

TOGETHER WE SHINE



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Prime Minister Gaston Browne at the Youth Activity Wall at the AUA campus during SIDS4.

ICC T/20 WORLD CUP: Today's game England vs Scotland at 10.30am; LIVE on Platinum FM 97.9

Together We Shine: Our success in hosting SIDS4

On the occasion of the successful hosting of the 4th United Nations Conference on Small Island States (SIDS4)

My Fellow Antiguans and Barbudans,

Today, I address you with a heart overflowing with pride and gratitude.

This past week, our beloved nation not only made history by hosting the 4th United Nations Conference on Small Island States (SIDS4), but also by demonstrating to the world the boundless capabilities of our united people.

We welcomed over 5,000 delegates to our shores from around the globe, an endeavour that many sceptics claimed was beyond our reach.

They doubted our capacity, questioned our readiness, and wondered at our ability to manage such a monumental event.

Yet, you, the people of Antigua and Barbuda, have proven them profoundly wrong.

With unwavering determination and exemplary commitment, you have showcased the indomitable spirit and resilience of our small nation.

Our taxi drivers, volunteer workers,



PM Gaston Browne at one of the many SIDS4 engagements

airport staff, protocol officers, police force, public servants, medical officers, hotel staff, and every citizen played a pivotal role.

You provided unmatched hospitality and ensured the safety and comfort of our esteemed guests.

Not a single complaint of note was lodged - a testament to your dedication and patriotism.

As your Prime Minister, I am not only proud but deeply moved by the spirit of unity and excellence you have demonstrated.

Together, we have shown that Antigua and Barbuda can rise to the greatest challenges and perform to the highest standards.

Our leadership during this conference has echoed across continents.

We have been praised - even by representatives of the G7 countries - for our steadfast advocacy for the rights of small island states.

Our strong stance and persistent efforts have not only been evident in international fora like the annual Conference of the Parties (COP) but also at the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea, where, on the eve of the SIDS 4 Conference, we secured a landmark unanimous decision in favour of our climate change advocacy.

This success is not mine alone - it is primarily yours.

It is the product of your resilience and the vibrant spirit that distinguish our nation as special when we are faced with circumstances that are challenging.

The discussions at SIDS 4 have set the stage for significant global change, registering and emphasizing the urgent need for CO2 emission reductions, increased resilience against climate impacts, and the critical importance of debt restructuring and accessible concessional financing.

With these achievements, we have firmly positioned Antigua and Barbuda on a new trajectory of global respect and influence.

We will go forward from our small,

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Members of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation in Plenary Hall at SIDS4

A&B, WHO call for action to address health challenges faced by SIDS

Following the highly successful hosting of the SIDS4 conference in St. John's, Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne, on Monday joined forces with the Director General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus in a Devex publication tagged "Let's heal the health challenges faced by small island states."

In the Op-Ed, both Prime Minister Browne and DG Tedros wrote that "Climate Change and debt aren't the only threats SIDS are grappling with.

"SIDS have disproportionately high rates of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory conditions," they write. "Pacific island countries account for nine out of the top 10 countries in the world with the highest prevalence of obesity among both women and men. ... Tobacco use and mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety are also highly prevalent."

DG Tedros and PM Browne outline four ways that leaders and donors

can help, including more aid and debt relief, as well as adopting WHO's "best buys," such as taxes and regulation, "which are powerful tools for limiting the impact of health-harming products, such as foods high in sugar, unhealthy fats or salt, or highly processed foods."

The full article follows:

Opinion: Let's heal the health challenges faced by small island states

The hurdles small island developing states are facing in their health systems require urgent attention and investment.

By Gaston Alfonso Browne, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus // 03 June 2024

We live in a world of overlapping crises - climate change, rising seas, food price hikes, long-running wars, growing disease burdens, and contracting economies, just to name a few. The 39 nations classified as Small Island Developing States (SIDS) by the United Nations are among the most affected by these challenges, and yet



Prime Minister Gaston Browne the least responsible for them. While many of these crises manifest themselves as economic and social threats, the impacts on the health of populations are an often-neglected issue.

In fact, SIDS are on the frontline of many health threats. This is particularly true in the areas of noncommunicable diseases and mental health, with consequences for premature mortality and threats to livelihoods and wellbe-

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but treasured nation, to the centres of power to unlock the doors that have barred our access to more financing on better terms to catapult our nation into a brighter future.

The road ahead will not be easy; our battles will be hard fought; but we have shown our mettle.

We will not acquiesce; we will not surrender.

We will march onwards and upwards in pursuit of the rights, justice and happiness to which we are entitled.

Therefore, with a heart filled with immense gratitude and boundless pride, I thank



PM Gaston Browne joined youth leaders at Activity Wall during SIDS4

each and every one of you.

You have accomplished a monumental task with grace and with competence that inspires profound respect.

We may be a small country, but we are mighty in our unity and determination.

In the words of Galatians, chapter 6 verse 9:

"Let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."

Let us continue to move forward together, with our heads held high, determined to scale the highest heights of achievement, regardless of our size.

We are Antigua and Barbuda - small, yes... but also strong, steadfast, and full of courage.

May Almighty God continue to bless our beloved nation.

*Thank you all.
Hon Gaston Browne
Prime Minister*

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ing.

SIDS have disproportionately high rates of cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, cancer, and chronic respiratory conditions. Pacific island countries account for 9 out of the top 10 countries in the world with the highest prevalence of obesity among both women and men. Commercial and trade-related forces create persistent barriers to access healthy, safe and sustainable diets. Tobacco use and mental health conditions such as depression and anxiety are also highly prevalent.

All of these issues are exacerbated by the climate crisis, which is an existential threat to the very existence of SIDS. While they represent just 1% of the world's population and economy and emit less than 1% of greenhouse gases, SIDS are disproportionately and severely affected by climate change, rising sea levels, and natural disasters.

Despite limited resources and geographical constraints, SIDS have shown remarkable global and national leadership and resilience in the face of adversity. But they also faced significant domestic challenges that require attention. The health systems of most SIDS have decades of underinvestment, limited capacities, and persistent gaps in health-related data and statistical capacities. These health system hurdles require attention and investment.

We cannot afford to ignore the crippling impact of these colliding threats. It is our moral imperative to act swiftly and decisively, to forge a path forward based on equity, resilience, and sustainability. The challenges faced by SIDS are interconnected.

The landmark Bridgetown Declaration on NCDs and Mental Health, adopted by SIDS in June 2023, showcased the feasibility of SIDS-specific actions, evidence-based commitments and accountability mechanisms to overcome the multifaceted challenges



Director General of the World Health Organization, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

that island nations face. That, along with the COP28 Declaration on Climate and Health, are important for countries to adopt and implement to help SIDS move forward.

