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MONDAY 1ST JULY 2024

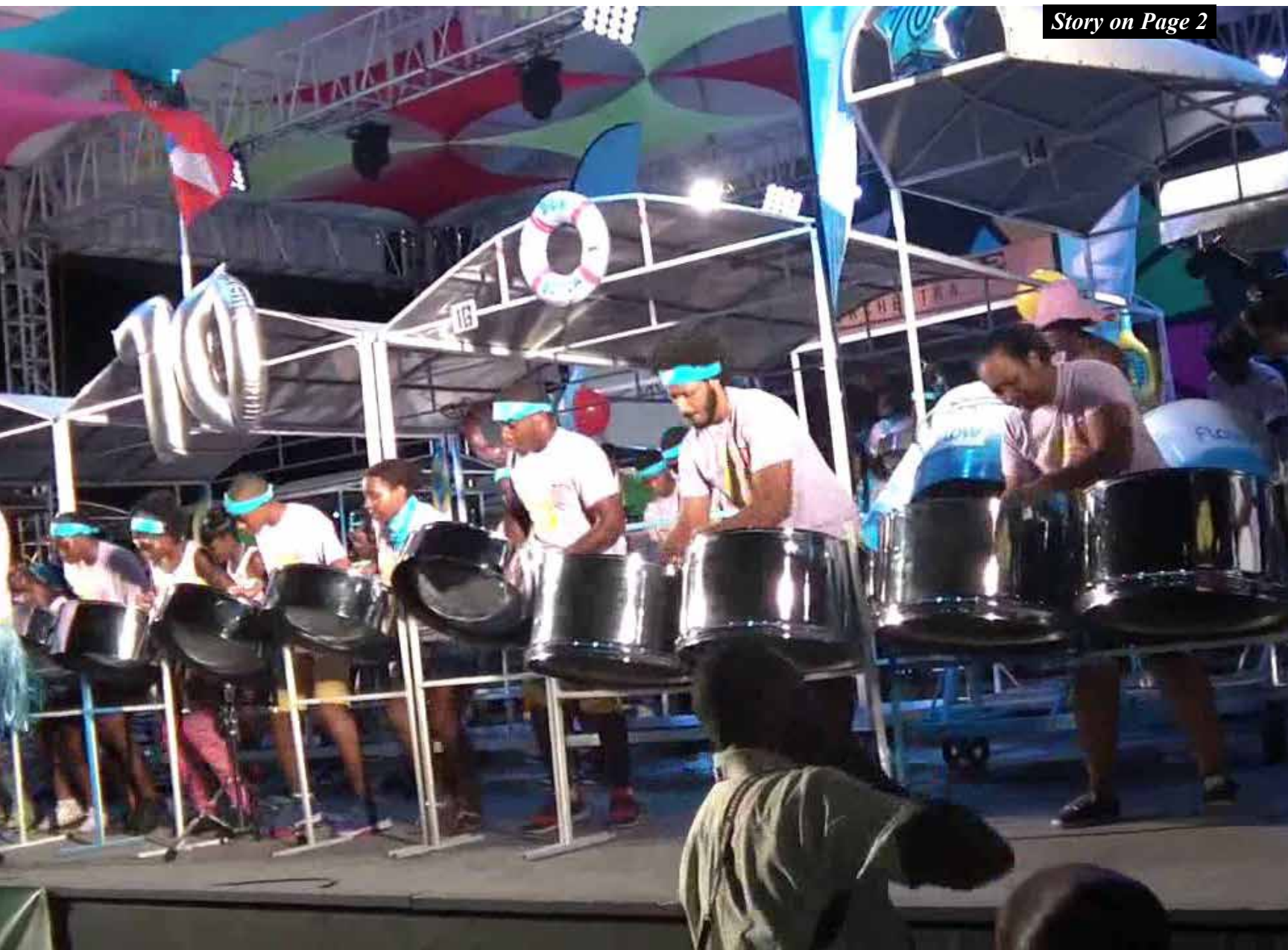
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AGREEMENT REACHED!!!

Panorama competition back on

Story on Page 2



Agreement reached!

A late Sunday afternoon meeting between the Festivals Commission and the Antigua and Barbuda Steelband Association has hammered out an agreement clearing the way for the staging of a Panorama Competition on August 3rd, 2024.

Both sides have agreed in principle for the new arrangements which requires that the association also signs a three-year agreement with the Festivals Commission for an accumulative total of \$1 million dollars to be spread over the three years.

