

# MARIJUANA EFFECTS COMMITTEE TO BEGIN FIELD WORK

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Pictured from left to right: Marysol Castro, WPIX 11 host; Colin James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority; Alex Lee WPIX 11 host; Chef Claude Lewis. Minister of Tourism, Charles 'Max' Fernandez, and Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), are part of a delegation of Antigua and Barbuda tourism executives to the CTO Caribbean Week in NYC. *Story on page 4.*

## Marijuana effects committee to begin field work

The high-level committee appointed by the government to look into the effects on the society of the decision to decriminalize marijuana, is entering the most critical stage of its work, conducting surveys and other engagements with the public

Spokesman for the Committee, Bishop Charlesworth Browne said the preparatory meetings have been concluded and now is the time to do the field work of surveys, meetings with stakeholder organisations, schools, as well as to host focus group discussions with participants drawn from various segments of the society.

The committee has had a legal person, Nneka Nicholas, to work along with them to provide advice on the interpretation of the legislations and to help draft recommendations on how the legislation may be strengthened.

Bishop Browne explained that there is a mis-conception among members of the society that using of marijuana for recreational purposes has been legalized. This is not so, he noted; what the law provides for is for the use of marijuana in the privacy of one's home.

Since the passage of the law, there has been a more visible indication that more persons are smoking the drug openly in public places and social events.

He also revealed that one

of the early indicators of what is happening in the society regarding marijuana use is that the drug is often mixed with other substances, some of which may be legal but which are added to marijuana because the user/s want a more powerful 'high'.

In other instances, there are individuals who are giving the impression that they are 'Rastafarians', in order to justify their use of marijuana. However, these individuals, according to Bishop Browne, do not practice any of the tenets of Rastafarianism and they lack the discipline and the faith to be considered as 'rastas'. "Rastafarians are not looking for a 'high'," the committee spokesman noted.

In another development, Bishop Browne explained that since the announcement of the work of the committee into the effect of marijuana since decriminalization, the committee has fielded numerous inquiries from other Caribbean territories some of which are contemplating decriminalizing the drug in their countries as well.

"They are all watching us here in Antigua and Barbuda because they want to be able to study our report to guide them in their decision-making," he added.

Now that the committee is about to proceed with the field work, there is an urgent need for volunteers to help with conducting the surveys



Bishop Charlesworth Browne that are a critical component of the committee's work.

The following are the terms of reference for the committee;

A Review of the Effects of Marijuana Committee (REMC) was approved by the Cabinet at its 6th December 2023 meeting. The concept of a Committee was approved to provide oversight on the effects of the use of marijuana in the nation of Antigua and Barbuda.

The primary goal of the Committee is to conduct a thorough research of the effects of marijuana use principally among youths in Antigua and Barbuda. Also, to conduct a basic review of the present provisions decriminalizing cannabis use for all in our twin-island nation.

### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMITTEE

The responsibility of the Committee are as follows:

Review the legislation for the decriminalization of marijuana in Antigua and Barbuda

The Committee shall conduct research, interviews and other data gathering procedures surrounding the ef-



Dr. Kwasi Tonge

ffects of marijuana usage in Antigua and Barbuda

Provide guidance to the Government of Antigua and Barbuda on addressing mental health issues which may be associated with the abuse of cannabis.

### MEMBERSHIP

Dr. Kwasi Tonge – Chairman

Dr. Griffin Benjamin - Psychiatrist

Nuffield Burnette, Esq, – Investigator/Case Management/Data Officer

AUDIE BROWNE, – POLICE OFFICER/Youth Intervention Cases/Data Officer

Ms. Victoria Dyer – Researcher/Juvenile Rehabilitation Prospects Officer

Mrs. Chez Blanche Tonge - Records and Research Officer (Confidential Secretariat Head)

Bishop Charlesworth Browne – Public Relations Officer

Nneka Nicholas, – Attorney/Legislation Review Advisor (as of June, 2024)

NB. The Committee has agreed to duly engage skilled persons offering for volunteer service



## Antigua and Barbuda could be ‘Silicon Islands’ of the Caribbean

The man behind the upcoming 5th Industrial Revolution Artificial Intelligence Annual Research Conference, Dr. Curtis Charles of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, says the hosting of the conference could lead to the country establishing itself as the ‘Silicon Islands’ of the Caribbean.

Dr. Charles, the Academic Director at the university, announced that the July 8 to 10 event will be the first AI conference held in the Caribbean and he has received scores of commitments from AI specialists who wish to attend and to make presentations.

Additionally, Dr. Charles said one benefit of the conference will be to help identify AI specialists who will be able to teach courses at the university remotely. All this, he believes, will help to establish Antigua and Barbuda as a centre for research and development in AI, similar to how Silicon Valley in California has been associated with the growth and development of communications technologies.

“I believe that this university and with governments support within the region, we can become the ‘Silicon Islands’ of the Caribbean; we could become like Silicon Valley. If you don’t know the history of Silicon Valley you would

think that this was insane, but Silicon Valley was started by Stanford University with support from the government which led to private industry being attracted to participate.

“We want to be the centre of that kind of development in AI here at UWI FIC,” he stated.