Here are four priorities, for both national leaders and international actors and donors:

First, we call on the international community to support the SIDS in their efforts to strengthen their health systems, including through enhanced official development assistance and financial and technical support and support to research, development and innovation programmes.

Second, we must enhance promotion, prevention, early detection measures, management and control and prioritize the integration of NCD and mental health into primary health care package of services.

This includes implementing WHO's "best buys", a set of cost-effective interventions to prevent and manage NCDs, including taxes and regulation, which are powerful tools for limiting the impact of health harming products, such as foods high in sugar, unhealthy fats or salt, or highly processed foods.

Many SIDS are already implementing these measures: Mauritius has taken decisive action on tobacco control; Fiji has vaccinated teenage

girls to protect them from cervical cancer; Timor-Leste is putting 50,000 people with hypertension and diabetes on standard care by 2025; and Barbados has introduced a school nutrition policy, banning trans fats and reducing the consumption of salt and sugar.

SIDS are also taking action on mental health. For instance, Antigua and Barbuda is building the capacity of primary care providers to identify and manage priority mental health conditions, and Tuvalu aims to develop a comprehensive mental health action plan by 2025.

Third, meaningful action on health and climate means overhauling financing to unlock billions in joint investment in climate action, good health and wellbeing, while making it less punishing for developing countries to pay their debts.

Fourth, health workforce issues also pose significant challenges for SIDS, which struggle to sustainably produce, recruit, and retain an adequate number of health and care workers. This is exacerbated by historical underinvestment and the migration of health workers.

The impact of these shortages on already strained health systems is substantial. Addressing this requires measures to educate, employ, protect and retain health workers, and to manage migration ethically in line with the WHO Global code of practice on international recruitment of health personnel.

The Fourth International Conference on SIDS, hosted by Antigua and Barbuda on 27-30 May 2024, provided a historic opportunity to reaffirm commitment to addressing the complex development challenges faced by SIDS, and to recommit to delivering on the SIDS health agenda. We simply cannot afford to ignore the crises affecting SIDS anymore. The future of island nations depends upon our leadership and action.

Developing states call for groundbreaking Saint John's Accord to unlock visa-free travel

At the 2024 UN Small Island and Developing States (SIDS4) Summit, held in Antigua and Barbuda, the Global Citizen Forum proposed the signing of a ground-breaking multilateral agreement that will see each SIDS grant citizens of other states in the bloc visa-free travel.

Between the 39 states, with a combined population of over 65 million people, establishing visa-free travel would require over 200 bilateral agreements. Underneath this multilateral umbrella, only one agreement is required. The Passport Index will serve as the official benchmarking tool for this agreement.

Visa-free travel incentivises bilateral trade, boosts tourism that drives investment in local economies, and enhances employment opportunities for professional and skilled workers. When signed, the Saint John's Accord will serve as a landmark commitment to promoting mutual understanding, shared prosperity, and enduring cul-



PM Gaston Browne and Mrs Maria Browne with Amand Arton (centre)



Armand Arton speaking at the Prime Minister's dinner

tural exchange.

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne said: "It is imperative that Small Island States act in solidarity to fight climate pollution, in protection of their terrestrial and marine environments.

"They should strengthen relations among themselves and their peoples to facilitate greater people to people exchanges among their citizens, increased trade and sharing of ideas, technology advances, and best practices to conserve their environment.

"The Arton proposal for visa-free access among themselves is an excellent idea that should be pursued immediately as a quick win in building relations, as they work in solidarity to achieve resilient prosperity."

Armand Arton, Chairman and Founder of Global Citizen Forum remarked: "Breaking down the archaic borders of the old world will encourage a new, more equitable one to emerge. Establishing this visa-free agreement will drive intra-SIDS tourism and catalyse economic growth, ensuring people, capital, and ideas can seamlessly

move between states for the mutual benefit of all. The agreement is also a resounding commitment to interconnectivity and open dialogue, understanding that we are stronger together than we are apart.

"I am delighted to see the Small Island and Developing States consider the Saint John's Accord as a first step to achieving their own special economic area. Together, they stand ready to open the door to a new world of prosperity, liberating their citizens to travel, trade, study, and work as never before."

Prime Minister Browne not only fully supports this visionary proposal for visa-free travel among the 39 Small Island Developing States (SIDS), but he indicated that such arrangements of visa-free travel within these small islands is a low-risk and beneficial move, addressing an oversight that needs rectifying.

He plans to advocate for this proposal by writing to his fellow heads of state, encouraging them to embrace the visa-free pact for the citizens of the 39 SIDS nations.

High-Level SIDS4 side event calls for re-aligning climate finance to accelerate equal access and inclusion

The high-level side event 'Re-Aligning Climate Finance: Accelerating Equal Access and Inclusion' at the Fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) brought together regional leaders, experts and civil society. The mission was to address the pressing need to reform the climate finance architecture to facilitate increased access to flexible finance mechanisms considering the existing social challenges SIDS face. This reform is crucial to mitigate the disproportionate impacts of climate change on women, girls, and vulnerable communities in SIDS. The panel was organised by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda, the Caribbean Women in Leadership (CIWiL), and the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The panel, expertly moderated by



Mrs. L. Nana Oye Hesse-Bayne, President of the Regional Board of Directors, CIWiL, featured a lineup of esteemed speakers. These included the Honourable Dr. Terrance Drew, Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis; Mrs Therese Turner Jones, Vice President (Ag) of the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB); Ms Diane Quarless, Director of the Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean; and the Honourable Samantha Marshall, Minister of State




in the Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment, Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

The panelists highlighted the structural challenges faced by SIDS in accessing climate finance, including high debt, complex bureaucratic processes, and a lack of strong financial institutions. They stressed the urgent need for adopting the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) and the Bridgetown initiative as more inclu-


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Local News

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sive and just measures for financing climate action and resilient building in SIDS.

“Structural challenges must be considered when considering what finances we have to access. We are in the eye of the storm, the canaries in the coal mine. Our countries always need to be repaired and recovered. Debt sustainability is a fundamental challenge; if we can get past it, we can do so much more,” one panelist noted.

Mrs Therese Turner-Jones pointed out that the number of women in parliament is the only gendered indicator used for the MVI. She called for other ways to measure women’s leadership, especially in the private sector; she also charged the region to pivot from a position of silence when it comes to women and climate change to a position of, these are the issues which impact us, especially women and girls who are disproportionately affected.”

This hinges on the fact that women are often leaders in their homes and



should be considered as key players in championing behavioural change for future generations and are capable of amplifying the climate agenda.

Women need to be aware of the information surrounding the issues that affect them daily to leverage finance opportunities and adequately advocate for change.

