

15 NURSES GET GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Story on Page 2



The Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority proudly presented an acrylic painting of the legendary batsman, Sir Vivian Richards, to Sir Viv. *Story on page 10.*

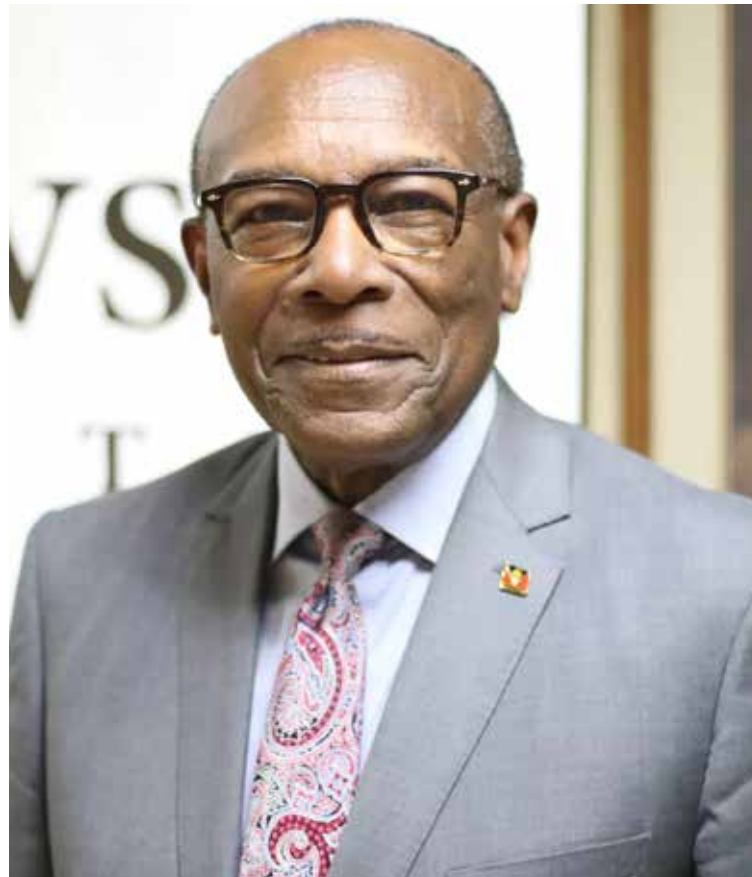
Gov't provides scholarships for 15 nurses to pursue MA programmes

Fifteen (15) District Nurse Midwives are to pursue Master's Degree in Public Health at the University of the West Indies (UWI) Five Islands Campus on full scholarships awarded by the Antigua and Barbuda government.

A Ministry of Health statement said this decision follows a meeting between the nurses and the Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph where the group expressed a desire to advance their education in this field.

"Historically, these District Nurse Midwives would have had to travel to Jamaica to attend UWI, necessitating long periods away from their families and potentially leaving local healthcare facilities understaffed. The new arrangement allows them to study locally in Antigua and Barbuda, ensuring that they remain available to support the primary healthcare system while maintaining a presence at home with their families," the statement noted.

The Nurses approved by the Cabinet are: Roselia Carriere-Joseph, Cathyanne Robinson, Elaine Davis, Michelle Nathaniel-Lyons, Joyann Feidtkou, Miasha John-Carr, Nadia Josiah-Matthew, Chelle Thomas-Humphrey, Carolyn Daley, Nollareen Andrew-Richards, Alden Robins, Tanasha Rob-



Minister of Health, Sir Molwyn Joseph

erts, Juliette Gloade, Rexcella Ramsey and April King-Francis.

The cost of the public health course, initially valued at USD\$12,000, has been reduced to USD\$7,500 under a discounted pricing arrangement. This course would normally cost USD\$30,000 in Jamaica which is not inclusive of travel, accommodation, books and other learning material.

According to the statement the nurses have expressed their gratitude to the Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph for advocating on their behalf and to the Cabinet for granting the ap-

proval. The Minister stated, "This initiative underscores our commitment to advancing healthcare in Antigua and Barbuda by investing in the education and professional growth of our nurses. By enabling them to study locally, we not only support their personal and professional development but also ensure that our healthcare system remains robust and well-staffed."

The Minister further elaborated on the broader impact of this initiative, saying, "Our healthcare system is the backbone of our community, and the ongoing education and training of our nurses are vital to

its strength and resilience. This program will help us retain our talented healthcare professionals and reduce the strain on our health services, all while providing our nurses with the opportunity to advance their careers without the inconvenience of being away from their families."

Upon completion of their degrees, the Nurses will be qualified to be Public Health Nurses, filling the vacancy of seventeen (17) Public Health Nurses which have been vacant for a number of years. This advancement will not only enhance their skills and qualifications but also enhance the quality of public health services available to the community. The Minister emphasized, "With more Public Health Nurses in our system, we can better address the public health challenges facing our nation, from disease prevention and health promotion to emergency preparedness and response."

Additionally, a Community Health Aide, Stacey Jeffers has been awarded a full scholarship to pursue a Nursing Degree at the University, further supporting the development of the healthcare workforce in Antigua and Barbuda. The inclusion of the Community Health Aide in this program highlights the Government's

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Medical Association endorses first cohort to undertake OXCEP course

The Medical Association of Antigua and Barbuda is endorsing Antigua and Barbuda's first cohort to be enrolled in the highly intensive and significantly challenging OXCEP Academic Medicine Course 2024.