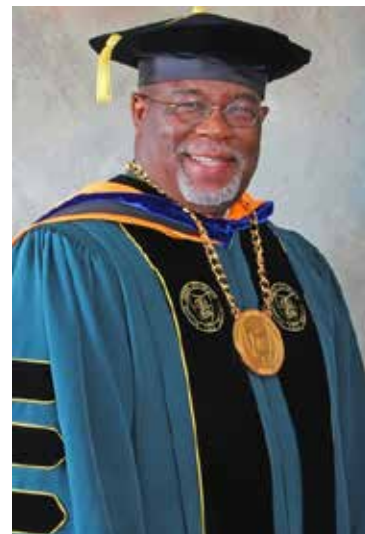
Already, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has indicated that the Centre of Excellence, one of the key recommendations coming out of the recent SIDS4 conference will be established at

the UWI FIC.

Dr. Charles said these will help to solidify Antigua and Barbuda’s efforts to be considered as the AI research and development centre in the Caribbean.

Prime Minister Browne will deliver the keynote address at the conference reflecting his views on AI and how this could be deployed to advance the nation’s development.

Additionally, several Cabinet ministers are down to participate as members of a number of panel discus-



Dr Curtis Charles sessions on matters related to education, trade, agriculture and tourism among others.

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Guests attending Antigua and Barbuda's sponsorship of CTO Women's Empowerment Breakfast

## Antigua and Barbuda shines at Caribbean Week in New York City

Antigua and Barbuda is making its presence felt at this week's Caribbean Tourism Conference taking place in New York City.

Minister of Tourism, Charles 'Max' Fernandez, and Colin C. James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), are part of a delegation of Antigua and Barbuda tourism executives to the CTO Caribbean Week in NYC.

Their active participation in various forums, including pivotal discussions on inter-Caribbean air service, the transformative influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on the travel industry, and engaging with journalists at the Caribbean Media Marketplace organized by the CTO, was instrumental in the event's success.

The ABTA made a significant impact during the week with the inauguration of a new CTO initiative, the Women's Empowerment breakfast meeting, a powerful testament to the ABTA's unwavering commitment



Minister of Tourism, Charles 'Max' Fernandez

to gender equality and the profound recognition of women's contributions to the travel industry.

Sponsored by the ABTA, the event provided an exclusive platform for the women attending Caribbean Week.

CEO James delivered the opening prayer and Minister Fernandez's remarks, encouraging the women to embrace their influence, foster collaboration and influence, and lead with purpose and passion.

The women's empowerment meeting was a standout event of the week, and the ABTA is steadfast in its dedication to continue this empowering initiative.

CEO James also appeared in a television interview, a live broadcast on WPIX 11, the leading television station in the tri-state area.

During the broadcast, James stated, "Our twin island of Antigua and Barbuda is famous for its 365 beaches, but as our tagline says, the beach is just the beginning. There are countless activities to enjoy year-round, from art festivals and sailing regattas to romantic vacations and gastronomy festivals, so we invite you and your audience to visit and discover a

*cont'd on pg 5*



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vacation experience that will satisfy even the most discerning traveler.”

His interview, accompanied by the culinary skills of Antiguan Chef Claude Lewis, who prepared a seafood salad featuring the Black Pineapple, reached an audience of 3 million viewers, effectively promoting the destination to a wider audience.

The ABTA also hosted a dinner meeting for twelve respected journalists from prominent publications, including the *New York Times*, *Travel & Leisure*, *Forbes*, *USA Today*, and *Food & Wine*. During the dinner, CEO James engaged in a lively discussion about recent developments in the tourism sector.

At the same time, Minister Fernandez expressed heartfelt gratitude to the media for their invaluable and ongoing support, saying, “In today’s world, where travelers receive information from multiple sources, it’s crucial to have established and re-



spected platforms like yours to rely on for accurate and informative content. Your efforts have significantly contributed to the increase in visitor arrivals, which we are currently enjoying.’

He concluded, “On behalf of my tourism industry partners and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, who

depend on tourism for their livelihood, I extend my heartfelt thanks to you.”

The ABTA team included USA Director, Dean Fenton; Marketing Communications Executive, Arah Robins; Senior Digital Marketing Officer, Abena Merchant; and Digital Media Manager, Sharifa George.

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## National Park Authority's Desley Gardner to attend World Heritage Youth Forum

The National Parks Authority's Desley Gardner has been selected as one of thirty young professionals from around the globe who have been invited to attend the World Heritage Young Professional Forum, 2024, taking place in New Delhi, India.

Gardner has been described as 'phenomenal young environmentalist' and one who is 'very deserving' of being selected for the forum next month, according to her immediate supervisor, Dr. Christopher Waters. "Each year, UNESCO holds its annual gathering and as part of this event, it selects thirty young people below the age of 35 for scholarships to attend the World Heritage Forum," he explained.




Gardner, a supervisor in the Human Resources Department at the Authority, applied for one of the spaces and was successful based on merit and qualifications. She has been with the NPA since 2018.

"We are thrilled to announce that our Heritage Resources Supervisor, Desley Gardner, has been selected to join 30 young professionals at the World Heritage Young Professional Forum 2024! This prestigious event, themed "World Heritage in the 21st Century: Building Capacities and Exploring Opportunities for Youth," will take place in

New Delhi, India, in July 2024," a social media post by the NPA announced.


