



# ANTIGUA & BARBUDA POINTVILLE EXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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# NATION HONOURS TOP STUDENTS

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## Nation honours top performing students

The annual ACB Caribbean National CSEC Awards were presented Thursday evening at a ceremony held at the SJPC House of Restoration on Lauchland Benjamin Drive under the theme, 'a masquerade of excellence'.

Attended by senior officials of the Ministry of Education, including Minister, Daryl Matthew and Director of Education, Clare Browne, as well as representatives of the corporate sponsor, ACB Caribbean, the event is the nation's way to highlight the achievements of students within the secondary school system.

The occasion also serves as a fond send off for the students, many of whom are transitioning from secondary school to tertiary institutions such as the Antigua State College or other institutions of higher learning.

In congratulatory remarks, Minister Matthew,



noted that the ceremony provided an opportunity to congratulate and reward the students for their achievements, their years of hard work, perseverance and growth.

The minister's remarks were centered around a question he describes as both profound and timeless;

what will your contribution to humanity be?

"The question is not merely a philosophical one; it is a call to action. Each of you, through your unique talents, experiences and aspirations, holds the potential to leave an indelible mark on the world. Your contributions to humanity need not

be grand gestures visible on a global scale. They can be small, meaningful actions that create ripples of change in our communities, our workplaces and our families," he explained.

Speaking on behalf of ACB Caribbean, Manager of the Village Walk Branch, Yetlee Thomas used his own personal experiences to encourage the students to 'find their passion' in life.

"My advice to you today is to use the solid foundation that your time in secondary school has built for you. You went in as children and emerged as young adults, and this is a key transitional phase in your life when you are trying to find yourself.

"It is a minefield of opportunities and challenges; there will be successes and there will be failures – what is key is to learn from them and to become stronger," he

*cont'd on pg 3*







# Local News

*cont'd from pg 2*  
remarked.

The Top Student of the Year Award went to D'Aundre Samuel of the St. Joseph's Academy, who attained 23 subjects passes with 21 Grade Ones. The second place went to another SJA student, Adrian Judnarine, for his 26 subject passes with 19 Grade Ones.

Third place was jointly shared by Stephanie Archibald and Tianna Bretney of the Baptist Academy of Antigua. Both had twenty subject passes with 18 Grade Ones.

Based on the number of passes and Grade Ones, awards were presented to students in four categories;

platinum, gold, silver and bronze.

Seven students; Stephanie Archibald of Baptist Academy (Integrated Science), Azariah Thomas of the Seventh-Day Adventist School (Office Administration), Caysy Rolland of St. Anthony's Secondary (Office Administration), Adrian Judnarine of SJA (Office Administration), Brenair Humphreys of SJA (Visual Arts), Meegan Smith of AGHS (Clothing and Textiles) and Adrian Judnarine of SJA (Industrial Technology Mechanical) were all presented with the Regional Merit List award for placing in the top ten regionally in the respective subject areas.

**NOTICE**

**TO: THE LICENSING Magistrate for District "A"**  
Magistrate's court  
Gray's Farm  
St. John's  
Antigua

**TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE**  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. John's  
Antigua

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TAVERN LICENCE FOR BUSINESS REGISTERED AS DO SOMETIN SNACKETTE & BAR**

I, Shermara Walker Of Cassada Gardens, St. John's Parish Antigua, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is our intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence session, to be held at the Magistrate's court, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 4th July, 2024 for a Tavern license in respect of premises known as "Do Sometin Snackette & Bar" situated at #2 George Street, Green Bay in the parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section 11(3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revise Edition 1992.

Dated the 20th June, 2024

Shermara Walker  
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# SUNDAY STARTER

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# Local News



## PM and UK Representative discuss climate change issues

The new UK Resident High Commissioner Representative, John Hamilton, presented his credentials to Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Thursday when both men engaged in an important discussion around the issues of climate change and the current world financial architecture.

PM Browne took the opportunity to thank the UK government for the high level of support it provided to Antigua and Barbuda to ensure the successful hosting of the SIDS4 conference.

He also urged the UK to support Antigua and Barbuda in its advocacy to bring about meaningful changes to the current world financial architecture.

“We would want to see some financial justice in which countries such as Antigua and Barbuda can borrow at concessionary terms. You have some poor countries that are able to borrow at concessionary terms for up to 30 years based on EU DoC requirements; large countries can borrow on the international markets at three or four percent, while we are condemned to borrow at ten percent. We seek the UK support in fighting for these challenges and to get some realignment in the international financial architecture,” he stated.

He noted too, that Antigua and Barbuda co-chaired the discussions on establishing the new MVI, which he described as ‘a far more important matrix’ in determining concessionary funding compared with the per capita income. On the issue of climate change, the prime minister recalled that at the Glasgow COP meeting, Antigua and Barbuda and the UK collaborated on a number of issues and he is asking for a continuation of the effort.

“Evidently, we have a lot

to lose as we are on the front-line and that is why we have been fighting so stridently. That is why we remain at the forefront of the climate change advocacy to reduce emissions and to get funding for mitigation and loss and damage,” he explained.

The prime minister also expressed a desire to have the UK support Antigua and Barbuda at the next COP meeting on the issue of ‘loss and damage’.

In response, UK Representative Hamilton said in his preparation for the SIDS4 meeting it became clear to him that small island states are really at the forefront of many issues that are global issues.

“The issues facing SIDS are very much global issues; there are climate issues, global warming issues, issues of global financial markets, they are all global issues but they all have a particular emphasis on small island developing states,” he observed.

He noted that countries like Antigua and Barbuda are at the frontline and that this is an issue that needs urgent, immediate attention.

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## A multi-pronged approach planned to end illegal dumping

The government is to undertake a multi-pronged attack on the problem of illegal dumping, now a serious issue for both Antigua and sister isle, Barbuda.

Government spokesman, Lionel Max Hurst said the matter of illegal dumping and its impact on flood prone areas came up for discussion at this week's meeting of the Cabinet.