Dr. Drew stressed the need to reform and restructure the financial architecture, stating, ‘Our debt-to-GDP ratio judges us. However, our econ-

omies are so small that we cannot move significantly toward adapting to climate change and building resilience.” He highlighted the importance of paying due diligence to existing and proposed parameters for mechanisms to determine access to climate finance, indicating that these may very well exclude some SIDS due to a lack of existing resources and current structural challenges. He also spoke passionately about just and inclusiveness in climate finance discussions.

TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

2

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NODS announces multi-pronged approach in preparation for active hurricane season

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) has been concentrating on a multi-pronged, multi-sectoral approach as it intensifies preparations with the 2024 Atlantic Hurricane season now in its first week.

The forecast has been for a 'super active' hurricane season with 23 named storms, eleven of which are expected to develop into hurricanes and five major hurricanes predicted. Director of the Met Office, Dale Destin, said all the indicators point to a busy season with water temperatures in the critical areas of the Atlantic Ocean already above last year's records.

With this in mind, NODS Director Sherrod James said the agency has been intensifying its efforts over the last two quarters in ensuring that at the national level and at the level of the individual homeowner, preparation is taken as a priority.

"There has been quite a bit of coordination and collaboration activities happening behind the scenes. NODS has been meeting over the last two quarters with the district disaster committee volunteer network going through their particular challenges; what are some of their successes and strengths and how



Director of the Met Office, Dale Destin and NODS Director Sherrod James.

do we move forward to increase their efficiency in working with all the community groups, civil society organisations, faith-based organisations, sports and other special interest groups on the ground," he reported.

The NODS director also revealed that the agency has identified a number of 'hot-spots' or trouble areas with the district disaster committees working with a number of national agencies such as the Ministry of Health in mitigation exercises. The district committees have also been working with their partners on the ground hoping to improve their ability to respond.

According to James... NODS has also been focusing on training at all levels to sharpen the skills of district coordinators and other volunteers. "We are doing a number of training sessions including shelter management within both islands over a period of time with a number of our regional part-

ners as well as USAID," he stated.

Simultaneously, NODS has launched a programme of inspection of those buildings that have been identified as hurricane shelters. There are fifty such structures with engineers from the Ministry of Works working alongside NODS and the district disaster coordinators to see how best to improve on the readiness of these structures. This, he added, is an ongoing exercise.

From its headquarters on the American Road, NODS is working with regional partners such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the World Food Programme to conduct training in a number of critical areas such as warehouse management.

Both James and Destin stressed the importance of being prepared and urged that hurricane preparations should begin immediately and not when a storm threatens.



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **REDI-MIX CONCRETE TRUCK DRIVER.**

Job Functions:

- Perform pre and post-trip check daily to ensure safety and working of the truck
- Documenting any maintenance as required
- Driving truck to job site and unloading
- Assembling concrete chute and attaching chute to truck back
- Protecting truck using protective compound and performing minor maintenance task
- Washing and cleaning of trucks or equipment used in the concrete production line
- Backing truck under loading hopper and starting the mixer to get concrete

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must be able to operate truck and its auxiliaries such as levers, chutes and mixing drums efficiently
- Have a good understanding of mixing procedure and knowledge of adjusting the mixing speed
- A valid truck driver's license
- Have at least 2 years' truck driving experience

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

ECCB receives awards for its \$2 Commemorative Notes featuring Sir Vivian Richards

The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) has received two awards for its 40th Anniversary two-dollar Commemorative Banknote.

The note launched in Antigua and Barbuda on December 1, 2023, was awarded the 2023 ‘Bank Note of the Year’ by the International Bank Note Society (IBNS) and the ‘Best Limited Circulation/Commemorative Banknote’ by the International Association of Currency Affairs (IACA).

Designed and produced in collaboration with its currency partner, De La Rue, the note features the latest currency security and innovation while celebrating the region’s heritage.

It also includes a portrait of the legendary Antigua and Barbuda National Hero and former West Indies cricketer Sir Isaac Vivian Alexander Richards, known as ‘The Master Blaster.

According to a press statement, the IBNS selected the note as the Bank Note of the Year from a pool of nearly 100 newly designed and widely circulated banknotes released in 2023.

The competition included notes from 15 countries across three continents—Africa, Asia, and South America—as well as five island nations and the Middle East.

“The EC\$2 commemorative note was the overwhelming favorite from

the onset of voting,” stated a release from ECCB, quoting IBNS.

In addition, the IACA named the commemorative note its Best Limited Circulation Commemorative Banknote, choosing it from among two other finalists in this category.

Governor Timothy N. J. Antoine, speaking on the ECCB’s weekly video program, ECCB Connects, expressed gratitude for the awards, stating, “These two awards encourage the management and staff of the ECCB to work even harder to serve the people of the currency union.” He noted that the commemorative note was the first issued by the central bank without the image of the British Monarch.



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **EXCAVATOR OPERATOR.**

Job Functions:

- Operate a large excavator to complete daily production targets
- Load dump trucks, move materials in quarry, level out quarry areas
- Making quarry areas safe
- Maintain cleanliness of machine
- Identify and report safety issues and hazards
- Complete pre-start checks
- Look for areas of improvement or streamline work procedures
- Must comply with company, and governmental health and safety regulations, policies, and procedures at all times
- May be called upon to run other heavy equipment such as but not limited to Dozer and Loader, dump truck
- Work independently and collaboratively with other team members to achieve common objectives.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must have a valid driver’s license
- Must be able to safely and effectively operate an Excavator and or other heavy duty equipment
- Minimum 2 years’ experience driving and operating an Excavator

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.



Antigua Masonry Products Ltd. is seeking a suitable and qualified person for the following position: **BATCHER.**

Job Functions:

- Mix or blend products, work assembly lines, keep designated areas clean
- Ability to use a computer to operate the equipment that formulates the product
- Perform quality checks on finished products
- Set equipment parameters for operation
- Write routine reports and document routine forms and logs
- Comply with all company policies as well as practice safe work habits in accordance with company’s health and safety regulations.
- Ensure that product conforms to customer specifications.
- Maintain communication with systems operator to insure quality work and fluidity
- Communicate with customers in a timely manner.
- Demonstrate a continuous effort to improve operations, reduce turnaround times and streamline work processes.
- Work independently and collaboratively with other team members to achieve common objectives.

Qualifications & Skills:

- Must have a valid driver’s license
- Minimum 2 years’ previous experience within a similar field
- Computer literate
- Multi-tasker and ability to work in a team environment
- Excellent customer service

Interested persons should send their application to hr@amp.company no later than **Friday 14th June, 2024**. Only suitable applications will be acknowledged.

