

SIDS4 HAD TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON ECONOMY

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One of the cultural performances at the opening of the recently concluded SIDS4 Conference.

Front Page Editorial

Antigua and Barbuda...you did well, very well!!!

The curtains on the Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) have been lowered, the delegates have returned to their respective countries, technicians are busy packing away equipment, life at the American University of Antigua (AUA) home of the May 27-30 event, is slowly returning to

some measure of normality.

For the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, it represented a well-planned, well executed event; a major international event where all of the country's systems were put on test before the world and for which the country earned full marks, AAA.

There were the usual naysayers,

the 'oh it was too big for us', the 'we don't have the skills to pull it off'... and the rising tide of negativity that at times reached fever pitch. Despite all of this, the people of Antigua and Barbuda answered the call to national duty in their numbers to act as volunteers or simply to perform the roles of

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Local News



SIDS4 contributions to the national economy ‘tremendous’

The just concluded Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) has had a tremendous boost to the national economy with all sectors of the society benefitting.

That’s the assessment of Prime Minister Gaston Browne speaking about how the May 27-30 conference has impacted on the people and the economy of Antigua and Barbuda.

The prime minister told the *Browne and Browne* show that the decision to host the conference was a positive move with the benefits trickling down to every level of society.

“That decision would have redounded to the benefit of many Antiguan and Barbudans who operated many of these AirBnB’s and other



small properties.

“The guests staying in these properties would have purchased food, others went to the supermarkets to purchase groceries, the taxi-drivers would have done extraordinarily well from transporting the guests and even the vendors shared in the expenditure by the delegates and others attending the conference,” PM Browne,

who also holds the Ministry of Finance portfolio, stated.

According to the prime minister, there is an estimate that the overall spend into the local economy was in the region of \$40 million. Of this amount, at least 17 percent goes to the government by way of the ABST.

PM Browne noted that the decision by the government not to engage a cruise

ship to accommodate the delegates proved to be the right one as the money that was anticipated to have been spent on the cruise ship, ended up being spent locally in accommodation at local AirBnB and other properties.

He noted that the price for the cruise ship was estimated at between US\$6 million and \$7 million and he instructed Permanent Representative to the UN, Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson, to jettison the idea as he felt strongly that this was too much money to be leaving the country.

That money, he contended, would be better spent among the small properties sector to directly benefit these nationals engaged in these accommodations. This was eventually what happened, the prime minister noted.



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goodwill ambassadors. Hundreds answered the call and underwent weeks of intense training as volunteers in preparation for the conference.

This was an ‘all hands-on deck’ effort led by the Cabinet with Prime Minister Gaston Browne taking a hands-on approach and leading from the front. After agreeing to host the

conference based on recommendations from the Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson, PM Browne remained personally involved in the process by helping to raise most of the more than US\$7 million needed to ensure a successful conference.

Many pledges of assistance came

from friendly governments. Many provided both cash and other methods of assistance including equipment, logistical support, security, and in some cases, boots on the ground.

The execution of the event was in the hands of Ambassador Webson and his staff of the UN Office in conjunction with the local team led by the Min-

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Ambassador Webson: The work has just begun!

Antigua and Barbuda Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr Walton Aubrey Webson is giving the assurance that the country will not relent on its advocacy to have the recommendations contained in the final conference document implemented over the next several years.

Dr Webson was speaking at a farewell reception Thursday night at Dow's Hill in honour of the delegates who attended the just concluded Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4).

The UN Ambassador thanked the delegates for their participation in the conference as well as the faith that they placed in Antigua and Barbuda's ability to successfully host this major event.

"I want to give the commitment that we in Antigua and Barbuda will continue to push for the implementation of the strategies that we put

forward in the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS). It is not a moment to sit on our laurels; this is a moment to move forward as we believe that we are at a pivotal time in the history of small island states," he stated.

According to Amb. Webson, all of the things that are important to the UN and to SIDS, Antigua and Barbuda will push to make them happen. These include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) the commitment to the Paris Accord on climate issues, building resilience towards climate change and the efforts toward excellence for SIDS.

"These are the things we are committed to; these are the things we will work towards," he declared.

Over the past week, Antigua and Barbuda hosted close to five thousand delegates who converged on the country for SIDS4. Over the next ten years,



Ambassador Dr Walton Aubrey Webson Antigua and Barbuda will be the centre of SIDS related activities as these countries seek to achieve 'resilient prosperity', the central theme of the conference.

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Minister of Foreign Affairs, E.P. Chet Greene, ably assisted by his Permanent Secretary, Ambassador Anthony Liverpool and the staff of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the words of Minister Greene, it was truly a national event, with many answering the call for national duty and did so in the interest of making Antigua and Barbuda proud, and that they did.

From the security, the transportation, the catering, the accommodations, including the many AirBnB's, the cultural artists, the vendors, the traffic flows, the volunteers and those from

the various government departments who joined the SIDS4 Satellite Office on the AUA grounds...everyone played their part in an exemplary manner and all can be justly proud that because of the combined efforts, the reputation of Antigua and Barbuda has soared internationally beyond everyone's expectations.

Next Steps

The next steps ought to be a series of post mortems carried out by each respective group; security, transportation, culture, volunteers, accommodation, venue, the ministry of foreign affairs and other related

groups. From these reviews should come a series of recommendations that will be fed into a national review which will bring together representatives from these groups who will present their findings/recommendations.

At the national level, these recommendations would then be distilled into a national blueprint/template for the hosting of similar events.

No one had experienced hosting a conference of this magnitude before as it was the first of its kind. Therefore, there was no reference point to consult. The next

time we should be better prepared knowing exactly what to expect and what ought to be done and within what timeframe.

There is no time to procrastinate; already, the prime minister has indicated that there is an offer to host a major conference of hoteliers in the not-too-distant future and additionally, he proposes to make an offer to host a meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government in another two years.

So, Antigua and Barbuda, take a bow...you deserved it! Now, let's get ready for the next big one!



A&B and India pledge to forge stronger ties in the interest of development

Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne has told the delegation from India that attended the 4th Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) that India is poised to have one of the most important relationships with Antigua and Barbuda and the region, noting that as India grows, it will emerge as the most important partner for development within the region.

Speaking to Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Pavan Kapoor, Prime Minister Browne highlighted the levels of cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and India to include the granting of PPE's and COVID vaccines at a time when developed nations were hesitant to assist other countries.

"We are appreciative for the support from India, who has given more than other wealthy countries. So, when you give from the little that you have, it resonates, and we are very grateful and are looking forward for increased collaboration with India, not only at the bilateral level, but certainly with India and CARICOM, in order for us to strengthen our relationship with your government and people," said Prime Minister Browne.

Speaking on the issue of the SIDS conference, Prime Minister Browne said that his aim was to ensure that the conference was one with a difference



in which the strategies derived and institutions established are done to address the gaps in SIDS development. "We are hoping that India will help us give tangible effect to the needs and the areas of development. "We are hoping that on the issue of development funding, India will continue to share from the little that it has."

Minister Kapoor commended Prime Minister Browne for the hosting of what has turned out to be the most successful SIDS conference held so far. "I think it is very relevant that you have decided to and managed to successfully host the SIDS conference. It speaks volumes of your own ability and the determination to stand as a leader within the SIDS group," he said.

Minister Kapoor also outlined that India was happy to sign an MOU with

Antigua and Barbuda on the India Stack for digital public infrastructure, along with the International Solar Alliance and the Coalition for Disaster Resilience Infrastructure.

He said that India is keen to support Antigua and Barbuda's development. He noted that it's important for the discussions on SIDS to continue particularly in other conferences of the United Nations and the Commonwealth.

In commenting on the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI), Prime Minister Browne stated that it is his hope that the negotiations will conclude in time for the September session of the United Nations General Assembly, which would be of great benefit to SIDS.

"Even though the MVI speaks about SIDS, it is not really a SIDS index. It is an index for developing countries, all developing countries. I noticed there are some who are trying to pit the poor against the vulnerable. If there was an increase in the amount of ODE that goes to SIDS, it will not impact on what the LDC's and LLDCs would receive. In this regard, I thank India for its support," said Prime Minister Browne.

Both leaders pledged to continue to cooperate in the international community in the interest of SIDS.



