

MP ANTHONY SMITH JOINS THE GASTON BROWNE CABINET



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Front Page Editorial

A political earthquake

The seismologists tell us that earthquakes are caused by the movement of the earth's tectonic plates, for example, the movement of the Caribbean Plate against the Atlantic Plate; that movement, based on its intensity, would send vibrations miles away from the epicenter.

In Antigua and Barbuda, there was a movement of similar proportions that took place on July 15, 2024, the resignation of Member of Parliament, Anthony Smith from the United Progressive Party, that had a similar impact, only this time through the political realm.

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party has quickly seized on this development to woo this youthful and vibrant politician to become a member of the Cabinet and to appoint him to a senior

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Local News



MP Anthony Smith joins the Gaston Browne Cabinet

There are many adjectives being used to describe the recent political developments in Antigua and Barbuda where, twenty-four hours after the announcement of his resignation from the opposition party, Member of Parliament Anthony Smith has been sworn in as a member of the Gaston Browne Cabinet.

Speaking at the Swearing in Ceremony Tuesday morning at Government House, Prime Minister Browne noted that the appointment is a clear indication of the confidence in which the MP Smith is held.

"I feel absolutely confident that he has the ability to serve in the capacity of the Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, and that he is totally committed to the advancement of the people of his constituency and the people of Antigua and Barbuda. I would have observed his entry into politics 18 months ago and always



Prime Minister Gaston Browne, left, shakes hands with MP Anthony Smith.

felt that he has some capacity and the type of decency that we could engage him as an individual with whom we could have a relationship," he remarked.

According to the prime minister this is something that he publicly noted long before the developments over the past several days arose. He noted too that he observed that Smith was operating within a 'toxic environment', one which stymied his growth and development, adding that he used the opportunity to transition

to 'greener pastures' to better serve his constituents.

PM Browne revealed that there have been discussions on the issue of service, and that Smith 'fully understands' the importance of serving people as there is no better serve than serving one's fellow citizens.

"Therefore, we are fully aligned in terms of our values of transparency, accountability and good governance. He understands that these values are fully entrenched in my administration and that our singular purpose is

to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda and to bring them resilient prosperity," he stated.

The prime minister also hinted that the doors remain open for further collaborations between the government and Smith in the future. "Whereas the MP Anthony Smith Jnr. will be an independent member of the House of Representatives and will start with an accommodation with the ABLP Administration, I am quite sure that there will be other opportunities for him to have an even closer nexus with the ABLP, but that is a matter to be determined in the future," he declared.

PM Browne extended best wishes to Smith in his new role noting that the 'Agriculture' component of his new ministry is an important area; one which requires much attention to address the nation's food 'insecurity'; an area in which the government will focus much attention and resources.

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ministerial role. MP Smith has decided to remain as a member of parliament, although he has resigned his UPP whip. He will sit as an independent member of the House of Representatives. That is a requirement of the Antigua and Barbuda Constitution.

What is however permitted is that he is free to accept an appointment to serve in any capacity that he desires. Anthony Smith chose well. Anthony Smith chose to accept the appointment of Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy.

Both positions are allowed by the Constitution; he remains as an independent member of the House of Representatives while at the same time serving as part of the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda as a senior Minister.

Anthony Smith negotiated well! He has received both the private and public commitment from the prime minister that he prioritises developments in Smith's All Saints West constituency.

Let's look at the political shift that his resignation has created. It certainly exposed some major fissures within the ranks of the UPP. Anthony Smith at 39, is certainly the kind of leader that any right-thinking political party would have embraced, nurtured and groomed for its future. Apparently, the UPP seemed unable and/or was unwilling to do that.

This also exposed a

deep-seated problem with which the UPP has not been able to handle effectively; manage conflicts or differences of opinion within its ranks. It's a recurring nightmare for the party and the 'political graveyard' is littered with the bones of those who have run afoul of the party's dominant power-source.

Joanne Massiah can tell Anthony Smith tales of what she endured when she challenged then Political Leader, Harold Lovell, for the top position in the party. She was forced to leave along with her supporters. The question now is, has the

UPP learnt anything from the Joanne Massiah debacle?

The vibrations will also be felt in parliament. The ABLP maintains its nine seats while the UPP loses one to the independent bench. Effectively, the ABLP now has a two-seat majority with Smith, who is now likely to support government's measures, now providing some political comfort (cushion) for the ruling party in the House; no longer is it sitting on the edge with a one-seat majority when voting is required on sensitive issues.

Winners and Losers?

Clearly the biggest winner here is Anthony Smith, who within a matter of twenty-four hours has moved from virtual political obscurity to being appointed as a Minister with a substantial portfolio.

The ABLP is also a winner as it is now inconceivable that it will not serve out the full 5-year term; giving it time to win back disaffected voters. Clearly, the UPP is the biggest loser in all of this. It has lost one of its bright young stars.

It now begs the question...Is there any need now for an August 29 primary in that constituency?



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f i t

Local News



GG: “Be a good role model to our young people”

The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, has asked the newest member of the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet, Anthony Smith Jnr. to ‘be a role model’ for the young people of the country.

Speaking at Government House Tuesday Morning at the Swearing in ceremony for MP Smith, Sir Rodney noted that in many other places around the world, people are made members of a Cabinet when they are in their 60’s and 70’s. However, he noted that in Antigua and Barbuda this is not so, as here there is a healthy mixture of both youth and



experience in the present Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

The Head of State also noted that Smith’s joining of the Cabinet is a historic move for the country. “I want to congratulate you on

your appointment as a minister in the government. It is indeed historic for Antigua and Barbuda because I believe that this is the first time that an independent member of the House of Representatives has been appointed to

the Cabinet. That tells me that the prime minister, in his wisdom, believes that the young people of this country have something to offer, and therefore this is why you were appointed,” he noted.

The governor general observed that MP Smith as a young man, would be expected to have a long life and that if he keeps close to his constituents, then his life in politics would be equally lengthy. “You have service to give and it is important for you to recognise that you would not just be rep-

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25 JULY

Assembly point:

Route:

CIU OF OPENING CARNIVAL PARADE 3 P.M.

