, as well as committed to advancing our shared ideals of freedom, equity and justice,” he stated.

The ambassador also pointed to the successes Antigua and Barbuda achieved in its hosting of the recent SIDS4 conference which was attended by approximately five thousand delegates, including heads of state, the UN Secretariat officials and the heads of many civil society organisations.

“The success of hosting the UN conference, and now inviting the OAS to come to Antigua and Barbuda underline the pride of our people in promoting global dialogue and contributing



Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ronald Sanders

to international cooperation. We believe that we offer not

just a venue, but a retreat conducive to thoughtful deliberations and visionary outcomes,” Sir Ronald told the meeting.

Following his presentation, a video highlighting some of the country's attractions as well as short clips from the recent SIDS4 conference was played for the benefit of those present.

The government has already declared that it intends to offer to host more international conferences with the recognition that the country has the capacity to successfully host these events.



The AUA conference centre





Barbuda following the devastation of Hurricane Irma in 2017

## PM Browne advocates for a shake-up in global aid

A group of wealthier Caribbean nations is trying to shake up global finance in a way that would cut dependence on China and boost their access to funding.

Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne is leading a campaign for the United Nations to adopt a metric that measures economic fragility, which would potentially open the door to new funding.

Countries like Antigua and Barbuda are often too small to tap global bond markets but too rich to qualify for much international aid, so they have long turned to China to finance critical infrastructure.

Barbados, Jamaica and the Bahamas are among the nations backing the change, which is also being supported by Norway's former Prime Minister Erna Solberg.

"Many of our countries have been precluded from concessional funding because we're deemed to be too

wealthy," Mr Browne said. "But when you're struck by a climate event and you have no income and you have no savings, looking at the per capita income metric in terms of eligibility for funding is vulgar."

The "Multidimensional Vulnerability Index" backed by Mr Browne already has the support of 39 small island developing states and enough international backing to win approval at the UN General Assembly in September, he said.

I am operating with due regard as required under international law.

The MVI is designed to measure a country's structural vulnerability to external shocks such as storms, climate change and financial upheaval. The index's backers argue it should be used alongside existing benchmarks to determine funding needs.

The proposal comes as the country's reliance on high-interest loans, coupled with frequent natural disas-

ters, has saddled it with some of the highest debt levels in the hemisphere. The island of Barbuda was devastated by Hurricane Irma in 2017, which destroyed or damaged more than 90 per cent of the homes.

Antigua and Barbuda's gross domestic product of about \$19,000 (€17,700) per capita makes it wealthier than nearly all of Spanish-speaking Latin America, as well as some East European nations. The islands' biggest foreign currency earner is tourism. In recent decades, China has stepped into the funding breach, investing more than \$13bn in the Caribbean since 2010, building ports, airports, roads and schools.

In the last few months alone, Chinese companies have said they will build a 20,000-seat stadium in Barbados, have given Dominica \$10m to support various government initiatives, and offered Antigua grants for social housing.

## Government's Just Transition program nears deadline for air conditioning and hurricane shutter distribution registration

The Department of Environment (DOE) has announced the closing date for applications to its Air Conditioning and Hurricane Shutter distribution program, a significant initiative under the Government's Just Transition program. The deadline for applications is set for June 21st, 2024.

Launched as part of the DOE's climate technology initiative, this program aims to bolster the resilience and comfort of residents, enhancing disaster preparedness and environmental sustainability. The current order has reached its limit, with the DOE having allocated the 3,400 AC units allowed by the Cabinet and receiving over 7,000 applications for carbon fiber sheets. Households are permitted to request a maximum of two AC units and six sheets.

To comply with DOE's Accreditation AMC/CTF requirements, applicants must upload an APUA bill and an ID on the designated site. Requests cannot be processed without these documents.

After the application period ends, the DOE will email each applicant with details about the payment process. Notably, all payments must be wired to a designated bank account, as cash and cheques will not be accepted. Payments will



DEPARTMENT of  
**ENVIRONMENT**  
 Antigua and Barbuda

be directed to a special fund of the SIRF Fund, with receipts issued to applicants.

Pick-up points are being arranged to facilitate easy collection for applicants, whether they have a vehicle or not. Additionally, applicants can authorize their AC installers to collect the units on their behalf by providing them with the receipt. For low-income individuals or single-parent families needing shutters cut to size, a sign-up link will be provided. The DOE will coordinate with the team at the Prison to prepare these customized shutters.

The distribution effort will be supported by 20 DOE summer interns, the Defense Force, and various other government agencies. In response to concerns about oversight, the DOE has scheduled a meeting with the Internal Auditor and the distribution team on June 21st, inviting media participation for transparency. Furthermore, the names

of all applicants will be published on the DOE's website before and after the process, in compliance with donor requirements for transparency. Any complaints or suggestions for improvement will also be collected and published on the DOE website. If accepted, these suggestions will be implemented in future programs in other countries.

Shipping and logistical challenges persist due to high global demand and increased costs, making it difficult for the DOE to confirm exact arrival times for the AC units and shutters. The cost of the shutters will not exceed \$300 per sheet, with each sheet measuring 6.8x8 ft. Pensioners will receive special pricing on both AC units and shutters, as directed by the Cabinet.

Each applicant will receive a final confirmation letter upon receipt of the items. For AC units, this letter will include the serial numbers, which are neces-

sary to validate the limited warranty.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment expresses gratitude to all applicants and contributors who helped the DOE meet donor requirements for project impact. Looking ahead, the DOE plans to launch similar programs for farmers and other sectors in the coming months, using summer interns to collect crucial data.

This information will aid in the design of future projects aimed at enhancing climate resilience.

The DOE will also use the lessons learned from this program to design a similar initiative for Grenada. The DOE team met with their Grenadian counterparts during the SIDS4 conference and will begin the program in Grenada this August.

For queries related to the SIRF Fund, please contact 464-5030 or 464-5031.



## High demand for skilled construction workers fueled by activities in hotel and luxury properties

There's a growing demand for skilled construction worker driven by the announcement that several major hotel projects are to break ground by the end of the year.

And according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne, the demand for skilled construction workers is also driven by the growing number of high-end private properties that are being constructed on Antigua, in particular, with Barbuda having its fair share of these developments.

"We have attracted more luxury properties to Antigua and Barbuda than any other Caribbean country over the past ten years. These include properties within the PLH Project as well as developments in Jumby Bay, Windward Beach, Galley Bay Heights, Pearn's Point, Mill Reef Club and several others; there are a lot of luxury properties being built in the country today that are valued between US\$5 million and US\$50 million apiece," the prime minister revealed.