Health Minister Sir Molyn Joseph carried out marathon engagements at SIDS4

The Minister of Health and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, was one of the busiest Cabinet ministers attending last week's Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing states (SIDS4) held on the campus of the American University of Antigua (AUA) from May 27-30.

As the minister responsible for the environment, one of the key themes of the conference, Sir Molwyn was involved in many of the side meetings giving remarks or otherwise participating in these important events.

Additionally, Sir Molwyn was engaged in several bilaterals with friendly governments where he lobbied



for additional assistance for the health sector in Antigua and Barbuda from these countries.

Among those that he met, the Minister of Health engaged the Cuban Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, and the Deputy Minister of Health for Cuba in wide ranging discussions on the subject of health, exploring ways to broaden the collab-



oration that already exists between the two countries.

"They explored opportunities to create a service offering specialized treatment for Cubans, Antiguan, and Barbudans, and potentially on a regional and international scale. They also discussed scholarship opportunities and the provision of specialized doctors and nurses to Antigua and

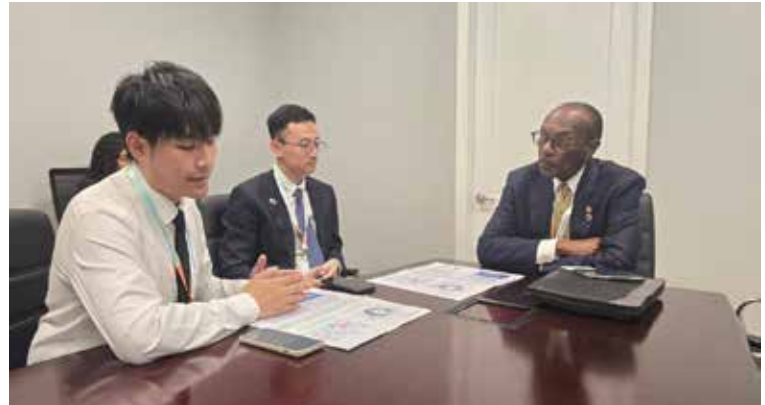


Barbuda to strengthen human capacity. The Minister expressed gratitude to Cuba for its continued assistance in these areas," according to sources within the Ministry

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of Health.

Sir Molwyn also met with a representative from Sinopharm, the Chinese pharmaceutical company. “They discussed Sinopharm’s ability to provide mobile clinics equipped with diagnostic equipment and their involvement in building hospitals, having recently worked on major hospitals around the region. They explored potential collaborations between Antigua and Barbuda and Sinopharm in these areas,” the source told Point Express newspaper.

On the social side, the Department of Environment held a cocktail recep-

tion as part of the SIDS side event. Hosted by the Director of the Department of Environment, Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, the event was attended by the Minister of Health and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph. It provided an opportunity to meet with representatives from the Adaptation Fund to discuss currently funded projects and potential future initiatives. They also discussed the source mechanisms established for the Adaptation Fund.

Also on the Health Minister’s agenda was a meeting with the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Minister Joseph

expressed appreciation for IAEA’s cooperation and he highlighted plans to deepen collaboration, focusing on hospital equipment safety and routine radiation inspections.

Finally, Sir Molwyn met with PAHO Deputy Director, Mary Lou Valdez for a bilateral meeting. They discussed the continued support of PAHO to the Ministry of Health. The Ministry thanked PAHO for the assistance given over the years. In addition to the bilateral meeting, the team also toured the hospital, handed over the plaque for the baby friendly hospital initiative and visited the EMT field hospital at the AUA Facility.

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Civil society groups want ‘a seat at the table’

A grouping of civil society organisations has presented a set of recommendations to last week’s Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) calling for greater inclusion in the decision-making processes when decisions are being made across all SIDS regions.

Delivering the Civil Society Statement at the closing plenary session last Thursday, Dr Patricia Bird noted that the civil society organisations from across all SIDS regions gathered to speak their truth with one voice ‘sharing the message that we will not be silent or silenced on the actions needed to support the com-

munities we serve’.

According to the statement, civil society groups are of the view that achieving sustainable development and resilient prosperity is only possible when civil society is respected as a key partner beyond token consultations and included in participatory processes. “It is important to remember that for SIDS communities, the oceans are not just a topic of conversation, they are essential for our livelihood,” she noted.

And so, with one voice, CSO declares the following:

- We call for equitable and flexible finance to support civil society participation and activities that pro-

vide solutions to the climate crisis and address intersecting social issues including but not limited to the preservation of our cultural heritage, mental health, gender-based violence, educational and technological advancement.

- We declare the rights of the most vulnerable people must be addressed simultaneously as any group left behind defeats the power of a whole society approach. We commit ourselves to the work of ending inequity and inequality for indigenous peoples, women, girls, persons with disabilities, LGBTQI+ and all groups at the margins of society.

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UNESCO donates 50 Robotic STEM Kits to Antigua and Barbuda's Education Ministry

Science and technology are driving unprecedented global change. The role of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education has never been more crucial. In this context, STEM education is vital for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States like Antigua and Barbuda.

The Ministry of Education is committed to fostering collaboration across a broad network of institutions as it charts a path towards educational innovation. This week, the Ministry of Education is pleased to announce the timely donation of fifty (50) Robotic STEM Kits from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

Ms. Ana Paolini, Director of the UNESCO Field Office for the Caribbean, presented the kits to the Ministry. During the han-



UNESCO representative, Dr Ana Paolini with Education Minister, Daryll Matthew

dover, Ms. Paolini noted that UNESCO would also provide technicians to offer training and support for the implementation of the STEM Robotic Kits. Dr. Reg Murphy, Secretary-General for the National Commission UNESCO Antigua and Barbuda, will assist with the STEM education training.

Minister Daryll Matthew emphasized the impor-

tance of STEM education in Antigua and Barbuda and advocated for integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and other technological advancements into the education system.

With the support of on-island technical training and by investing in professional development for educators, he aims to improve the quality of STEM

instruction in schools.

“Well-trained teachers can inspire students and foster their interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics,” he remarked

As the UNESCO Representative for several Caribbean countries, including Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Paolini advocates for STEM education. UNESCO recognizes the importance of STEM disciplines in fostering innovation, economic growth, and sustainable development.

Given her experience in urban and territorial engineering, Dr. Paolini emphasizes the integration of technology into education. This involves promoting digital literacy, encouraging the use of educational technology, and supporting initiatives that enhance STEM learning experiences.

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• We declare the pivotal role civil society plays in addressing the climate crises through grassroots actions to preserve our natural environment. These actions complement the work of our governments, while still protecting the most vulnerable. We must be included and given equal access to financial and technical capacity resources. Last Wednesday, we launched the Civil Society Roadmap and Action Plan. This collaborative effort of the SIDS4 steering committee and CSO consultations highlights the goals of civil society in supporting sustainable development.

• We declare the need for civil society to maintain broader coalitions for continued action. These coalitions require the support of the UN System and our governments. We declare the need for a SIDS interregional platform for civil society that is supported by member states and the UN systems which allows us to meet biannually, and not merely on the sidelines of conferences every (ten) 10 years. We commit to being a partner in the monitoring and evaluation of the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) to ensure transparency and accountability in our actions, and the actions of our governments.



Section of the church service held on Saturday with NODS officials in attendance



Group photo outside the church

NODS emphasizes preparedness with the hurricane season underway

The 2024 Atlantic hurricane season officially started on June 1 and the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is placing much emphasis on preparedness as Antigua and

Barbuda and the Caribbean have been warned that the season will be above average in terms of storm developments.

As a mark of the seriousness with which NODS

and others are taking the forecast, on Saturday senior officials of the department along with representatives from related government departments and ministries attended a church service

on Saturday seeking God's guidance and protection for the nation and its peoples.

In a statement, NODS said in observance of the official start of the Atlantic Hurricane season, NODS joined the Bible Speaks Seventh-Day Adventist Church on Valley Road on Saturday.

Prior to the start of the service, NODS' Preparedness and Response Manager, Anderson Tuitt, conducted a brief training session for church members focusing on the issue of preparedness. During the service itself, Director of NODS, Sherrod James, gave a brief address during which he extolled the importance of preparedness. He urged to parishioners not to be caught up in the forecast of an active hurricane season but to always bear in mind that it takes only one storm to wreak havoc in Antigua and Barbuda.