According to MAAB this affords a unique opportunity for the physicians to inter-

act directly with more than twenty-five senior medical academics from the Medical Sciences Division of the University of Oxford within a period of two weeks. Topics will include the advanced issues in the fields of Autoimmune Neurology, Population Health, Maternal and Child Health, Psychiatry, Transla-

tional Medicine, Respiratory Immunology, Oncology, Gene Therapy, Artificial Intelligence in Medicine and much more.

In preparation for this journey, the delegates met with Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph, who congratulated the health professionals and encouraged them

as leaders amongst health professionals to embrace the opportunity and to be a voice for one of many Small Island Developing States.

The delegates Drs. Jodi-Ann Haughton, Jonathan McComie, Adrian Rhudd and Shivon Belle Jarvis are scheduled to study the Course from June 30th to July 13th 2024, departing from Antigua June 29th.

The ministry is extending to the participants best wishes, adding that it is looking forward to the positive change that such an interaction will bring.

cont'd from pg 2

dedication to fostering a comprehensive and inclusive approach to healthcare education and professional development.

The Government's decision to invest in these scholarships reflects a strategic commitment to strengthening the nation's

healthcare infrastructure by ensuring that healthcare workers are well-trained, highly qualified, and able to meet the evolving needs of the community. This initiative is a significant step forward in building a resilient and responsive healthcare system for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

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Local News



Local financial support for upcoming AI conference 'tremendous'

The local private and public sectors have responded in a positive way to the calls for financial or other types of support for the upcoming Fifth Industrial Revolution Artificial Intelligence Annual Research Conference to be hosted by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus from July 8-10.

Coordinator of the conference, UWI FIC Director of Academic Studies, Dr. Curtis Charles, said originally the organisers were of the view that they would

have to reach out across the Caribbean for funding for the event. Instead, he added, all the funding that he has raised so far has come from Antigua and Barbuda.

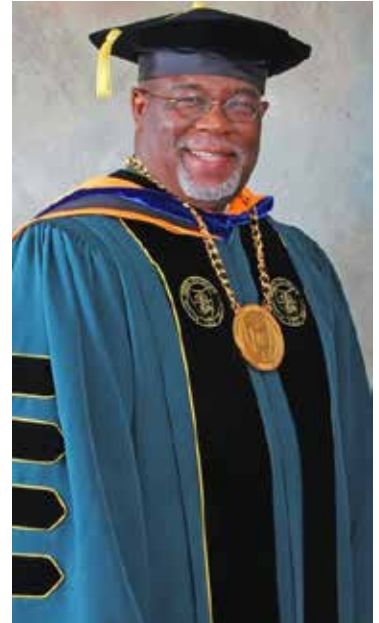
He said the first company to come on board was the Antigua Power Company Ltd., to be followed by the government of Antigua and Barbuda, each contributing US\$30,000.

Other entities that have come on board to support include the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, the Citizenship by Invest-

ment Programme, Galley Bay, Royalton and Hodges Bay hotels among others.

However, Dr. Charles has expressed disappointment that the telecoms companies have not been on board with helping to finance the conference.

This prompted Prime Minister Gaston Browne to appeal directly to these companies for support. "I think they are making a big mistake there. I wish to call on them to come on board. What we are doing at UWI FIC is to build a university



Dr Curtis Charles

to support modern economies with the appropriate skills to include digitalization, and AI. Now, what is also important is for these organisations to participate, not just to fund and I am of the view that all of the major companies in all the sectors, banking and telecoms included, they need to participate," he suggested.

This is important, he noted, as everything will be done in the future, be it health, education, tourism, as well as others, will have an AI component.

He stated that the government is investing heavily in new technologies for the benefit of the country such as an undersea cable and he is encouraging companies to participate fully in the conference. He also noted that many artistes can benefit from the application of AI.

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Close to one hundred tourism trade officials participate in Showcase 2024

The annual event that brings tourism trade officials with local suppliers – Showcase 2024 – is now taking place with scores of travel trade representatives attending.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Colin C. James said this is the 8th edition of Showcase, which is a marketplace for buyers and sellers in the tourism trade. He said it is getting bigger and better.

“The fact that you are here tells me two things; one, you love our country, Antigua and Barbuda, and two, you have been ‘rock stars’ in terms of selling the destination. This country is so dependent on tourism that everyone in the country



benefits in some way from the industry,” he told the tourism trade representatives.

He thanked the travel advisors and tour representatives for their efforts in selling the destination noting that they can now be considered as ‘part of us’.

“Your dedication and hard work have made a

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ABEC's training for temporary workers begins

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) is intensifying the preparations for the upcoming Expired Voter's ID Card Replacement Programme, by conducting training for temporary workers in sessions being held at the Parliament Building.

An ABEC statement disclosed that from one hundred and twenty-nine (129) applicants, twenty-five (25) were short listed to participate in three days of theoretical and practical training this week. Following this, the applicants will be

assessed on their competences and assigned tasks in the Registration Units and Headquarters respectively.

Speaking during a brief opening ceremony, Member of the Commission, Vernest Mack, congratulated the group on being selected for training and encouraged them to remain focused and to ask questions as necessary to fully understand the respective processes involved in the registration process.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian. S. Hughes, urged the participants to pay atten-



tion to all of the information that will be shared this week as the overall goal is to foster the development of well-rounded electoral professionals.

Among the topics that are being covered during the

sessions are: Matters of the Law (The Representation of the People's Amendment Act 2001, No.17 of 2001; Professionalism in the Workplace, Best Practices for Customer Service and Effective Communication.

In July, they will be further trained on the use of the Secure ID Elector Management System (SIDEMS).

The Expired Voter's ID Card Replacement Programme will begin on Monday 12th August 2024 in all 17 constituencies.