Ministry of Agriculture

RIGHT onto Independence Drive, LEFT on Redcliffe St, RIGHT on Thames St, RIGHT on High Street, LEFT on Independence Drive into ARG.

27 JULY

Assembly point:

Route:

OASIS T-SHIRT MAS 3 P.M. – 9 P.M.

Old Parham Road near the T.N. Kirnon School

UP Old Parham Road, RIGHT on St. Johnson's Village Main Road, RIGHT on Factory Road, LEFT on to Parliament Drive, and RIGHT on to Queen Elizabeth Highway, RIGHT on Independence Drive, LEFT on Redcliffe Street, RIGHT on Thames Street, RIGHT on High Street

28 JULY

Assembly point:

Route:

WEST INDIES OIL COMPANY JUNIOR CARNIVAL 2:30P.M.

Old House of Culture 1:30 p.m.

Turn Right onto Queen Elizabeth Highway, Right onto Independence Avenue, left on Redcliffe Street (water break between Corner Alley & Redcliffe Street), Right onto Market Street, right onto High Street (water break between corner ACB & Magistrate Court), straight into Antigua Recreation Ground (Carnival City) enter from the Long Street Gate.

5 AUGUST

Steel Bands

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J'OUVERT 3 A.M. – 10 A.M.

ARG – SOUTH on Independence Drive, RIGHT on Redcliffe St, RIGHT on Market St, RIGHT on High St, RIGHT on Independence Drive, repeat until 10 a.m.

ARG – SOUTH on Independence Drive, RIGHT on Vivian Richards St, RIGHT on Market St, LEFT on Redcliffe St, RIGHT on Thames St, RIGHT on High St, RIGHT on Independence Ave, RIGHT on Redcliffe St, (repeat until 10am)

5 AUGUST

Assembly point:

Route:

JUDGING OF BANDS 2P.M.

Corner of Factory Road & Parliament Drive

RIGHT on Queen Elizabeth Highway, RIGHT on Independence Drive, LEFT on Redcliffe St, RIGHT on Thames St, RIGHT on High Street, LEFT on Independence Drive

6 AUGUST

Assembly point:

Route:

PARADE OF BANDS 12 NOON

Corner of Factory Road & Parliament Drive

RIGHT on Queen Elizabeth Highway, LEFT on Independence Drive, RIGHT onto All Saints Road, RIGHT on Market St, LEFT on Newgate St, RIGHT on Popeshead St, RIGHT on St John's St, RIGHT on Cross St, LEFT on Bishopgate St, LEFT on Old Parham Road, Right on Coronation Road into ARG

6 AUGUST

Route:

LAST LAP 7 P.M. – 10 P.M.

UP Old Parham Road, RIGHT on St. Johnson's Village Main Road, RIGHT on Factory Road, LEFT on to Parliament Drive, and RIGHT on to Queen Elizabeth Highway, RIGHT on Independence Drive

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Local News

cont'd from pg 4

resenting your constituency, you will be representing all of Antigua and Barbuda and that too is important," he added.

Sir Rodney, a former tourism minister, noted that there has always been a push to create stronger linkages between tourism and agriculture and he called on Smith, who later in the proceedings was appointed Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, to place particular focus on this effort to the benefit of farmers, the economy and for the nation's food security.

The governor general also urged the new minister to use his experiences to bear, as a successful businessman, on his role in the

Cabinet. He also urged him to reach out to the senior members of the Cabinet in times when he needs guidance and to note also that as governor general, with 20 years' experience in government, he too can be called upon to offer advice to MP Smith.



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Nation's food security uppermost in MP Anthony Smith's mind

The newly appointed Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, Anthony Smith, has identified striving towards attaining the nation's food security is one of the tasks uppermost in his mind.

Speaking moments after he was sworn to the role as the newest member of the Antigua and Barbuda Cabinet, Minister Smith said he will be focusing on the 'task ahead' and that now the most important things are what's good for his constituents and broadly, what's good for the people of Anti-



gua and Barbuda.

He acknowledged that the new responsibilities are quite large and that these are not things from which he will shy away. "My task now is to ensure food secu-

rity for the nation; something that I take dearly as I am deeply committed and I will be working diligently to do my best to achieve these goals for the people of Antigua and Barbuda and for the

people of All Saints West," he stated.

MP Smith conceded that there may be some in his constituency who may be hurt over his decision to

cont'd on pg 8

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Local News



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leave the UPP, but he stated that he was elected both to serve and to lead.

"This is an opportunity driven to serve the people of All Saints West and the people of Antigua and Barbuda. Additionally, nation building takes precedent before all partisan politics.

I am fully appreciative that the prime minister has placed his trust in me, an independent member of the House and this means a lot to me and the people of All saints West," he emphasized.

He suggested that some detractors will accuse him of switching sides, but he remains adamant that he is an inde-

pendent member of the House who has entered into an accommodation with the government 'in the interest of his people and the nation'.

At Tuesday's swearing in ceremony, Smith was accompanied by his wife, Dr. Tiffani Smith, who is a general practitioner. They have two girls.

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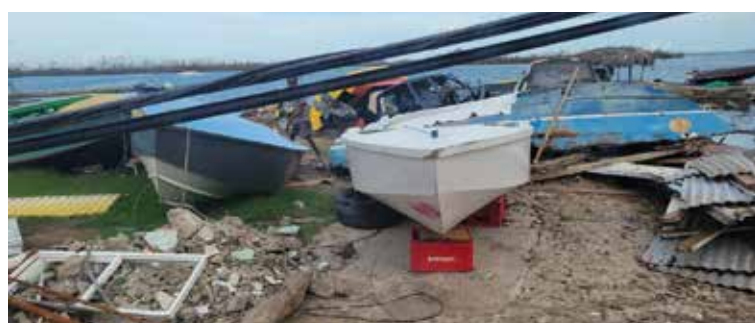
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PM Browne, CARICOM colleagues visit SVG

Prime Minister Gaston Browne joined his CARICOM colleagues on a visit to hurricane-stricken St. Vincent and the Grenadines, on Tuesday.