"My advice to you all is simple; be prepared for the entire hurricane season. You should ensure that

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NATIONAL OFFICE OF DISASTER SERVICES (NODS) DISTRICT DISASTER COORDINATORS (DDCs), DEPUTIES AND THE 2024 HURRICANE SHELTERS					
NO.	DISASTER COORDINATOR	DISTRICT	CONTACT #	SHELTER	LOCATION
1.	Adelta Burton	All Saints East and St. Luke	774-1970 728-8071 460-1970	1. J.T. Ambrose Primary School 2. Old Road Primary School 3. Old Road Anglican Church 4. Cana Moravian Pre-School and Daycare 5. Tyrells Roman Catholic Church Hall 6. Charlesworth Samuel Centre	All Saints Village Old Road Village Old Road Village Swetes Village
	<i>Desmond Thomas</i>		782-1153		Tyrells Village John Hughes Village
2.	Philmore Athill	All Saints West	464-2755 776-6400	1. J.T. Ambrose Primary School 2. The Bahai Centre 3. Sea View Farm Primary School 4. Freemansville Primary School	All Saints Village Bellevue Heights Sea View Farm Village Freemansville
3.	Tessa Webber	Barbuda	785-1162 714-4303	1. Barbuda Sports Complex 2. Wesleyan Holiness Church 3. Fisheries Complex	Codrington, Barbuda Codrington Barbuda Codrington Barbuda
4.	St. Claire Jeffers	St. John's City East	725-8839 562-7352	1. St. John's Pentecostal Church, House of Restoration 2. Church of God of Prophecy	Lauchland Benjamin Drive Rowan Henry Street
	<i>Frank Gordon Jr.</i>		725-8088		
5.	Marcus Scott	St. John's City South	723-2222 784-4070 720-8733	1. Mary E. Pigott Primary School 2. Ottos Comprehensive School	Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos
6.	Samantha Bobb	St. John's City West	720-8038 771-0805 562-9046	1. St. Andrews Anglican Church 2. Villa Baptist Church 3. St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church	Fort Road Amy Byer Street, Villa Gordon Street, Villa
7.	John Dunnah	St. John's Rural East	780-3167 562-3860	1. St. John's Pentecostal Church, House of Restoration 2. Clare Hall Seventh-Day Adventist Church 3. Bethel Gospel Hall 4. Clare Hall Secondary School	Lauchland Benjamin Drive Clare Hall
	<i>Bobby Emanuel</i>		560-7281 785-9773		St. Johnston's Village Clare Hall

Local News



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emergency supplies are in place, which should include non-perishable food, such as canned items, water, flashlight and important documents.

Individuals should try as much as possible to ensure that their homes are resistant to the effects of a hurricane, trim overhanging branches, secure windows and doors, acquire shutters or plywood to cover windows and clear the yard of items that could become missiles,” he encouraged.

In attendance at the service were Health and Environment Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, the Executive Director of CDEMA, Elizabeth Riley, who was in Antigua for SIDS4, as well as representatives from the police, the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force, the Met Office, the Fire Department among others.

Meanwhile, NODS Public Relations Officer, Midcie Francis, said the agency has been noticing that the most recent storms that have affected the region have brought along much water, and noting that water itself can be very destructive, NODS has embarked on a programme to clear the drains in many of the flood-prone areas of Antigua.

She identified Hawkins Drive in Cassada Gardens as one of the first areas where the drain cleaning has been completed with other areas in line for similar activity.

Additionally, NODS has *cont'd on pg 11*

NO.	DISASTER COORDINATOR	DISTRICT	CONTACT #	SHELTER	LOCATION
8	Craig Ryan <i>Josina France</i>	St. John's Rural North	788-7680 786-0652 481-6361 (W) 463-9763 (H)	1. Cedar Grove Government Creche 2. St. Andrews Anglican Church 3. Yorks Community Centre	Cedar Grove Village Fort Road Yorks Village
9.	Algen Isaac <i>Semone Ambrose</i>	St. John's Rural South	464-5095 460-6034(W) 723-4418	1. Mary E. Pigott Primary School 2. St. John's Church of Christ 3. Tindall Seventh Day Adventist Church 4. Ottos Comprehensive School 5. Golden Grove Primary School	Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos Golden Grove Main Road Tindale Road Mary E. Pigott Street, Ottos Golden Grove
10.	Janice Benjamin-Edwards <i>Eisen Baptiste</i> <i>Gail Daniel</i>	St. John's Rural West	773-8886 481-7557 (W) 463-8886 (H) 729-8894 481-7542 (W) 788-9864 775-8643	1. Green Bay Primary School 2. UWI Five Islands Campus Gymnasium 3. Grays Farm Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Federation Rd., Green Bay Five Islands Village Grays Farm

NO.	DISASTER COORDINATOR	DISTRICT	CONTACT #	SHELTER	LOCATION
11.	Keiva Davis <i>Deidra Roberts</i>	St George	736-2456 770-2456 780-4636	1. Sir Novelle Richards Academy 2. Potters Seventh-Day Adventist Church 3. Pigotts Primary School 4. Bethany Gospel Hall 5. New Winthropes Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Potters Village Potters Village Pigotts Village New Winthropes Village New Winthropes Village
12.	Jennifer Murray <i>Calvin Carr</i> <i>Cassandra Murray</i>	St. Mary's North	464-0277 461-0091 (H) 786-7527/ 764-0190 727-7390 480-7390	1. St. John's Church of Christ 2. Cedar Hall Moravian Church Community Centre 3. Cashew Hill Moravian Church	Golden Grove Main Rd. Jennings Village Cashew Hill
13.	Manroy Jeffrey <i>Alvin Erskine</i>	St. Mary's South	729-5042 721-4385	1. Bolans Seventh-Day Adventist Church 2. Bolans Wesleyan Holiness Church 3. Urlings Seventh-Day Adventist Church 4. Urlings Primary School	Bolans Village Bolans Village Urlings Village Urlings Village

NO.	DISASTER COORDINATOR	DISTRICT	CONTACT #	SHELTER	LOCATION
14.	Renika Isaac <i>Fernley Latchman</i>	St. Paul	775-0602 770-9916	1. Cobbs Cross Primary School 2. Baxter Memorial Methodist Church Annex 3. Tyrells Roman Catholic Church 4. St Paul's Empowerment Centre 5. New Bethel Seventh-Day Adventist Church	Cobbs Cross English Harbour Tyrells Liberta Village Liberta Village
15.	Joel Andrew <i>Samantha Burnette-Beazer</i>	St. Peter	729-5697 560-7789 (H) 480-7017(W) 786-7422	1. Parham Pentecostal Church 2. Parham Primary School	Parham Town Parham Town
16.	Lydia Philip <i>Avor Otto</i>	St. Phillips North	786-5400 727-1010 480-7276 (W)	1. Seaglans Central Seventh-Day Adventist Church 2. Glanvilles Secondary School	Glanvilles Village Glanvilles Village

NO.	DISASTER COORDINATOR	DISTRICT	CONTACT #	SHELTER	LOCATION
17.	Chelo Francis <i>Kennedy Tonge</i>	St. Phillips South	789-2420 562-4430 (W) 776-7400	Bethesda Primary School	Bethesda Village

Updated May 2024 (50 shelters)

Please note:

1. The District Disaster Coordinators are shown in bold while their deputies are italicized.
2. Some districts share emergency shelters so they might be listed in more than one district.

Ghanian FM welcomes Antigua and Barbuda 'air-bridge'

The Ghanaian Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey, who was in Antigua and Barbuda for the Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) has welcomed efforts to establish an 'air-bridge' between this country and Africa.

Minister Botchwey made the point during a bilateral meeting with her Antigua and Barbuda counterpart, Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene, held at the margins of the SIDS4 at the American University of Antigua last week.

During the discussion, Minister Greene spoke of the familial links between the people of Antigua and Barbuda and Ghana and he spoke of the government's ongoing efforts to establish an airlink with continental Africa.

He noted that whilst the first attempt to achieve this did not go as intended, nonetheless, the government remains committed



Foreign Minister, E.P Chet Greene, right, with Ghanaian Foreign Minister Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey to making the air-bridge a reality.