He explained that many in the society would not see some of these developments because, unfortunately, many persons do not travel around the country to see exactly what is taking place. Additionally, he believes that unlike a hotel property where there would usual-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne be a large single building, these are luxury homes spread across several acres of land.

"For example, at Windward Beach, a development that started some six years ago, they have built about fifteen properties, no less than US\$10 million apiece; that's more than many hotel developments, even a Sandals Grande. Our people can see a Sandals Grande, but they don't see these properties being built at Windward Beach," he further explained.

According to PM Browne, there has been a 'trickle down' effect from these properties into the local economy as their contributions are calculated into the country's GDP. However, he identified one area where these developments have had a more visible impact; they have increased the demand for skilled construction workers.

"When you have a construction sector that is buoyant, it tells you that there is a building out of the so-

cio-economic infrastructure of the country which will lead to more income arising from these projects," he started.

He recalled a meeting he held with a contractor who has secured contracts for a number of projects that are about to start including luxury properties and hotels and he needs to double his 150-person workforce immediately to handle the work involved.

The projects that will be rolled out over the coming months include the Nikki Beach Hotel Development, to be undertaken by Am-

bassador Calvin Ayre; the high-end Marriot Resort at Yeptons to be undertaken by a group out of Qatar; and possibly the One-and-Only resort development planned for Half Moon Bay.

The prime minister said the contractor wants to add to his workforce which already comprises a number of Caribbean nationals, but he now wants to recruit skilled workers from outside the region to meet the demands here in Antigua and Barbuda.

He indicated that the government is looking at the request favourably.

### AUCTION NOTICE

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Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

Dated this the 05<sup>th</sup> day of June 2024

Trevor Teddy Santos Inc.  
Licensed Auctioneer

## GARD Centre places \$80,000 estimate from recent robbery

The Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development (GARD) Centre, located at Gilbert’s Estate near Pares Village, has placed an estimate of approximately \$80-thousand in losses from the weekend robbery at the facility.

Executive Director June Jackson said the entire staff at the training facility is still shaken by the extent of the loss coupled with the significant damage done to the buildings, especially the doors, all except the bathroom doors, were damaged in one form or another.

“We have spent the last two days, putting together a list of what has been missing but this is being revised constantly as new items are reported missing during the compi-

lation. I need to complete the list so that a formal report with the list of missing items can be presented to the police,” she reported.

In addition to the many stolen items, Jackson revealed that the thieves were quite organized as they disrupted the internet service, telephone, the electricity as well as the security camera system installed at the facility.

“We have had to resort to engaging the services of security officers who have been stationed at the centre on Monday and Tuesday nights.

“We only have funding to hire the security for two nights, but I pray for some intervention as we need their services until the building can be better secured,” she told Point Ex-

press newspaper. Telephone services resumed on Tuesday.

Jackson said the emotional toll on the staff has also been significant and she especially wishes to engage the security officers at some point during the day to help allay some of their fears.

So far, one corporate sponsor has come forward to inquire in what areas they can help along with two overseas ‘partners’ who have also indicated a willingness to help acquire new equipment and replace the broken doors.

Jackson also expressed a strong determination to continue the work of the GARD Centre which helps to upskill many young people and to help them find their paths in life.

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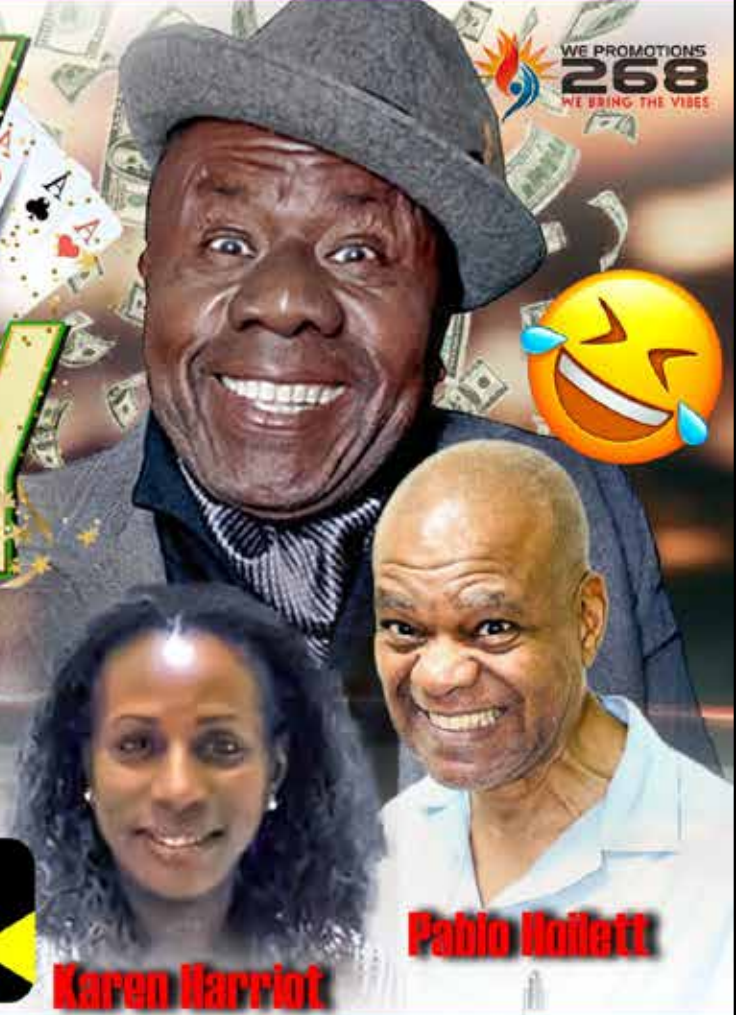
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## Hell's Gate to perform at cultural festival in Venezuela

The reigning panorama champions, Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra, will represent Antigua and Barbuda at a major festival of cultural performers drawn from across the Caribbean and Africa that opens in Caracas Venezuela on Thursday.

Under the theme 'Drums of ALBA – Beats of our Identity', the festival runs from June 20 to 23 and it will be staged at Bolivar Square in the Venezuelan capital.

A spokesperson for the Venezuelan Embassy in St. John's explained that the festival is primarily for member states comprising ALBA TCP, the grouping of Caribbean and Latin

American countries formed by the late Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and Cuba's late President, Fidel Castro. However, invitations were extended to non-ALBA countries as well as to a group out of Benin in Africa.

Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra travels Caracas today (Wednesday) and their first performance is scheduled for tomorrow (Thursday).

The festival is taking place within another major event – the Festival of San Juan – an annual event in Venezuela.