He noted that the problem came into sharp focus during the recent heavy showers and how large disposed items such as mattresses, household appliances and even in one case, an abandoned motor vehicle, caused blockage to many waterways leading to rising water levels in some areas.

"Several Cabinet members reported on the clogging of drains which the floating waste created, and the unsightly state which remained when the waters receded. A decision was taken to increase fines to \$40,000 for anyone caught in the act. Cabinet appeals



Lionel Max Hurst

to the national pride in residents and citizens, and to truck drivers, to cease and desist from this illegal practice," Hurst noted.

Hurst reported that other measures such as the suspension of motor vehicles licences for a period of time as well as the possible confiscation of motor vehicles are under serious consideration by the government.

However, the government spokes-

man wants also to appeal to people's sense of pride and that government plans to embark on a programme to stimulate a stronger sense of national pride.

"If those kinds of disincentives are put in place, we believe that we would have greater compliance. Our aim however, is to have people think of their country almost like their homes. Clearly, you are not going to dump things from the kitchen into your living room or your bedroom," he stated.

This matter, he noted, comes down to civic pride and he said the government wants to encourage more of that. "We want our people to have a sense of ownership of Antigua and Barbuda and not to illegally dump waste indiscriminately across the country.

Hurst revealed that the problem is also an issue over on Barbuda and that an appeal was made to the Parliamentary Representative, Trevor Walker, to help bring the matter under control.

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## CBH warns of anticipated sharp rise in mosquito population

Residents in those areas of the country that experienced heavy showers over the past week can expect to see a sharp rise in the mosquito population.

Principal Public Health inspector Julianne Mannix said the breeding cycle for most types of mosquitoes is roughly seven days and with the heavy rains beginning last week Saturday, residents should begin to experience a jump in the number of mosquitoes with immediate effect.

In particular, she warned that the aedes taeniorhynchus or black salt march

mosquitoes are known to become prevalent in the conditions that currently exist with stagnant water on the ground and water in many catchments around the home such as car tires, cans and old drums.

“We recognize that because of the breeding cycle these and other mosquitoes will increase sharply over the next week, especially because the saturated ground creates pools of water around many homes,” she stated.

Usually at this time following persistent heavy rains, there is an outcry

from members of the public calling for the assistance of the Vector Control Unit of the CBH to help tackle the mosquito outbreak.

She said the black salt march mosquito is not associated with any of the dangerous diseases associated with the aedes aegypti mosquito.

Rather it is often considered as ‘a nuisance’ because of its tendency to stick to a person’s clothing and to travel in large groups.

Mannix said the department will step up its vector control efforts such as treating of stagnant waters around the home as well as those areas in some communities where large pools of water settle on the ground.

In addition, the fogging exercise will continue in communities where there have been heavy rains and



Julianne Mannix

where some water remains on the surface of the ground.

Homeowners can play their part, by getting rid of all stagnant water around the homes and to cover those catchments such as the blue plastic drums.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA  
A.D. 2024

**AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 23 July 2024 at 11:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property registered in the name of Keithley Bright of Jennings, St. Mary's, Antigua.

The Property is located in Lower Jennings Village, St. Mary's, Antigua, and comprises of a 1,008 sq. ft. single story, three (3) bedroom, one (1) bathroom, concrete residential dwelling situated on 0.10 acre or 4,356 sq. ft. of land. The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-  
**REGISTRATION SECTION:** Jennings  
**BLOCK:** 53 1487C  
**PARCEL:** 152

Parcel No. 152 of Block No. 53 1487C is bounded by the following:

- On the North by: Parcel 163;
- On the South by: Public Road;
- On the East by: Parcel 153;
- On the West by: Parcel 151

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from the undersigned at his office at Crosbys, St. John's, Antigua.

Sgd. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos  
Auctioneer  
Trevor Teddy Santos Inc.

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NOTICE

CARNIVAL VENDORS MEETING:

For immediate release – thursday 20th june 2024 - st. John's, antigua.....

#Carnivaliscalling ALL VENDORS AND BOOTH OPERATORS WHO WISH TO CONDUCT BUSINESS DURING THE 2024 CARNIVAL CELEBRATIONS AT CARNIVAL CITY, LAS VEGAS, AND INDEPENDENCE AVENUE. THERE WILL BE AN IMPORTANT MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26TH, AT THE MULTIPURPOSE CULTURAL CENTRE IN PERRY BAY, STARTING AT 5:00 P.M.

IT IS CRUCIAL FOR VENDORS AND BOOTH OPERATORS TO ARRIVE ON TIME, AS THE MEETING WILL BEGIN PROMPTLY AT 5:00 P.M.