"We opened the route between Africa and Antigua, as it is our plan for Antigua to be the gateway to the rest of the Caribbean. We received a lot of flack

for it...but we are committed to this process of opening trade lanes between Africa and the Caribbean, using Antigua because of its central location, as its first stop.

Naturally, Ghana would

be one of those countries we would have an interest in; of course, we have to sign the necessary agreements. We cannot sit back and see the rest of the world trade with Africa and we do nothing," Greene noted.

In welcoming the news, the Ghanaian Foreign Minister said it is something that would make her happy as she expressed much frustration with traveling from Ghana to Antigua and Barbuda.

"We (her delegation) are having issues on our return. Some of us have to go through Miami, then New York, London before reaching Ghana. Whereas, if there was a direct flight from Antigua to Nigeria, for us, we could be home from Nigeria in less than two hours," she explained.

Greene emphasized that current air routes were not designed with Africa and the Caribbean in mind as he acknowledged the circuitous manner of traveling between the two points.

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released the names of 50 structures so far that will be utilised as shelters during this year's hurricane season which runs until November 30. The list can be viewed on NODS facebook and Instagram pages and has also been disseminated to media houses throughout the island.

Included on the list are the names of the 17 district disaster coordinators and deputies who volunteer in

the various communities on behalf of NODS. They lead a team of other volunteers who are responsible for ensuring that issues relating to hazards and disasters are brought to the attention of NODS to be addressed. Each of the 17 disaster districts, which consist of several communities, has at least one shelter.

NODS advises residents that whenever a storm is threatening public shelters should be the last option

and if this is not feasible, persons can seek shelter with family and relatives. Individuals going to a public shelter should take along food, water, emergency supplies, clothing, bedding and any other necessary items as these will not be available in the public space. Pets are not allowed in shelters and animal owners should make alternative arrangements for them. There are also rules in place at the shelters which occupants must follow.

Opinion



Can't beat the feeling

By Tony Deyal

If I had money, I would be in Barbados today watching cricket. If I win the lotto tomorrow I would head to Barbados right away especially if I had won enough to hire a plane.

If I had a lot of money, I would buy my own plane, fly to Barbados, and watch cricket. And if I had lots and lots of money I would live in Barbados and be part of the permanent flying-fish and cou-cou posse.

In all the places in the world that I have lived, including Trinidad, once you can afford it, Barbados is the best. It is like the old joke about how to become a millionaire.

First you become a billionaire and then you buy an airplane and head for Barbados. It is like Chalky Mount, a jagged mountain in that country's Saint Andrews where the prices are in proportion to the gradient. They are both steep.

I once owned a car in Barbados that was valued at \$1,200 but the insurance was \$1,400. My only option was to sell the car to pay the insurance.

Maybe I am exaggerating somewhat about the cost of living in Barbados. I am telling the plain truth, however, in declaring my love for that country.

I lived there happily for many years and left there reluctantly. The last time for me was when the West

Indies beat India at Kensington. I was in the Garfield Sobers cheering, shouting and celebrating. One of my Cuban friends kept eyeing a Trinidadian flag-woman and behaving like the men in the wild west town of Tombstone when they got a new female sheriff.

Every man in town was dying to get on her posse. Today, I understand, that consequent upon his reaching his thirty-third birthday, and at the end of the day's play, Brian Lara went over to the Trinidad Posse stand at the Kensington Oval and mingled with the many inebriated patrons. I suppose, for Brian, happiness is a tight posse.

For me, happiness would be to return to Barbados during this cricket match which I have dedicated to the great Wes Hall. He was the greatest salesman ever, especially as a Cricket boss. He reminded me of a Barbadian real-estate salesman I heard about. He was trying to sell a house on Batsheba beach to a foreigner.

However, when the man saw all the screens on the doors and windows of the house, he asked suspiciously, "Are there many mosquitoes here?" "None at all," the Barbadian said reassuringly. "You know they call Barbados the Land of the Flying Fish. Well, we have so many that we have to put up those screens to keep the flying fish from getting into



Tony Deyal

your house."

Apart from the cricket, especially the night before or after, just head towards the western and southern coasts. It's easy to get cabs (taxis) and either ask them for "Where to go?" or for St Lawrence Gap and Hometown. If you're not feeling at your best, check out the Queen Elizabeth Hospital which Barbadians pronounce as "horse-spittle".

One thing to note is to stick with cabs. When I first went there to work, I did not expect, or anticipate, any problem in finding my way around Barbados. It is a small country, I thought, and flat.

It would be easy to get around and surely, there would be excellent road maps and signs. Besides, everyone would know everyone else and would all know the island very well.

On my first trip to buy some t-shirts I went to Cave Shepherd the best-known

store in the city. I walked into the ground level of the store and asked a staff member where the T-shirts were. She told me "Above".

I took the escalator and searched the two upper floors and then came back down to the ground floor complaining, only to realise that "above" means "ahead" or in front of me. I once was in Northern Barbados and asked a man standing at the side of the road where I was. He replied, "Balls." I drove off angrily because without any provocation the man had insulted me.

I did not know that "Balls" was the name of a village. I later found places like "Husbands" without wives, "Gays", "Mount Gay", "Mose Bottom" and "Prescod Bottom", "Sixmens" and "Allmans" as well as "Maycock". You can discover "Hope" and "Friendship" but can't have both at the same time. You

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Opinion

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can be in "Mount Misery" or in "Jack in the Box Gully".

But for a truly wonderful and unique sight, and a genuine tourism spectacle unknown in any other part of the world, you have to see "Cock-rane."

However, while it is easy to visit everything you read about or want to see for yourself, you cannot get lost in Barbados unless you ask someone along the road for instructions. The signs are everywhere to the city or out of it.

And this is the Barbados I still love. It is a country, the only one in the Caribbean, where things work, buses are on time, the most remote villages have sports facilities, especially cricket grounds that make me envious.

It is not coincidence that Hope and Endeavour are not far apart in Bar-

bados and even if you go there on a WHIM whim, there is a village by that name also.

But if you're there for cricket, you're in the right place. In my second column when I started writing for several newspapers in the region, starting with the Barbados Nation, I made it clear what Barbados represented.

As I said, "Every human activity has its hallowed halls, its sacred and sacrosanct sites and sanctuaries. Baseball has its Field of Dreams. English soccer has Wembley. and English Cricket has Lord's. The Muslims have Mecca and the Jews, Jerusalem. West Indies cricket has Kensington Oval. It is Zion, Parnassus and Olympus. It is our Camelot, capitol and citadel, our base and bastion."

I had long dreamt of the day when I would sit in the stands of Kensington hearing the "Hoi! Hoi!" of the

hoi-polloi, their "Cor Blimeys" and the agonised "Jeez-U" of puzzlement and exasperation. And there I was, "AT PLAY IN THE FIELD OF THE LORD – Kensington Oval, Saturday". It was, and will always be, memorable and altogether new and strange for me.

We lived in Barbados for about five years and our two children, Jasmine and Zubin, were born there. Unlike Trinidad, nobody there ever referred to or called us "coolies".

For me, that alone is worth its weight in gold. When someone in Trinidad told my son Zubin and daughter Jasmine that they were Indians they adamantly insisted, almost to the point of tears, "We are not Indians. We are Barbadians."

Tony Deyal was last seen leaving the cricket ground and saying, "Cor blimey! Can't beat the feeling! No way! No way, Jose!"

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First paediatric liver resection surgery performed in Guyana

CMC - The first paediatric liver resection was performed here on Thursday, May 23, on a 18-month-old female patient who was diagnosed with a rare and aggressive paediatric liver cancer known as hepatoblastoma.

In a statement on Friday, the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation (GPHC) announced the successful completion of the surgery.

The patient's journey began with a diagnosis of the large, aggressive tumour, which prompted the formation of a multidisciplinary team led by Guyanese Paediatric Surgeon, Dr Marisa Seepersaud.

Treatment commenced with a series of chemotherapy sessions, administered by GPHC's oncologist, Dr Kandacy Archer and her team.

The hospital said the radiology team, led by Dr Richard Vyphuis, meticulously monitored the tumour's response to treatment and after five chemotherapy sessions, the tumour shrunk by approximately 50 per cent, making surgical removal a viable option.

Given the unprecedented nature of the procedure in Guyana, two hepatobiliary specialists were invited to assist the local team in performing the complex surgery, which involved re-



moving about half of the baby's liver.