Along with Hell's Gate Steel Orchestra, performers from Grenada, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba,

Haiti, Uruguay, Colombia, Honduras, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Dominica are participating with the involvement of several groups from host country, Venezuela.

There will also be a series of discussions around topics such as; African Presence in our Latin America and the Caribbean, Culture and Politics, Caribbean Identity and Spirituality and Economy and Cultural Tourism.

On Saturday, all attendees will participate in an event dubbed; *Walk for the Spirituality Day of Caracas*. It starts from La Pelota corner on Urdaneta Avenue to Bolivar Square in the city.

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## Two cruise ships due in port today

Two cruise ships are calling at the St. John’s Harbour today as the efforts to encourage more cruise ship calls during the traditionally dormant summer months continue to show dividends.

The vessels are – Rhapsody of the Seas of the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line and Norwegian Sky of the Norwegian Cruise Line – which together are expected to bring close to four thousand passengers into the country.

Nine cruise calls are slated for the month of June this year, seven more than called in June of last year.

The Antigua Cruise Port continues to promote Antigua and Barbuda as an attractive destination year-round and so far, it has seen an increase in cruise ship calls over the summer



Rhapsody of the Seas

months; a time when cruise lines traditionally transfer their vessels to the Mediterranean, South America or the Far East.

The Norwegian Sky will return next week Friday for its final call for the month.



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## ABHTI and ABTB strengthen partnership to enhance service ambassador programme

As Antigua and Barbuda makes a push to increase visitors to the country as well as the renewed push to attract conventions business, two government agencies have come together to undertake a training programme designed specifically for taxi drivers.

The Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) has announced that it has entered into an arrangement with the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board (ABTB) to enhance the existing Service Ambassador training programme for taxi drivers.

Representatives from both entities met recently when they focused on key areas of the training programme.

“The aim is to equip taxi drivers with the skills necessary to deliver exceptional service to visitors and locals, enhancing their overall experience. This ongoing collaboration emphasizes



consistent service excellence, within the hospitality and tourism sectors,” a statement from the ABHTI said.

General manager of the ABTA, Hubert Jarvis said he fully endorses the programme.

“Collaboration is key to making a significant impact,” stated Jarvis, “We are happy to continue this valuable partnership with the ABHTI. Completion of the Service Ambassador training is a requirement for attaining the taxi driver li-

cence”

“Training, development and awareness are areas core to our mission,” said Shirlene Nibbs, Chairperson of the ABHTI Board of Directors. “By equipping taxi drivers, we contribute to industry excellence, as taxi drivers are usually the first and last points of contact. We are committed to evolving our programmes to meet the hospitality sector’s needs.”

The three-week programme covers one module per week, focusing on key

aspects of a taxi driver’s role. Modules include introductions to hospitality and tourism, quality customer care, and island knowledge.

An updated completion requirement will assess attendance and punctuality, deportment, and other factors. Upon completion, participants will receive a Service Ambassador certificate valid for three years.

Individuals interested in becoming certified Service Ambassadors are encouraged to contact the ABHTI for more information.

## A&B, OECS offer condolences to Malawi on vice president’s death

Ambassador Colin Murdoch who is attached to the OECS Mission in Geneva, Switzerland, signed a Book of Condolences on behalf of the OECS at the Malawi mission in Geneva in sympathy over the death of the Vice President of Malawi Dr Saulos Chilima.

Dr. Chilima died in a Malawi military along with eight other persons. It happened last Wednesday.

Dr. Chilima was en route to Mzuzu, where he was scheduled to attend the burial of late Ralph Kasambara in Nkhata Bay.

The Malawi Defence Force (MDF) plane, carrying the Vice President, lost contact approximately 10 minutes before landing at Mzuzu Airport. The wreckage of the aircraft was found sometime later.



Ambassador Colin Murdoch





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- Maintain communication with external stakeholders regarding application status.
- Conduct final reviews before document dispatch.
- Manage application renewal processes.
- Coordinate meetings to discuss and address operational concerns.
- Provide regular reports on issued applications and duties.
- Maintain accurate records and ensure timely payment updates.
- Deliver superior customer service and uphold professional standards.
- Undertake additional duties as assigned.

### **Requirements**

- Confidentiality, honesty, and integrity
- High degree of professionalism
- People management skills
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Ability to handle multiple priorities
- Strong problem-solving skills and ability to take initiative
- Ability to prioritize tasks and manage shifting priorities
- Strong organizational skills with attention to detail
- Strong analytical and research skills
- Excellent customer service skills

### **Education/Training**

- Associate Degree or higher
- Three (3) years related experience in Compliance, Banking, or Regulatory environment
- Proficient in Microsoft Office: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint
- AML/KYC training

### **How to Apply**

Please submit your resume and cover letter to [hrtalentmanagement268@gmail.com](mailto:hrtalentmanagement268@gmail.com) by the end of day 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024. Your cover letter should concisely outline how your skills, experience, and achievements align with the requirements of the position, and how you would contribute to the organization's success.

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# Workplace



## Caribbean recruiters and employers must navigate the Data Protection Act's implications

The enactment of the Data Protection Act, 2020, took effect on December 1, 2020, and the deadline for data controllers to become compliant with the Data Protection Act was May 31, 2024. The Act carries with it significant implications which leaders within the Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals believe will lead to improvements in how Jamaican employers and recruiters engage candidates.

The Act, designed to regulate the processing of personal data and protect individuals' privacy rights, requires organisation to reevaluate their recruitment practices to ensure compliance and avoid severe penalties.

Rochelle James, Founder of the Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals, emphasizes the



Stephanie Murdock, Chief Human Resources Officer for Cornerstone United Holdings Jamaica Ltd. and CSHRP Board Director.



Brittany Brathwaite, Founder and Principal Consultant of The Source Consultancy

Act's far-reaching impact on recruitment processes. "The Data Protection Act affects how we recruit and engage candidates, from the application forms to the interview structure. While our current focus is Jamaica, our region has taken Data Protection seriously with 5 of our neighbours having Data Protection laws in place with similar implications, specifically, in Trinidad and Tobago, The Cayman Islands, The Bahamas, Barbados and St Lucia.

James explains, "Employers must re-draft employment application forms, ensuring that the information collected is within scope and that candidates are informed about how their information will be used, even if they are not selected."

Under the new legislation, employers must obtain explicit consent from candidates before collecting, recording, or sharing their personal information. This requirement extends to all aspects of the recruitment process, including virtual or in-person interviews, video, written and audio

recordings. "Recording of interviews through note-taking, audio, video, or any other form of recordkeeping may be considered personal content," James warns. "How this information is shared and stored is going to be of importance to the assigned Data Protection Officer, and it is information that we should be careful in handling."