Junior chefs shine again with Pepperpot and Fungi creations

The Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef School Competition continues to be a thrilling showcase of culinary talent for aspiring young chefs aged between 12 and 19. This competitive event, held across secondary schools in Antigua and Barbuda, offers budding chefs a platform to display their culinary skills, creativity, and teamwork while learning from seasoned professionals and engaging in friendly competition. The competition aims to foster a love for cooking, celebrate national dishes, and cultivate camaraderie among young chefs.

The culmination of the Junior Chef competition saw Azarie Crump emerge as the victor among eighteen talented participants, wowing judges

with his exquisite dish: Coconut Infused Fungi and Conch Shepherd's Pie with Conch Ceviche and Passion Fruit Salad. Azarie's culinary brilliance not only impressed the judges but also showcased the remarkable creativity present among the student participants.

Recognizing the abundance of talent displayed, the ABHTA, alongside head Judge Olvanah Richardson-Burnette and Director of Tourism Jesse Thomas, has chosen to spotlight the top five recipes and their creators, presenting these young chefs and their exceptional dishes to the public as a testament to their ingenuity and skill.

The featured Junior Chefs and

their dishes are as follows:

Azarie Crump from Saint Joseph's Academy with Coconut Infused Fungi and Conch Shepherd's Pie with Conch Ceviche and Passion Fruit Salad

Lemar D. Silver from Antigua Grammar School with Fusion Pepperpot with Fungi Balls

Ashauny Rattary from Antigua State College with Wadadli Pepperpot served with Garrat Sweet Potato Fungi

Shemiah Francis from All Saints Secondary School with Tropical Infused Pepperpot with Fungi Balls

Gregoryann Thomas from Sir McChesney George Secondary School with Pepperpot Dip with Fung Chips

Beginning on Tuesday June 4, the ABHTA will spotlight these talented Junior Chefs preparing their dishes at Nicole's Table and the Sir McChesney George Secondary School. Hosting these features will be Nicole Arthurton Dennis and Jahmeel Greaux.

About Nicole: Nicole Arthurton Dennis has been involved in the restaurant industry since childhood, growing up in her parents' restaurant in Plymouth, Montserrat. With years of experience as a private chef on the exclusive island resort of Jumby Bay, Nicole has developed a passion for Caribbean cuisine with a twist, along with decadent desserts and flavorful condiments.

About Jahmeel Jones Greaux: Jahmeel Greaux is a passionate advocate for youth empowerment and community development through education and sports.

Born to Barbudan parents, Jahmeel has a diverse background in debates, queen shows, and sports

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Nationals invited to apply to do consultancy for special project

The Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority, (ABIA) in collaboration with the OAS Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) project announces the OAS WEE Consultancy- ACCESS to Finance for Women-Led and Owned MSMEs.

The consultancy seeks to promote access to finan-

cial products, knowledge, tools and techniques for women and women led MSMEs to improve their business strategies.

Essential Qualifications include:

A minimum of 5 years of experience in supporting MSMEs, preferably with a focus on women-led enterprises.

Proven expertise and strong knowledge in accessing finance for MSMEs.

Experience in designing and delivering online training workshops.

Familiarity with the challenges faced by startups, market-ready and near market-ready MSMEs in accessing finance.

Proficiency in using online collaboration and communication platforms.

Exceptional communication and collaboration skills to work effectively with diverse stakeholders.

Demonstrated technical expertise on the subject matter.

At least three References.

Sample of work is essential.

Fluency in English

To apply, please submit by email to LFabien@OAS.org with the subject "OAS WEE Consultancy -ACCESS to Finance for Women-Led and Owned MSMEs Consultancy". Applications will be accepted until June 10, 2024, at 5:30 pm US Eastern time.

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events. Presently a Food, Nutrition, and Health teacher at the Sir McChesney George Secondary School, Jahmeel is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of culinary talents.

NEW Kentucky **CHIZZA** SANDWICH

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KEEP IT REAL



GameStop shares jump after investor claims stake

By Natalie Sherman

Meme stock favourite GameStop is rising again, after a social media post seemingly from the investor known as “Roaring Kitty” claimed a sizeable stake in the video game retailer.

Shares in the firm opened for trade on Monday priced above \$40 apiece, up more than 70% from Friday, before later retreating a bit.

The surge followed a screenshot shared by the Reddit account tied to Keith Gill, claiming he owned 5 million GameStop shares - nearly 2% of the firm’s stock - a holding worth more than \$100m (£78m).

The post was one of a series in recent weeks that follow a long period of silence from the Roaring Kitty accounts.

The veracity of the post could not be confirmed. Neither Mr Gill nor GameStop responded to emails seeking comment.

Mr Gill became famous in 2021

for inspiring an army of online investors to back GameStop.

It led to an unexpected surge in the struggling firm’s shares, creating a financial squeeze on professional Wall Street firms that had bet against the retailer.

A post from that year showed Mr Gill held about 200,000 shares, worth \$30.9m.

Shares in some other so-called meme stocks - whose rise and fall appears disconnected from the fundamentals of the business - also headed higher on Monday, such as AMC and Blackberry.

Analysts had argued the original rise of meme stocks was driven by the surge in savings and time many households had during the pandemic, thanks to government support programmes and the shutdown of many in-person activities.

With markets rising again this year, trading firms such as Charles Schwab and Robinhood have reported another

uptick in new accounts and activity by retail investors - people not working for investment houses or other private firms.

GameStop cashed in on the interest last month, raising \$933m in a share sale.

But the activity has been a source of some disquiet in the financial industry and in Washington, which hosted hearings on the GameStop phenomenon in 2021.

In an interview last month with business broadcaster CNBC, former financial regulator Jay Clayton, who led the Securities and Exchange Commission under former President Donald Trump, compared it to gambling.

“It bothers me on many levels,” he said. “It’s a lot closer to gambling than it is to trading and it’s certainly not investing.”

“Is this something we should be tolerating in our markets?” he added.

“Whether it’s legal or illegal, I don’t think so.”

Black Lace star Colin Gibb dies aged 70

By Steven McIntosh

Colin Gibb, the longest-standing member of pop band Black Lace, has died at the age of 70.

The group were best known for their 1984 novelty hit *Agadoo*, which reached number two in the UK.

Black Lace also represented the UK at the Eurovision Song Contest in 1979, finishing in seventh place with the song *Mary Ann*.

Gibb's bandmate Dene Michael confirmed his death to the BBC, describing it as "awful news".

Michael also posted a tribute on Twitter with a picture of himself and Gibb, writing: «Rest in peace my friend, God bless you x.»

In a Facebook post, Gibb's wife Sue Kelly said it was «heartbreaking» to tell fans her «dearest husband» had died.