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world of a difference as 2024 has been a remarkable year. We are on target, we are seven percent up from 2019, our best year of tourism, and we want to surpass the target of 300-thousand arrivals by the end of the year," he forecasted.

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, Craig Marshall, also joined in welcoming the travel trade representatives

to the country.

"Welcome to the 8th installment of Showcase Antigua Barbuda. This year, we are proud to host a total of thirty-five exhibitors and forty travel partners from the UK, Europe, Canada, the United States, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

"We have an exciting three days ahead, filled with opportunities for you to experience the warm hospitality of Antigua and Barbuda. We hope

you leave with a lasting impression of our beautiful shores and a strong desire to recommend our destination to your clients," he stated.

The opening ceremony for Showcase, 2024, took place at Veranda Resort where Sir Robert Barrett was also in attendance. The business sessions are taking place in smaller meetings between the buyers and sellers at the Royalton Resort. On Wednesday, the participants will travel to Barbuda.

Rotary Club of Antigua assists special needs educational institutions

In a year where the Antigua Rotary Club is focusing on the issue of disability, two institutions for special needs students have received financial assistance from the Club.

RCA President Michael Spencer has made the focus on disability one of the central themes of his presidency. To this end, the Rotary Club of Antigua recently made financial donations to the Victory Center and the Dyslexia Center, to support their ongoing roles in social and educational development.

The brief presentation ceremony, took place at Rotary House in the presence of Rotarians and representatives from the respective organizations. Each organization was presented with a cheque of EC\$5,000.

In making the presentations, President Michael indicated that “both centers play an invaluable role in



our community. They offer a sense of belonging, provide essential services, and create opportunities for personal and social development.

As we know, individuals with disabilities face unique challenges that require tailored support and resources. These challenges can range from accessibility issues to the need for specialized equipment, programs, and activities that cater to diverse needs.”

He added that the institutions are at the forefront

of addressing various challenges and creating environments where everyone can thrive regardless of their abilities.

“The Club’s financial assistance is more than just a contribution; it represents the beginning of a fruitful

partnership. It is a recognition of the incredible work these Centers do daily. It is a testament to our belief in the potential of every individual, and it is a promise to stand by those who work tirelessly to make our community more inclusive,” President Michael further explained.

Ms. Ingrid Simon and Dr. Russell of the Dyslexia Centre along with Ms. Shena Smith, a teacher at the Victory Center, all thanked the Rotary Club for the timely donation.

Rotary Club of Antigua wishes both Centers all the very best in the next upcoming school year.







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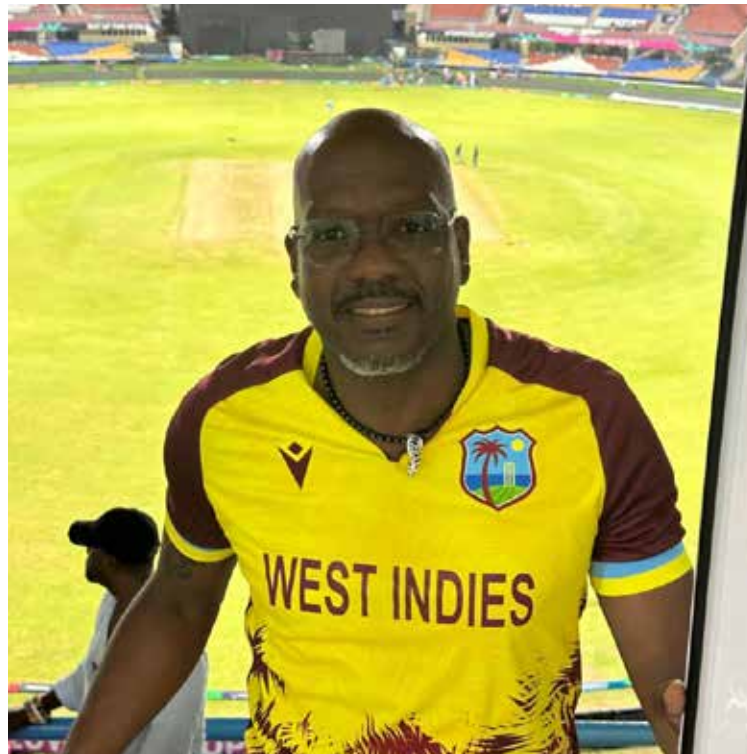
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Volunteers come in for high praise, again

The government is expressing its sincerest thanks and appreciation to another group of volunteers who made the country proud during an international event.

This time, the focus of attention is on the work done by the group of volunteers assigned duties during the just concluded ICC T20 World Cup matches. A total of eight matches were hosted at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium and the work of the volunteers has been highly commended. There were approximately 160 volunteers who performed various duties at the stadium over the course of the matches.

Education and Sports Minister, Daryll Matthew, has expressed appreciation to the volunteers on behalf



Education and Sports Minister, Daryll Matthew

of himself as sports minister, and the entire government of Antigua and Barbuda.

“On behalf of the Government of Antigua and

Barbuda, I extend heartfelt thanks to the local organizing committee, volunteers, and all stakeholders for their outstanding efforts in making the T20 World Cup

a tremendous success. Your dedication, hard work, and collaboration were key to creating an unforgettable event. Your commitment has truly showcased the spirit and hospitality of our nation,” Minister Matthew said in a late-night post hours after the match between the West Indies and South Africa ended. It was the final match that Antigua and Barbuda hosted in the tournament.

West Indies lost the game, much to the disappointment of the thousands of fans who packed the stadium on Sunday night.