James stresses the importance of treating the interview space as sacred and confidential, recognising that candidates, as data subjects, have willingly provided extensive personal and professional information during the application process. "We must ask ourselves, are we requesting private information from candidates even before they are interviewed, and what is the purpose of this information?" James questions.

CHRO for Cornerstone Group and CSHRP Board Director Stephanie Murdock, in speaking on the subject, highlighted that "HR's failure to comply with the Data Protection Act can

*cont'd on pg 13*



## Evangelical Alliance: Noise without knowledge

*Dear Editor:*

We are pleased that the Rev. Dr. Olson Daniel, President of the Evangelical Alliance (ABEA), has shown an interest in the constitutional challenge to the abortion law (Loop News, June 11).

That is democracy in action. Of course, his source of authority is the Bible. We respect that.

However, the challenge before the High Court is the constitutionality of the abortion law. As we read our constitution, it establishes a secular state, not a theocratic one.

Let us be clear: Abortion is legal in Antigua and Barbuda. What is illegal is "unlawful" abortion. Please read the law, OFPA, Ch. 53, 54.

Further, there is specific provision for abortion when it is necessary to

save the life of a woman, even after 28 weeks when the child could be born alive, Infant life (Preservation) Act, 1, 2. So, abortion is legal but severely restricted. We want to remove those restrictions.

Dr. Daniel makes the truly absurd assertion that physicians want the law changed so they can gain financially. When has a legal transaction ever been more profitable than a black-market one?

He goes on to discuss the murder rate and population decline.

What is remarkably absent from his discourse is any mention of male responsibility or female dignity. Apparently, women have unwanted pregnancies all by themselves. Men are absent and invisible.

The reverend gentleman seems to

be oblivious of the widespread practice of abortion. Here is a little social experiment he may want to perform.

Distribute sheets of paper so answers can be anonymous and ask only men and women 44 years and older in your congregation to answer the following questions, truthfully, before God:

Have you ever had/caused an abortion? Have you ever been forced/forced someone to have sex? Have you ever been a victim/agent of domestic violence? Were you ever sexually abused as a child? Have you ever sexually abused a child?

Please do this. We expect that the results will awaken a greater pastoral, caring approach to this issue.

*Sincerely,*  
**ASPIRE**

*cont'd from pg 12*

result in significant fines, legal action, and damage to an organization's reputation. However, compliance should not be viewed solely as a means to avoid penalties; it is an opportunity to build trust with candidates and demonstrate respect for their personal information".

Murdock emphasizes that "Candidates' consent is crucial, and it should be explicitly given and not assumed simply because they are seeking employment within your organisation," she states. "Employers must be transparent about how candidate information will be used and obtain explicit consent for any data processing activities." Barbados



Rochelle James, Founder of the Caribbean Society for Human Resource Professionals based Caribbean Regional Labour Law aficionado, Brittany Brathwaite, in addition to the dialogue stated that "As regional employers

dards set by the Data Protection Act." By embracing transparency, accountability, and the rights of candidates, organisation can foster a recruitment industry that prioritizes privacy and trust.

The CSHRP team believes that the Data Protection legislations in Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, St. Lucia, The Cayman Islands, The Bahamas and Barbados play a pivotal role in shaping the future of recruitment in the country. As organisations grapple with the implications of the legislation, it is clear that those who proactively adapt and prioritize candidate privacy will be best positioned to thrive in this new era of recruitment.

and recruiters navigate this new landscape, it is crucial that they thoroughly review and adapt their recruitment practices to meet the stan-

# Business



## Nvidia becomes world's most valuable company

By Mitchell Labiak

Nvidia became the world's most valuable company after its share price climbed to an all-time high on Tuesday.

The stock ended the trading day at nearly \$136, up 3.5%, making it more valuable than Microsoft. It overtook Apple earlier this month.

Nvidia makes computer chips needed for artificial intelligence (AI) software, and demand for its



products has boosted its sales and profits over the last few years. Many investors believe

its earnings can grow even more, which has caused its share price to soar, though some have questioned its sky-high valuation.

Tuesday's share price rally means the market now values the company at \$3.34tn (£2.63tn), with the price having nearly doubled since the start of this year.

Eight years ago, the stock was worth less than 1% of its current price.

Competition among AI developers is fierce. Microsoft, Google-owner Alphabet, Meta and Apple are just some of the tech heavyweights battling to create a world-beating product.

This competition benefits Nvidia, which dominates the vast majority of the AI chip market.

As such, investors believe the company will continue to surge in value. Nvidia's sales and profit

*cont'd on pg 15*

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## Trinidad artistes struggle with monetisation despite music's potential

By Dillon De Shang

While Trinidad music holds significant earning potential, many performers struggle to capitalise on their talent due to a lack of knowledge in commercialising their hit songs.

Speaking during a panel at the Caribbean Musiccon titled, "Trinidad: Exploring Trinidad's Newest Musical Genre" on June 18, artiste manager Delica Patterson and producer DeeJay Punz said many in the industry are still learning daily about where they can earn money outside of performing live.

"There is money in streaming but not all artiste would be knowledgeable of ways to earn from all the different revenue streams. So, it will have Trinidad artiste who they can say are broke because they are not capitalising off their songs. But we can say that about other artiste. We must educate the youth," DeeJay Punz said.

DeeJay Punz, who has his own clothing line called "Trinidad Urban Apparel", said he always encourages performers that come



into his studio to invest in themselves and look at earning money from their copyright and selling merchandise.

He added it's important for artiste have some level of ownership of what they produce and intellectual property so they can continue to profit from their talent long after their days in the spotlight are over.

Patterson told the audience that there isn't a central place where ar-

tistes and their managers can go to get the information about monetising their content.

"It is still a learning process for everyone. Because I'm sure for those who are succeeding in terms of understanding the processes of distribution and publishing can attest to the fact that there is so much to learn," she said.

Meanwhile, Trinidad singer Rheon Elbourne said it was crucial for ar-

tiste to learn the business of music so they can earn money outside of Trinidad and Tobago.

Elbourne, whose hit song "Build My Dreams" has amassed over 3 million on YouTube, said he was able to tap into opportunities globally after making his songs available on streaming platforms.

He urged artiste to always remember that they are operating a business.

Elbourne noted failure to have everything in writing could result in them being unable to release music as someone may have contributed their intellectual property to a song during a recording and would want to also benefit from what money it earns.

*cont'd from pg 14*

figures have surpassed many analyst expectations in recent years.