This forum, a flagship activity of the World Heritage Education Programme, brings together young people and heritage experts from around the globe to foster learning and intercultural dialogue. At the end of the forum participants will be making a declaration to the 46th annual World Heritage Convention about youth engagement and heritage management.









*The High Commission of India, Guyana  
accredited to Antigua & Barbuda  
presents the*

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## Cuban Ambassador debunks US claims on the issue of human trafficking

Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Sergio Martinez, has debunked United States government's claims that his country engages in human trafficking.

The US government has been critical of the Cuban government's health brigades that it sends, upon request, to countries needing to beef up their healthcare services.

In a statement, the ambassador said the US is engaging in 'lies and misinformation' against Cuba to justify its many sanctions against the Caribbean country.

Here is the full text of Ambassador Martinez' statement:

### Once again lies and cynicism

In recent days the United States Department published its so-called

annual report on human trafficking. Once again, the United States Government arbitrarily and without any credible justification accuses Cuba of "not fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking."

With the publication of the aforementioned report, together with exer-

*cont'd on pg 8*

## Two students complete internship programme with CIBC Caribbean

Two Antigua and Barbuda students are among more than seventy-three interns from across the Caribbean participating in CIBC Caribbean's annual summer internship programme.

The two interns are Emmanuel Chiddick, a past student of Antigua Girls High School and the Antigua State College. The other is Kyle Nicholas, a past student of St. Joseph's Academy who has completed the International Baccalaureate programme at Island Academy.

Ms. Emmanuel Chiddick (20 years old) – Interning in the Technology Segment of the bank and is studying Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Western Illinois University.

"I hope to gain knowledge about the applications of technology in the banking sphere, gain an understanding of what working in tech looks like from a real-world vantage point, and



From left: Intern Emmanuel Chiddick, Intern Kyle Nicholas and Jesseca Ormond, the bank's Human Resources Officer, Antigua and St. Kitts.

gain working experience. While in university, I hope to minor in cybersecurity and perhaps work somewhere in the field post-grad-

uation."

Mr. Kyle Nicholas (21 years old) – Interning in the Personal & Business Banking Segment with an over-

view of all segments. He is studying: Financial Economics at Columbia University, New York. His third year at the university starts in September.

"I want to gain some real-world and hands-on experience in the financial services industry so that I could determine where my strengths best fit within the finance realm. What I want to do after graduating? Go into banking as a career!"

Each year the bank also "welcomes returning interns whose trajectory to join the organization is very promising. Whether they join CIBC or contribute to another employer in the region, the bank said it is honoured to provide this experience to young people. "We see the value of this important programme and have seen it grow from 10 interns in 2016 to the viable program that it is now in 2024," a statement from the bank noted.



## Townhall meeting in St. John's City East

The St. John's City East branch of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is currently holding a week of activities, the highlight of which is the re-opening of its branch office.

Another key event held by the Constituency Representative, Information and Energy Minister, Melford Nicholas, was a town hall meeting on Tuesday night where speakers included the Prime Minister,



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, as well as Works Minister, Maria Vanessa Browne.

MP Nicholas used the opportunity to update constituents on developments taking place in the constituency such as infrastructure, safety issues as well as education.

He also spent time speaking to his comprehensive developmental plans for the constituency



Information and Energy Minister, Melford Nicholas

and how these plans dovetail into the overall national development plans for Antigua and Barbuda as articulated by PM Browne.

Attendees at the meeting were also provided

with the opportunity to pose questions to members of the panel at the meeting.

The week of activities concludes this weekend with a constituency-wide clean-up campaign.



Works Minister Maria Browne

*cont'd from pg 7*

cises such as the impure list of countries sponsoring terrorism, or the one referring to the issue of Human Rights, among many others, Washington takes the illegitimate right to judge sovereign countries that do not bend to its designs.

To justify this designation, the US Government uses contradictory and false arguments, with which it continues to distort and defame the humanistic and solidarity work of Cuban medical collaboration, that for decades, has saved thousands of lives in more than a hundred countries.

Since the arrival of the Trump Administration and with its current successor at the White House, efforts and actions to try to affect Cuba's medical cooperation agreements with third countries have intensified to levels

never before seen.

To do this, they use pressure and blackmail of all kinds against governments that sovereignly request Cuba's support to improve and expand the public health programs of their respective countries; Washington finance and promote smear campaigns and shameful lies about the nature of our collaboration and the professionalism and prestige of Cuban health personnel; the constant harassment against our doctors, nurses and other professionals who provide their collaboration in third countries, so that they abandon their missions, is relentless.

For the powerful northern empire, there is no limit, no matter how infamous and totally unethical the methods it uses to achieve its objective.

Cuba and its health professionals will never allow themselves to be

pressured and intimidated by these actions of the US Government. We will never renounce our solidarity and humanist vocation. No one will be able to affect with campaigns and lies, the prestige and recognition acquired by Cuban health professionals.

We will continue to lend our collaboration to those countries that need it, and especially, to our dear brothers in the Caribbean.

Paraphrasing the historical leader of the Cuban Revolution, Commander Fidel Castro Cuba will always be able to send the doctors that are needed to the darkest corners of the world. Doctors and not bombs, doctors and not smart weapons, is what the world needs.