**NEW DATE**

**SATURDAY JUNE 22<sup>ND</sup> 2024**



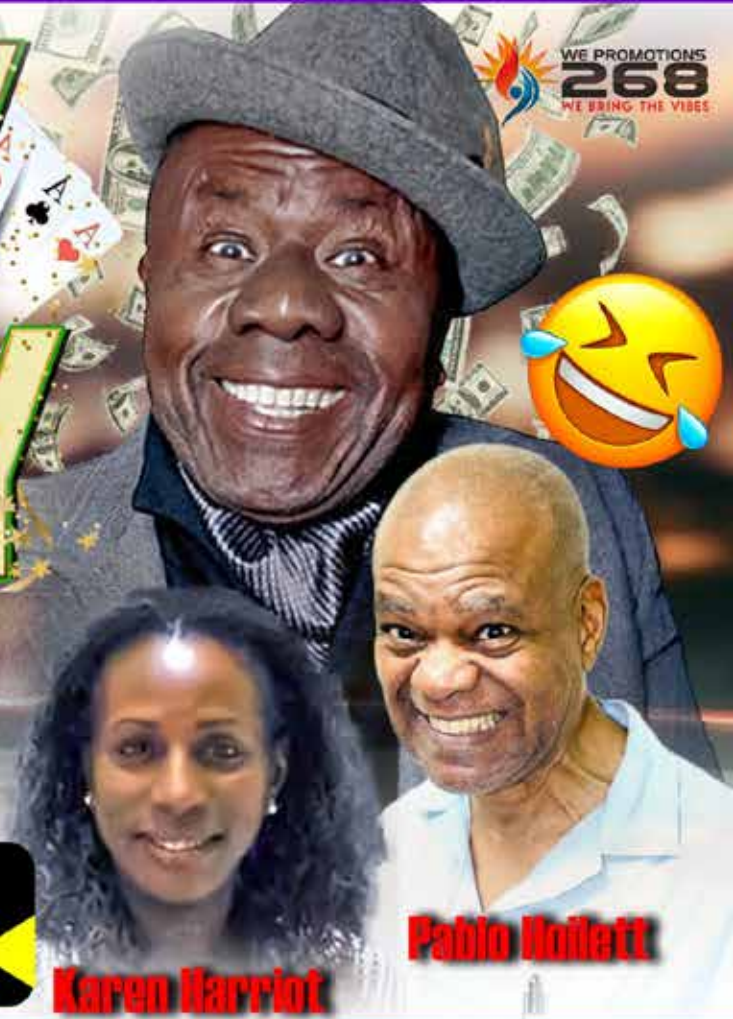
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**NEW DATE / NEW VENUE**



**AFTER PARTY FEAT:**

# KUTTIN EDGE BAND





## An assessment of the equipment at the Cancer Centre

The new owners of the Cancer Centre are carrying out an assessment of the current state of the equipment at the facility to ascertain what needs to be replaced or repaired.

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Max Hurst said this exercise is a first step in efforts to get the facility back into operation as soon as possible.

“Some of the equipment are outdated as there are newer models that are able to improve on the accuracy of the equipment. The equipment have been sitting down for a long time doing nothing and the plan is to repair those that can be repaired and those that cannot be repaired will be replaced by the new owners,” Hurst reported.

According to Hurst the new owners, who have not yet been identified, have committed to ensuring that the Cancer Centre can function, whether or not the old owner goes along with the assessment,” he stated.

An assessment of the value of the equipment has been completed and communicated to the former owner, Dr. C. Browne.


Dr. Browne had been demanding a payment of \$40 million for the entire complex, a figure the government spokesman said was ‘far too excessive’. “It



caused a lot of inconvenience and pain to patients who before could travel by car to the bottom of Hospital Hill (Queen Elizabeth Highway), get the treatment then travel back home. That became impossible when he closed the centre and demanded \$40 million for building and machines. that were not worth more than \$9 to \$13 million,” he observed.

“The owners have agreed to do exactly as indicated and we think that’s a better deal than succumbing to requests made by the former owner,” he added.

He said it is not possible to give a precise date when the Cancer Centre will return to operation as the assessment and acquiring of new equipment will first have to be completed.



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## Festivals Commission to host judges' workshop

The Ministry of Creative Industries will host a series of workshops for those individuals who wish to participate as judges for two of the main events of the annual Carnival celebrations, calypso and steelband.

The ministry has engaged the services of renowned regional adjudicator Nubia Williams as chief facilitator for the workshops planned for next week.

In a release, the ministry describes Nubia Williams as a seasoned Music Educator and Arts Adjudicator, who has been judging Steelband, Calypso, and Soca music competitions for twenty-nine years. In the last two months, she has evaluated hundreds of participants across various categories, including Calypso, Pan-solo, Folk, Drumming, Choir, and Steelband at the Trinidad and Tobago Music Festival.

It said the workshops aim to foster continuous improvement, analysis, and the adoption of varied adjudication techniques. Sessions focusing on Calypso and Steelband will cater to new and existing Calypso judges, Calypsonians, Steelband judges, and arrangers. The workshop schedule is as follows:

### Calypso Adjudication Training Workshop:

For Calypso Judges: Tuesday, 25th June – 9:45 am to 3:00 pm

For Calypsonians: Tuesday, 25th June – 9:45 am to



Ms. Nubia Williams - Workshop Facilitator

12:30 pm

For Calypso Judges: Wednesday, 26th June – 9:45 am to 3:00 pm

Steelband Adjudication Training Workshop:

For Judges: Friday, 28th June – 9:45 am to 3:00 pm

For Steelband Arrangers: Friday, 28th June – 9:45 am to 12:30 pm

For Judges: Saturday, 29th June – 9:45 am to 3:00 pm

Registration for the Calypso and Steelband Adjudication Workshops must be done online at <https://forms.gle/ZsP3Gimr6dgGiY7RA>.

Additionally, persons interested in adjudicating any 2024 Carnival Competitions are encouraged to register. Registration forms for judging Carnival 2024 Competitions are available at the Ministry of Creative Industries office on Old Parham Road or by contacting the office at (268) 562-9606.

Williams says she looks forward to interacting with participants and collaborating with all stakeholders to enhance the development of our nation, particularly in the realms of Calypso and Steelband.



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## ABII renews commitment to Optimist Petite Show

One of the main pre-Carnival events – the annual Youth Talent Show, hosted by the Optimist Petite Club of St. John's has secured sponsorship from the ABII Insurance.

ABII has been a steadfast supporter of this event from 2014 to 2018, in 2023, and once again in 2024.

This talent show, open to boys and girls aged 9-11, is designed to nurture confidence and showcase the remarkable abilities of young people in the community. Hosted by the Op-



timist Club of St. John's, a nonprofit organization dedicated to community and youth development, the show provides a platform for young talents to shine

and grow.

The Optimist Petite Club of St. John's has been a pillar of support in the community, focusing on creating opportunities for youth to thrive.

The Youth Talent Show is a testament to their dedication, and ABII's ongoing sponsorship highlights their aligned commitment to these values.

The community is invited to join in celebrating the extraordinary talents of the young participants at this year's show.