In May, after its latest set of financial results were published, Quilter Cheviot technology analyst Ben Barringer said the company had "once again cleared a very high hurdle".

"Demand is showing no signs of

switching off either," he added.

However, a minority are more cautious.

In February, Barclays credit analyst Sandeep Gupta argued that Nvidia's large market share would be hard to maintain given the increasing number of rivals and questioned how Nvidia's customers would monetise AI software.

# Regional News



## Former CDB head issues warning on bank's future in letter to Governors

CMC - The former president of the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), Dr Hyginus "Gene" Leon, says if there is no change within the financial institution "the next president may encounter the same challenges" that he faced during his tenure at the region's premier financial institution.

In an 11-page letter sent to the Board of Governors, who will open their 54th annual meeting in Canada on Wednesday, Leon, who resigned his position after having been sent on administrative leave in April, said it was also "reasonable to question whether the Board of Governors has been advised appropriately" regarding his situation and "whether the information provided to the investigators and the Board has not been contaminated..."

In his letter, a copy of which has been obtained by the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC), the St Lucian-born economist is also questioning whether the "information provided...contained misrepresentations and whether the reports presented could stand the test of rigorous analysis?"

In April, lawyers representing Leon, wrote to the bank indicating that it was "evident" that the CDB had "lost all trust and confidence in our client by the failure of the Board of Governors to prevent the continued violations of its Charter, policies, rules and regulations with regard to its elected President.

"Our client has therefore made the extremely difficult decision to resign his elected position of the President of the Bank with immediate effect," the law firm wrote, adding the CDB had 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



Dr Hyginus "Gene" Leon.

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".

The CDB has not, if it did respond to the lawyer's letter, made the contents of its response public, but St Vincent and the Grenadines Finance Minister, Camillo Gonsalves, has called on his fellow governors to stop "exposing" the financial institution "to further ridicule and undoubtedly, more litigation" and move on from the "resignation" of Leon.

In a May 14, 2024, letter sent to "my fellow members of the CDB Board of Governors," Gonsalves said that he has been asked to "vote on whether the Caribbean Development Bank should accept the resignation of Dr Hyginus Leon from his position as President of the CDB, or whether he should be terminated as of a date three weeks beyond his resignation letter."

In the letter, a copy of which has been obtained by CMC, Gonsalves said that "as Governor for Saint Vincent and the Grenadines" he had received two separate voting forms on "successive days" asking him to vote on the issue.

But Gonsalves, who is also an attorney, noted that the "options" placed before the Board of Governors "would

create the incongruous situation of a President who remains in the employ of CDB three weeks after he submitted his resignation-and possibly beyond.

St Lucia's Prime Minister Phillip J Pierre has blamed a "conspiracy" for the removal of Leon adding that he wanted to place "on record St. Lucia's full support for the work that Gene Leon did at the Caribbean Development Bank and to regret that a conspiracy, and I make no bones about it and this is not personal to anybody, to any function to the bank, a conspiracy is what caused Gene Leon to resign".

Last month, during the fourth conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS) held in Antigua and Barbuda, the country's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, told the state-owned ABS radio and television that discussions were taking place for the creation of a development bank catering specifically to the needs of SIDS and that the former CDB president has been engaged as those discussions gain momentum.

When the governors meeting opens in Canada on Wednesday, the bank said its acting president, Isaac Solomon will "highlight the Bank's future direction in its ongoing thrust to foster resilient prosperity across the Caribbean region". The opening ceremony will also be addressed by Ahmed Hussen, the chairman of the Board of Governors and Canada's Minister of International Development.

In his June 15 letter to the governors, Leon wrote that he is "unlikely to have the opportunity to engage" them but he wanted to place on record "my appreciation of the trust placed in electing me as the sixth President of this august institution, which I had the pleasure to serve".

The letter recalled that Leon had outlined four themes to drive the institu-

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tion during his interview for the post and sought to respond to the allegations that had been levied against him resulting in him being sent on administrative leave while the bank carried out its investigation.

For example, the letter makes reference to a “Leadership in Crisis Management” alleging that the “office of the President created a toxic working environment”.

But Leon wrote “the question is under what conditions could this have occurred. First, a toxic environment could only occur with direct reports (Vice Presidents and Directors).

“This begs the question was the allegation of a toxic environment centered on a leader asking his direct reports to deliver and be accountable?,” Leon wrote, adding that “expecting accountability and high performance from team members is a standard aspect of leadership and management”.

Leon, a former senior IMF official, said that the CDB is mandated to serve the entire region and its populace and that he was “driven to push incessantly and to advocate forcefully for four major initiatives that are essential complements to implementing and benefiting from the Bridgetown Initiative advocated by the Government of Barbados”.

The Bridgetown Initiative is being compared to the Marshall Plan of 1948, when the United States provided more than US\$13 billion of foreign aid to help Western Europe recover after World War II.

It is a proposal to reform the world of development finance, particularly how rich countries help poor countries cope with and adapt to climate change. It sets out three key steps including the establishment of a new mechanism, with private-sector backing, to fund climate mitigation and reconstruction after a climate disaster

Regarding the allegation of “Sexism and Ageism,” Leon wrote that “as

a leader, I have always viewed my role as one of identifying and nurturing talent and creating opportunities for diligent professionals in their careers, especially in areas that advance the institution’s mandate.

“Yet, during my tenure as President, it became noticeable that women were being labelled as too outspoken, hardworking, or ambitious. These expressions and their implications were in direct contradiction to the Bank’s Gender Policy and Strategy, EDGE principles, and acceptance of the principles of non-discrimination and a safe and fair workplace”.

He wrote that “it is deeply concerning that, as noted by a distinguished regional thought leader, an institution such as the Bank, which is EDGE certified, has moved with haste and arguably hostility to promote sexism and ageism because female colleagues were not aligned in perspective or work ethics with certain members of the senior team.

“It appears also that my attempts to lead in establishing these desired practices were not acceptable,” Leon wrote, adding “it would be disappointing if the region’s premier financial institution and a proponent of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) should be marred by discriminatory conduct”.

The former CDB president also responded to the allegations of “Excessive Travel” noting that “the necessity for expanded travel by the Bank was and remains paramount to advance membership engagements, foster collaborations with strategic partners, and enhance our representation in significant regional and global forums”.

He said like other persons in leadership positions as the president of the CDB he travelled “a lot, but always with a purpose and for advancing the Bank’s business.

“That purpose was announced to the Board of Directors from the start of my presidency,” Leon wrote,” adding that “few would argue that these objectives

have not been advanced significantly over the past three years.