PM Browne traveled to SVG aboard the ABDF's Air Force One aircraft to join on a firsthand assessment of the damage suffered by SVG caused by the powerful winds of Hurricane Beryl earlier this month.



Local News



GG, Lady Williams accept patronage of a foundation to honour late soca artist

An announcement from Government House has indicated that Governor General Sir Rodney and Lady Williams have graciously accepted the patronage of the newly established Ricardo Barriteau Drue Foundation. This endorsement was formalised during a recent meeting at Government House, where Nicola Barri-teau, the nonprofit's Founder and mother of the late musician Ricardo Drue, presented the Foundation's vision and operational plans.

Lady Williams remarked, "We are always hesitant to take newly formed charities on board, and are dissuaded in some respects to do so. But in the end, it is a matter of balancing workloads and bringing discretion to bear." She further added, "The Ricardo Barriteau Drue (RBD) Foundation was favourably considered because Ricardo did not hesitate, when approached several years ago, to become solidly involved in the Halo Foundation's



Governor General Sir Rodney and Lady Williams.

anti-bullying outreach efforts. He was concerned that children and teens were suffering at the hands of those who felt that they could say and do anything at the expense of others. This modus operandi is certainly not acceptable."

Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, emphasised the Halo Foundation's enduring commitment to youth-centric activities. "I am pleased that the upcoming Legacy Workshops, conceived by the RBD Foundation, are targeting the 5 to 17-year-olds. The young people of our nation need to equip themselves with all the skills possible," he stated.

The RBD Foundation, in a statement, highlighted the late Ricardo Drue's foresight before his passing in 2023. He recognised "the need to establish workshops inclusive of voice training, dance, and drama for

[young people] in the Caribbean, starting with Antigua and Barbuda. One of the strategies discussed was to utilise role models within the art form to assist in the development of the Creative Sector."

The nonprofit affirmed that they are committed to realising Ricardo's dream through the establishment of the Ricardo Barriteau Drue Foundation for Arts, Entertainment, Innovation, and Empowerment, headquartered in Antigua and Barbuda.

Their Excellencies Sir Rodney and Lady Williams are patrons to a combined total of 36 charities, spanning various sectors including arts and culture, community outreach, support for the differently-abled, education, the elderly, history and heritage, the environment, health, sports, uniformed bodies, women and girls, world peace and youth.

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Local News



ABEC readies Registration Units ahead of Voters' ID Card replacement exercise

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission is fine-tuning the preparation of the Registration Units in all seventeen constituencies ahead of the planned start of the national Voters' ID Card Replacement programme.

Supervisor of Elections, Ian Hughes, reported that two Registration Units have been operating out of the Central Registration Unit on Factory Road and that these needed to be returned to their respective constituencies to accommodate the registration process which starts on August 12.

The St. Mary's North Registration Unit now moves to the Moravian Conference Centre at Cashew Hill while the St Philip North unit moves to the Glanville



Community Clinic. Other movements involved separating the All Saints East and St Luke Registration Unit from the All Saints Cross road building that it shared with the All Saints West Constituency. The All Saints East and St. Luke will now occupy the Roman Catholic Church hall at Roman Hill.

ABEC says the move is



in anticipation of the influx of persons who will be coming forward to replace their cards. Other measures will follow this week and next week to 'spruce up' the registration units adding what Hughes calls 'some aesthetics' to the buildings.

Adding furniture, appliances, water coolers and in some cases 'a paint job' are



some of the measures that will take place ahead of the start of the card replacing exercise.

ABEC announces the locations of the following Registration Units;

St. Mary's North - Moravian Conference Centre, Cashew Hill

St. Mary's South- Turner's Apartments, Bolans

All Saints East & St. Luke – Roman Catholic Church Hall, Roman Hill

St. Peter – Precision Centre, Paynters

St. Philip North – Glanvilles Community Centre

Meanwhile, staff at the headquarters, registration officers and registration clerks recently participated in a customer service and delivery-oriented workshop, a refresher training ahead of the August 12th initiative. The session's main facilitator was Orena Charles, a customer service expert who presented on the subject "Crafting Positive Customer Experiences one ID at a time".



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St. John's Rural North
St. Mary's North
St. Mary's South
All Saints East & St. Luke
All Saints West
St. George
St. Peter
St. Philip North
St. Philip South
St. Paul
Barbuda

Villa Primary School
Central Registration Unit, Sir Sydney Walling Highway
Central Registration Unit, Sir Sydney Walling Highway
Multipurpose Cultural & Exhibition Centre
Noel Nyah Roberts Sports Complex
Chala's Building (opposite the Lions Den)
Yorks Community Centre
Moravian Conference Centre, Cashew Hill
Turner's Apartments, Bolans
Roman Catholic Church Hall, Roman Hill
Former Community Access Centre, All Saints
Potters Village
Precision Centre, Paynters
Glanvilles Community Centre
St. Philip Post Office
Former Real Local Art Gallery, Horsford Hill
Low School, Barbuda

The little island that roared! The rise of AntiguaRecon

By Adam M. Dennis
Founder | AntiguaRecon

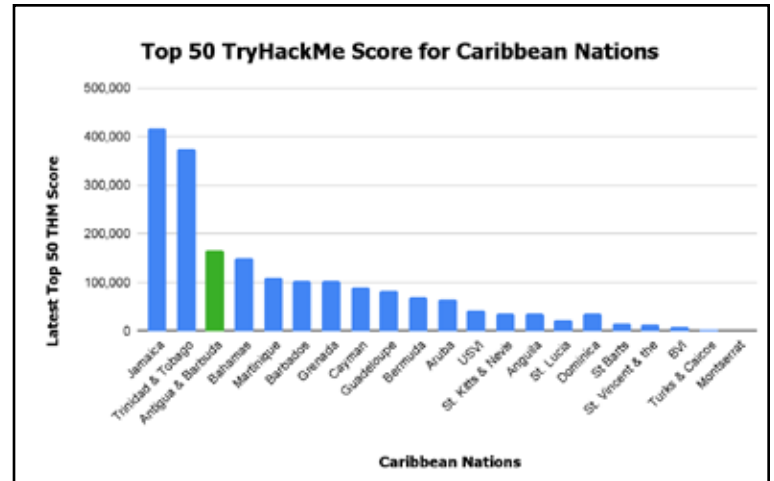
Two and half years ago, I launched AntiguaRecon with the help of Bernadette Sherman and Island Academy. The dream was to create a cybersecurity training program that, in time, would offer cybersecurity services and thereby fund ongoing training into the future. Students would learn how to become ethical hackers and then get to build real experience working with customers.