## CPM rolls out GWC pickup trucks



Caribbean Premium Motors (CPM) has rolled out the Great Wall Motors (GWM) P-Series Pickup for the first time in Antigua and Barbuda.

On Tuesday evening, scores of onlookers had the opportunity to experience firsthand the innovation, strength, and versatility of the GWM P-Series Truck, exclusively offered by CPM.

Great Wall Motors has consistently been at the forefront of automotive excellence, recognized by industry experts with numerous accolades underscoring its superior quality. Since its founding in 1984, GWM has become one of the largest and most successful

automotive manufacturers in China, specializing in SUVs, trucks, and electric vehicles. With a significant global presence, GWM exports vehicles to over 60 countries, including key markets such as China, Australia, New Zealand, South America, the Middle East, Africa, and Europe.

At the unveiling event, invited guests marveled at the GWM P-Series' bold and rugged exterior. Its exceptional towing and payload capacity make it the perfect companion for both work and adventure. For off-road enthusiasts, the advanced four-wheel-drive system and high ground clearance make every journey possible.





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- Excellent customer service skills

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- Associate Degree or higher
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# Photo Essay





# Photo Essay



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# Opinion



## Caribbean integration: How the OECS outpaces CARICOM

By Sir Ronald Sanders

The 7-nation Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which marked its 43rd anniversary on June 18, 2024, is arguably one of the most successful integration projects in the world. It is second only to the 27-nation European Union (EU).

The OECS represents a deeper integration movement than the Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM), of which its member states are a part, along with eight other Caribbean countries. While the OECS was formed in 1981, CARICOM was founded in its original form as the Caribbean Free Trade Association (CARIFTA) in 1968. Despite CARICOM's 14-year head start, the OECS has proven to be a more successful and beneficial integration project.

On October 19, 1978, at the 23rd Meeting of the West Indies (Associated States) Council of Ministers (WISA) – a loose consultative group of 7 Leeward and Windward Islands - Lester Bird, then Deputy Premier of Antigua and Barbuda, outlined a vision of an organization that became the OECS. I worked closely with him on elaborating that vision.

At that time, of the 7 countries, only Grenada had attained independence from Britain in 1967. Dominica was on the cusp of indepen-

dence, which it attained in November 1978. St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines were also contemplating independence, eventually achieving it in February and October 1979, respectively. Meanwhile, for Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts-Nevis, independence was not yet imminent, although leaders in both countries aspired to be free from the dictates of the British authorities in London. The 7th country, Montserrat, also hankered for greater local power over its affairs.

However, it was clear to any informed analyst that while independence from a colonial power was imperative, the burden for countries with micro economies and small populations was not sustainable. Separate independence for these small and under-resourced countries, along with the dismantling of joint governance mechanisms, could leave them worse off than they were.

Grenada served as a case in point. Although it had been nominally independent for eleven years by 1978, it continued to participate in several institutions established by Britain for the seven countries including a common currency and a currency authority. Grenada did so because it quickly realized it could not afford to establish its own currency, central bank, judiciary, and regulatory bodies. This was especially



Sir Ronald Sanders

true as, with independence, it also had to assume the costs of its own defence and foreign affairs.

Against this background, a course of “independence within interdependence” was proposed in the 1979 address. This proposal included several key elements: solidifying, in a binding structure, the concept of WISA, which was rooted in the recognition of regional cooperation; building on the “special relationship” of the Leeward and Windward Islands, based on geography, history, economic reality, and common bonds; and, while retaining individual sovereignty, pooling that sovereignty to be stronger together.

The vision took root, and two years later, in 1981, after extensive consultation and discussion among the seven countries, the Treaty of Basseterre was signed, and

the OECS was born. The treaty was drafted by Abbas Bundu, a Sierra Leonean constitutional lawyer from the Commonwealth Secretariat, whom I accompanied on his journey of consultation. The underlying theme of those discussions was reflected in the words of the 1979 address: “We have integral ties of parenthood, history, and tradition; essentially, we are the same people.”

Achieving the treaty was aided considerably by four factors. First, the standing of then Prime Minister of St. Lucia, John Compton, and his dedication to the concept, presented in the Antigua 1978 presentation, of independence “within a framework of interdependence.” Second, the support of Antigua's influential leader, Vere Cornwall Bird, for the idea of common responsibilities and

*cont'd on pg 15*

*cont'd from pg 14*

shared costs. Third, the endorsement of Maurice Bishop, who led a bloodless revolution in Grenada in March 1979 to oust the tyrannical Eric Gairy, despite having an uneasy relationship with the leaders of the six other countries. Fourth, the support of radical intellectuals such as Leonard Tim Hector (Antigua), George Odlum (St. Lucia), and Ralph Gonsalves (St. Vincent and the Grenadines).

On June 18, 1981, the OECS was born, retaining from their colonial administration, integration factors that took the EU decades to build and which CARICOM has yet to achieve. CARICOM announced in 1989 its intention to advance to a Single Market Economy but failed to do so for 22 years before “pausing” it in 2011.

The integration mechanisms that the OECS retained included a common currency, which facilitated the free movement of goods and services; a common Currency Authority (later the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank), which ensured effective and respected financial and monetary regulation; a common judiciary; a Regional Security System; and other regulatory bodies such as the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority.

Between 1986 and 1988, there was a failed attempt to initiate a political union of the OECS countries by then Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, James Mitchell, with active support

from St. Lucia’s John Compton. Although the initiative had considerable merit, it failed due to political rivalry that made little provision for meaningful involvement by opposition political parties in the formulation of the concept. As Ralph Gonsalves put it at the time, “the balance of the political forces as represented in the political parties, in and out of government, favour(ed) the slowing down or even halting of the unity train.”

Nonetheless, twenty-nine years later, in 2010, the OECS governments revised the Treaty to formalize two further aspects of a Common Market. They made the

movement of people, including for work, easier across their countries and laid down the principles for achieving an Economic Union. While the latter remains a work in progress, the OECS is nearly at the point of establishing a Customs Union.