"I love you Colin, [we] spent 22 years living your *Agadoo* dream, we were due to retire to Spain on Thursday, you were so happy, so looking forward to our new life, now you're gone.

"As we used to say, always love you forever."

Black Lace were also known for songs such as *Do the Conga*, *Superman*, *Hokey Cokey*, *Wig-Wam*



Colin Gibb (left) with fellow Black Lace member Alan Barton, who died in 1995.

Bam and I Am the Music Man.

But *Agadoo* was their biggest success, selling more than a million copies worldwide and becoming a staple of school discos and wedding parties.

The band underwent several line-up changes over the years, and Gibb himself occasionally took breaks from performing with the group.

But cumulatively, Gibb spent more time in the band than any other member, his time with the group spanning several decades.

A statement from the

group's management Now Music to the PA news agency said: "Unfortunately Colin passed away unexpectedly yesterday afternoon.

"He'd recently announced his departure from the entertainment industry and was looking forward to enjoying his retirement with his wife Susan.

"We are all deeply shocked and saddened by the news. Colin was the founder member of Black Lace, together with Alan Barton and they had huge hits through the 80s.

"Colin was a great

friend and will be sadly missed."

Last month, Gibb wrote on Facebook of his plans to retire, telling fans: «All good things must come to an end.»

He said his final show would be that same week, at a beach hotel in Tenerife.

"Thanks to all of you that have supported Black Lace over the years, and the thousands of friends I have met during that time, since we set out in 1975," he said.

The official Black Lace account said Gibb would be "truly missed by everyone who knew him".

Puerto Rico Governor Pierluisi concedes defeat in surprise primary upset

Puerto Rico congressional representative Jenniffer González defeated Governor Pedro Pierluisi in a surprise upset during a primary election held Sunday by their pro-statehood party.

The two ran on the same ticket four years ago under the New Progressive Party, but González, a Republican, announced her plan to challenge Pierluisi, a Democrat, in early December. Public jabs between the two turned acrimonious during the campaign.

Puerto Rico's main political parties are divided by the island's political status, so it's common to find both Republicans and Democrats within the same party.

"What happened is very painful, and I didn't expect it, but let no one think that I'm going to slow down in the remainder of this four-year period," Pierluisi said late Sunday as he congratulated González.

He addressed his supporters briefly as González celebrated with hers while results continued to trickle in.

González obtained 56 per cent of the vote compared with Pierluisi's 44



Resident Commissioner Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, who represents Puerto Rico as a nonvoting member of Congress, smiles at a news conference about Puerto Rico statehood on Capitol Hill in Washington, October 29, 2019. (AP Photo/Andrew Harnik, File)

per cent, with an estimated tens of thousands of votes still uncounted. She is the first female gubernatorial candidate to secure a primary win for the New Progressive Party.

"Positions do not belong to politicians ... they belong to the people," González said during a speech shortly after Pierluisi conceded.

"I commit to being on the streets, to listen to people."

As of Monday, Puerto

Rico's elections commission had not yet provided updated numbers and was still counting votes.

Running with González for the position of resident commissioner is senior US naval military officer Elmer Román, a former secretary of state for Puerto Rico, while Puerto Rico Senator William Villafañe is seeking the position under Pierluisi.

On Monday, Villafañe had secured 53 per cent of the votes and Román 47

per cent, with 80 per cent of voting centres reporting.

Earlier on Sunday, Puerto Rico Representative Jesús Manuel Ortiz defeated Senator Juan Zaragoza in the primary held by their Popular Democratic Party, which backs the island's territorial status and seeks a return to power in the upcoming general elections.

Zaragoza conceded defeat after obtaining 38 per cent of the votes compared with Zaragoza's 62 per cent.

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cent, even though only a little more than 60 per cent of the votes had been counted.

Attorney Pablo José Hernández ran unopposed to be the Popular Democratic Party's candidate for resident commissioner, the first person in 20 years to seek that nomination.

As results came in late Sunday, the page of Puerto Rico's elections commission crashed, frustrating many who were closely following the primaries.

Officials said they were rushing to fix the problem, saying they did not know what caused it but that US Homeland Security and other agencies were helping.

"If it were necessary to activate the FBI given the situation, we will do it," said Jessika Padilla, the commission's alternate president.

Ortiz, González and other candidates face disgruntled voters on an island still struggling with chronic power outages and awaiting completion of reconstruction projects following Hurricane Maria, which hit as a Category 4 storm in September 2017.

Power outages were reported at more than a dozen voting centres, including one where Ortiz arrived to cast his vote, forcing officials to revert to a manual process.

Heavy rains also pelted parts of the island, with flood warnings issued for nearly a dozen towns and cities where landslides also were reported.

Power outages were such a big concern that Puerto Rico's elections commission rented more than a dozen generators and a private power company identified 81 alternate voting sites with guaranteed electricity.

"It's been years since I last voted," said Benito López, a 66-year-old retiree wearing a T-shirt that

read, "The Island of Enchantment."

He planned to cast a vote for a candidate he would not reveal "to see if there's any improvement and change."

Other voter complaints include the difficulty of obtaining business permits, a fractured education system, and the island's lack of access to capital markets after the local government emerged two years ago from the largest debt restructuring in U.S. history.

Meanwhile, more than \$9 billion of debt owed by Puerto Rico's power company, the largest of any government agency, remains unresolved. A federal judge overseeing a bankruptcy-like process has yet to rule on a restructuring plan following bitter negotiations between the government and bondholders.

"They have broken Puerto Rico," Cecilio Rodríguez, said of the current and previous administrations as he waited to cast his vote. "Economic development must be a priority."

For other voters, stopping the exodus of doctors from Puerto Rico and improving the U.S. territory's crumbling health system is a priority.

"The patients are the ones who have to stay here and endure this. It's not fair," said Dr. Alfredo Rivera Freytes, an anesthesiologist who left Puerto Rico for St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands because of the problems with Puerto Rico's health system.

He returned two years ago with plans to retire, but found himself working again because of the need for anesthesiologists in Puerto Rico.

Ahead of the primaries, Pierluisi had touted record tourist numbers, hurricane reconstruction and growing economic development among his successes.

He had pledged to prioritize projects targeting children and the island's growing elderly population,

among other things.

An event marking the end of his campaign held a week before the primaries was headlined by former Governor Ricardo Rosselló, who resigned in August 2019 following nearly two weeks of street touched off by a leak of crude and insulting chat messages between him and his top advisers.

González has pledged to crack down on corruption, award more funds to agencies to help victims of violence amid a surge in killings of women, and stem an exodus of doctors and other medical workers to the US mainland.