Less than a month ago, hundreds of volunteers helped the country stage a highly successful Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4).

Police seek the public's help in cracking an apparent crime ring

The police are seeking the public's help in cracking an apparent crime ring where the perpetrators target structures that are under construction to steal plumbing, electrical, windows and doors as well as building materials.

In a statement issued on Monday, the police said they are searching for the suspects involved in breaking into homes at Donovan's Estate over the weekend.

“Sometime between last Friday and the early hours of Sunday morning, thieves broke into three separate houses under construction and stole

several items, including doors, plumbing and electrical fittings, electrical wires, electrical and garden tools, cement, and other items that were stored on these properties. They also stole the security cameras that were installed on two of the properties.

“Similarly, a house on Parham Main Road was broken around the same time. The perpetrators reportedly stole several gallons of paint, a television, and a stove, along with several bags of cement,” the release stated.

The police are appealing to anyone who may have seen any suspicious person or vehicles in the area

to contact the Parham Police Station at 463-2060 or call the Crimestoppers anonymous hotline at 800-TIPS (8477).

Meanwhile, the police are calling upon contractors and persons in the process of building to be more vigilant. Where it is possible, try to limit or properly secure building materials that are left on construction sites.

The police are further warning persons involved in purchasing stolen items to desist from this unlawful practice. Members of the public are encouraged to report suspicious activities to the police without delay.



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Local News



Tourism Authority says thanks to Sir Viv

On behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda - the Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority proudly presented an acrylic painting of the legendary batsman, Sir Vivian Richards, to Sir Viv.

This artwork, painted by savant-artist Bert Kirchner, a friend of Sir Viv, depicts Sir Vivian Richards batting with several balls in various locations, showcasing his ability to bat in any direction.

The painting was presented by the CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin C. James, alongside Sports Tourism Officer in the



Ministry of Tourism Karen Joseph and the artist Bert Kirchner.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda extends

heartfelt thanks to Sir Vivian Richards for his invaluable contribution to cricket in Antigua and Barbuda, the West Indies and the world.

The presentation took place at the Siv Vivian Richards Stadium during a break in the West Indies vs South Africa match.

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Apple in breach of law on App Store, says European Commission

By Imran Rahman-Jones

European Union regulators have accused Apple of being in breach of new laws designed to rein in big tech companies.

The European Commission, which regulates competition in the EU, said Apple's App Store squeezes out rival marketplaces, marking the first time it has found a company in breach of the Digital Markets Act (DMA).

The firm faces a potential fine of up to 10% of its global revenue if it fails to comply with the rules.

Apple said it is "confident our plan complies with the law".

The tech giant has been given the opportunity to review the investigation's preliminary findings, and it can avoid a monster fine if it comes back with a proposal which is satisfactory to the EU.

The European Commission says that developers should be able to freely tell customers when there are cheaper app stores available beyond the one run by Apple.

The firm charges developers an average of 30% commission on its App Store.

Previously, it was told to allow alternatives in the EU in March.

"We have reason to believe that the App Store rules not allowing app developers to communicate freely with their own users is in breach of the DMA," said EU Commissioner Thierry Breton.

The Commission also alleges that Apple's fees "go beyond what is strictly necessary".

In response, Apple said it has made changes in the past few months to ensure it complies with the DMA.

"We estimate more than 99% of

developers would pay the same or less in fees to Apple under the new business terms we created," it said in a statement.

"All developers doing business in the EU on the App Store have the opportunity to utilize the capabilities that we have introduced, including the ability to direct app users to the web to complete purchases at a very competitive rate."

Another of Apple's main arguments is that users benefit from strong security measures by sticking to the official App Store.

In response, the Commission says it will happily discuss security issues.

Separately, the European Commission has opened another investigation into Apple regarding new contractual terms for developers.

This focuses on three main areas:

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Pirates of the Caribbean star killed in shark attack

By Noor Nanji

Pirates of the Caribbean actor Tamayo Perry has died after being attacked by a shark while surfing in Hawaii.

The 49-year-old died on Sunday afternoon, Honolulu's emergency services confirmed in a press conference.

Emergency services were called to Malaekahana Beach at around 13:00 local time.

But Perry, who was also a lifeguard, was pronounced dead by paramedics after being brought to shore by jet ski.

Perry portrayed one of the buccaneers in Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides, the fourth film in the franchise.

The 2011 film, which follows Johnny Depp as eccentric pirate Captain Jack Sparrow, also stars Penelope Cruz and Geoffrey Rush.

Perry also had roles in Lost, Hawaii Five-0, Blue Crush and Charlie's Angels sequel Full Throttle, and appeared in a Coca-Cola advert.

Born on the east side of



Tamayo Perry acted in the fourth Pirates of the Caribbean film.

Oahu, Perry had been surfing professionally for over a decade.

In a blurb on the Oahu Surfing Experience, where he was an instructor, he described his experiences surfing "the world's deadliest wave".

"This small time island boy can bang it out with the world's best," he wrote.

He also said that several years ago, he was involved in "a freak accident that

turned into a near-fatal experience".

Perry didn't elaborate on what the incident had involved, but said it happened because of someone else's "lack of awareness".

Acting Honolulu Ocean Safety chief Kurt Lager said Perry was "a lifeguard loved by all", adding that he was well known on Oahu's north shore as well as around the world.

"Tamayo's personality

was infectious, and as much as people loved him, he loved everyone else more."

He added: "Our condolences go out to Tamayo's family."

Mayor Rick Blangiardi echoed Lager's sentiments, calling Perry's death "a tragic loss".