***Sergio Martínez González  
Ambassador of the Republic of  
Cuba in Antigua and Barbuda.***



## Heat warning for US hikers amid rescues and deaths

By Rachel Looker

A woman hiking in Southern California has become the latest to die on a trail as the US experiences a period of intense summer heat.

San Diego police said the body of Diem Le Nguyen, 50, was found on Monday about a quarter of a mile (400m) off the Black Mountain trail, hours after she had made a distress call to fellow hikers saying she was “extremely hot and needed water”.

Her death follows several in Colorado and Arizona this month, and a number of near-fatal incidents across the country, as it struggles under a “heat dome” and some popular trail areas hit highs of 114F (about 46C).

In Colorado, Marsha Cook of Iowa collapsed and died on 10 June while attempting the “moderate to steep” hiking trail to the Colorado National Monument.

In Sedona, Arizona, a 44-year-old Pennsylvania woman collapsed and died of heat exhaustion on 14 June while hiking with her husband and two daughters.

Two days later, a 41-year-old man died on the Bright Angel Trail in the Grand Canyon.

Although officials have not confirmed his death was heat related, the National National Park Service has recommended not hiking below the rim of the Grand



Canyon during an excessive heat warning.

The warnings come after another California hiker was discovered 10 days after becoming lost in a landscape altered by recent wildfires.

Lukas McClish, 34, says he survived on wild berries and by drinking water he collected in his boot after getting lost near Santa Cruz.

Hiking in extreme heat can lead to heat exhaustion, heat stroke, hyperthermia and hyponatremia, according to the US National Park Service. All are potentially fatal.

More than 1,700 people died from heat-related causes in the US in 2022, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Experts say that even the most experienced hikers can make mistakes, and quickly need rescue amid the blistering heat.

Officials say Ms Nguyen was lost during a group hike on Sunday in temperatures that climbed to 95F.

She continued on the trail after the group she was with, which included around 100 family and friends, turned back around 8am local time. Around two hours later she called her family to say she was struggling in the heat and was desperate for water.

San Diego police officer Dan Meyer said she had almost reached safety before collapsing.

“She was a quarter-mile away from a population, from reaching a street,” he told the San Diego Union-Tribune.

“She nearly made it out.”

“Hiking in the summer months is dangerous, especially when it’s super hot out,” Mr Meyer said on Monday.

“Even if you take all the precautions available to you, there’s still a chance that you may be in a situation that you don’t want to be in.”

Descending into canyons and deserts also has the added risk of “temperature inversion” - a phenom-

enon where low areas stay significantly hotter than higher areas where hikers set out.

Isaac Sanchez, of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), told BBC News that the agency frequently responded to heat-related illnesses suffered by hikers in remote locations.

Mr Sanchez, said that heat-related emergencies on hiking trails were “a very, very common rescue” for crews in the San Diego area.

One of the most common and deadly mistakes that hikers make is not carrying enough water, Mr Sanchez said.

Despite its weight, “we want to see folks carrying gallons”.

“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, right? We want to have too much water, rather than not enough, because we don’t know what’s going to happen later in the day.”

In the outdoors, “being overly prepared is a good thing”.

CalFire said hikers should not be embarrassed to call for rescue - not doing so risks them getting more lost, and more ill.

“What it comes down to is just, regardless of how experienced we are and how prepared we are, sometimes we just get ourselves into situations that we can’t get out of without assistance,” says Mr Sanchez.

## World's biggest music labels sue over AI copyright

By Natalie Sherman

The world's biggest record labels are suing two artificial intelligence (AI) start-ups over alleged copyright violation in a potentially landmark case.

Firms including Sony Music, Universal Music Group and Warner Records say Suno and Udio have committed copyright infringement on an "almost unimaginable scale".

They claim the pair's software steals music to "spit out" similar work and ask for compensation of \$150,000 (£118,200) per work.

Suno did not respond to a request for comment. Udio said in a blog post on Tuesday it was «completely uninterested in reproducing content».

The lawsuits, announced on Monday by the Recording Industry Association of America, are part of a wave of lawsuits from authors, news organisations and other groups that are challenging the rights of AI firms to use their work.

Suno, which is based in Massachusetts, released its first product last year and claims more than 10 million people have used its tool to make music.

The company, which has a partnership with Microsoft, charges a monthly fee for its service and recently announced it had raised \$125m from investors.

New York-based Udio, known as Uncharted Labs, is backed by high-profile venture capital investors such as Andreessen Horowitz.

It released its app to the public in April, achieving near-instant fame for being the tool used to create "BBL Drizzy" - a parody track related to the feud between the artists Kendrick Lamar and Drake.



In the past, AI firms have argued that their use of the material is legitimate under the fair use doctrine, which allows copyrighted works to be used without a licence under certain conditions, such as for satire and news.

Supporters have compared machine learning by AI tools to the way humans learn by reading, hearing and seeing previous works.

Udio said its system was "explicitly designed to create music reflecting new musical ideas".

It added that it had "implemented and continue to refine state-of-the-art filters to ensure our model does not reproduce copyrighted works or artists' voices".