González appealed to voters' frustration earlier Sunday before winning, saying she would work to resolve their problems.

"That's one of the reasons why I'm aspiring to governorship, because I believe that we should not get used to not having electricity, we should not get used to not having water," she said.

Zaragoza had promised to prioritize climate change and renewable energy, decentralize the island's education department and improve access to health.

His opponent, Ortiz, pledged to improve the licensing process to retain doctors, simplify the island's tax system and revamp health care.

González and Ortiz will face gubernatorial candidates from other parties in November's general elections.

Puerto Rico's next governor will have to work alongside a federal control board that oversees the island's finances and was created after the government declared bankruptcy.

Ahead of Sunday's primaries, more than 4,900 inmates voted in prisons across the US territory. The State Commission of Elections also received and counted tens of thousands of early ballots.

PM Drew warns of intense Hurricane Season, calls on St Kitts & Nevis to prepare

By Dillon De Shang

St Kitts and Nevis residents have been told to make the necessary preparations for this year's Hurricane Season.

In an address on Saturday, Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew told islanders that forecasts predict the season will be above average and has characteristics of some of the most intense years on record, including 1878, 1926, 1998, 2010, and 2020.

"I urge all citizens to prepare diligently. Ensure that you have an emergency plan in place, and if you do not, please contact the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) for guidance and assistance," he said.

"Stock up on essential supplies, ensure that your property is secured and insured, and stay informed through reliable sources of weather updates, such as the local Met Service and the local disaster management offices. Our emergency services are ready to respond, but individual preparedness is crucial to minimize risks and ensure safety."

The 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season started on June 1 and is expected to run until November 30.

Forecasters at the Colorado State University and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) said there is a high chance for the Hurricane Season to be above normal.

The region can expect to see between 17 and 25 named storms, with winds of 39 mph or higher, develop. Of those storms, between four and seven are expected to become major hurricanes.



St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew

The prime minister noted the active season could be attributed to climate change.

Drew said engagements between the government and private sector have begun in an effort to streamline preparation and response to tropical cyclones.

"Our national subcommittees have been meeting and carrying out activities to prepare the nation's infrastructure, ensure our social programmes are adequate, and our environmental conditions are resilient against the impact of these potential cyclones. These activities include clearing waterways better known as ghauts, our drainage networks, and ensuring that emergency shelters are in a habitable state," he said.

"Some of our critical sectors such as healthcare, tourism, agriculture, telecommunications, and utilities, among many other sectors, are continuously working to ensure that remain in a state of readiness to respond to and recover from any eventuality.

"Our food service suppliers and distributors have assured us that they have an adequate stock of food supplies to sustain us throughout the hurricane season. Additionally, our air and seaports are continually enhancing their resilience against the threats and risks associated with cyclonic hazards."

Drew said he hopes St Kitts and Nevis remains a resilient nation and he hopes the country escapes impacts from storms.

Mexico elects Sheinbaum as first woman president

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Claudia Sheinbaum has been elected as Mexico's first woman president in an historic landslide win.

Mexico's official electoral authority said preliminary results showed the 61-year-old former mayor of Mexico City winning between 58% and 60% of the vote in Sunday's election.

That gives her a lead of about 30 percentage points over her main rival, businesswoman Xóchitl Gálvez.

Ms Sheinbaum will replace her mentor, outgoing President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, on 1 October.

Ms Sheinbaum, a former energy scientist, has promised continuity, saying that she will continue to build on the "advances" made by Mr López Obrador, further building on the welfare programmes which have made the outgoing president very popular.

But in her victory speech she also highlighted what has set this Mexican election apart from previous ones. She told cheering voters: "For the first time in the 200 years of the [Mexican] Republic, I will become the first woman president of Mexico."

She said it was an achievement not just for



Claudia Sheinbaum will be Mexico's first female president.

her but for all women.

"I've said it from the start, this is not just about me getting [to the top office], it's about all of us getting here."

She added: "I won't fail you."

Ms Sheinbaum also thanked her rival, Xóchitl Gálvez, who has conceded victory.

Prior to running for president, Ms Sheinbaum was mayor of Mexico City, one of the most influential political positions in the country and one that is seen as paving the way for the presidency.

Ms Sheinbaum, whose Jewish maternal grandpar-

ents immigrated to Mexico from Bulgaria fleeing the Nazis, had an illustrious career as a scientist before delving into politics. Her paternal grandparents hailed from Lithuania.

Both of her parents were scientists and Ms Sheinbaum studied physics before going on to receive a doctorate in energy engineering.

She spent years at a renowned research lab in California studying Mexican energy consumption patterns and became an expert on climate change.

That experience and her student activism eventually earned her the posi-

tion of secretary of the environment for Mexico City at the time when Andrés Manuel López Obrador was mayor of the capital.

In 2018 she became the first female mayor of Mexico City, a post she held until 2023, when she stepped down to run for president.

The election, which pitted Ms Sheinbaum against Ms Gálvez, has been described as a sea change for women in Mexico.

Edelmira Montiel, 87, said that she was grateful to be alive to see a woman elected to the top office.

"Before, we couldn't even vote, and when you

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International

AROUND THE WORLD



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could, it was to vote for the person your husband told you to vote for. Thank God that has changed and I get to live it," she told Reuters news agency, referring to the fact that women were only allowed to vote in national elections in 1953.

While the fact that the two front-runners were women was widely celebrated, the campaign was marred by violent attacks.

As well as a new president, voters were also electing all members of Mexico's Congress and governors in eight states, the head of Mexico City's

government, and thousands of local officials.

And it was local candidates in particular who were targeted in the run-up to the vote.

The government says more than 20 were killed across Mexico, although other surveys put the total at 37.

Ms Gálvez harshly criticised the government and her rival in the presidential race for the violence which blights large parts of Mexico.

She promised to be "the bravest president, a president who does confront crime" if elected, but

failed to provide many details about how she would tackle the powerful criminal cartels which are behind much of the violence.

After Ms Sheinbaum's lead became unassailable, Ms Gálvez called her.

"I told her I saw a Mexico with a lot of pain and violence. I wished that she could solve the severe problems our people have," Ms Gálvez said of the call.

How to tackle Mexico's violent cartels is going to be one of the many challenges facing Ms Sheinbaum when she takes up office.

She has said that it is

important to tackle what she says are the roots of the violence and has promised to invest in welfare programmes to prevent poor young Mexicans from being recruited by criminal groups.

On relations with Mexico's northern neighbour, the United States, which at times have been testy under her predecessor in office, she said she would ensure there would be "a relationship of friendship, mutual respect and equality".

But in a reference to the many Mexicans living and working in the US, she promised to "always defend the Mexicans who are on the other side of the border".