There is still much work to be done to harmonize joint positions on incentives for foreign investment and to end competition in sectors like cruise tourism and the Citizenship by Investment schemes operated by five of the member states. Rival politics for national gain have undermined the collective good.

Nonetheless, the OECS

stands today as the most mature and successful integration project of sovereign states outside the EU. It provides a model for the CARICOM group, highlighting that their future success, particularly in facing global challenges such as compensation for the damage of climate change, international bargaining, access to financing, and threats to peace and security, depends on deeper and more effective integration.

*(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](http://www.sirronaldsanders.com))*



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-  Ensure you have an adequate supply of medication on hand.
-  Ensure your first-aid kit has the necessary supplies.
-  Learn CPR if possible; you may be able to save a life.

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# Regional News



## IMF predicts economic growth of nearly four per cent for Grenada

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated on Thursday that Grenada's economy is experiencing "sustained, strong growth" supported by a robust tourism sector, projecting nearly four per cent growth for this year.

Additionally, the Washington-based financial institution noted that a surge in Citizenship by Investment (CBI) revenue has resulted in a large budget surplus, increased government deposits, and lower public debt.

Under the CBI, foreign investors obtain Grenadian citizenship in exchange for substantial investments in the country's socio-economic development. The IMF, which conducted a mission to Grenada earlier this month, emphasized the need for improved management of these potentially volatile CBI revenues, containment of recurrent expenditure growth, and enhanced public financial management.

The IMF also highlighted rising risks in the non-bank financial system, urging better data collection, increased supervisory oversight, and regional cooperation in supervision.

"Reducing Grenada's dependency on imported fossil fuels, enhancing competitiveness, and investing in climate resilience are crucial to achieving long-term growth," the IMF added.

The IMF reported that Grenada's economy expanded by an estimated 4.4 per cent last year, supported by one of the fastest growth rates in stayover arrivals in the Caribbean and increased spending per tourist. Construction activity slowed as major capital projects concluded, and new projects linked to the recent CBI surge were delayed.

Inflation decreased to 2.2 per cent by the end of last year as pressures on food and fuel prices eased. The current account deficit is estimated to have narrowed due to increased tourism receipts.



"Strong CBI revenues resulted in a substantial fiscal surplus of eight per cent of GDP in 2023, higher government deposits equivalent to 17 per cent of GDP, and a decline in public debt to 75 per cent of GDP. Financial conditions in the banking sector remain stable, with high liquidity levels and modest levels of non-performing loans."

The IMF said growth is projected to decelerate in the coming years as capacity constraints weigh on tourism growth and investment.

It said the economy is projected to grow 3.9 per cent this year bolstered by another strong year of tourism activity and that as hotels are already close to their high-season capacity limits, growth is projected to gradually slow to 2.7 per cent over the medium term.

"The outlook is sensitive, though, to the level of CBI inflows, the degree to which those flows finance new growth-enhancing investment and the progress in completing the current pipeline of hotel projects including non-CBI financed ones.

"The clearing of the large backlog of CBI applications from the recent surge is projected to result in a large 2024 budget surplus of 9.5 per cent of GDP and further accumulation of government deposits.

"The CBI revenues are thereafter expected to normalize to pre-surge levels. Nonetheless, sustained lower primary surpluses anchored in the government's

fiscal rules framework are projected to support a gradual reduction of public debt to the 60 per cent of GDP target by the end of the decade," the IMF said.

It noted that the recent heightened international scrutiny over CBI programmes represents a risk to this important source of income and that other important downside risks include a slowdown in key tourist source markets, global commodity price volatility and the ever-present threat of natural disasters.

The Washington-based financial institution said that the high level of government deposits and a falling debt-to-GDP ratio provide an important buffer against unanticipated shocks.

It said the potential swings in CBI revenue warrant continued careful management of public finances.

The IMF said given the authorities' cautious treatment of CBI revenues, the expected normalization of CBI revenue appears manageable.

"Nonetheless, the uncertainty over the size of future inflows underscores the need to contain growth in expenditures. Greater prioritization over budget outlays and putting in place measures to improve tax administration and raise tax revenues - through adjusting the gasoline tax in context of instituting a symmetric pass-through formula for gasoline prices - would prepare the economy well for potential CBI shortfalls."

*cont'd on pg 17*

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The IMF said development of a social protection policy, establishment of a central beneficiary registry and the planned introduction of cashless payments would improve targeting and oversight of social benefits and create scope to phase out subsidies to cooking gas.

It said that continued focus and commitment to the CBI program integrity and full implementation of Grenada's related regional commitments will be important to mitigate potential risks to its revenue.

"A more coherent and transparent framework for managing CBI revenues would strengthen budget and investment planning. Clearer recording of CBI flows in the budget and transferring all CBI revenues into the National Transformation Fund (NTF) would bring the government's CBI resources under a unified framework.

"Given the volatility in CBI revenues, a rules-based mechanism should be put in place that allows for annual transfers from the NTF to the budget. This would reduce uncertainty over budget revenue and guide the degree to which CBI inflows should be saved or used to finance fiscal spending.

"Applying the primary balance rule to a definition that is based on the NTF transfer – rather than the CBI inflow – would provide for a more predictable annual budget constraint. All NTF assets should be externally managed under a clearly specified investment policy and subject to a strong transparency and accountability framework, with operationalization of regular financial reporting on the size, asset allocation and performance of the NTF."

The IMF said that improvements are needed to public investment management, adding this includes enhancing the procurement process and upgrading the framework for public-private partnerships.

It said to ease execution constraints,

there is a need to strengthen project planning and selection and improve capacity in project management, monitoring and ex-post reviews of performance.

An earlier publication of the medium-term fiscal framework would strengthen its role in providing top-down guidance for the budget process and in determining the potential envelope for spending.

"Well-coordinated implementation of ongoing public sector reforms will help improve administrative efficiency and the fiscal outlook. The carefully sequenced regularization of public sector workers can help address persistent public administration capacity constraints."