Also assisting was the Head of Paediatric Surgery and Liver Transplant at Bustamante Hospital for Children in Jamaica, Dr Colin Abel and Professor Steven Dunn, Paediatric Surgeon and Head of Solid Organ Transplant at Nemours Children's Hospital in Delaware, in the United States.

"The surgery was a formidable undertaking involving many complex and critical steps and equipment," stated Seepersaud, the local lead paediatric surgeon.

The patient's mother expressed confidence in the team's management and consented to the surgery.

The nine-hour operation concluded with the complete resection of the tumour, following which Seepersaud expressed her gratitude to the GPHC administration

for their swift response in facilitating the assistance of the visiting surgeons.

"Both Dr Abel and Professor Dunn have shown interest in continuing their support for the Paediatric Surgical department, an offer for which the Paediatric Department is immensely grateful.

"GPHC takes pride in the dedication and commitment of the local team, who collaborated across multiple specialties to ensure a successful outcome.

The paediatric surgical, nursing and anaesthetic team performed exceptionally well, despite the unprecedented nature of the case in Guyana."

The paediatric critical care team continues to monitor the baby, who is expected to be discharged soon. Due to the liver's regenerative capacity, the patient is anticipated to have

normal liver function as she grows. Mortality rates for major liver resection surgeries range from five per cent in developed countries to as high as 31 per cent in less experienced regions, the hospital said in its statement.

The duration from admission, diagnosis, treatment, and surgery was ten weeks at GPHC.

Additionally, two other paediatric patients with uncommon tumours also benefited from surgeries during the team's visit.

A one-year-old female and an eight-month-old female, both with large sacrococcygeal teratomas (SCT), have been successfully treated and discharged.

The GPHC administration has also expressed interest in future collaborations to benefit Guyanese children requiring surgical care.

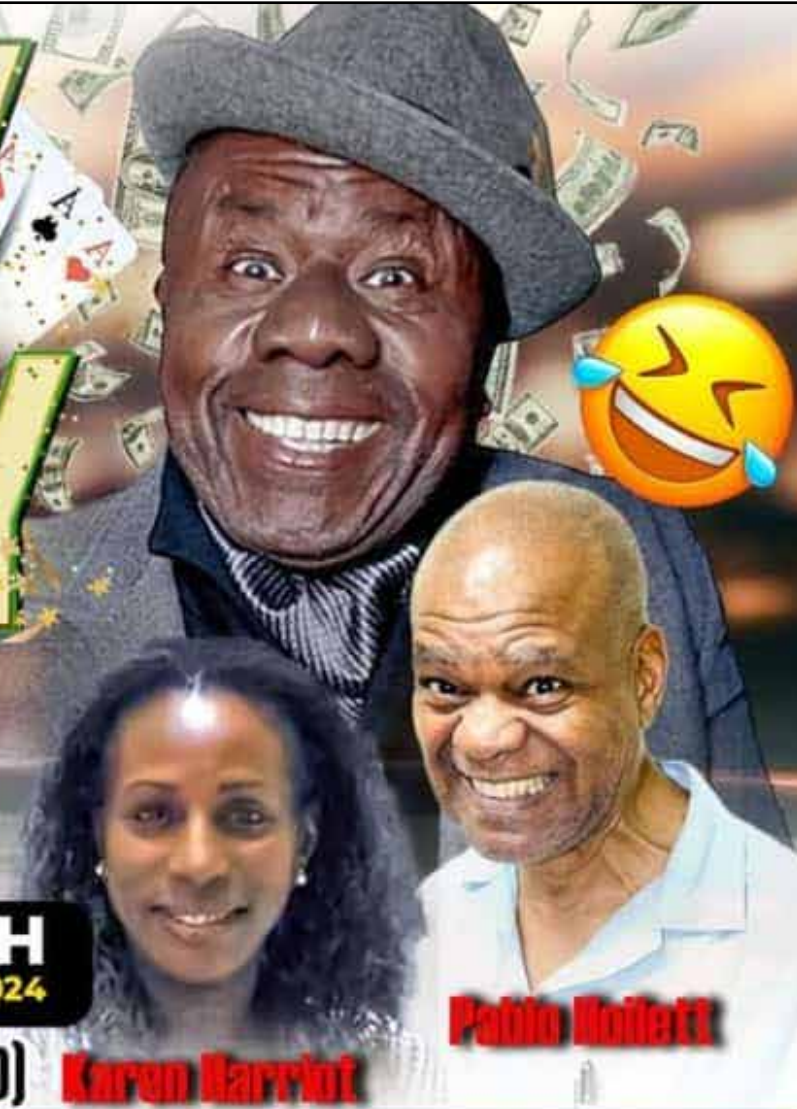
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Regional News



Jamaican government remains committed to constitutional reform

CMC- Prime Minister Andrew Holness, says the Government remains optimistic about the prospects for Jamaica's transition from a constitutional monarchy to a republic.

While noting that the process has not gone as he had expected, in relation to the anticipated stakeholder support, Holness said the Government still holds out hope for constitutional transformation being achieved.

"It has not gone quite as I had expected, we needed to have the support of the Opposition, we still hold out hope that maybe we can actually do this. We will



Prime Minister Andrew Holness carry it as far as we can with the great hope that we can reach to some understanding and consensus. It is truly my wish for Jamaica to become a republic," he stated.

The Prime Minister who was speaking at the Jamaica Civil Service Associ-

ation's (JCSA) 105th annual general meeting held last week, informed that constitutional reform is one of the major transformational projects being undertaken by the Government.

He noted that Jamaica's observance of 60 years of Independence presented

a fitting moment for constitutional reform, while adding that other leaders, including former Prime Ministers, also reached out and made public statements encouraging the move to become a republic.

During his presentation, Holness listed several other nation building and transformational projects being undertaken by the Government, aimed at transforming the lives of Jamaicans.

The projects covered the areas of road infrastructure, health care, education, national security, unemployment and training, the economy and fiscal man-

cont'd on pg 17

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Funding for project on Barbados' oldest sheet music

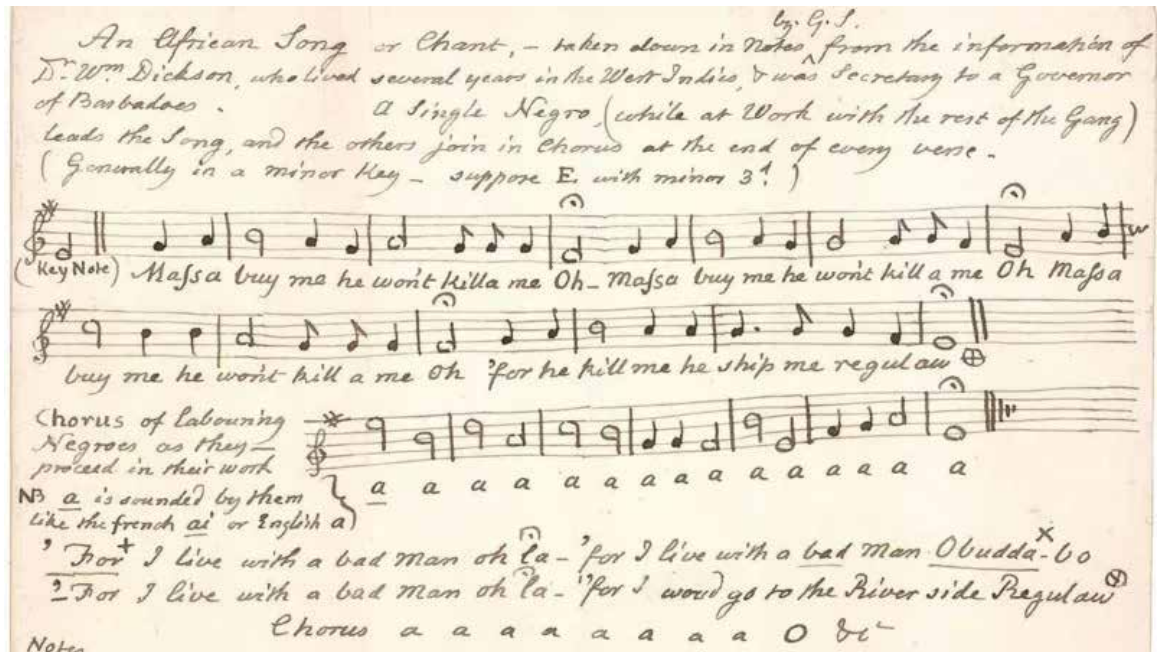
A project based in Gloucester has been awarded Arts Council England funding for its work exploring slavery, using a rare manuscript from the Caribbean.