Relations between the US and Mexico suffered under Mr López Obrador, who has been in power since 2018.

The outspoken leader was barred from running for a second term under Mexico's constitution, which limits presidents to a single six-year-term.

He threw his weight behind Ms Sheinbaum instead.

Having the backing of the popular president, who has an approval rate of close to 60%, gave Ms Sheinbaum's campaign a huge boost.

Many of those voting for her said they backed her and Mr López Obrador's party programme to alleviate poverty and wanted to see it continued.

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Imran Khan was prime minister between 2018 and 2022.

Imran Khan acquitted in state secrets case

By Lucy Clarke-Billings

Former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan has been acquitted of leaking state secrets but will remain in jail because of a conviction in another case.

In the run-up to elections in February, the 71-year-old - who was ousted as prime minister in 2022 - was hit with three prison sentences for cases he insists were politically motivated.

Khan was sentenced to 10 years in prison in January on charges of making public a diplomatic cable in 2022.

The Islamabad High Court upheld his appeal and cleared him in that case on Monday, but he is not expected to leave prison for now.

The former cricket star and his third wife Bushra are both serving prison sentences after a court

ruled that their 2018 marriage had been un-Islamic and illegal as it came too soon after her divorce.

The couple were also found guilty of corruption over gifts received during his term as prime minister.

Even behind bars, the former cricket star remains a powerful force in Pakistani politics.

During the February elections, his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party, which had been forced to run candidates as independents, emerged as the single largest bloc.

However, they fell short of the majority and their rivals united to form a new government.

In the so-called "cipher case", the prosecution argued that Khan had leaked a classified cable sent to Pakistan's ambassador in Washington.

At a rally in March 2022, the then

prime minister appeared on stage waving a piece of paper that he said showed a foreign conspiracy against him.

He didn't name the country - but was subsequently highly critical of the US. Washington and Pakistani officials denied the claim.

Prosecutors said Khan's actions amounted to leaking a classified document and damaging diplomatic relations.

Khan's foreign minister, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, was also sentenced to 10 years in prison.

Both men were acquitted of the charges on Monday.

"Thank God, the sentence is overturned," PTI spokesman Naem Panjutha, said in a post on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Bullets win 30-over men's softball cricket title

Bryson's Shipping and Insurance Bullets captured the title of the We the People (WTP) 98.5 FM Antigua and Barbuda Softball Cricket Association (ABSCA) 30-over men's competition at Powells on Sunday.

The Bullets defeated the Dredgers by eight wickets in the final of the competition, which is hosted by the ABSCA along with its corporate sponsors, Everyday Store 24/7, Alva Joseph, Natural Construction, Enforcers, and Goody's Taxi Services and Tours.

The Dredgers were dismissed for 85 in 23.3 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Brent Bloodman struck 22, Tyrone Williams hit 20, and Mervin Higgins got 15. Deran Benta snapped up four for 14, Essan Warner grabbed three for 15, and Shaquan Reifer picked up two for 15.

In reply, the Bullets achieved victory at 89 for two in 9.4 overs. Essan Warner slammed 32, Deran Benta struck 26 not out, and Wilston Charles hit 22.

Success as well for Alzarri and Sharon Joseph's Female Flyers, which captured the St. John's Co-operative Credit Union ABSCA 15-Overs Female Competition.

The Female Flyers defeated Wayne's Electrical Services Survivors by 13 runs in the final at Powells on Sunday.

Female Flyers made 61 for four off their allotted 15 overs. Sevely Ireland hit 28, and Terez Parker scored 20.

In reply, Survivors were restricted to 48 for eight off their 15 overs. Joan Samuel struck 26, and Monique Titus grabbed three wickets for nine runs to claim the player of the final award.



Monique Titus of Alzarri and Sharon Joseph Female Flyers grabbed three wickets for nine runs to claim the player of the final award. (ABSCA)

Highest prize money announced for T20 World Cup



The ninth edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup will see the winners of the 20-team tournament earn at least US\$2.45 million, the highest prize money in the history of the tournament, along with the trophy that they will lift at Kensington Oval in Barbados on June 29.

The runners-up will receive at least US\$1.28 million, while the losing semi-finalists walk away with US\$787,500 each from

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Black Lightning and Stingers claim wins in ABNA's netball league

S.W. Electronics Black Lightning and Defante Stingers were the latest winners in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) League.

S.W. Electronics Black Lightning prevailed 8-5 against Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Under-16 (2) in the B Division at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

Azaliya Simon scored five goals from 10 attempts, and Leannie Darroux converted two of her five shots for S.W. Electronics Black Lightning.

Reneka Anthony sank three goals from five attempts, and Mackayla Scott scored two of her six shots for Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Under-16 (2).

Defante Stingers prevailed 17-6 against Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Un-



Yvonne Williams-Willis

der-16 (1) in another B Division encounter.

Deniah Henry converted 15 goals from 19 attempts, and Shakoya Prince scored two of her four shots for the Defante Stingers.

Kelisha Gordon sank three goals from six attempts,

and Joy Shaw converted three of her seven shots for the Cool and Smooth Pacesetters Under-16 (1).

Meanwhile, the netball fraternity in Antigua and Barbuda is mourning the loss of former national player, coach, administra-

tor, and umpire Yvonne Williams-Willis.

Willis died peacefully at her home on Sunday. She was once the number-two ranked goalshoot behind Trinidadian Jean Pierre at the 1979 World Championships in Trinidad and Tobago.

Willis also served at the administrative level of the Antigua and Barbuda Netball Association (ABNA) as well as the Inter-Schools Netball Programme within the Ministry of Sports.

Willis was not only an outstanding national netball player, but she also served the sport with distinction as a coach and umpire.

Willis was also a devoted member of the Jehovah Witnesses, a religious faith-based organization, until her death. May her soul rest in peace.

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the total, historic prize pot of US\$11.25 million.

The four teams that fail to make it out of the Super 8s will earn US\$382,500 each, while the teams placed ninth, 10th, 11th, and 12th will receive US\$247,500 each. Participants who finish 13th to 20th place will collect US\$225,000.

And every team receives an additional US\$31,154 for each match they win barring the semi-finals and final.

The 55-match event will be played over 28 days, across nine venues in the West Indies and USA, making this the biggest ICC T20 World Cup ever.

The format of this year's tournament will see 40 first round matches played be-

fore the top eight progress to the Super 8s.

Four teams will then qualify for the semi-finals, which will be staged in Trinidad and Tobago and Guyana, ending with the final in Barbados where the 2024 men's champions will be crowned.

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said, "This event is historic in so many ways so it is fitting that the prize money for players reflects that. Hundreds of millions of fans around the world will be entertained by the players in what we're hoping to be an out of this world event."