We started in a classroom at Island Academy and over time migrated to

doing our training online via Discord so that students wouldn't have to cross the island to get to class.

I called the first year "the experiment" because we didn't have any models to mimic in the region, or elsewhere from around the world. There are a lot of training programs around the world, but the idea of building a program like what we envisioned was uncommon.

Jump two and a half years in the future and AntiguaRecon has concluded work with its first customer, will be starting with its sec-



ond customer shortly, has a bunch more in discussion, and has a group of young ethical hackers who are hard at work honing their skills.

You, Reader, should be proud of these young people whether or not you know them. They have a dream, they work hard, overcome disappointments, and continue pushing forward. Their future is bright.

What is also bright is the trail that they've set on a cybersecurity training platform called TryHackMe. We use this platform to learn new skills, solve challenges involving breaking into purposely flawed servers and web apps, and participate in CTFs (online "Capture The Flag" competitions between groups and individuals).

TryHackMe has a points-based leaderboard that ranks every country in the world. We, as the tiny little island of Antigua, are standing strong in the Caribbean. Check out the

graph below to see how we measure up to a bunch of islands including all Windward and Leeward Islands.

See that green bar? That's us! We're leading all Leeward and Windward Island countries... and we lead Martinique too (Yes!).

But look at Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago (T&T). We have less than 100,000 people living in Antigua, while T&T have 1.5 million people and Jamaica has 2.8 million! However, our total is almost half of T&T's, and 40% of Jamaica's.

Compare our populations, and we're only 7% of T&Ts, and 3.6% of Jamaica's. We are tiny in comparison to these two countries, but we are the little island that roared! We are coming on strong and will continue to build our program into the future.

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Photo Essay



Photo Essay



Commentary



More calypso, not less

By Dorbrene E. O'Marde

Before we go further, let me assert that calypso is not dying nor is it in decline or in trouble. Art forms do not die. It is the decline or cessation of the practice of the artform that is interpreted as dying or death. Art forms are kept vibrant through opportunities for performance, exhibitions and other forms of expressions. So there are jazz festivals that give jazz artists opportunities to perform – and concerts where pop/rap/reggae/poets and dance artistes express themselves and there are exhibitions where plastic artists exhibit. Calypso is one of very few art forms where competition is the main avenue of exposure. The existence of vibrant calypso competitions is therefore critical to the development and relevance of the calypso art form.

In Antigua and Barbuda, we have persons with arrogant cultural administrative power who clearly have no understanding of either the history or traditions of calypso. And so, they vacillate:

One year de rankin' system dey promote - *for de judging*

Next year high-and-low is dey preference

But one is sheep and de other one goat - *its shocking*

Dat up to now, dey cant tell the difference

One year / dey want a slow an' a fast song - *for de judging*

A se-ri-ous song and a wild leggo that thinking so ridiculously wrong - *its shocking*

Message can be sung at road march tempo

One year dey crownin' two diff'rent monarch - *real confusing*

Zacari and Tian two one foot king

The nation confuse and lost in de dark - *twas surprising*

Is only one song you ask dem to sing

Beware / is only soca vibes in dey head - *when de judging*

Big rewards if people jump high and wave

Seem to me that dey want calypso dead - *its shocking*

Using prize money to dig its grave

That has been the history of the cultural management of calypso in this country over the last five years. But I insist that you cannot lead, manage, judge – or even kill – ‘what you do not know’. Calypso is not dying. It is the calypso competition, managed through vacuous guesswork that is dying, not calypso.

Which brings us to 2024. Our brilliant cultural administrators have reverted to the nonsensical ‘one song calypso competition’. And so – those of us who go to tents - hear artists sing one song weekly - for three weeks before quarter finals. And then they sing the same one song in quarter finals and if selected for semifinals they sing the same one song and if they get to finals, they sing the same one song. It baffles me that there are people in cultural management who find sense in that process. It really does! And to add insult to the injury for two years now they bring persons here to teach our judges how to judge ‘one song’ competitions.

It would seem to not only me but others who think on these matters that if a recognized important art form appears moribund, you do not lessen the avenues for its performance, you do the exact opposite. You challenge its writers and musicians and performers to produce more, to extend the practice of their craft, to demand excellence of



Dorbrene E. O'Marde

them. And you cannot demand excellence in competition through ‘one song’. Extremist maybe, but I would support a three-song competition where calypsonians sing at least one social commentary and one soca song and another of their choosing.

There are dozens like me who will not attend either semi-finals or finals and for Jah-sake, do not suggest that we have deserted ‘calypso’. No, we have deserted your foolish calypso competition. Oh no – we still love the lyrical artistry of Althea and Zacari and Stumpy and Thalia and the wordcraft and rhyming skills of Fiah and Richie Francis and GB and Lyricksman and the celebratory performances of Vicious and Black Mahdi and many others – yes, we love the traditionality of the Destroyers and the persistence of Willie Wawa, Okraslime, Zocio and others – and we are enthralled by the musical accompaniment of the Survival Band and the Real Sweet Benna Band and their backup singers. One the other hand, we are crest-fallen when those with capability of keeping the form interesting and challenging, have seemingly deserted – Ivena, Scorpion, Douglas, Solo, Panman, Sassy, Singing Sudden, Redding.