“May I submit to Governors, am I being punished for doing more than was deemed doable, or for being overly zealous in advancing the development agenda for the Region?” Leon wrote, insisting that “all travel was purposeful to achieve goals on thought leadership and engagement with shareholders and international shareholders as well as leverage the heightened necessity for strategic presence in a post-pandemic, climate changed-focused global environment”.

Leon said that when other development banks are actively engaged in discussions on shaping the future of the global financial ecosystem “it is imperative for the CDB to assert its presence in these dialogues to advocate effectively for our region’s interests and priorities.

“Within the Bank, I viewed the Office of the President not as a perfunctory or ceremonial one, but one that sets the tone and pace of the organisation that I was elected to lead,” he said, adding that his drive and ambition, “often characterised as assertive, were deeply rooted in the conviction that the Bank has a leading role to play in the transformation of the region.

“As President, my driving force was that the Bank should not be merely observing but should be actively shaping the trajectory of our BMC’s (Borrowing member countries) and the region.

“It was imperative that the Bank not only served the needs of its member countries but also stood as the authoritative voice and advocate of the region, while crafting impactful partnerships that drive substantive change”.

Leon said that the imperative for strong leadership cannot be overstated, adding “it cannot be business as usual.

“I believe that it is through decisive, accountable and innovative leadership that we can truly transform our institutions and, by extension, provide unwavering support to our region,” Leon wrote.

## Boeing boss grilled by US lawmakers and victims

Boeing's chief executive Dave Calhoun faced a grilling from US senators about the company's culture as he apologised to family members of plane crash victims, who shouted at him throughout the hearing.

Mr Calhoun testified on Tuesday to Congress that the company had "learned" from past mistakes and that the process for employee whistleblowers "works" - but lawmakers still accused him of not doing enough to rectify a culture of retaliation.

The US company most recently was put in the spotlight when a door panel fell off a new 737 Max plane during an Alaska Airlines flight in January, leaving a gaping hole.

As part of an ongoing investigation, Boeing whistleblowers told the Senate in April that the 737 Max, the 787 Dreamliner and the 777 models had serious production issues.

Mr Calhoun, who became CEO in 2020 and plans to leave later this year, told the Senate sub-committee that some problems come from an "untrained workforce".

He blamed the layoffs and worker turnover that plagued the industry after Covid, saying they contributed to manufacturing issues at the company.

"So much of this is related to an untrained workforce. It's all about that, honestly," he said.



The company faced intense criticism five years ago, after two 737 Max aircraft were lost in separate, but almost identical accidents, killing 346 people.

Several family members of victims who died in those crashes attended the hearing, holding up pictures of loved ones. They spoke outside in a news conference beforehand.

"I flew from England to Washington DC to hear in person what the Boeing CEO has to say to the Senate and to the world about any safety improvements made at that corporation," said Zipporah Kuria, whose father was killed in the 2019 crash of a Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet.

"I also continue to press the US government to hold Boeing and its corporate executives criminally responsible for the deaths of 346 people. We will not rest until we see justice."

Clariss Moore, whose daughter died in a Boeing

crash in Ethiopia in 2019, confronted Mr Calhoun, asking him during the hearing about "my daughter's last breath on the plane".

"Did she call for me? Did someone hold her hands?" she demanded.

Committee chairman Richard Blumenthal kicked off the tense hearing by thanking family members "for having the strength and courage to be with us".

He also demanded to know what Boeing was doing "to end this broken safety culture".

"I assure you that I listened to the whistleblowers," Mr Calhoun responded.

He added that he had not spoken to whistleblowers and acknowledged company retaliation against several.

"I know it happens," he said, adding that he does not know how many employees were fired or disciplined for speaking out about safety issues.

During the hearing, Mr

Calhoun rose and turned to say sorry to the families for their losses.

"They're gut-wrenching," he said, his voice seeming to break with emotion, "and I apologise for the grief that we have caused."

Boeing chief engineer Howard McKenzie testified that there "absolutely" was a culture of safety first within Boeing's engineering team.

After the hearing ended, Senator Blumenthal told BBC News that he was not satisfied with the CEO's answers, and that his probe would continue.

"I have a lot more questions that need to be answered and we're going to be pursuing our investigation," he said.

In May, the US justice department informed Boeing that it launched a criminal investigation into its practices.

Several family members on Tuesday said they hoped criminal charges would be filed against the company.



# UK's richest family on trial for human trafficking

By Imogen Foulkes

Four members of the UK's richest family are on trial in Switzerland amid allegations they spent more money caring for their dog than their servants.

The Hinduja family, worth an estimated £37bn (\$47bn), is accused of exploitation and human trafficking.

The family own a villa in Geneva's wealthy neighbourhood of Cologny, and the charges against them all relate to their practice of importing servants from India to look after their children and household.

It's alleged that Prakash and Kamal Hinduja, together with their son Ajay and his wife Namrata, confiscated staff passports, paid them as little as \$8 (£7) for 18-hour days, and allowed them little freedom to leave the house.

Although a financial settlement over exploitation was reached last week, the Hinduja family remain on trial for trafficking, which is a serious criminal offence in Switzerland. They deny the charges.

This week in court, one of Geneva's most famous prosecutors, Yves Bertossa, compared the almost \$10,000 a year he claimed the family had spent on their dog, to the daily amount they were alleged-



Ajay Hinduja (L) and his wife Namrata arrive with their lawyer Robert Assael at a court house in Geneva.

ly paying their servants.

The Hinduja family's lawyers did not specifically deny the allegations of low wages, but said they must be viewed in context - noting that the staff were also receiving accommodation and food.

The charge of long hours was also disputed, with one defence lawyer arguing that watching a film with the Hinduja children could not really be classed as work.

Some former servants testified for the Hinduja family, describing them as a friendly family who treated their servants with dignity.

But the allegations that servants' passports were

confiscated, and that they could not even leave the house without permission, are serious, because they could be judged as human trafficking.

Mr Bertossa is calling for prison terms, and millions of dollars in compensation as well as legal fees.

It is not the first time that Geneva, a hub for international organisations as well as the world's wealthy, has been in the spotlight over the alleged mistreatment of servants.

In 2008, Hannibal Gaddafi, son of Libya's former dictator Muammar Gaddafi, was arrested in his five star Geneva hotel by police acting on information that he and his

wife had been beating their servants, including with a coat hanger. The case was later dropped.

But it caused a huge diplomatic row between Switzerland and Libya, with two Swiss citizens arrested in Tripoli as a retaliatory measure.