The manuscript includes the world's oldest-surviving sheet music from Barbados, capturing voices of enslaved people working in the sugar plantations.

It was placed in Gloucestershire Archives in the 1970s, and listed in the UNESCO Memory of the World register in 2017.

It is part of the Beating Back The Past project, which will also feature an installation of textiles, photographs and music.

Rider Shafique, a Gloucestershire musician of Barbadian descent, and Vanley Burke - commonly known as the godfather of black British photography - will head up the project, which will explore the transatlantic slave trade from their point of view.



The manuscript is a record of songs sung by slaves on Caribbean plantations.

Mr Burke told the BBC he was shown the manuscript a few years ago when mentoring a group of young people.

He met up with Mr Shafique to plan for the upcoming exhibition.

“This trauma resonates through the community - and it’s a very big topic,” he said.

Mr Burke added he wants people to see “glimpses” of slavery through their

work, and said the manuscript is “one of many important materials held in archives”.

“It’s hidden in plain sight,” he added.

There will also be contributions from Voices Gloucester, as well as four other stitching groups, with the project being displayed at the city’s cathedral between the 6 and 30 of September.

In total, the project re-

ceived £29,750 in funding from the Arts Council.

Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England, said: “Cultural artefacts such as this rare manuscript serve as time capsules. They help us make meaning of the past, interpret the present, and shape our collective future.

“Thanks to public funding, we can invest in the care and exhibition of important objects like this, for the benefit of audiences across Gloucester - an Arts Council Priority Place - and further afield.”

Councillor Lynden Stowe, cabinet member at Gloucestershire County Council with responsibility for Archives, said: “This project will provide an opportunity for audiences to consider the impact of slavery historically and today.”

cont'd from pg 16

agement, housing and urban renewal, transformation of the public sector and productivity.

“I use the term nation building projects. These are not short-term projects, meaning that the impact is not for five years, the things that we are attempting to do will set the foundation for the country for the next 50 to 100 years.”

“This is the first time that the country has been in a position to plan longer

than a five-year cycle. The danger with planning outside of a five-year cycle is that you probably will do things that are not popular to get you re-elected, but you definitely will do the things to ensure that the country will be on a solid footing. People won’t appreciate them right away but on reflection, they will understand what it is that we are doing,” he added.

A report from the Constitutional Reform Committee was tabled in Parliament recently.

US expects Israel will accept Gaza ceasefire plan if Hamas does

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

The US government has “every expectation” that Israel will accept a ceasefire proposal that would begin with a six-week cessation of hostilities in Gaza if Hamas takes the deal, according to National Security Council spokesman John Kirby.

The three-part plan unveiled by President Joe Biden last week would also be a “surge” of humanitarian aid, as well as an exchange of some hostages for Palestinian prisoners before a permanent end to the war.

The proposal, however, has met with vocal opposition from some members of Israel’s government.

The negotiations come as fighting continues in Rafah, which came under intense Israeli airstrikes over the weekend.

According to the UNRWA, the UN agency for Palestinian refugees, all 36 of its shelters in the Rafah area are empty after residents were forced to flee.

Another 1.7 million people are estimated to be displaced in Khan Younis and parts of central Gaza.

Speaking to ABC News on Sunday morning, Mr Kirby said that the US had “every expectation” that Israel would “say yes” to the proposed ceasefire deal if Hamas accepts.

“We’re waiting for an official response from Hamas,” he said, adding that the US



Israeli forces have continued striking targets in Gaza even as the US and its allies push for both sides to accept a ceasefire proposal.

hopes that both sides agree to start the first phase of the plan “as soon as possible”.

During that initial six-week pause in the fighting, Mr Kirby said the “two sides would sit down and try to negotiate what phase two could look like, and when that could begin”.

In a televised address last week, Mr Biden said that the second phase of the plan would see all remaining living hostages returned, including male soldiers. The ceasefire would then become “the cessation of hostilities, permanently”.

On Saturday, however, two far-right Israeli ministers threatened to quit and collapse the country’s governing

coalition if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed to the deal.

Finance Minister Bezale Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said they were opposed to striking any deal before Hamas was destroyed.

Similarly, Mr Netanyahu has insisted that there will be no ceasefire until Hamas’s military and governing capabilities are destroyed and all hostages are released.

Hanoch Milwidsky, a senior member of the Knesset for Mr Netanyahu’s Likud Party, told the BBC on Sunday that Israel’s governing coalition is unified in opposition to the deal, which he called “completely unaccept-

able”.

“The math of the Israeli government has not changed - that means Hamas can no longer rule Gaza, can no longer have any capability, not military not any civilian capability to be in power, and all the hostages need to come back,” Mr Milwidsky said. “The war will not stop until these demands are met.”

Mr Kirby, for his part, said that US intelligence now believes that Hamas has been militarily degraded to the extent that it can no longer repeat an attack such as that which its fighters conducted on 7 October.

“We’ve not said that they don’t still represent a viable
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The shooting took place near Kelly Avenue and 8th Street in Akron, Ohio.

One dead, dozens injured in Ohio mass shooting

By Lou Newton

One person has been killed and at least 24 others injured in a mass shooting in the US state of Ohio.

The shooting happened just after midnight local time (05:00 BST) in the city of Akron.

Officers at the scene, near Kelly Street and 8th

Avenue, discovered dozens of bullet casings and a gun, according to local media reports.

No one has been arrested or identified as a suspect and an investigation is under way, the Akron Police Department has confirmed.

In a statement to the BBC, the force said at least

25 people had been shot, one of whom had been killed.

It also confirmed many of the victims' injuries were non-life-threatening, but added that some were in a "more serious condition".

Akron's Mayor, Shamas Malik, and Police Chief Brian Harding later issued a joint statement on social

media promising to "bring those responsible to justice. Our city is reeling after the devastation of senseless violence," it said.

"With more than two dozen victims, the pain and trauma reverberates across all of Akron today as we search for answers."

It also reassured anyone with information about the shooting that they could come forward anonymously.

"We need you to speak up in order to prevent further violence and retaliation.

"Our city government and our Akron Police Department will continue to prioritise public safety as our number one concern as we aim to end gun violence in our community."

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threat to the Israeli people. Of course they do," he said. "But they don't have the military capabilities to do what they did."

In another development on Sunday, the government of the Maldives announced it would ban Israeli citizens from the Indian Ocean island archipelago, in turn prompting a warning from Israel's foreign ministry that its citizens should avoid the country.

About 11,000 Israelis visited the Maldives last year - less than 1% of all tourist arrivals.

More than 36,000 people have been killed across Gaza since the start of the conflict, according to the Hamas-run health ministry.

The war began in October when Hamas gunmen launched an unprecedented attack on Israel, killing about 1,200 people and taking 252 back to Gaza as hostages.

In the US, President Biden has faced growing domestic criticism over the level of US support for Israel, as well as calls to do more to encourage the warring sides to negotiate.

USA beat Canada by seven wickets to open T20 World Cup

The United States of America (USA) recorded a statement victory over rivals Canada in their first-ever T20 World Cup outing, as Aaron Jones and Andries Gous stole the show in a seven-wicket triumph at the Grand Prairie Stadium in Dallas, Texas, on Saturday night.

Canada opener Navneet Dhaliwal powered 61 off just 44 balls, while Nicholas Kirton's 51 and an unbeaten 32 from Shreyas Movva helped their side reach 194 for five off their allotted 20 overs.

The USA secured victory by scoring 197 for three in 17.4 overs. The USA made a poor start when Steven Taylor fell for a two-ball duck and slipped to 66 for two after the power-play when Dillon Heyliger had captain Monank Patel caught behind for 16 in the eighth over.

Yet that set the stage for an eye-catching partnership between Jones and Gous, who combined for a 131-run blitz at a whirlwind run rate of 14.3 for the third wicket.

Number three Gous bludgeoned 65 from only 46 deliveries but was somehow overshadowed by the impressive Jones, who finished on 94 not out after facing just 40 balls.