We love and respect calypso. There is enough energy and material to produce a meaningful calypso com-

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Commentary

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petition. But our judging systems get changed every year depending on whose voice is loudest. I do not accuse our paid, pull-from-hat judges of incompetence but they do manage regularly to cause disbelief and vigorous head-shaking.

I loudly condemn those who have consistently reduced – nearly removed – the visual from the evaluation of calypso performance. I insist that we as African people go to ‘see’ music. We don’t go to hear James Brown or Bob Marley or Sparrow. We go to see them. But with only five percent of the marks allocated to presentation, the calypso competition has become very bland, without visual stimulation – you can judge it from the radio or with your backs turned to the stage if you are on the grounds. And then we blame the artistes. The category ‘presentation’ is a traditional element of the Antigua calypso – it is our gift to the calypso world. Ours! All other competitions in this region – including that of Trinidad and Tobago followed us. Come forward from Short Shirt’s ‘Carnival on the Moon’ and see if you can find similar total rendition of calypso anywhere in the region before that. But you can’t successfully manage what you do not know.

Foolishly we have followed administrators in Trinidad and Tobago with the ‘one-song’ competition nonsense without realiz-

ing that in that land there are multiple opportunities for calypso performance – NJAC Young King, school and district/parish competitions, female competitions, Gayelle concerts, nightclub performances, university and corporation competitions etc. The practice of the artform there is alive in the society. Here we do not only have a single one song farce

but the junior calypso competition has seemingly been abandoned – no one I know seems to know.

Our carnival has been reduced to bacchanalia and Short Shirt’s ‘*We are the ones*’ again assumes relevance. The pan-men threaten strike, calypso is one song, soca is one song, the largest parade is the t-shirt mas – lacking in artistry,

overloaded with wining, semi-nudity and alc. Melting Pot and similar hours of boredom consume large – maybe the largest portions of the Carnival budget. The festival has lost its soul.

Where we going? Where we going? / We going the wrong way,

Hell still have fire, don’t have ice water / Why we going...why we going dey?

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Regional News



Dominica: Incitement case against medical doctor discontinued



Dr Samuel Christian.

CMC – A magistrate court Tuesday freed medical practitioner, Dr Samuel “Sam” Joseph Christian of incitement to burn down the Parliament of Dominica after the prosecution said that it was no longer continuing

with the matter.

“Having had the FIAT to prosecute the matter and considering the contents of the alleged statement made and after consultation with the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) a decision

was taken to discontinue the matter which was also of public interest,” the Trinidad-based Senior Counsel Keith Scotland told the court.

He told magistrate Michael Laudat that “the statement, taken as a whole and when juxtaposed in the context of freedom of expression, fairness, and antiquity of the matter, it has been decided to have it discontinued.”

Christian was arrested and charged in 2017 following the incident that took place on November 26, 2015.

According to the complaint, Christian “unlawfully incited to burn down the Parliament of the Commonwealth of Dominica” at a public meeting held at Peebles Park in 2015.

The prosecution had alleged that Christian had told the meeting “you must stand strong and stand with dignity for the Dominican people. We must stand with dignity.”

“Don’t take any kind of crap from the Speaker of the House.

“We know that this Parliament was burnt down before and if the Parliament continues to operate this way ladies and gentlemen it will be burnt down again by the people of Dominica. We have to stand strong. When duty calls for danger be nev-

cont’d on pg 19

Deep sea mining debate heats up in Jamaica amidst regulatory concerns

Tense deliberations over how and if to allow deep sea mining unfolded Monday in Jamaica as at least one company threatened to apply for permission before rules and regulations are in place.

More than two dozen countries have called for a ban, pause or moratorium on deep sea mining — including most recently Peru and Greece — as the UN International Seabed Authority resumed talks over a proposed mining code after last meeting in March.

“We have two very busy weeks ahead of us,” said Olav Myklebust, the authority’s council president as some countries warned that the proposed regulator framework has significant gaps and does not include some of their proposals.

The Jamaica-based authority, which is the global custodian for deep waters that don’t fall under a country’s jurisdiction, has granted 31 mining exploration contracts but has not authorized any exploitation as the debate continues.

Much of the ongoing



People gather on Wickie Wackie Beach in Kingston, Jamaica, October 2, 2016. (AP Photo/Eduardo Verdugo, File)

exploration is centred in the Clarion-Clipperton Fracture Zone, which covers 1.7 million square miles (4.5 million square kilometres) between Hawaii and Mexico. It is occurring at depths ranging from 13,000 to 19,000 feet (4,000 to 6,000 meters).

Scientists have said that minerals at those depths take millions of years to form, and that mining them could unleash noise, light and suffocating dust storms.

“The deep ocean sustains crucial processes that

make the entire planet habitable, from driving ocean currents that regulate our weather to storing carbon and buffering our planet against the impacts of climate change,” said Sofia Tsenikli with the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition ahead of the meeting.

Those who support deep sea mining argue that it is cheaper and has less of an impact than land mining. Among those pushing for exploitation is The Metals Company, a Canadian business that is largely expected

to be the first to seek permission to start mining.

The debate over deep sea mining comes amid growing demand for precious metals including cobalt, nickel and copper that grow in the ocean’s bowels and are used in electric car batteries and other green technology.

“There is a lot of work that remains to be done,” said France’s representative, Olivier Guyonvarch, of the proposed mining code.

Elza Moreira Marcelino de Castro, the representative for Brazil, said the draft needs more clarity about issues including liability and additional details about a proposed environmental compensation fund.

The council is scheduled to debate the issue for two weeks and will then hold an assembly to elect a secretary general.

cont’d from pg 18

er lacking near.

“Ladies and gentlemen today is the day we have to stand up, we have to stand up for our freedom. Ladies and gentlemen, we have to stop the rot right now. Stand up, stand up Dominica.”

But Scotland, who appeared with the State attorney, Marie-Louise Pierre Louis, said that “a notice of discontinuance was

filed in the matter.”

He told the court, that the prosecution in Dominica, will continue to “be fair in all matters”.