"We stand behind our technology and believe that generative AI will become a mainstay of modern society," the company said.

But in the complaints, which were filed in federal court in Massachusetts and New York, the record labels say the AI firms are simply making money from having copied the songs.

"The use here is far from transformative, as there is no functional

purpose for... [the] AI model to ingest the Copyrighted Recordings other than to spit out new, competing music files," according to the complaints.

The complaints say Suno and Udio produce works like Prancing Queen that even devoted ABBA fans would struggle to distinguish from an authentic recording from the band.

Songs cited in the Udio lawsuit include Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas is You and My Girl by The Temptations.

"[The] motive is brazenly commercial and threatens to displace the genuine human artistry that is at the heart of copyright protection," the record labels said in the lawsuits.

They said there was nothing about AI that excused the firms from "playing by the rules" and warned that the "wholesale theft" of the recordings threatened "the entire music ecosystem".

The lawsuits come just months after roughly 200 artists including Billie Eilish and Nicki Minaj signed a letter calling for the «predatory» use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the music industry to be stopped.



## St Kitts to give temporary tax relief on school supplies, AC units



# Regional News



## Foreign police reach Haiti as Kenya-led force prepares to face gangs





# Regional News

*cont'd from pg 12*



Police from Kenya stand on the tarmac of the Toussaint Louverture International Airport after landing in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, June 25, 2024. (AP Photo/Marckinson Pierre)

## Fifth Tory politician in election betting probe

By David Deans

A Conservative politician in the Welsh Parliament is being investigated over a bet on the timing of the general election.

Russell George is the fifth Conservative to face inquiries by the Gambling Commission.

It comes on the same day the Conservatives withdrew their support for two general election candidates, including Mr George's colleague Craig Williams, who is standing in the newly-named constituency of Montgomeryshire and Glyndŵr.

Mr George, whose seat is Montgomeryshire, said he will co-operate fully with the commission, and has "stepped back" from the Senedd's Conservative frontbench.

Meanwhile, a former Labour parliamentary candidate was suspended by his party after he said he made a "stupid error" in betting he would lose his bid to become an MP.

Labour and Plaid Cymru called for Mr George to be suspended from the Conservative Senedd group.

He is the second Welsh Conservative to leave the Welsh Tory frontbench in the last month, after Laura Anne Jones was stripped of her spokesperson role in an expenses row.

Mr Williams, who had been a parliamentary aide to Prime Minister Rishi Su-



Russell George has been Conservative Member of the Senedd (MS) for Montgomeryshire since 2011.

nak, was the first Tory to admit he had placed a bet on the timing of the election.

The BBC's political editor Chris Mason reported that Mr George's bet, placed online for a July election, was placed more than a week before the election was called and neither man was aware of the other's bet.

It is not known how much Mr George bet or what the odds were.

Earlier on Tuesday Mr George had called on voters to back his colleague Mr Williams despite the decision by the Conservatives to withdraw the party's support.

He said at the time: "It may seem old fashioned, but I believe in innocent until proven guilty."

Mr George's constituency was also represented by Mr Williams in Westminster

before the dissolution of the UK parliament.

He had been the party's spokesman for mid Wales on the Conservative frontbench.

In a statement issued after The Guardian broke the story, Mr George said: «Whilst I will cooperate fully with the Gambling Commission, it would not be appropriate to comment on this independent and confidential process.

"Doing so would only jeopardise and undermine the investigation. It is the Gambling Commission, not the media, that has the responsibility, powers and resources to properly investigate these matters and determine what, if any, action should be taken.

"I have stepped back from the shadow cabinet while the investigation is

ongoing. I have done this as I do not wish to be an unnecessary distraction to their work."

Andrew RT Davies, Welsh Conservative leader in the Senedd, said Mr George had informed him he had "received a letter from the Gambling Commission regarding bets on the timing of the general election".

Mr Davies added: "All other members of the Welsh Conservative [Senedd] group have confirmed that they have not placed any bets."

Welsh Labour campaign chair Jessica Morden said: "It took Rishi Sunak almost two weeks to take action on one of his Conservative candidates.

"How long will it take Andrew RT Davies to sus-

*cont'd on pg 15*



## Delhi's hunger-striking water minister taken to hospital

Delhi's water minister Atishi has been admitted to hospital, five days after she began a hunger strike to highlight the city's water crisis.

The Indian capital has been facing severe water shortages as a prolonged heatwave has pushed up consumption.

Ms Atishi was taken to hospital on Tuesday morning after her sugar levels dropped to 36 - way below the normal range of 70-100mg/dL.

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader, who goes by only one name, has accused neighbouring Haryana state of restricting water supply to the city.

But the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is in power in Haryana, has denied the charge and blamed the AAP government for the water crisis.

"She has not eaten



Atishi has said she will continue her fast indefinitely.

anything for the last five days," AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj wrote on X (formerly Twitter), adding that she was being treated in the ICU.

Delhi is experiencing one of its hottest summers this year, with temperatures crossing 40C for weeks.

This has led to a spike in the demand for electricity

and water, putting a strain on the city's resources.

With the water supply almost running out, people have had to depend on water supplied by tankers.

Ms Atishi has blamed the Haryana government for holding up a large share of water from river Yamuna, which runs through the capital.