Just last year, four domestic workers from the Philippines launched a case against one of Geneva's diplomatic missions to the United Nations, claiming they had not been paid for years.

The Hinduja's ongoing, high profile case will draw attention, once again, to the darker, uglier side of the city that likes to call itself "the city of peace".



Rohan 'Porridge' Benjamin, left, gestures while performing duties as a referee during a Primary School Cup match that featured female players at the T.N. Kirnon Primary School playing field in 2023. (File photo)

## Girls' competition to be added to Primary School Cup next year

Coordinator of the Ministry of Sports Schools' Football Programme Rohan "Porridge" Benjamin, said a girls' competition will be introduced at the primary school level next year.

While girls are allowed to play with boys as part of a co-ed team in the annual Primary School Cup competition, it will be the first time an all-girl football league will be implemented at the primary school level.

Benjamin said the introduction of the all-girls' league at the primary school stage is geared towards developing and providing players for the schools that compete at the secondary level.

"I am definitely looking forward to next year. We will also see the introduction of a girls' competition because if we don't play it at the primary school level or grass-roots level, then the secondary schools are certainly going to have a greater challenge to get

players.

"Therefore, we are going to introduce the Primary School Girls Cup competition next year, Benjamin stated.

Benjamin, who is a former head coach of the senior men's national team, coordinated another successful staging of the annual Primary School Cup competition.

The 2024 edition of the Primary School Cup culminated with the staging of the final and playoff for third place at the Rising Sun playing field on Friday, June 14.

Five Islands Primary played unbeaten during the competition and captured their second Primary School Cup title by beating T.N. Kirnon Primary 3-1 in the final.

Freeman's Village trounced St. Peter's Primary 5-0 to win the playoff for third place.

Benjamin said this year's Prima-

ry School Cup, which involved 24 schools that were equally divided into three zones comprising eight teams, went relatively smoothly.

"I am very happy to see the whole thing climax here at the Rising Sun Ground. We think that the atmosphere here is electric. We didn't have many hiccups during the season. I think rain would have washed out matches in one week, but we had a lot of time, so we were able to get those matches completed," Benjamin said.

Overall, I think that everything went very well this season. We had three zones; we played at Buckley's, and it's a very good playing field there. The winner coming out of that zone was St. Peter's. St. Peter's really improved from last year and finished fourth after losing to Freeman's Village Primary in the playoff for third place."

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Alzarri and Sharon Joseph Female Flyers softball cricket team. (File photo)

## Strictly Business and Female Flyers get wins in softball leagues

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business Results won the only match that was played in the Natural Construction Glenroy Marsh Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association's (ABSCA) Men's T20 competition, which was affected by rain, on Sunday.

Rackaman Construction Strictly Business defeated Marco Inc./Grill Box Buckley's 3J's by seven wickets in the ABSCA's competition, which is supported by corporate sponsors Enforcers, Everyday 24/7 Ltd,

Alva Joseph, We the People (WTP) 93.5FM, and the St. John's Co-operative Credit Union.

Buckley's 3J's were dismissed for 106 in 12.4 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Nigel Fergus cracked 33, and Denley Thomas scored 28. Alwyn Colbourne claimed two wickets for three runs, Arthur Crogman picked up two for 29, and Owen Graham captured two for 32.

In reply, Strictly Business achieved victory by

scoring 107 for three in 12.2 overs. Kim George and Kerry Mentore each scored 40, and Randino Turner captured two for 29.

The men's division encounter between Dredgers and Lees Landscaping 300 was rained out.

Alzarri and Sharon Joseph Female Flyers also recorded victory in the only match that was played in the Goody's Taxi Service and Tours, Sherma Jackson, ABSCA Female T20 Competition on Sunday.

The Female Flyers

snatched a nine-run victory against the Jennings Rockets.

Female Flyers made 118 for five off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Terez Parker slammed 49, and Robinette Burton struck 33. Kushana David claimed two wickets for seven runs.

In reply, the Jennings Rockets were restricted to 109 for six off their 20 overs. Kushana David top-scored with 52. Gaynell O'Garro took two for 12, and Monique Titus captured two for 38.

The game between Rackaman Construction Strictly Business and Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors, as well as the encounter between Potters Uprising Serpents and Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets, were abandoned due to rain.

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Benjamin said champions Five Islands Primary, which was captained by Allan Henry, were dominant. Henry was the competition's Most Valuable Player, Player of the Final, and top goal scorer with a total of 26 goals.

"The team that really dominated their group was Five Islands. They won by huge margins, and this youngster, Allan Henry, is, I must say, one to watch. He just has a

knack for scoring goals. He scored a lot of goals," Benjamin said.

"It was a fitting final. T.N. Kirnon was the other group winner and would not have lost any games until the final, so it was really a battle to the end. It was good to see Five Islands Primary win their second championship.

"This year, we also witnessed the end of Golden Grove Primary's three-year reign as champions."

# Celtics beat Mavericks to win 18th NBA championship

BOSTON (AP) - Jayson Tatum put his hands behind his head, with TD Garden fans standing on their feet cheering around him, and took it all in.

Walking to the bench, he wrapped both arms around Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla. The journey was complete. The Boston Celtics again stand alone among NBA champions.

Tatum had 31 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds, and the Celtics topped the Dallas Mavericks 106-88 on Monday night to win the franchise's 18th championship, breaking a tie with the Los Angeles Lakers for the most in league history.

Boston earned its latest title on the 16th anniversary of hoisting its last Larry O'Brien Trophy in 2008. It marks the 13th championship won this century by one of the city's Big 4 professional sports franchises.

"It means the world," Tatum said on stage after the team received the trophy from NBA Commissioner Adam Silver. "It's been a long time. And damn I'm grateful."

Jaylen Brown added 21 points, eight rebounds and six assists, and was voted the NBA Finals MVP.

"I share this with my brothers and my partner in crime Jayson Tatum," Brown said after the 107th



Boston Celtics forward Jayson Tatum, center, holds the Larry O'Brien Championship Trophy as he celebrates with center Kristaps Porzingis, left, and guard Jaylen Brown, right, after the Celtics won the NBA championship with a Game 5 victory over the Dallas Mavericks in Boston on Monday, June 17, 2024. (AP)

career playoff game he and Tatum have played together — the most for any duo before winning a title.

Jrue Holiday finished with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Center Kristaps Porzingis also provided an emotional lift, returning from a two-game absence because of a dislocated tendon in his left ankle to chip in five points in 17 minutes.

They helped the Celtics cap a postseason that saw them go 16-3 and finish with an 80-21 overall record.

That .792 winning percentage ranks second in

team history behind only the Celtics' 1985-86 championship team that finished 82-18 (.820).