Christian was not in court when the matter came up for hearing and following Scotland’s statement, magistrate Laudat said the court had “no choice but to discontinue the matter as requested by the DPP.”

Vance choice heightens European fears over Trump presidency

European politicians and diplomats had already prepared for changes to their relationship with the US in the event of a second Donald Trump presidency.

Now that the Republican candidate has chosen Ohio Senator JD Vance as his running mate, those differences appear even more stark on prospects for the war in Ukraine, security and trade.

A vocal critic of US aid to Ukraine, Mr Vance told this year's Munich Security Conference that Europe should wake up to the US having to "pivot" its focus to East Asia.

"The American security blanket has allowed European security to atrophy," he said.

Nils Schmid, a senior MP in German Chancellor Olaf Scholz's party, told the BBC that he was confident a Republican presidency would continue to stay within Nato, even if JD Vance came across as "more isolationist" and Donald Trump remained "unpredictable".

However, he warned of a new round of "trade wars" with the US under a second Trump presidency.

An EU diplomat said that after four years of Donald Trump no-one was naïve: "We understand what it means if Trump comes back as a second-term president, regardless of his running mate."

Portraying the EU as a sailing boat preparing for a storm the diplomat, who preferred not to be named, added that whatever they might be able to tie down, it was always going to be rough.

The US is Ukraine's biggest ally, and President Volodymyr Zelensky said this week: "I'm not afraid about him becoming president, we will work together."

He also said that he believed most



JD Vance has spoken out against US military aid for Ukraine.

of the Republican party supported Ukraine and its people.

Mr Zelensky and Mr Trump also have a common friend in Boris Johnson, the former UK prime minister, who has consistently championed continued aid for Ukraine and recently met the former president at the Republican National Convention.

Following the meeting, Mr Johnson posted on X that he had "no doubt that [Mr Trump] will be strong and decisive in supporting that country and defending democracy".

But even if that sentiment is true, it might not apply to Mr Vance, who, days before the full-scale invasion, told a podcast he "doesn't really care what happens in Ukraine, one way or the other". He also played a key role in delaying a \$60bn military aid package from Washington.

"We need to try and convince him otherwise," says Yevhen Mahda, the Executive Director of the Institute of World Policy think tank in Kyiv.

"A fact we can use is that he fought in Iraq, therefore he should be invited to Ukraine so he can see with his own eyes what is happening and how

American money is spent."

The question for Kyiv will be to what extent he can influence the decisions of his new boss.

Yevhen Mahda agrees that Trump's unpredictability could be a problem for Kyiv in the run-up to the US presidential election.

The biggest supporter of the Trump-Vance ticket in the European Union is Hungary's Viktor Orban who returned recently from a visit to see the Republican candidate, after visiting Mr Zelensky and President Putin, with whom he maintains close ties.

In a letter to EU leaders, Mr Orban said a victorious Donald Trump would not even wait to be inaugurated as president before quickly demanding peace talks between Russia and Ukraine.

"He has detailed and well-founded plans for this," the letter states.

Mr Zelensky has himself said this week that Russia should attend a peace summit possibly next November, and he has promised a "fully ready plan". But he made clear he had not come under Western pressure to do so.

cont'd on pg 21

Six tonnes of cocaine found in Ecuador banana shipment

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Sniffer dogs in Ecuador have found 6.23 tonnes of cocaine hidden in a banana shipment, police say.

The dogs alerted their handlers, who seized 5,630 parcels filled with a white substance that later tested positive for cocaine.

The shipment was destined for Germany, officials said, and would have been worth \$224m (£173m) had it reached its destination.

Five people had been arrested following the discovery, according to the prosecutor-general's office.

Police said they had found the massive cocaine haul during a routine inspection of container stored at Posorja deepwater port south-west of Ecuador's largest city, Guayaquil.

The cocaine parcels had been hidden beneath crates of bananas destined for ex-



The cocaine was stashed into more than 5,000 individual parcels wrapped in tape.

One of those arrested in connection to the drug discovery was a representative of the export company responsible for the shipment, whom prosecutors said had been present at the inspection and gave officials the names of the four other suspects.

They include the man-

agers of the banana plantation where the cocaine is suspected to have been added to the fruit shipment, as well as the driver who took the container to the port.

Ecuador has become a major transit country for cocaine produced in neighbouring Peru and Colombia, with transnational criminal gangs using Ecuador's ports

to ship the drug to Europe and the US.

Last year, Ecuadorean security forces seized more than 200 tonnes of drugs, most of it cocaine. Only the US and Colombia seized more drugs in 2023.

Gangs have caused a wave of violent crime in Ecuador, leading President Daniel Noboa to declare a state of emergency and deploy tens of thousands of police officers and soldiers in an effort to combat them.

These security forces have stopped large amounts of cocaine from being shipped to Europe.

In January, officers found the largest stash ever to be seized in Ecuador - 22 tonnes of cocaine - buried in a pig farm.

However, extortion, kidnappings and murders remain high in the Andean country.

cont'd from pg 20

Viktor Orban's recent "peace missions" to Moscow and Beijing have sparked accusations that he's abusing his country's six-month rotating presidency of the European Council. European Commission officials have been told not to attend meetings in Hungary because of Mr Orban's actions.

During the Trump presidency, the US imposed tariffs on EU-produced steel and aluminium. Although they were paused under Joe Biden's administration, Trump has since floated a 10% tariff on all overseas imports should he get back into the White House.

The prospect of renewed economic

confrontation with the US will be seen as a bad, even a disastrous, outcome in most European capitals.

"The only thing we know for sure is there will be punitive tariffs levelled on the European Union so we have to prepare for another round of trade wars," said Nils Schmid, the Social Democrats' foreign policy lead in the Bundestag.

JD Vance singled out Berlin for criticism of its military preparedness earlier this year.

While he didn't mean to "beat up" on Germany, he said the industrial base underpinning its arms production was insufficient.

Sports News



Pigotts win Wings Summer Invitational Under-13 Championship

The Pigotts Sports Club has won the 2024 CPTSA Wings Summer Invitational Under-13 Football Championship.