Addressing the press conference, he said: "Tamayo was a legendary waterman and highly respected, [he] grew up right over here, and just a great member of our ocean safety team."

He said getting a call like that on a Sunday afternoon was "hard to imagine", and called on Perry's family to be given privacy to grieve.

cont'd from pg 12

A fee of €0.50 (£0.42) which Apple charges developers for every app downloaded outside of Apple's App Store

The number of steps which Apple puts in place for users who want to download apps from alternative stores

Whether Apple's eligibility crite-

ria for alternative app store developers breaches the DMA

Apple says it changed its eligibility criteria in March to make it easier for developers to set up app stores.

It also says it removed the €0.50 fee for apps which make no money - such as those designed by students - in May.

Heads of Government to gather in Grenada for CARICOM meeting

The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Heads of Government will meet in St George's, Grenada, from July 3 to 5 for their 47th Regular Meeting.

The Meeting's agenda will comprise the agri-food systems agenda which prioritises food and nutrition security; climate change and sustainable development; foreign policy; the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME); and engagement with social partners.

As CARICOM deepens Regional Integration through the CSME and other sectoral programmes, attention will be placed on the operationalisation of the Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA) that envisions a single market for air transport services within the Community.

Heads of Government will also review the progress toward the goals for full free movement and 25 per cent reduction in food imports by 2025.

A Strategy for Regional Digital Resilience 2025-2030 will also be on the table.

Incoming Chairman, Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell, is lead Head of Government for Science and Technology, including Information and Communication, in the CARICOM Quasi Cabinet.



Incoming CARICOM Chairman, Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell.

Baroness Patricia Scotland, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, will be the Meeting's Special Guest.

Two distinguished sons of the Region: legendary Guyanese Cricketer, Sir Clive Hubert Lloyd, and quintessential Jamaican Regionalist, Roderick Rainford, former Secretary-General of CARICOM, will receive the Order of the Caribbean Community during the Opening Ceremony, scheduled for Wednesday, July 3 at St George's University.

Incoming Chairman Grenada PM Dickon Mitchell, Outgoing Chairman, President of Guyana Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali; and CARICOM Secretary-General,

Dr Carla Barnett will deliver addresses at the Ceremony, which will be streamed on CARICOM's social media platforms from 5 pm.

On July 4, Heads of Government will conduct business sessions at the Radisson Beach Resort, Grand Anse, historically significant as the birthplace of the Grand Anse Declaration and Work Programme, which was signed during the 10th Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government on July 12, 1989.

The Declaration was intended to enhance economic and political cooperation among Member States, emphasizing sovereignty, non-interference, and equality principles.

Most notably, it led to the establishment of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), promoting economic growth, competitiveness, and opportunities for citizens of Member States.

The customary closing media conference will be held on July 5, at the Radisson Beach Resort Grenada in hybrid format.

The following day, Saturday, July 6, professional and amateur athletes from the Caribbean will compete in the Seventeenth CARICOM Elite 10K, Open 10K, and Youth 1.7K Road Races, which start at the Camerhogne Park in Grand Anse.

Grenada is hosting the
cont'd on pg 15

US tourist fined \$2,000 for bringing ammunition to Turks and Caicos

By Ana Faquy

Ryan Watson, an American tourist arrested in Turks and Caicos Islands, will avoid further jail time for bringing ammunition into the country.

He was instead ordered to pay a \$2,000 (£1,500) fine - \$500 for each of the four bullets found in his luggage - his spokesperson, Jonathan Franks, said on social media.

A recent law that bans bringing ammunition to the Turks and Caicos, a popular tourist destination, can carry a minimum sentence of 12 years in prison.

But Mr Franks said on social media that the judge overseeing the case believed a lengthy sentence would be arbitrary after Mr Watson's guilty plea.

"We will make payment shortly, depart [Turks and Caicos Islands] and anticipate being home in [Oklahoma City] tonight," Franks said Friday.

Five Americans have been detained in Turks and Caicos in recent months after officials found ammunition in their luggage.

Mr Watson, who claims he did not know he had the hunting ammo in his bag, is the third American in recent



months to receive a suspended prison sentence and fine for the offence.

A resident of Oklahoma and father of two, Mr Watson was detained on 12 April when airport officials found the four rounds of hunting ammunition in his carry-on luggage. He and his wife, Valerie Watson, were attempting to leave the islands following a vacation.

Mrs Watson was allowed to return to the US, but her husband was jailed until he paid a \$15,000 bond. He has remained on the islands since the ammunition was found, as he has faced ongoing legal proceedings.

In April, Mr Watson told CBS News, BBC's American news partner, he did not

intend to break any of the islands' laws and he regretted the situation.

"There was zero intent behind this and this was 100% a mistake and an accident," he said.

Turks and Caicos passed an amendment that mandated a 12-year minimum sentence for bringing ammunition to the island at the end of 2022.

It passed after a "marked increase" in homicides in 2020 and 2021 that were associated with "international crime, gangs, the availability of firearms, and drug dealing and trafficking", according to the UK government.

As of Friday, no US citizen has received the mandatory minimum sentence for

that offence.

Last month, Tyler Wenrich, another American tourist arrested in Turks and Caicos Islands, avoided further jail time for bringing ammunition into the country. He was ordered to pay a \$9,000 (£7,040) fine instead.

In February, officials in Turks and Caicos found 20 rifle rounds in the checked bag of Bryan Hagerich, a US tourist from Pennsylvania. Last month, he was fined \$6,700 (£5,245) and given a one-year suspended sentence.

He returned home after the verdict.

A fourth American was allowed to return home last month for unspecified medical reasons.