Gous holed out off the bowling of Nikhil Dutta, but Jones fittingly finished the chase with 14 balls to spare, securing USA's fifth straight win over Canada in the pair's first-ever World Cup appearance.

Jones was born in Queens, New York, but grew up in Barbados in the West Indies where he played top level cricket. His previous best score in T20 internationals was 50 before Saturday when he hit the second-most sixes in a T20 World Cup innings.

Jones cleared the ropes 10 times



United States of America's Aaron Jones hits the ball for six runs during the men's T20 World Cup cricket match between the United States and Canada at the Grand Prairie Stadium, in Grand Prairie, Texas, Saturday, June 1, 2024. (AP)

during his destructive performance, with only West Indies' Chris Gayle hitting more sixes in one World Cup innings (11 against England at the Wankhede Stadium in India in 2016).

"Obviously we know that Canada always come hard at us; it's a big rivalry and I was just happy to get my team over the line tonight," Jones said.

"To be honest I always thought anything under 200 was chaseable. The pitch was good and the outfield was fast as well. We just back ourselves, played some good cricket and we came out on top."

Patel, the USA captain, also felt he had the batters in the shed to chase down Canada's total.

"Aaron has always had the game and he played fearless cricket today," Patel said. "He was backing his shots and hitting clean. You don't hit this sort of innings every day."

"I thought 194 was a great total. I was quite confident at that time," Canada's captain Saad Bin Zafar said. "I think Navneet and Kirton played well for us.

"We started well, we took early

wickets in the power play. But Jones and Gous, they batted exceptionally well and our bowlers had no answer to them."

The match provided a perfect opening to the world tournament. The Grand Prairie Stadium was full to its 7,000 capacity and the match provided an excellent example of T20 cricket, a game still strange to most Americans.

While cricket hasn't planted deep roots in the United States, it has a long history. The United States and Canada played the first ever international cricket match on the grounds of a private home near Broadway, Manhattan, in 1844. Canada won the match, which was played over three days, by 23 runs.

The T20 World Cup is being contested by 20 teams, including global superpowers India, Australia, and England. The United States and Canada are both drawn in Group A with India, Ireland and Pakistan.

Cricket lovers in Antigua and Barbuda can tune in to Platinum FM 97.9, which is providing daily live ball-by-ball coverage of matches in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Old Road among winners in ABNA's Netball League

Old Road was among the winners in the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association's (ABNA) League on Saturday evening.

Old Road prevailed 21-18 against the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Under-16 (2) in the B Division at YMCA Sports Complex.

Keanna Aska sank 16 goals from 27 attempts, and Anajae Simon scored five of her nine shots for Old Road. Joy Shaw converted 17 goals from 24 attempts for Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Under-16 (2).

The Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Under-16 (2) also lost 22-9 against the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters (B) in another B Division encounter.

Joy Shaw converted 18 goals from 21 attempts, and Trecia Greenaway scored four of her seven shots for the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters (B).

Nyersha Chiddick sank six of her 14 shots, and Ophelia Browne scored three goals from eight attempts for the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Under-16 (2).

Roman Hill United defeated the Flyballers 28-15 in the Mixed Division.

Akiel Hazelwood converted 22 goals from 23 attempts, and Jamila Fitz sank six of her 10 goals for Roman Hill United.

Jaylony Nicholas scored 10 goals from 16 attempts, and D'Andre Harris sank five of his 15 shots for the Flyballers.

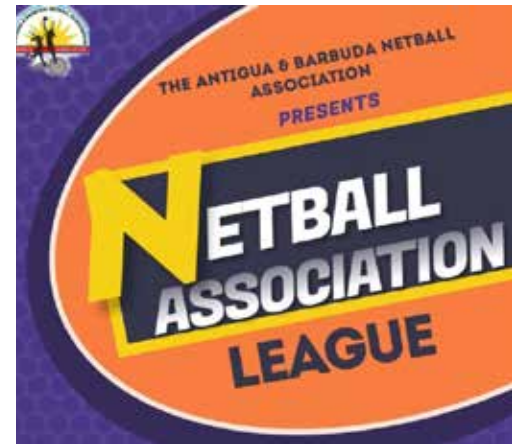
In previous matches, Roman Hill United notched up a narrow three-point win against the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters.

Roman Hill United snatched a 28-25 victory against Cool and Smooth Pacesetters in their A Division encounter.

Jamila Fitz sank 16 goals from 31 attempts, Trecia Jarvis converted nine goals from 17 shots, and Everdine Bannard scored three of her seven attempts for Roman Hill United.

Krizia Duncan converted 14 goals from 22 attempts, and Penelope Adams sank 11 of her 18 shots for the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters.

There were wins as well for Cool and Smooth Pacesetters 1 and S.W. Electronics Black Lightning in the B Division.



Cool and Smooth Pacesetters 1 romped to a 27-2 victory against Cool and Smooth Pacesetters 2 in a lopsided affair.

Joy Shaw scored 19 goals from 25 attempts, and Kelesha Gordon sank seven of her 14 shots for Cool and Smooth Pacesetters 1.

S.W. Electronics Black Lightning prevailed 25-22 against Old Road. Zhanira Pereria sank 25 goals in 31 attempts for S.W. Electronics Black Lightning. Kadiesha Henry converted 15 goals from 27 attempts, and Anajae Simon scored seven of her 29 shots for Old Road.

Benna Boys name World Cup qualifier squad

The ABFA is proud to inform the general public that the following players have been selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda the BennaBoys in its first FIFA 2026, WCQ against Bermuda on Wednesday 5th June at the ABFA Technical Center on 3pm.

Goalkeepers:

Jayden Martin – All Saints United
Zaieem Scott – Green City
Nick Townsend – NewPort Town FC

Defenders:

Zafique Drew – All Saints United
Shavorn Phillips – Old Road FC
Daniel Bowry – Worthing FC
Vasharmi Allen – Grenades FC
Roneba Cordice – All

Saints United Kieron Richards – Grenades FC
Cardel Roberts – FC Aston Villa

Midfielders:

Tyrique Tonge – SAP FC
Kenduka Challenger – All Saints United
TJ Bramble – Welling United
Quinton Griffith – Grenades FC
Kwame Kirby – FC Aston Villa
Tyrik Charles – FC Aston Villa
Sean Tomlinson – All Saints United
Dion Pereira – Luton Town FC

Forwards:

Josh Parker – Oxford City
Javorn Stevens – Greenbay Hoppers
Raheem Deterville – Old Road FC
D'An-

dre Bishop – All Saints United
Dayonn Harris – New Mexico United
Jalmaro Calvin – Cavaliers FC

Staff:

Head Coach – Mikele Leigertwood
Assistant Coach – Schyan Jeffers
Assistant Coach - Auchland Jarvis
Assistant Coach - Gason Gregory

Assistant Coach - Michael Donaldson
Team Manager – Roderick Williams
Goalkeeper Coach – Janiel Simon
Trainer – Hector Martinez
Physiotherapist - Justin Joseph Anayra Ruiz Lee - Masseur

Danny Benjamin - Equipment Manager



Players of the West Indies senior women's team. (CWI Media)

Squad announced for West Indies Women's Tour to Sri Lanka

The West Indies senior women's team departed from the Caribbean on Sunday for a seven-day training camp in Colombo to prepare and acclimatise for their tour to Sri Lanka.

The West Indies women's selection panel named a squad of 15 players for the eagerly anticipated series against Sri Lanka.

This exciting series, which starts next month, will feature three One Day Internationals (ODIs) and three T20 Internationals (T20Is), with the first match taking place on Saturday, June 15, in Galle.

The team is once again led by captain Hayley Matthews, who has been in exceptional form, supported by vice-captain Shemaine Campbelle.

Lead Selector Ann Browne-John stated, "The ODI series serves as a crucial stepping stone towards automatic qualification for the Women's

Cricket World Cup, providing an essential opportunity for the team to gain more valuable points in the Women's Championship.

"The tour also allows the squad, during the T20I series, to continue to prepare for the upcoming T20 World Cup, which takes place in September in Bangladesh.

"The similar Indian subcontinental conditions will help the team to refine their skills strategies, build synergy, and assess their strengths and areas for improvement against quality opposition.