Tevin Henderson scored a hat-trick to lead Pigotts Sports Club to a 4-1 victory against Cutting Edge FC in

the final of the nine-a-side competition at the Juliet Ha-deed (Northcoast) playing field.

Glenford Ambrose scored the other goal for Pigotts, and Allan Henry had the lone conversion for Cutting Edge FC.

Pigotts Sports Club recorded a 3-0 victory against Athletic International Academy of Trinidad and Tobago in the semi-finals.

Tevon Henderson had a double conversion, and Darius Barrington scored an own goal for the Pigotts Sports

Club.

Allan Henry struck a hat-trick to lead Cutting Edge FC to a 3-1 victory against the Liberta Blackhawks in the other semi-final encounter.

Asante Warner had the lone conversion for the Liberta Blackhawks.

Cutting Edge booked their spot in the semis with a 4-0 drubbing on the Lion Hill Cubs.

Allan Henry scored twice, and Jaariq Roberts and Dekai Hutson each converted once for Cutting Edge.

The Liberta Blackhawks booked their spot in the semis after snatching a 2-1 victory against Greenbay Hoppers FC.

Asante Warner and Tarique Lothian each scored for the Blackhawks, and Kenton Jacobs converted the lone goal for the Greenbay Hoppers.

Gray's Green also snatched a 3-1 victory against CPTSA Wings Sports Club in the preliminary stage of the competition.

Teejay Samuel, Jaheedi Charles, and Khalil Lawrence each scored for Gray's Green, and Roshawn Comrie had the lone conversion for the CPTSA Wings Sports Club.

Allan Henry of Cutting Edge FC won the Golden Boot or Top Goal Scorer Award with 12 conversions.

Aaric Romain of the Athletic International Academy of Trinidad and Tobago won the Best Goalkeeper Award.

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Southgate announces he will step down as England manager

After eight years, four major tournaments and two finals, Gareth Southgate announced he was stepping down as England manager on Tuesday, saying it was “time for change.”

Sunday’s 2-1 loss to Spain in the European Championship final proved to be his last game in charge of the national team.

“As a proud Englishman, it has been the honor of my life to play for England and to manage England. It has meant everything to me, and I have given it my all,” he said. “But it’s time for change, and for a new chapter.”

Southgate’s contract was due to expire this year and his announcement comes after months of uncertainty surrounding his future.

Mikel Oyarzabal’s 86th-minute winner in Berlin was a painful way to end his reign after he transformed the fortunes of England’s underperforming national team.

Hired in 2016, he led England to back-to-back finals at the Euros and to the semifinals of the World Cup in 2018.

But, ultimately, he was unable to end the nation’s decades-long wait for a first major trophy since the World Cup in 1966.

“Gareth, I want to thank you - not as the President of the FA, but as an England fan,” Prince William said on



England’s manager Gareth Southgate walks past the trophy at the end of the final match between Spain and England at the Euro 2024 soccer tournament in Berlin, Germany, Sunday, July 14, 2024. Spain won 2-1. Gareth Southgate announces he will step down as England manager (AP)

X.

“Thank you for creating a team that stands shoulder to shoulder with the world’s finest in 2024. Thank you for showing humility, compassion, and true leadership under the most intense pressure and scrutiny. And thank you for being an all-round class act. You should be incredibly proud of what you’ve achieved.”

Southgate said before the European Championship that it would likely be his last tournament if England did not win.

During it, he faced fierce criticism for the team’s early performances and some fans threw plastic beer cups in his direction at the end of the 0-0

draw with Slovenia in the group phase.

But he achieved what no other England manager has by leading his team to two finals, including a first on foreign soil.

“Gareth has made the impossible job possible and laid strong foundations for future success. He is held in the highest regard by the players, the backroom team, by everyone at the FA and across the world of football,” said Mark Bullingham, chief executive of the English Football Association.

Before Southgate’s arrival England had won only seven knockout games at tournaments since 1966. The team won nine during his

tenure.

England was also in the top five of FIFA’s rankings for six years under Southgate. Previously its longest run had been seven months.

Southgate was not an obvious choice to take over when hired after Sam Allardyce’s one-match reign came to an end after just 67 days in charge.

He didn’t have a stellar managerial career, with a three-year spell at Middlesbrough his only job in club soccer.

But he was well-respected within the FA for his work with England’s under-21 team and he exceeded all expectations with the senior job.

Sports News



Another round of draws in Under-19 Men's Rising Stars two-day contest

Like the first round, all matches in the second round of the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Under-19 Men's Rising Stars two-day competition finished in draws in St. Vincent on Monday.

In a riveting conclusion to their second-round fixture, the Leeward Islands held off a spirited Barbados chase to claim first innings points in their drawn encounter at the Arnos Vale Ground in Kingstown.

The final day began with Leewards on 17 for two in their second innings, holding a slender 26-run lead, which they sought to extend.

After early setbacks reduced them to 49 for five, T'yanick Honore and Michael Palmer turned the tide with an explosive 83-run partnership. Palmer's aggressive 64 ended prematurely due to alleged heat-induced cramps.

Honore then found an able partner in 15-year-old Matthew Miller (22), as they added 69 runs for the seventh wicket.

Honore's pyrotechnics - 81 off 71 balls with seven sixes - propelled Leewards to 222 for nine declared, setting Barbados a challenging 232 to win in 40 overs.

Nathan Sealy with four for 30 and Raneico Smith with three for 48 were the pick of Barbados bowlers.



Antiguan leg-spinner Micah McKenzie, left, and Michael Palmer shared 12 wickets against Barbados to help Leewards secure first innings points. (LICB)

Barbados' reply was a rollercoaster. Kyle Jordan's blistering 61 got them off to a flying start, particularly targeting Michael Palmer. However, Leewards' tactical bowling, including wide lines and packed outfields, slowed the scoring rate.

Achilles Browne (14) and Jordan fell at 82, but Jotario Prescod (31 not out) and Joshua Morris (48 not out) kept Barbados in the hunt with an unbroken 74-run stand.