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.

Sports News

Paragons 2 and Royal Cruisers 2 claim wins in Female Development Volleyball League

Paragons 2 and Royal Cruisers 2 recorded wins in their latest matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Female Division II Development League over the weekend.

Paragons 2 claimed their sixth win in seven games by snatching a 3-2 victory against Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad 2 at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Sunday.

Paragons 2 took an hour and 56 minutes to prevail 9-25, 25-21, 20-25, 26-24, and 15-11 against Da Squad 2, which suffered their fourth loss in six encounters.

Royal Cruisers 2 recorded their second win in six games by pulling off a 3-0 victory against the Dynasty Queens. Royal Cruisers 2 took an hour and 11 minutes to win 25-7, 25-22, and 25-20 against the Dynasty Queens, which suffered their sixth loss in seven encounters.

Meanwhile, Men's Division 1 leaders Pytonz have extended their unbeaten run in the ABAVA Local League.

The Pytonz won their two latest matches to extend their perfect run to 14 wins in as many games.

The Pytonz took an hour



The Royal Cruisers 2 female volleyball team. (ABAVA)

and 40 minutes to beat Print Xpress Renegades 3-1, winning 25-19, 18-25, 27-25, and 25-13. The Renegades lost for the fifth time in 13 games.

The Pytonz also eased their way past Phoenix High Flyerz 2 three-nil in straight sets. The Pytonz prevailed 25-18, 25-19, and 25-20 in an hour and 20 minutes as the Phoenix High Flyerz 2 lost for the eighth time in 13 encounters.

The Phoenix High Flyerz 2 claimed their fifth win of the competition by soaring past the Sharks 3-0 in an hour and 14 minutes.

The Phoenix High Fly-

ers prevailed 25-15, 26-24, and 25-18 as the Sharks remain second from the bottom of the standings after suffering their 13th loss in 14 games.

Defending Men's Division 1 champion Stoneville also defeated the Sharks 3-0 to remain in second place in the standings.

Stoneville claimed their 11th win in 12 games by beating the Sharks 25-19, 25-16, and 25-20 in an hour and five minutes.

High Flyerz 1 claimed their seventh win in 14 games by soaring to a 3-0 straight-set victory against the Invaders. High Flyerz 1

took an hour and 13 minutes to prevail 25-14, 25-23, and 25-18 against the Invaders, which suffered their ninth defeat in 12 games.

The Top Ranking Storming Lions claimed their 10th win in 13 games in the Men's Division 1 League by romping to a 3-0 victory against the bottom team, TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Velocity, in an hour and eight minutes.

The Storming Lions won 25-16, 25-8, and 25-13, while the Chargers Velocity remain in the cellar after suffering their 13th defeat in as many games.



South Africa's Anrich Nortje, right, celebrates with teammate Keshav Maharaj after the dismissal of Sri Lanka's Charith Asalanka during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup cricket match between South Africa and Sri Lanka at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York, Monday, June 3, 2024. (AP)

South Africa beat Sri Lanka in World Cup opener

South Africa's World Cup campaign got off to a winning start as they cruised to a six-wicket victory over Sri Lanka at the Nassau County International Cricket Stadium in Westbury, New York, on Monday, thanks to an impeccable bowling performance.

All the hard work was done in the first innings when Sri Lanka chose to bat, but were unable to come up with any answers to South Africa's stubborn bowlers to tumble to 77 all out in 19.1 overs.

The Sri Lankans limped to 40 for five in the first 10 overs, as Keshav Maharaj took two wickets in two balls in a successful second over, with both Wanindu Hasaranga and Sadeera Samarawickrama being dismissed for ducks.

Anrich Nortje entered the mix to ensure Sri Lanka were bowled out for their lowest-ever T20I total, as he took four wickets for seven runs in his four overs to ensure a target of just 77.

It was by no means a high-scoring game, as Quinton de Kock finished with the highest run tally (20 off 27 balls) as one of South Africa's openers. Sri Lanka were strong bowlers themselves, with Hasaranga the stand-out with two for 17, but it was not enough as South Africa ambled to victory at 80 for four inside the 16.2 overs.

Elsewhere, Namibia survived a huge scare to beat Oman in a super over in their Group B opener at the Kensington Ovals in Barbados on Sunday, with David Wiese making

the difference with both bat and ball.

Wiese had finished with figures of three for 28 as Oman were bowled out for just 109, then Namibia stumbled to 109 for six themselves, scrambling two off their final ball after Mehran Khan's bowling had put Oman on the brink of an upset.

In the first T20 World Cup super over since 2012, Wiese slammed a four off the first ball and a maximum from the second, finishing with 13 off four deliveries faced.

Taking up the ball, he then dismissed Naseem Khushi as Namibia clinched an 11-run success.

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.

Rebels advance to ABBA's Second Division playoff finals

Eight seeded Rebels have advanced to the finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division Playoff Championship.

The Rebels booked their spot in the finals by prevailing 71-68 in Game 2 against fifth-seed Jim Nance Jan Serv Fearless Crew to sweep their best-of-three semi-final series 2-0 at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday evening.

Zuri Nesbitt produced a game-high 20 points, seven assists, and six rebounds; Buell Henry sank 10 points and grabbed 14 rebounds; and Kareem Blair converted nine points and snatched 14 rebounds for the Rebels.

Rafiki Harris converted 15 points and claimed eight rebounds, and Delroy Foster sank nine points and grabbed 12 rebounds for the Fearless Crew.

The Rebels will face either second-seeded Da Project or third-seeded Spanish Heat 2 in the best-of-five Division II playoff finals.

Da Project and Spanish Heat will clash in a decisive Game 3 at the JSC Sports Complex on Tuesday at 8 pm for the opportunity to advance to the finals and face the Rebels for the Division II playoff title.

Da Project forced Tuesday's decider by prevailing 77-71 against Spanish Heat 2 in Game 2 on Sunday night to level their best-of-three semi-final series 1-1.

Olivee Morris sank 24 points and



Fearless Crew's Ronel Gomez (#07) defends against Zuri Nesbitt of Rebels during Game 2 of their semi-final series of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's Second Division Playoff Championship at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, June 2, 2024. (ABBA)

claimed six rebounds; Bryan "Hollywood" Matthew had 21 points, 17 rebounds, and five assists; and Tyler Jacobs scored 13 points and snatched seven rebounds for Da Project.

Wilkin Floyd narrowly missed out on achieving a triple double,

producing 20 points, 10 assists, and eight rebounds; Kevin Pimentel converted 15 points; Ismael Palemo sank 14 points and grabbed 11 rebounds; and Jesus Emmanuel had 10 points, six rebounds, and six assists for Spanish Heat 2.