The fifth American facing the same fate, Sharitta Grier of Florida, will see her day in court in July after officials allegedly found two bullets in her carry-on bag.

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Conference during its 50th Independence anniversary celebration, while the Community will close the curtains on the 50th anniversary of the establishment of CAR-

ICOM.

These milestones serve as a crucial reference point for leaders to shape a regional integration agenda beyond CARICOM's 50th anniversary.

Russia blames US for Crimea deaths and vows response

By Matt Murphy

Russia has blamed the US and vowed “consequences” for a Ukrainian missile strike on Sevastopol in occupied Crimea on Sunday, which officials say killed four people - including two children.

Around 150 more were injured in the attack as missile debris fell on a beach nearby.

Russia’s defence ministry said the missiles used by Ukraine were US-supplied ATACMS missiles, and claimed they were programmed by US specialists.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov called the strike “barbaric” and accused the US of “killing Russian children”.

He pointed towards comments by President Vladimir Putin, who recently vowed to target countries supplying weapons to Ukraine.

Moscow said Sunday’s deaths and injuries were caused by falling debris, after its air defences in Crimea intercepted five missiles loaded with cluster warheads launched by Ukrainian forces.

Footage carried on Russian state TV showed chaos on the beach in the Uchkuyevka area, as people ran from the falling debris and some injured people were carried away on sun



People lay flowers as tribute to the victims of Sunday’s attack on a memorial bearing the word Sevastopol in Moscow.

loungers.

Russia’s defence ministry claimed on Sunday that all ATACMS missiles are programmed by US specialists and guided by American satellites.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reiterated the claim during a meeting in Minsk on Monday, saying that the system “cannot be used without the direct participation of the American military, including satellite capabilities”.

The US has been supplying ATACMS missiles to Ukraine for over a year. The system allows Ukrainian forces to strike targets up to 300km (186 miles) away, according to manufacturer Lockheed Martin.

Moscow illegally annexed Crimea in 2014 and

just a handful of countries recognise the peninsula as Russian territory. It therefore does not fall under the US demands that Ukraine refrain from using Washington-supplied weapons to strike Russian territory.

A spokesperson for the White House National Security Council told the BBC: “Ukraine makes its own targeting decisions and conducts its own military operations.”

But Mr Peskov told reporters in Moscow on Monday that the “involvement of the United States, the direct involvement, as a result of which Russian civilians are killed, cannot be without consequences”.

“Time will tell what these will be,” he added.

The Russian foreign ministry summoned the US

Ambassador Lynne Tracy on Monday, with Mr Lavrov claiming that US involvement in the attack was “not in doubt”.

Moscow has repeatedly threatened to target countries supplying weapons to Ukraine, claiming that they are legitimate military targets.

Earlier this month, Mr Putin vowed to target countries arming Ukraine during a meeting with international news agencies.

“If someone thinks it is possible to supply such weapons to a war zone to attack our territory and create problems for us, why don’t we have the right to supply weapons of the same class to regions of the world where there will be strikes on sensitive fa-

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Exploding batteries spark deadly South Korea factory fire

A massive factory fire that began after several lithium batteries exploded has killed at least 22 people in South Korea.

The blaze broke out on Monday morning at the Aricell plant in Hwaseong city, about 45km (28 miles) south of the capital Seoul.

Local television footage showed large smoke clouds and small explosions going off as firefighters sought to put out the fire. A part of the roof had collapsed.

South Korea is a leading producer of lithium batteries, which are used in many items from electric vehicles to laptops.

Fire official Kim Jin-young said 18 Chinese, one Laotian and two South Korean workers had been confirmed as among the dead. A final body had yet to be identified, and there are fears at least one more person may be missing.

“Most of the bodies are badly burned so it will take some time to identify each one,” Mr Kim said,



Firefighters took several hours to put out the blaze with dry sand, according to news agency AFP.

A further eight people were injured - two seriously - out of the 100 who had been working when the fire broke out.

The Aricell factory housed an estimated 35,000 battery cells on its second floor, where the batteries were inspected and packaged, with more stored elsewhere.

Mr Kim said the fire

began when a series of battery cells exploded, though it remains unclear what triggered the initial explosions.

He explained it was difficult to enter the site initially “due to fears of additional explosions”.

It is not yet clear what started the blaze. Lithium batteries are at risk of exploding if they are damaged or overheated.

Whatever the cause,

once the fire took hold, it would have spread at speed - giving the workers little time to escape, according to Kim Jae-ho, fire and disaster prevention professor at Daejeon University.

“Battery materials such as nickel are easily flammable,” he told Reuters news agency. “So often, there is not enough time to respond, compared to a fire caused by other materials.”

As a lithium fire can react intensely with water, firefighters had to use dry sand to extinguish the blaze, which took several hours to get under control.

However, there is still a risk that after the fire is extinguished, it could reignite without warning due to the chemical reaction.

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cilities of those (Western) countries?” he said.

“That is, the response can be asymmetric. We will think about it,” he added.

Ukrainian officials have defended the strike in the wake of the attack, calling Crimea a legitimate target.

Mykhailo Podolyak - a top aide to President Volodymyr Zelensky - said the

peninsula was in effect “a large military camp” which he said held “hundreds of direct military targets, which the Russians are cynically trying to hide and cover up with their own civilians”.

The UN’s human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine says at least 10,000 civilians have been killed since Russia invaded in February 2022. The real figure, officials say, is likely to be far higher.

Rampaging Rohit leads India into T20 World Cup semis

ST. LUCIA (Reuters) - India marched into the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals on Monday as skipper Rohit Sharma's blistering 92 set up a 24-run victory over Australia at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground in their final match in the Super Eight stage of the tournament.