"The experience gained here will be invaluable as they progress towards the T20 World Cup, ensuring they are well-prepared and in peak form for the challenges ahead."

The ODI series in Galle from June 15-21 is part of the ICC Women's Championship, with the top five teams

and hosts India automatically qualifying for the Cricket World Cup in 2025. The West Indies Women are currently sitting seventh in the table with, Sri Lanka eighth, but level on points.

The full West Indies squad: Hayley Matthews (captain), Shemaine Campbelle (vice-captain), Aaliyah Alleyne, Shamilia Connell, Afy Fletcher, Cherry Ann Fraser, Shabika Gajnabi, Chinelle Henry, Zaida James, Qiana Joseph, Chedean Nation, Karishma Ramharack, Stafanie Taylor, Rashada Williams, and Kate Wilmott.

The West Indies team management unit: Head Coach - Shane Deitz, Assistant Coach - Ryan Austin, Assistant Coach - Damien Wright, Team Analyst - Gary Belle, Physiotherapist - Tajay Grant, Strength and Conditioning Coach - Antonia Burton, Performance Coach - Dr. Nadine Sammy, and Team Manager - Sheena Gooding.

Urlings enhance chances of gaining promotion to First Division

Urlings enhanced their chances of gaining promotion to the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division on Saturday.

Urlings snatched a 2-1 victory against fellow Second Division team Sea View Farm in the opening match of the First and Second Division round-robin playoff series at the ABFA Technical Center.

Daniel Joseph gave Urlings the lead with an eighth-minute conversion, and Rhezal Gomes scored in the 35th minute to equalize for Sea View Farm as both teams finished the first half deadlocked at 1-1.

Ojahrie Mitchell snatched victory for Urlings when he scored the winner in the 62nd minute.

Sea View Farm will play their final game in the playoffs against the First Division team, the Young Lions of Old Road, at the ABFA Technical Center on Thursday at 4:15 pm.

The Young Lions ended their First Division campaign in the cellar with 12

points from their quota of 20 matches.

The Young Lions are contesting the three-team playoff with Sea View Farm and Urlings, with the winner getting the opportunity to compete in the First Division next season.

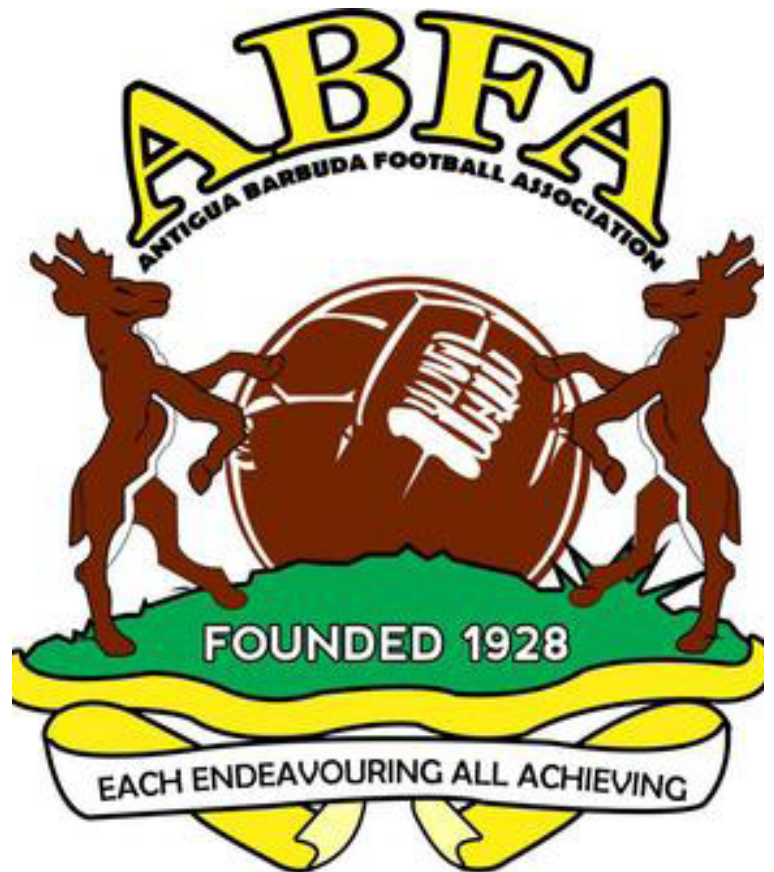
Sea View Farm finished third with 52 points, and Urlings claimed fourth place with 47 points in the Second Division League.

Meanwhile, the Police salvaged a goalless draw with the Attacking Saints in the opening match of the ABFA's Premier and First Divisions round-robin playoff series.

Despite finishing the match with nine men, Police managed to hold out for a draw against their fellow First Division team in the opening game of their playoff series at the ABFA Technical Center on Saturday.

The Police lost the services of Zeon Armstrong and Freston Ireland as both players were sent off after receiving red cards.

Armstrong was dis-



missed in the 59th minute after picking up his second caution (yellow card) of the match, and Ireland was sent off in the 62nd minute for using offensive, abusive, and insulting language during the encounter.

The Police will play their final game in the playoffs against Premier Division team Swetes at

the ABFA Technical Center on Thursday at 6:15 pm.

The Attacking Saints and Police are contesting the playoff with Swetes, with the winner getting the opportunity to compete in the Premier Division next season.

The Attacking Saints clinched third place ahead of the Police on goal difference after both teams finished tied with 42 points from their quota of 20 matches in the First Division League.

Swetes entered the playoffs after finishing 12th in the Premier Division and avoiding automatic relegation to compete in the First Division next season.

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tainly some nerves in the camp.

It was left to Chase, who slammed an unbeaten 42 off 27 balls, including four fours and two sixes, and Russell with 15 not out off nine balls, to complete the job.

"I'm very pleased. Starting the tournament with a win is always good. I needed to take it home for the team, and I did it," said Chase afterwards.

Papua New Guinea captain Assad Vala was obviously disappointed with the result, but pleased with his team, saying, "We were very happy with the way we fought - we got wickets at key moments."

Cricket fans in Antigua and Barbuda can tune in to Platinum FM 97.9, which is providing daily live ball-by-ball coverage of matches in the current ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

Sports

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ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
POINT EXPRESS
TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

Winning start for West Indies at T20 World Cup

All-rounders Roston Chase and Andre Russell calmed West Indies' fears as they successfully chased down a target of 137, winning by five wickets against Papua New Guinea in Group C to give the co-hosts a winning start to their ICC Men's T20 World Cup campaign at Providence in Guyana on Sunday.

Papua New Guinea had set a reasonable target for them to chase, thanks mostly to Sese Bau, who led the recovery after losing two early wickets to muster 136 for eight off their allotted 20 overs.

Bau came to the crease after Tony Ura was caught behind by Windies wicketkeeper Nicholas Pooran off Romario Shepherd for 2, followed by Lega Siaka three balls later for 1 after a sizzling angled delivery from left-arm spinner Akeal Hosein.

And Bau hit 50 - his fourth in the format for his country, including six fours and a six - before he was bowled by Antiguan fast bowler Alzarri Joseph with three and a half overs remaining.

Earlier, Andre Russell



West Indies all-rounder Roston Chase, right, bats against Papua New Guinea during their Group C match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the National Stadium in Providence, Guyana, Sunday, June 2, 2024. (Photo courtesy of the ICC via Getty Images)

had taken the 50th wicket of his T20 international career when Charles Amini nicked a delivery to be caught behind by Pooran for 12.

In the response, the West Indies were perhaps not as assured as they would have liked, but the Caribbean side was able to achieve victory at 137 for five off 19 overs.

Alei Nao had struck in the second over, removing

opener Johnson Charles lbw for a duck - and could have had another had he opted to review another lbw shout three balls later, this one against Pooran, which ball-tracking showed would have hit the stumps.

Jamaican opener Brandon King made some inroads, scoring 34 off 29 balls before his skied shot was caught by Lega Siaka off the bowling of captain

Assad Vala.

Earlier, King had had able assistance from Pooran, who had added a valuable 27 before his dismissal, caught by Tony Ura off left-arm spinner John Kariko.

But West Indies found themselves on 97 for five with just four overs remaining after the loss of Rovman Powell and Sherfane Rutherford - and there were cer-

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