At stumps, Barbados reached 203 for four, falling short of the target but showcasing commendable resilience. Leg-spinner Micah McKenzie captured two for 61 to finish with

impressive match figures of eight for 81.

In the Barbados first innings of 81 all out in 25.1 overs, Michael Palmer's fast bowling decimating Bajans' top order, leaving them reeling at 21 for three. A brief recovery saw Barbados reach 64 for four before McKenzie's game-changing spell.

After an initial three-over spell costing 15 runs, McKenzie switched ends and unleashed a devastating five-over spell, claiming six wickets for just five runs, including three maidens to finish with six for 20. Palmer supported well, finishing with four for 38.

Earlier, the Leewards were dismissed in their first

innings for 90 in 42.4 overs as their batting struggled against Barbados' disciplined bowling.

Jatario Prescod, who took three for 23, excelled with early breakthroughs, while first-class player Zishan Motara (three for 20) stole the show with a remarkable hat-trick, dismissing West Indies U19 players Jewel Andrew and Nathan Edward, followed by Carlton Pluck. Captain Nathan Sealy matched Motara's figures, taking 3 for 20.

In the other matches, the Windward Islands and Guyana played to a draw at Sion Hill playing field. Scores: Windward Islands 172 and 25 for three, Guyana 142 and 111.

Trinidad and Tobago played to a draw with Jamaica at the Park Hill playing field. Trinidad and Tobago made 250 for nine declared and Jamaica made 169 for nine declared and 97 for two.

The third and final round of two-day matches will commence on Wednesday (today).

The Leeward Islands will face defending champions Jamaica at the Cumberland playing field.

The Windward Islands will face Trinidad and Tobago at the Park Hill playing field, and Guyana will clash with Barbados at Arnos Vale.

Eight teams advance to next stage in U-17 Youth Premier League

The eight teams to contest the second phase of the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Under-17 Youth Premier League were decided after the final round of matches in the preliminary stage on Monday.

They are Cutting Edge FC, Aston Villa Lions, the Liberta Blackhawks, CPTSA Wings Sports Club, SAP FC, Old Road FC, Five Islands FC, and Empire FC.

The teams advanced to the second phase after being among the top eight finishers at the end of the 10-team round-robin preliminary stage.

Cutting Edge FC finished at the top of the round-robin competition, retaining their status as the only unbeaten team in the contest after claiming a 3-0 victory by default against the Antigua Barracuda during the ninth and final round of matches in the preliminary stage at the ABFA Technical Center.

Cutting Edge FC advanced to 27 points after notching up their ninth win in as many games.

The Antigua Barracuda finished second from the bottom of the standings and joined the Young Warriors, which finished in the cellar, as the two teams that were eliminated from advancing to the second stage of the



competition.

The Young Warriors lost 3-0 after defaulting to the Liberta Blackhawks in their final outing.

Aston Villa Lions also won 3-0 by default against Empire FC to remain in second place, advancing to 24 points after claiming their eighth win in nine matches.

In the other final round matches in the preliminary stage, Old Road FC romped to a 6-0 drubbing of SAP FC, and Five Islands FC prevailed 6-5 on penalties against the CPTSA Wings

Sports Club.

The eight qualifiers and their accumulated points will go into two groups in the second phase of the competition. Matches in the second phase will be contested on Friday, July 19; Sunday, July 21; and Tuesday, July 23.

Meanwhile, five matches were played during the 11th round of the preliminary stage of the ABFA's Cool and Smooth Under-19 Youth Premier League at the ABFA Technical Center.

Soccer Academy snatched a 3-1 victory against Willikies FC, and All Saints United FC also prevailed 3-1 against Greenbay Hoppers FC.

Urlings FC romped to a 3-0 victory against Jennings United FC, and Green City FC prevailed 3-1 against Golden Grove FC.

Sea View Farm FC won 3-0 by default against TAMO FC, which failed to show up for their encounter. But the match between Aston Villa Lions and Ottos Rangers FC was postponed.

cont'd from pg 26

together longer partnerships. There were moments in the game where we showed grit, but we need to be consistent. Our bowlers did well to restrict England, and now it's up to our batters to build on that."

The coach also highlighted the importance of mental and emotional resilience.

"Test cricket is challenging, especially away from home. Our play-

ers need to be mentally and emotionally prepared. We have it within our ranks to compete with England, and we need to believe in our abilities."

Coley is confident his team can rise to the occasion.

"We know the conditions will be testing, but we have the talent and the spirit to compete. Our players are in good spirits, and we're ready to take on the challenge at Trent Bridge."

Coley calls for grit ahead of second Test

The West Indies coach Andre Coley has challenged his team to draw upon their resilience from earlier this year as they gear up for the second Test against England, starting on Thursday.

Following a heavy defeat by an innings at Lord's, Coley is urging his players to channel the fighting spirit they displayed in Australia, where they turned their series around with a remarkable victory.

In January, the West Indies suffered a crushing

10-wicket defeat in the first Test at Adelaide Oval. However, they bounced back dramatically in the second Test at the Gabba, thanks to Shamar Joseph's sensational seven-wicket haul in the second innings.

As they prepare for the second Test at Trent Bridge, Coley is confident his team can draw inspiration from that experience and set the stage for a thrilling decider at Edgbaston.

Reflecting on the Gabba Test, Coley said, "The way we bounced back was



Andre Coley

powerful. It shows that even if you start poorly, you can compose yourself and come back strong in a

series. That's the mindset we need to carry into this second Test."

Despite the defeat at Lord's, Coley believes his team has learned valuable lessons.

"We've had time to acclimatize and get time in the middle. Yes, the result at Lord's wasn't what we wanted, but there's a lot to learn from it. This is a young, emerging side, and we're positive about our approach to the second Test."

Coley emphasized the importance of intensity and longer partnerships from his batters.

"We need to show more intensity in the field and put

cont'd on pg 25



Players of the West Indies look dejected during the first cricket Test against England at Lord's in London on Thursday, July 11, 2024.