The IMF said completion of the ongoing public service functional review would help ensure new appointments are well-aligned with public service priorities and can also help inform staff re-training needs.

It said the planned establishment of a new, defined-contribution public sector pension scheme for new and regularized hires is important to avoid adding to the fiscal liability from the existing defined benefit plan.

"Recent parametric pension reforms of the National Insurance Scheme, including the phased increases in the contribution rates and pensionable age, should help reduce the system's actuarial imbalances. Nonetheless, additional efforts are needed to incentivize longer periods of contributions, increase participation of self-employed workers, and ensure benefits are based on career-average wages."

The IMF has told Grenadian authorities there is a need to address vulnerabilities within the financial sector.

It said credit union lending practices and asset quality warrant close monitoring and that targeted supervisory measures have facilitated a reduction in non-performing loans and improved provisioning.

"Given the resumption of rapid credit union lending growth, these steps

should be complemented with improved reporting requirements to strengthen supervisors' ability to monitor asset quality and forbearance practices, ensure adequate risk management practices, and respond quickly in the event of a worsening in credit quality.

"Impaired asset treatment and provisioning requirements should be more closely aligned to those for banks and enforcement of these standards should be strengthened. This would prepare Grenada's credit union sector for the planned adoption of common minimum standards for Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) countries. The stress testing of credit unions should continue to be improved and supervisory resources increased to reflect the credit unions' increasing systemic significance."

The IMF said property insurance premiums have come under pressure from ongoing re-evaluation of climate risks by global reinsurers.

"This is likely to exacerbate the degree of under-insurance and increase credit risks for lenders, calling for improved supervisory data collection and analysis that can also inform quantification of contingent government obligations.

"Oversight of reinsurance risks in cross-jurisdictional insurance companies calls for close regional supervisory cooperation," it said, adding that "continued efforts are also needed to improve access to credit.

"Government assistance to small businesses in formulating their business strategies, maintaining records, and fulfilling other loan requirements would be valuable. The credit reporting bureau will also facilitate credit access by reducing information asymmetries and the cost of due diligence," the IMF added.

It said strengthening the anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) framework will strengthen financial integrity and help protect correspondent banking relationships.



## Peruvian ex-soldiers who raped teenagers jailed

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

A court in Peru has sentenced 10 retired soldiers for raping nine teenage girls and women during the country's armed conflict decades ago.

The court said the systematic rapes constituted a crime against humanity.

The soldiers were sentenced to between six and 12 years in jail.

While rights groups celebrated the fact that the men were sentenced, some of the survivors said they were disappointed that the jail terms were not longer.

The rapes were committed in the Huancavelica region of Peru between 1984 and 1995, at the height of the government's fight against Maoist rebels.

The rebels, who called themselves the Shining Path, were especially active in rural regions of Peru. Indigenous villagers in particular were often caught up in the crossfire.

Locals - often forced to provide food to the rebels - were often targeted by the security forces for allegedly cooperating with the rebels.

The soldiers who were sentenced on Tuesday had been deployed to the districts of Manta and Vilca, in the Andes mountains.

The court found that they systematically raped local girls and women in-



There were emotional scenes outside the court room.

side their army bases, at checkpoints and in the women's own homes.

Survivors testified that the soldiers acted with total impunity.

Women's rights groups called the sentences - the first to be handed down to former soldiers for sexual abuses - "historic".

They said it was a milestone in the fight to bring perpetrators of crimes against humanity to justice.

However, some of the survivors said that they had hoped for longer sentences for the former soldiers.

One called the soldiers "cowards" for not showing up at court for the sentencing.

Rights groups hope the Manta and Vilca case will lay the groundwork for other alleged crimes from the conflict with the Shining

Path to be tried.

However, a bill currently making its way through the Peruvian Congress could mean alleged crimes against humanity committed before 2002 cannot be brought to trial in Peru.

The widespread nature of the sexual violence against the women living near the army bases of Manta and Vilca was recorded in a 2003 report by Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

The report identified 24 women who had been raped in the area. Sexual violence was so commonplace that at least 32 children were born as a result of the rapes, the commission added.

One of the survivors, who gave birth to two children after being repeatedly raped, said she hoped that "these criminals will now

go to prison".

The Truth Commission report showed that sexual abuse was not confined to this area alone. It stated that nationwide more than 5,300 women were abused during the armed conflict.

While the majority of the sexual abuses - 83% according to the report - were committed by the security forces, the Shining Path also committed mass atrocities.

In one particularly bloody massacre, the rebels killed 69 local people in Santiago de Lucanamarca with axes, machetes and guns in retaliation for the killing of a Shining Path commander.

In total, almost 70,000 people died or disappeared during the internal conflict, which peaked in the 1980s and early 1990s.





Three men sued the airline following the January incident on a flight between Phoenix and New York.

## AA suspends staff after black men kicked off flight

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

Several American Airlines employees have been put on leave for their involvement in an incident in which black passengers were removed from a flight after a complaint about body odour.

Three passengers filed a lawsuit against the carrier in May, alleging racial discrimination in the 5 January incident.

In a note to employees, CEO Robert Isom said that the incident was unacceptable and that the company “fell short” of its commitment to customers.

“We are holding those involved accountable, including removing team members from service,” the airline said in a statement.

The company has also announced a number of initiatives aimed at preventing such incidents from taking place, including an “advisory group” focused on the experience of black passengers.

In the May lawsuit, three men - who were not seated together and did not know each other - said that every black man was removed from the flight between Phoenix, Arizona and New York City.

A total of eight passengers were removed.

“American Airlines singled us out for being black, embarrassed us, and humiliated us,” they said in a statement.

The three men - Alvin Jackson, Emmanuel Jean Joseph, and Xavier Veal - were eventually allowed to re-take their seats on their original flight.

In a letter to employees dated 18 June, Mr Isom said he was “incredibly disappointed by what happened on the flight and the breakdown of our procedures”.