Delhi and other northern states, including Haryana, depend on the river for their water needs.

In 1996, India's top court ordered Haryana to provide a portion of its water to Delhi throughout the year because of the city's growing demands for drinking water.

But last week, Ms Atishi requested the Haryana government to release additional water to the city on "humanitarian grounds".

The minister also alleged that for the past three weeks, Haryana had reduced water supply to the capital by 100 million gallons per day, depriving 2.8 million people of their needs.

The Haryana government, in turn, accused Delhi of mismanagement and said that authorities were responsible for the city's water crisis.

pend Russell George?"

Plaid's Mabon ap Gwynfor said: "You couldn't make this up. Hours after backing dropped candidate Craig Williams after another betting scandal, Russell George is found to have done the exact same thing.

"He should have the whip withdrawn from the Welsh Conservative Senedd group at once."

Earlier on Tuesday the Conservatives confirmed they had withdrawn support for Mr Williams and Laura Saunders, the candidate for Bristol North West.

Both will appear on ballot papers, but could become independent if elected, pending the result of an investigation.

Two members of Conservative staff have also taken leaves of absence from their roles after it emerged they were being looked into by the Gambling Commission.

In a video statement posted to X, Mr Williams said he remained committed to the election.

He said he had "committed an error of judgment, not an offence" adding: "I want to reiterate my apology directly to you."

"I am fully co-operating with routine inquiries from the Gambling Commission and I intend to clear my name," he said.

Last week, a spokesperson for Ms Saunders said she would be co-operating with the Gambling Commission and had nothing further to add.

## Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth League ends with awards ceremony

The outstanding teams and individuals were rewarded with their prizes as the 2023 Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League concluded with an awards ceremony at St. Anthony's Secondary School in Langford on Saturday.

The Under-7 Division Champions were GNFC Rebels A; the Pigotts Bullets FC captured the runners-up prize; and CPTSA Wings FC finished in third place.

The GNFC Rebels won three of the four individual awards in the division. Jabari Roberts won the Best Goalkeeper Award, Crowne James claimed the Best Midfielder title, and Kamran Cordice won the Golden Boots or Most Goals Award.

Amaad Phillip, last year's golden boot winner, of Pigotts Bullets FC, took home the Best Defender Award in the Under-7 Division.

The Under-9 Division champions were the GNFC Rebels. Pigotts Bullets FC came in second, and CPTSA Wings FC finished in third place.

Kyle Pringle of the GNFC Rebels won the Best Defender Award, and teammate Lllamar Thomas claimed the Best Midfielder Award. Javonte Bennett of CPTSA Wings FC captured the Best Goalkeeper Award, and Brandon Jno-Baptiste won the Golden Boots Award.

The Young Warriors FC captured the Under-11 Division, with the GNFC Rebels finishing second and Greenbay Hoppers FC in third place.

Malachi Decastro of Young Warriors FC won the Best Midfielder Award, and Tomorey Henry of Greenbay Hoppers FC won the Golden Boots Award.

Kristoff Astaphan and Jayden Gordon of the GNFC Rebels claimed the Best Goalkeeper and Best De-



New Evolution's Jordan Francis, left, accepts the Best Defender Award in the Under-17 Division from Marissa Hallpike at the Awards Ceremony of the 2023 Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League at the Fort Road basketball court on 27th May, 2023. Francis won the same award during the 2024 league. (Photos by Elwin Francis)

fender awards, respectively.

The GNFC Rebels were crowned champions of the Under-13 Division. Last year's champions, Villa Lions, took second place, while Pigotts Bullets FC came in third.

The GNFC Rebels captured three of the four individual awards in the division. Alyssa Laviscount won the Best Goalkeeper Award for the second successive year. Ethan Camacho won the Golden Boot Award, and Sadiq Williams captured the Best Defender Award. Junior Mario Lewis of the Villa Lions claimed the Best

Midfielder Award.

Cutting Edge FC won the Under-15 Division, with Five Islands FC finishing second, and the GNFC Rebels claiming third place.

Eric Moreta of Cutting Edge FC captured the Best Goalkeeper Award, and teammate Samuel Brazier Jr. captured the Best Midfielder Award for the second successive year.

Alister Nibbs of Five Islands FC won the Golden Boots Award, and teammate Cody Richardson claimed the Best Defender Award.

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The Under-17 Boys Division was retained by New Evolution. Willikies FC took the runners-up prize for the second successive year, while the GNFC Rebels captured third-place honours.

New Evolution won three of the four individual awards in their division. Jordan Francis won the Best Defender Award for the second successive year, Jamarion Edwards captured the Best Midfielder Award, and Greg Williams took the Golden Boots Award.

Jayden Jacobs of Willikies FC claimed the Best Goalkeeper Award.



GNFC Rebels' Alyssa Laviscount, left, accepts the Best Goalkeeper Award in the Under-13 Division from Operations Manager of Kenneth A Gomez Insurance Agency Limited Marissa Hallpike at the Awards Ceremony of the 2023 Gomez/Netherlands Insurance Youth Football League at the Fort Road basketball court on 27th May, 2023. Laviscount won the same award during the 2024 league.