Rohit clobbered eight sixes in his 41-ball blitz to lay the foundation for India's imposing 205 for five, their highest total in the tournament, in Gros Islet, St. Lucia.

Travis Head led Australia's chase with a belligerent 76, but India restricted the Aussies to 181 for seven off their 20 overs to remain unbeaten in the tournament and set up a semi-final against defending champions England in Guyana on Thursday.

The Super Eight clash between two former champion teams had assumed greater importance after Afghanistan stunned Australia on Saturday to throw Group 1 wide open.

Afghanistan were certain to make the last four if they beat Bangladesh on Monday (yesterday). If Bangladesh beat Afghanistan, but only narrowly, Australia would progress.

Rohit has not been in the best of form but the India captain forced Starc out of the attack by hitting the fast



India's captain Rohit Sharma plays a shot against Australia during an ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, Monday, June 24, 2024. (AP)

bowler for four sixes in a 29-run over.

"There was a strong breeze. They changed their plan, so I had to open up the other side of the field," the player of the match said.

"It was a good wicket and you want to back yourself to play those kind of shots. I'm glad it came off very well today."

Josh Hazlewood had drawn first blood as he bounced out Virat Kohli for a duck after Australia elected to field.

Pat Cummins, who had claimed back-to-back hat-tricks in his last two games, was pressed into service to end the batting carnage.

Rohit greeted the seamer by depositing his first ball

on the roof of the stadium for a monster six, en route to a 19-ball fifty.

India raced to the 100-mark in the ninth over but Starc returned to deny Rohit what could have been the first hundred by a batter in this tournament.

Suryakumar Yadav (31) and Shivam Dube (28) produced breezy cameos and Hardik Pandya made 27 not out to propel India to their first 200-plus total of the tournament.

Arshdeep Singh rattled Australia by removing David Warner in the first over in what could be the opener's last game in an Australia shirt.

Skipper Mitchell Marsh (37) joined Head and they

counter-attacked to put Australia's chase back on track.

Axar Patel leapt to take a stunning one-handed catch at deep square leg to dismiss Marsh but Head raced to a 24-ball fifty.

Kuldeep Yadav castled the dangerous Glenn Maxwell (20) and Jasprit Bumrah effectively sealed India's victory when he dismissed Head with a clever change of pace.

"It's so disappointing. We know we still have a chance to make the semis but today, India got the better of us," Marsh said.

"They got off to a flyer, Rohit Sharma is very hard to stop when he's in that mode. He deserves all the credit for that."



The Paragons 2 female volleyball team

Paragons 2 remain in contention for female Division II volleyball league title

Paragons 2 have rejoined TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles as leaders of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Female Second Division Development League after the ninth series of round-robin matches.

Paragons 2 joined the Chargers Eagles at the top of the standings with identical records of eight wins and one defeat by soaring to a 3-0 victory against the Royal Cruisers at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

Paragons 2 took an hour and three

minutes to win 25-15, 25-12, and 25-14 against the Royal Cruisers, who lost for the seventh time in nine games to remain second from the bottom of the standings in the six-team competition.

The Chargers Eagles recorded a 3-1 victory against Starz 2 Juniors in their ninth-round match on Friday.

The Chargers Eagles took an hour and 12 minutes to prevail 20-25, 25-11, 25-17, and 25-22 against Starz 2 Juniors, who lost for the fifth time in the competition.

Starz 2 Juniors rebounded to claim their fourth win in nine matches by re-

cording a 3-0 victory against the bottom team, Dynasty Queens, in their female Division 2 encounter on Sunday.

Starz 2 Juniors took an hour and three minutes to record their 25-16, 25-7, and 25-20 victory against the Dynasty Queens, who remain in the cellar after suffering their eighth defeat in nine encounters.

With one round of matches remaining, the winner of the female second division will be decided next Sunday, when the Chargers Eagles and Paragons 2 meet in a top-of-the-table clash at the YMCA Sports Complex.



Players of Sea View Farm FC (red and black uniform) take control of the ball during their ABFA's Youth Premier League Under-19 match against the Villa Lions at the ABFA Technical Center on Sunday, June 23, 2024. (Photo courtesy of the ABFA)

Cutting Edge and Blackhawks remain unbeaten in Under-17 YPL

Cutting Edge FC and the Liberta Blackhawks have extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Cool and Smooth Under-17 Youth Premier League (YPL).

Cutting Edge FC romped to a commanding 16-0 victory against SAP FC, and the Liberta Black Hawks soared to a 4-0 win against Empire FC during the fifth round of matches at the ABFA Technical Center over the weekend.

It means that Cutting Edge FC and the Liberta Black Hawks remain the only unbeaten teams in the 10-team round-robin competition after recording their fifth win in as many matches.

Cutting Edge and the Liberta Blackhawks are jointly tied at the top of the standings with 15 points after five matches.

CPTSA Wings claimed their

fourth win in five matches by hammering the Young Warriors FC 6-0 to advance to joint third-place with the Aston Villa Lions with 12 points.

The Villa Lions stayed within touching distance of the front-runners by snatching a 2-1 victory against Old Road FC.

The Young Warriors remain in the cellar without a point after losing for the fifth time in as many games.

Five Islands FC claimed their first win in five matches by prevailing 3-0 against Antigua Barracuda FC.

FC Aston Villa and Garden Stars FC have extended their unbeaten run to remain at the top of the standings in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Cool and Smooth Under-19 Youth Premier League.