“We fell short of our commitments and failed our customers,” he said.

He added that the airline is “stead-

fast in our commitment” to working with civil rights organisations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, or NAACP, to “rebuild trust”.

The incident is not the first time that American Airlines has faced allegations of discrimination.

In a separate incident in 2017, the NAACP warned black travellers to avoid the airline, citing a pattern of “disrespectful” and “discriminatory” behaviour as well as a “corporate culture of racial insensitivity and possible racial bias”.

They lifted the advisory the following year after the carrier announced it had made changes to its operations.

On 4 June this year, however, it warned that it could reinstate the warning unless American gave a “swift and decisive response” to the January incident.



# Suryakumar, Bumrah fire as India sink Afghanistan

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (Reuters) - Suryakumar Yadav smashed his second successive half-century and Jasprit Bumrah proved his worth with the ball as India beat Afghanistan by 47 runs in a strong start to their Super Eight stage campaign at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Thursday.

Fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah picked three wickets for just seven runs as his four-over spell was aided by Arshdeep Singh, who finished with three for 36.

Spinners Kuldeep Ya-

dav (2-32) and Axar Patel (1-15) shared three wickets as Afghanistan was bowled out for 134 runs.

Earlier, Suryakumar Yadav scored 53 off 28 balls — his fifth T20 World Cup half-century — as India reached 181 for eight in 20 overs after opting to bat.

Yadav hit three sixes and five fours, while Hardik Pandya scored 32 off 24 balls, including two sixes.

India's next Super Eight game is on Saturday, against Bangladesh at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua at 10:30 am.



India's Jasprit Bumrah celebrates the dismissal of Afghanistan's Najibullah Zadran during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between Afghanistan and India at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Thursday, June 20, 2024. (AP)

Afghanistan will play Grounds in St. Vincent on Saturday at 8:30 pm.

## Powell defends decision to leave out McCoy against England



West Indies left-arm pacer Obed McCoy

The West Indies fans were left perplexed when left-arm pacer Obed McCoy was left out of the XI to play England in their opening ICC T20 World Cup Super 8 encounter at the Daren Sammy Cricket Stadium in St. Lucia on Wednesday.

The Vincentian left-arm quick took three for 14 from three overs in the last group stage game against Afghanistan at the same venue after coming into the team for Romario Shepherd, who left the squad to attend the birth of his second child.

Historically, McCoy's eight wickets in three games at the venue is the third most among active cricketers with only Pakistan Saeed Ajmal with 11 wickets in five games and Hayden Walsh Jr. with 12 wickets in five games

ahead of him.

Despite these statistics, McCoy was left out of the team that suffered a brutal eight-wicket loss to England on Thursday.

Shepherd, who came back into the side in place of McCoy, conceded 41 runs in two overs. His last over was belted for 30 runs by Phil Salt, who finished on 87 not out.

The West Indies Captain Rovman Powell defended the call to leave McCoy out of the side.

"I think when you're selecting a team and you have players that are playing good you will always have to make the tough decision. We sat down as a selection group and thought that the team that played today is our bet-

*cont'd on pg 21*

## Royal Cruisers get first win in final outing in female volleyball league

Royal Cruisers claimed their only win in their final game in the Female Division 1 competition of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local League on Wednesday evening.

The Royal Cruisers prevailed 3-1 against Stoneville in the first game of a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Royal Cruisers won the encounter 25-14, 17-25, 25-14, and 25-22 in one hour and 42 minutes to finish their campaign in the cellar of the six-team round-robin league competition with a record of one win and nine losses from their quota of 10 games.

It was also the final outing for Stoneville, who finished their campaign second from the bottom of the standings with a record of two wins and eight losses from their quota of 10 games.

Both teams have been eliminated from the President's Cup, which will be contested by the top four



The Royal Cruisers female volleyball team. (ABAVA)

teams at the end of the round-robin league competition.

The Invaders wrapped up their campaign in the nine-team round-robin Men's Division 1 League by snatching a 3-2 victory against the Sharks in the second game on Wednesday.

The Invaders prevailed 23-25, 25-10, 16-25, 25-19, and 15-6 against the Sharks to finish their campaign third from the bottom of the

standings with a record of four wins and 12 losses.

It was also the final outing for the Sharks, who finished their campaign second from the bottom of the standings with a record of two wins and 14 losses from their quota of 16 matches.

The female and male division 1 leagues will conclude with their final games on Saturday at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Jet will take on Carib-

bean Alliance Insurance Da Squad, which have already secured the female division 1 league title for the third consecutive year, in the first encounter on Saturday at 6:45 pm.

The Pytonz, which have already dethroned Stoneville, who won the men's division 1 league for the past two seasons, will meet the defending champions in Saturday's second encounter at 7:45 pm.

The top four teams in both divisions will advance to battle for the President's Cup titles.

Starz 2 Juniors will take on TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles in a Female Division 2 Development League encounter on Friday (today) at 6 pm.

### cont'd from pg 20

ter team to face England and it just didn't work out tonight," Powell said in a post-match press conference.

The hosts will next take on joint hosts the USA in Barbados on Friday before facing South Africa in their final Super 8 game at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday.

Despite Wednesday's loss, the West Indies still have their fate in their own hands as wins in those two games will see them having a good chance of making it to the last four.

"I think our destiny is still in our own hands. It's just for us to continue to play good cricket. And once we do that, we think we'll be ok," Powell said.





Brandon King looked to be in some pain after suffering an injury during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between England and the West Indies at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St. Lucia, Wednesday. (ICC/Getty Images)

## West Indies face major blow as King suffers injury in loss to England

The West Indies' T20 World Cup campaign took a severe hit after their eight-wicket defeat to England in the Super 8s match in St. Lucia on Wednesday night with the news that they could be without opener Brandon King for the remainder of the tournament.

The Jamaican retired hurt due to an apparent side strain early in the West Indies innings of 180 for four.