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## History beckons for South Africa or Afghanistan in the Caribbean

A first appearance in a Men's World Cup final is on the line when South Africa host Afghanistan in the first semi-final at the 2014 ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago on Wednesday at 8:30 pm.

Afghanistan's progression to the semi-finals of the World Cup is a remarkable achievement for a team who have been on the rise in this format for some time, with New Zealand and Australia the highest-ranked teams knocked out in Afghanistan's wake.

Unbeaten South Africa stand in their way, with the nation hoping it's eighth-time lucky at a men's World Cup semi-final across formats, with a current record of played seven, lost seven.

With a powerful batting line-up that possesses attacking weapons right down to number seven and a bowling attack that has pace and guile aplenty, South Africa will have confidence that 2024 will finally be their year.

The Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba is a 15,000-capacity ground that is hosting its fifth and final match of the tournament.

All four previous matches came in Group C during the first group stage, where runs proved reasonably hard to come by. West Indies' 149 for nine against New Zealand was the highest total at the venue across the four fixtures.

South Africa have a perfect record at the tournament, but have been pushed close a number of times across their seven matches.

The Netherlands, Bangladesh and Nepal will all feel they could and maybe should have beaten the Proteas during the group stage, before tournament co-hosts USA gave them a bit of a scare at the start of the Super Eights.

Fascinating matches against England and West Indies were both in the



Players greet each other at the end of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between England and South Africa at Darren Sammy National Cricket Stadium in Gros Islet, St. Lucia, Friday, June 21, 2024. Both teams are in the semifinals at the current T20 World Cup. (AP)

balance for long stretches until South Africa came out on top in each.

Such a run is either a sign of a team in winning form or one that is consistently vulnerable, and it is tough to ascertain which is the leading characteristic.

Afghanistan's brilliant win over Australia was key to their progression to the semi-finals, but they've been impressive right the way through the tournament.

Drawn in the toughest of the initial groups, they progressed at the expense of frequent semi-finalists New Zealand. And, after a loss to India, they upset Australia and then made it past a Bangladesh banana skin to make history and seal their first semi-final spot.

For South Africa the big decision will be whether to stick with a second front-line spinner in Tabraiz Shamsi, or bring back an additional pace option in Ottniel Baartman, who has played in five matches at this tournament so far.

Afghanistan experimented with

adding Hazratullah Zazai as an additional top-order player against India to try and add a bit of solidity in the face of such a high-quality bowling attack.

They could be tempted to do the same again, but potentially with the incoming batter in at No. 3 on this occasion to leave the Ibrahim Zadran and Rahmanullah Gurbaz partnership settled.

The Squads-South Africa: Aiden Markram (c), Ottniel Baartman, Gerald Coetzee, Quinton de Kock, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Marco Jansen, Heinrich Klaasen, Keshav Maharaj, David Miller, Anrich Nortje, Kagiso Rabada, Ryan Rickelton, Tabraiz Shamsi, and Tristan Stubbs.

Afghanistan: Rashid Khan (c), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Nangyal Kharoti, Hazratullah Zazai, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, and Fareed Ahmad Malik.





England's Harry Kane, left, runs with the ball ahead Slovenia's Benjamin Sesko during a Group C match between the England and Slovenia at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Cologne, Germany, Tuesday, June 25, 2024. (AP)

## England tops group at Euro 2024 after drawing with Slovenia

COLOGNE, Germany (AP) — England advanced to the knockout stage of Euro 2024 as group winner after a 0-0 draw against Slovenia on Tuesday.

The result at Cologne Stadium also saw Slovenia reach the round of 16 for the first time and Croatia was eliminated. England had already been assured of advancing but doing so as Group C winner means they will play one of the qualifying third-placed teams in the round of 16 and are on the opposite side of the draw to Spain, France, Germany, and Portugal.

“That was the aim before the start of the tournament. Come top of the group and control our destiny,” England captain Harry Kane said.

“I thought we played a lot better than the other two games. We just couldn't find that final finish. We look forward to the next one.”

In a game of few chances, England

substitute Cole Palmer could have sealed the win in stoppage time, but his shot was saved by Slovenia's goalkeeper Jan Oblak. It was another unconvincing performance from a team that went into the tournament as one of the favourites to be crowned European champion.

Gareth Southgate and his players have faced heavy criticism despite having already advanced before the final group game.

Their performance against Denmark was so uninspired that former captain and now BBC presenter Gary Lineker used an expletive to describe it in a brutal assessment.

Again, England looked short of ideas and could have gone behind early on when Benjamin Sesko had a free header from inside the box. His effort lacked power and direction and was easily collected by keeper Jordan Pickford.

Bukayo Saka had a first-half goal

ruled out for offside and Palmer came close late on, but England rarely looked like finding a winner.

England was a beaten finalist at the last Euros when they lost a penalty shootout to Italy and has not won a major tournament since their only triumph — the World Cup in 1966.

This was Slovenia's first appearance at a Euros for 24 years and only the second time they had qualified for the tournament. A masked Kylian Mbappé scored his first goal of the Euros, but France drew 1-1 with Poland to finish runner-up in Group D behind Austria, which beat the Netherlands 3-2.

Mbappé wore a protective mask after breaking his nose in France's opening game against Austria and scored from the penalty spot. But Robert Lewandowski's twice-taken spot kick gave already eliminated Poland their first point of the tournament.