The Villa Lions hammered Sea View Farm FC 8-0, and the Garden Stars snatched a 2-1 victory against

Willikies during the fifth round of matches at the ABFA Technical Center.

The Villa Lions and Garden Stars FC advance to 15 points after recording their fifth win in as many matches.

CPTSA Wings and TAMO FC remain in the cellar without a point after both teams lost for the fourth time in as many games.

Golden Grove FC snatched a 3-2 victory against the CPTSA Wings, and Urlings FC prevailed 2-1 against TAMO FC.

The match between Ottos Rangers FC and Soccer Academy and the encounter between Jennings United and All Saints United were rescheduled for Monday (yesterday).

The fifth-round match between Green City FC and Greenbay Hoppers FC has been postponed until a later date.

Sri Lanka Women beat West Indies Women in first T20I

New format, same result for the West Indies Women as Sri Lanka continued their dominance over their Caribbean counterparts with a four-wicket win in the first of three T20 Internationals in Hambantota on Monday.

Returning skipper Hayley Matthews brought some respectability back to the Windies batting, but it wasn't enough in the end as the tourists made 134 for eight from their 20 overs after being put in to bat by the hosts.

Matthews led the way with a run-a-ball 30, while Aaliyah Alleyne also contributed with 26 off 22



Players of the Sri Lankan women's team celebrate after taking a wicket against the West Indies women in the first of three T20 Internationals in Hambantota, Sri Lanka, on Monday, June 24, 2024.

balls, including three fours. Sri Lanka's skipper Chamari Athapaththu was excellent with the ball on her way to a career best four for 29 from her four

over spell, while Inoshi Priyadharshani provided excellent support with three for 28 from her four overs.

Vishmi Gunaratne and Harshitha Samarawickrama then each made 35 as the Sri Lankans stuttered to their target, eventually reaching 137 for six in the 19th over.

Spinner Afy Fletcher took two for 29 from her four overs for the Windies.

This was Sri Lanka's first win over the West Indies in T20Is since 2015. They also won the ODI series 3-0. The second T20I takes place at the same venue on Tuesday.

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Afghanistan.

The West Indies captain shared his joy in seeing a lot of buzz around the Caribbean again.

"We haven't won the World Cup, but there was a lot of improvement. There's a lot of buzz around the Caribbean again about West Indies cricket. We have done some very good things over the last 12 months.

"Now is where the work starts. It's for us to continue to work as a group, still be tight, and hopefully, just hopefully, we can continue to climb the rankings and make the Caribbean people proud."

Powell acknowledged the support they received on and off the field during the home World Cup and identified it as a sign that the team was headed in the right direction.

"That (the support) has been fantastic. For all the venues that we have played, for all the social media likes

and stuff that people have given us, we as a team really appreciate it."

Emphasizing on comeback of the West Indies' cricketing culture, he added, "It's good to see that some buzz is back in the Caribbean for cricket, because we know how long that has died down. Now people are rallying around the West Indies as they do. Now, when we hear the anthem play, as players we feel something. I think that is heading in the right direction."

The Windies succumbed to a disheartening loss against South Africa on Sunday to step back from the tournament as they failed to defend a revised DLS target of 123, in 17 overs.

The West Indies produced a poor batting display as they were restricted to 135 for eight in 20 overs, with Roston Chase (52 runs in 42 balls) bagging himself a half century.

With the ball, Alzarri Joseph (two for 25), Andre Russell (two for 19), and Chase (three for 12) did an ex-

cellent job picking up a total of seven wickets between them, but thanks to a composed finish from Marco Jansen (21 not out) and Kagiso Rabada, the South Africans took home a three-wicket win, reaching 124 for seven with five balls to spare.

Though dismayed at this outing, Powell credited his side for their spirit. "As a batting group, this is one batting performance we'll try our best to forget. I think we didn't bat well in the middle overs especially," Powell said.

"You see both teams bat on the wicket. Obviously, it wasn't an easy wicket, especially to get started. I think it was a commendable bowling effort. 130 (135) at the halfway mark, we said we're just going to give it our all, whatever happens, happens.

"Credit has to be given to the guys at the halfway mark. They believed, even though it was only 135. They fought to the very end."

West Indies eliminated, but Powell impressed with progress

South Africa booked their place in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals following a tense three-wicket victory over West Indies on the Duckworth-Lewis Stern (DLS) method at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua on Sunday night.

Although the West Indies have dropped out of contention for title with the loss to the South Africans their final Super Eights fixture, captain Rovman Powell is happy about their progress and glad to see the cricketing buzz return to the Caribbean.

After an exceptional start in the first round, having gathered all eight points from their four matches to top Group D, and making into the Super Eights as a serious title contender, West Indies witnessed a dip in form against England, and South Africa.



South Africa's Marco Jansen, left, and Kagiso Rabada celebrate the win against the West Indies in the Super Eight phase of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, Sunday. (ICC/Getty Images)

This cost them their semi-final berth. Still, captain Powell is proud of

how the team progressed throughout the year, moving up the ladder to third place in June 2024 (a recent loss saw them drop a position) in the ICC Men's T20 International Team Rankings.

"I think the cricket we have played in the last 12 months or so is commendable," stated Powell in the post-match presentation ceremony.

"Credit has to be given to the team. If you can take a year to move from number nine to number three in the world, that's tremendous work."

The West Indies put up quite a show during the tournament, with a number of home players firing up the crowd's imagination. There were brilliant wins over New Zealand and

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West Indies captain Rovman Powell, left, and Roston Chase celebrate a wicket against South Africa in the Super Eight phase of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, Sunday, June 23, 2024.