Mazzulla, in his second season, at age 35 also became the youngest coach since Bill Russell in 1969 to lead a team to a championship.

"You have very few chances in life to be great," Mazzulla said.

Luka Doncic finished with 28 points and 12 rebounds for Dallas, which failed to extend the series after avoiding a sweep with a 38-point win in Game 4.

The Mavericks had been 3-0 in Game 5s this

postseason, with Doncic scoring at least 31 points in each of them.

He said the chest, right knee and left ankle injuries he played through during the finals weren't an excuse for Dallas struggling throughout the series.

"It doesn't matter if I was hurt, how much was I hurt. I was out there," he said. "I tried to play, but I didn't do enough."

Kyrie Irving finished with just 15 points on 5-of-16 shooting and has lost 13 of the last 14 meetings against the Celtics team he left in the summer of 2019 to join the Brooklyn Nets.



## Sri Lanka beat West Indies Women to secure unassailable 2-0 lead in ODI series

Sri Lanka Women secured an unassailable 2-0 lead in their three-match ODI series against West Indies Women with a dominant five-wicket win in the second encounter in Hambantota on Tuesday.

The West Indies, playing without their regular captain Hayley Matthews, were bundled out for a paltry 95 in just 31 overs after being put in to bat by the hosts.

Rashada Williams was the only West Indies batter to provide any meaningful resistance with 24, as Kav-



The West Indies women's team celebrates after taking a wicket during the second One-Day International at the Mahinda Rajapaksha International Cricket Stadium, Hambantota, Sri Lanka, on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. (Sri Lanka Cricket)

isha Dilhari, just as she did with the ball with four for in the first match, starred 20 from six overs.

Sri Lanka's captain Chamari Athapaththu took two wickets for eight runs from two overs, while Achini Kulasuriya claimed two for 16 from seven overs.

Sri Lanka then lost five wickets on their way to their target of 93 in the 22nd over to secure the series victory.

The successful chase was led by a run-a-ball 50 from Vishmi Gunaratne, while Dilhari contributed 28. Karishma Ramharack took two for 29 from 5.2 overs for the West Indies women.

### conr'd from pg 24

the tournament so far, while West Indies' total was their highest batting score in T20 World Cup, and the biggest of the tournament so far.

In fact, the 332 runs scored across both innings, was also the highest match aggregate involving West Indies and Afghanistan in a T20I.

After being asked to bat by Afghanistan, West Indies lost Brandon King (seven) in the second over, but it did little to halt their momentum, as Johnson Charles and Nicholas Pooran both clicked into top gear, in the blink of an eye.

Charles struck three boundaries in the third over, which inspired Pooran to do something truly out of this world at the change of ends. The wicketkeeper/batsman produced a 36-run over off Azmatullah Omarzai.

It's the fifth time in Men's T20I history an over has gone for 36 runs, and the second time at a World Cup. The punishment continued, as the pair pushed West Indies to 92 for one at the six-over mark. It's the biggest Powerplay total in Men's

T20 World Cup history.

Charles smacked another boundary that took West Indies to 100 from 7.4 overs, before he was dismissed to end an 80-run stand that took just six overs.

Shai Hope's 17-ball 25, which had two sixes, helped the run rate stay in double digits, as Pooran raised the bat in the 14th over – his 50 came off just 31 balls and it was his first half-century in a T20 World Cup.

The boundaries had dried up in the middle overs, courtesy of Afghanistan's spinners who gradually pulled things back, before captain Rovman Powell, who contributed 26 off 15 balls, including two sixes and a four, started finding his range and took the Windies past the 150 mark.

Pooran found his groove again in the 17th over, and later cracked 24 runs off the 18th bowled by Afghanistan's captain Rashid Khan. The Trinidadian southpaw later fell via the run out route, two runs shy of what would have been a well-deserved century.

The West Indies did not let up during the Afghanistan chase, starting strongly

when Akeal Hosein had Rashid Khan caught for a duck in a wicket maiden to start.

Left-arm pacer Obed McCoy was the standout though, as he took three for 14, including Ibrahim Zadran, who was starting to build some momentum with his 38, leaving Afghanistan all out for 114 with 22 balls remaining.

Gulbadin Naib and Ibrahim Zadran briefly steadied the ship at 45 for one at the end of the Powerplay, before Motie removed the former for seven, and triggered a collapse.

Wickets fell at regular intervals, as Afghanistan slipped to 66 for five at the half-way mark and never really recovered. Zadran's 38 off 28 balls, including five fours and a solitary six, was the highlight of the innings, with Omarzai's 19-ball 23 and captain Khan's 18, being the next best scores.

The West Indies will meet holders England in their first Super 8 match in St. Lucia on Wednesday at 8:30 pm, while Afghanistan will face India the following day at the Kensington Oval in Barbados at 10:30 am.

## Windies romp to crushing win over Afghanistan

Nicholas Pooran starred as West Indies got a statement win in their final Group C game of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, as they eased past Afghanistan by 104 runs in their final preliminary stage encounter at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Monday night.

After the West Indies amassed 218 for five off their 20 overs, the men from the Caribbean romped to their emphatic victory by dismissing Afghanistan for 114 in 16.2 overs.

The win not only ensured that West Indies head into the next phase or Super 8 stage of the tournament unbeaten, but more importantly, reaffirmed that the Darren Sammy-coached team is a force to be reckoned with, in their hunt for a third T20 World Cup crown. Their two titles to date were won in 2012 and 2016.

Having already secured qualification in the Super 8 stage, the West Indies were chasing form and momentum against Afghanistan in the Group C top-of-the-table clash. However, the co-hosts put to rest any lingering doubt surrounding their title claims with the eye-catching



Left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein gets congratulated his West Indies teammates after removing Afghanistan's Rahmanullah Gurbaz for a duck during their ICC Men's T20 World Cup Group C match at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Monday, June 17, 2024. (ICC/Getty Images)

performance.

Nicholas Pooran with a 53-ball 98, including six fours and eight sixes, led the record-breaking charge, as he assumed the record for most sixes in T20I for the Caribbean side. His tally, which now stands at 128 sixes, swept past Chris Gayle's 124. Homeboy Johnson Charles struck 43 off 27 balls, including eight boundaries.

Pooran's knock is the highest individual score for *cont'd on pg 23*



West Indies batsman Nicholas Pooran acknowledges the crowd after being dismissed for 98 against Afghanistan during their ICC Men's T20 World Cup Group C match at the Darren Sammy Cricket Ground in St. Lucia on Monday, June 17, 2024.