King had given the West Indies a strong start, smashing 23 runs off just 12 balls, including a massive 101-metre six off Reece Topley that flew over the mid-wicket boundary.

However, his promising innings was abruptly halted on his 13th delivery when he attempted to drive Sam Curran through the covers and suffered a side strain, forcing him to retire hurt after medical attention.

Cricket West Indies (CWI) later confirmed the injury, saying, "Brandon

King has suffered a side strain and will not return to the field of play in this evening's match."

King did not field during England's chase, with Shimron Hetmyer taking his place. Side strains usually take several weeks to heal, making King's participation in the remaining matches of the World Cup highly unlikely with only nine days left in the tournament.

West Indies captain Rovman Powell expressed concern over King's injury.

"Yes, a little bit worrying but hopefully he can pull through for the next game," Powell said. "We know how important a player he is for us."

King's absence would be a significant setback for the West Indies. Despite a modest tournament so far with a top score of 34, King's experience and leadership, having recently captained the team against South Africa, are invaluable.

The West Indies have five standby players. They are opener Andre Fletcher, Kyle Mayers, Fabian Allen, Hayden Walsh Jr., and Matthew Forde.

All-rounder Kyle Mayers, who narrowly missed the initial squad, is the frontrunner to replace King, though Fletcher's experience as a top-order batsman also makes him a strong candidate.

The team traveled to Barbados on Thursday ahead of their next Super Eight match against the USA at Kensington Oval on Friday (today). With their World Cup ambitions in jeopardy, the West Indies will need to quickly adapt and find a way to mitigate the loss of their dynamic opener.

As the tournament continues, the focus will be on the West Indies to see how they handle this adversity and whether Brandon King can make an unexpected return to bolster their World Cup hopes.

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

For the third consecutive week, 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 662 points after the ninth 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 win their ninth-round match against the S.K. Eagles with 75 points and Double Six Diamond with 72 points.

The B team of Willikies Super Stars, which occupied second place after the eighth round of match-



es with 574 points, and the Ramplers were given byes and did not compete in the ninth round of matches.

Triple Dynamite capitalized on the inactivity of the Willikies Super Stars B team by winning their ninth-round match to move from third to second place with an overall total of 639 points.

Triple Dynamite scored 80 points to beat the Parham Strikers with 77 points

and the A team of Willikies Super Stars with 76 points.

Legacy Thunder achieved the highest match score to advance from fifth to third place with an overall total of 633 points.

Legacy Thunder scored an impressive 98 points to beat Dominatrixx with 62 points and the B team of Full Clip with 49 points.

Legacy Lightning held on to fourth place for the second successive week by

advancing to an overall total of 617 points after finishing third in their ninth-round match, which was won by Highly Favoured.

Highly Favoured advanced from seventh to fifth place with an overall total of 612 points by scoring 92 points to win their ninth-round match against Fire Police with 67 points and Legacy Lightning with 63 points.

The other two ninth-round matches were won by the A team of Bolans Revellers and Double Six Ice.

The A team of Bolans Revellers scored 83 points to beat the Unstoppables with 78 points and the A team of Full Clip with 53 points.

Double Six Ice recorded 73 points to prevail against the B team of Bolans Revellers with 71 points and Bravo with 69 points.

### cont'd from pg 24

Just when they would have been looking to accelerate, however, the other opener, Johnson Charles, fell into a trap and holed out in the deep for 38 off the bowling of Moeen Ali.

Danger man Nicholas Pooran and Powell both scored 36 before being dismissed in successive overs, and Andre Russell followed for one in the next over to leave West Indies on 143 for four in the 17th over.

Sherfane Rutherford (28 not out) and

Romario Shepherd put on another 37 runs but England will have been confident that it was a reachable target, particularly after Salt and Buttler put on 67 for the first wicket.

Buttler was trapped in front by Roston Chase's off-spin for 25, but Salt kept the runs ticking over before he was joined by Jonny Bairstow.

Salt let Bairstow (48 not out) take the strike initially, but clubbed 30 off Shepherd in the 16th over with three sixes and three fours to all but finish the chase.



## England crush West Indies at T20 World Cup

Defending champions England brushed aside their struggles in the opening phase of the Twenty20 World Cup with an eight-wicket victory over the previously unbeaten West Indies in their Super Eight opener in St. Lucia on Wednesday.

England's bowlers restricted West Indies to 180 for four off 20 overs on the same pitch where the co-hosts had scored 218 against Afghanistan on Monday.

But opener Phil Salt led the way with 87 from 47 balls, as the England batters got the job done by coasting to victory at 181 for two in 17.3 overs.

Having squeaked into the second stage on net run rate, England will take a huge boost of confidence from beating one of the in-form teams at the tournament to top Group 2 with South Africa, who they meet at the same

ground on Friday.

"I thought we did really well to restrict such a powerful batting lineup," said England captain Jos Buttler.

"It's still a decent score and you have to play well to chase them down. But I thought we were very smart with the bat."

The meeting of the only two teams to have won the T20 World Cup twice was expected to be a run-fest and much of the credit for the win will go to the England bowlers for preventing the big-hitting West Indians from cutting loose.

Having won the toss and elected to field, they served up 51 dot balls and took regular wickets in the second half of the innings to prevent any of the West Indies batters from reaching a half century.

"I think we left 15-20 runs out



England's Phil Salt hits a six during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between England and the West Indies at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St. Lucia, Wednesday, June 19, 2024. (ICC/Getty Images)



West Indies captain Rovman Powell, right, hits a six off England's Liam Livingstone during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between England and the West Indies at the Daren Sammy National Cricket Stadium, Gros Islet, St. Lucia.

there as a batting group (and) we could have given a better display with the ball," West Indies skipper Rovman Powell said.

"Credit has to be given to England bowling unit, you can see they have killer plans and the execution was good."

A groin injury ended opener Brandon King's night on 23, but the West Indies would still have been confident of a big score when they reached the halfway point of their innings on 82 without loss.

*cont'd on pg 23*