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## Stoneville and Da Squad advance to President's Cup finals

As expected, defending men's and women's division 1 champions Stoneville and Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad, respectively, have advanced to the finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) President's Cup.

The two top seeds booked their spots in their respective best-of-three division finals by eliminating the two fourth-seeded teams in the opening matches of the President's Cup at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Monday night.

Stoneville snatched a 3-2 victory against High Flyerz 1 in the second game of Monday's double-header.

It took Stoneville two hours and 19 minutes to eliminate High Flyerz 1, winning their men's President Cup encounter 25-16, 23-25, 25-14, 17-25, and 15-11.



The Stoneville men's volleyball team

Da Squad had it a little easier, cruising to a 3-1 victory against the Jets in Monday's opening encounter.

Da Squad took an hour and 44 minutes to eliminate the Jets by prevailing 25-18, 23-25, 25-8, and 25-16

in the women's President's Cup encounter.

The second-seeded Pytons will battle the third-seeded Top Ranking Storming Lions in the other men's preliminary round match in the President's

Cup.

Second seed Paragons 1 will tackle third seed Starz 1 Seniors in the other women's preliminary round match in the President's Cup.

The winners in the respective divisions will advance to face Stoneville and Da Squad in their opening game of the best-of-three finals at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday (today).

The teams qualified to contest the President's Cup by virtue of finishing as the top four teams at the end of their respective men's and women's Division 1 round-robin ABAVA's local league competitions.

### *cont'd from pg 22*

Trinidad and Tobago's leg-spinner Samuel Badree at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Bangladesh in 2014.

Jamaican all-rounder Andre Russell, who captured two for 19 against South Africa on Sunday, joined Badree by finishing with 11 wickets for the West Indies in the 2024 T20 World Cup.

Former Trinidadian all-rounder Dwayne Bravo was the next most successful West Indies bowler. Bravo captured a total of 10 wickets at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in England in 2009.

Afghanistan's fast bowler Fazalhaq

Farooqi, who has captured 16 wickets at this year's tournament, is currently the joint-top wicket-taker at an ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Farooqi is currently level with Sri Lanka's leg-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga for the most wickets in a single edition of the T20 World Cup, and he will look to take the record outright when Afghanistan face South Africa in the first semifinal of the 2024 T20 World Cup in Trinidad on Wednesday night.

Hasaranga captured his 16 wickets at the 2022 ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia.

## Afghanistan into Twenty20 World Cup semifinals

Afghanistan reached the ICC Men's T20 World Cup semi-finals for the first time and eliminated Australia from the tournament with a dramatic eight-run win over Bangladesh at Arnos Vale in St. Vincent on Monday night.

Afghanistan entered the final game of the Super 8s requiring a victory to join England, India and South Africa in the last four, while Bangladesh themselves could still qualify via net run-rate with a handsome win.

Both Bangladesh and Australia might have been positive regarding their prospects when Afghanistan made just 115 for five off

their allotted 20 overs in their innings.

Even Rahmanullah Gurbaz's 43 came off 55 balls as they made slow progress, before the opener handed Soumya Sarkar a simple catch off a 17th-over delivery from Rishad Hossain, who impressed with figures of three for 26.

It was the Bangladesh innings that brought the drama, though.

Repeated rain stoppages meant they were left chasing a series of revised targets, and the losses of Najmul Hossain Shanto (5) and Shakib Al Hasan on back-to-back third-over balls, the latter for



Afghanistan players mob Naveen-ul-Haq at the fall of Bangladesh's final wicket during their ICC Men's T20 World Cup's Super Eight match at Arnos Vale in St. Vincent on June 24, 2024. (ICC/Getty Images)

a golden duck, made their chances of qualification unlikely.

However, Bangladesh could still send Australia through with any victory, and

opener Litton Das did his best to do so, making an unbeaten 54 as wickets tumbled around him.

With Bangladesh nine runs from victory but with just one wicket remaining in the 18th over, it was Naveen-ul-Haq, who sealed Afghanistan's place in the last four.

He joined captain Rashid Khan on four dismissals by trapping Mustafizur Rahman lbw as Bangladesh crashed to 105 all out in 17.5 overs, ensuring Afghanistan will face South Africa in a historic semi-final in Trinidad on Wednesday (today) at 8:30 pm.

India will clash with defending champions England in the second semi-final at Providence in Guyana on Thursday at 10:30 am.

### Joseph achieves bowling feat at T20 World Cup

Antiguan and Leeward Islands fast bowler Alzarri Joseph became the most successful wicket taker for the West Indies in an ICC Men's T20 World Cup on Sunday.

Joseph achieved the feat when he captured two for 19 for the West Indies against South Africa at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in Antigua in the Caribbean side's last match in the Super Eight

stage of the current 2024 ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

It means Joseph ended his campaign in this year's T20 World Cup with 13 wickets, the most by a West Indies bowler in a single edition of an ICC T20 World Cup tournament.

He surpassed the previous best of 11 wickets, which was achieved by

*cont'd on pg 21*



Antigua and West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph celebrates after dismissing South Africa's Heinrich Klaasen during their final match in the Super Eight stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. (ICC/Getty Images)