The arrangement also compels the association to sign the agreement by Monday July 1, 2024, at 11:00 am in order for the Festivals Commission to proceed to

plan the other aspects of the competition, including the signing ceremony with the title sponsor, State Insurance Company.

All eyes are now focused back on the Steelband Association which was represented by President Patrick Stone Johnson and the captains of the participating steelbands.

On the Festivals side, the meeting was chaired by Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew and included Minister of State, Sen. Shenella Govia, Chairperson of the Commission, Ambassador Elizabeth 'Lisa' Makhoul, Deputy chairman, Michael Freeland and Director of Festivals, Petley O'Keiffe.

Prior to the meeting there was general consensus

among patrons that the Panorama Competition between the country's top steelbands would not be a feature of the 2024 Carnival Programme Lineup.

This was because the National Festivals Commission and the Antigua and Barbuda Steelbands Association had previously failed to reach an agreement paving the way for the involvement of steelbands in the Carnival festivities.

Despite extending deadlines for the association to sign an agreement so that the Panorama Competition could proceed, the association remained intransigent declining to compromise in any manner.

The Festivals Commission had made an offer of \$300-thousand for the steelbands to participate in Panorama and two other carnival activities, the same amount they the bands were paid last year. The association countered by asking for \$400-thousand.

When the matter reached the Cabinet, it was agreed to offer a 10 percent increase on last year's figure making it \$330-thousand. In addition, the Commission offered the association 3,500 tickets for the Panorama and asked that the tickets be distributed among the bands for sale and that the proceeds would go directly to the association. Each ticket costs \$40.00.

The first deadline was set for Thursday at the end

of the business day (around 4:30 pm). When this passed, the time was then extended to 9:30 pm with word that there was going to be a communication from the association. However, when 10:00 pm Thursday passed, the Prime Minister Gaston Browne, intervened and asked that the deadline be extended to Friday at midday. But that too passed. Friday morning, the association released a statement, reiterating the points that were already in the public domain but did not indicate whether or not it was prepared to accept the latest offer.

Friday's deadline was again extended; this time to Saturday at midday.

That later deadline would pass with no words from the association and it was at this point that the Commission decided to announce that it would move on as the association appeared not to be interested in having a Panorama Competition nor to be involved in any way with Carnival 2024.

The last-minute push on Sunday to salvage the Panorama comes with no real changes in the offer of the Festivals Commission; the exception being the demand that the association signs a three-year contract ensuring that the annual 'battle of wits' between the Commission and the association will not happen until after the next three years.



Raped and murdered?

As the investigation intensifies into the death of 16-year-old Yenifer Bridge, whose body was found in the vicinity of Fig Tree Hill Drive on Friday morning, the police say they are treating the matter as a possible rape and murder.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne Show on Saturday, Head of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Assistant Commission of Police, Clifton Cabral, said the police are awaiting the report from the pathologist to determine the cause of death, but the initial investigation indicates that she met a violent death.

Additionally, the CID head said there is also evidence that the young woman may have been sexually assaulted prior to her death. Photos of the body showed that the pair of shorts she was wearing were not properly buttoned as though they were removed



Yenifer Bridge at some point.

“There were no physical marks on the body to indicate that she was struck by a blunt object, weapon or knife. However, we have our belief that we know what was the cause of death but we are awaiting word from

the autopsy before making our suspicions public,” Assistant Commissioner Cabral stated.

The police are pursuing the investigation as a possible abduction that ended with the 16-year-old being sexually assaulted and her life being taken. All this information will be revealed by the evidence provided by the autopsy, he noted.

The 16-year-old was the mother of a two-year-old boy, who was found wondering on Jonas Road the night before the body was discovered. Law enforcement officers are making arrangements for the care of the child.

Cabral said samples from the crime scene are to be sent overseas for testing as the investigation proceeds.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General and National Security Minister, Sir Steadroy Benjamin, has added his

cont'd on pg 4

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Police want multi-agency approach to fight 'fraternal twins' of guns and drugs

The police are making a clarion call for a multi-agency approach to effectively combat with what they have described as the 'fraternal twins' of criminal activity, guns and ammunition and illegal drugs.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, Superintendent Lisbon Michael reported that there has been an increase in criminal activities over the past two and a half years, with most of reported crimes being breakings and larcenies.

He said criminal activities are being fueled by what he termed the 'fraternal twins' of access to guns and ammunition and drugs such as cocaine.

"We don't manufacture guns in Antigua and Barbuda, nor do we manufacture drugs such as cocaine

in this country. We are in the midst of transnational crime where guns and ammunition are manufactured in North America and drugs are manufactured in South America.

"We must have a multi-agency approach locally, regionally and internationally to deal with this problem," he stated.

He acknowledged that there is already international and regional cooperation to fight crime, but he is calling for this to be strengthened in light of increasing crime throughout the region, seen as the transshipment point for drugs heading north and guns heading south.

"We don't want guns or drugs to get within our communities because of the problems that they present. We have noticed that most of the criminal



activities are being carried out by young men, some as early as twelve years old and not more than 25 years old in many cases," he revealed.

Supt. Michael also provided insights into a current problem facing society regarding the re-entry of these young men who run afoul of the law and are asked to serve prison time.

He said there is a paucity of programmes to have these individuals properly

re-integrated into society.

"When they complete their prison terms, there are no transformational programmes to upskill them with what they need to be effective members of the society. We know the police are often criticized for this, but we have a Youth Intervention Unit which has this matter as one of its goals.

The other is to reach out to young people before they become criminals and to help steer them into a more productive and useful path in life," he declared.

He said the ministries of education and social transformation have been assisting the police with these programmes.

The senior police officer noted that the statistics revealed that there are many repeat offenders and that there are special months when criminal activities increase; around the Christmas holidays, Easter and at Carnival time.

cont'd from pg 3

voice to the national outrage over the death of the 16-year-old victim in a statement issued Friday.

"We understand the fear and outrage that such a crime evokes. Therefore, I am committed to ensuring that no stone will be left unturned in our pursuit of justice. Our law enforcement agencies are employing every available resource and expertise to identify, apprehend, and prosecute the individual or individuals responsible for this heinous act. The diligence, determination, and resolve of our dedicated officers and investigators are unwavering, and they will work tirelessly until justice is served.

"In moments like these, it is crucial

that we come together as a community. We must support one another, remain vigilant, and provide any information that may aid in the investigation. If you have any knowledge or have witnessed any suspicious activities related to this case, I urge you to come forward. Your cooperation is invaluable and can significantly aid in bringing the perpetrator to justice.

"We are also reviewing and reinforcing our security measures to prevent such tragedies in the future. This incident serves as a stark reminder of the ongoing challenges we face in ensuring public safety, and it strengthens our resolve to implement more robust and effective crime prevention strategies," the statement added.

Two-day restorative justice training set for this week

A two-day training in restorative justice, criminal mediation, and juvenile justice for fifty (50) attendees, particularly those that deal with children, is slated to take place this week.

Chair of the Child Justice Board Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel announced that the sessions take place on Wednesday and Thursday at the Trade Winds Hotel. This training is being offered to police officers, probation officers, family court staff, prisons officers and attorneys at law.

The training is being funded under a European Union project dubbed the Partnership of the Caribbean and the European Union on Justice (PACE Justice).

This follows a 2020 UNDP Judicial Needs Assessment of 9 Caribbean Countries which revealed that efficient access to justice is being undermined across the region by delays within several key stages of the criminal justice process, resulting in major backlogs of cases.

The report said the identified backlogs are occasioned by pervasive human and technological resource and capacity constraints, which contributes to massive bottlenecks in the work of the justice sector. These backlogs directly contribute to the worryingly high levels of prisoners on remand for extended periods and serve to increase overall incarceration rates in the region – which are already among the highest globally.

The PACE Justice project's ultimate objective is to enhance the institutional capacities of prosecutors, courts, police, and prisons in the Caribbean to manage criminal cases effectively and efficiently. To achieve this objective, UNDP and partners will develop interventions along

three well-defined, but strongly connected dimensions, including:

- The deployment of enabling technology and systems training to improve efficiency of criminal justice administration;

- The empowerment of stakeholders through gender-aware capacity building across all elements of the administration of justice, with a focus on service design and delivery;

- Strengthening national and regional processes and procedures for improved efficiency and accountability within the justice sector

Adopting a Cross Sectoral Approach, justice system reform requires coordination and collaboration among the various agencies and institutions in order to mitigate the

effect of the potentially conflicting approaches to the causes of the backlog.

Aligning or federating information management systems across each stage of the process—police to prosecutors, defence counsel to courts, prisons, through data exchange and integration allows for a systematic approach. With the adoption of a system-wide approach, the line between institution, specific outcomes and a system-wide performance is blurred with a greater appreciation for the existing interdependencies.

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, Saint Lucia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Trinidad and Tobago are beneficiaries of the project.



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Hosting OAS General Assembly reflects A&B's growing international stature

The decision by the Organisation of American States (OAS) to accept Antigua and Barbuda's bid to host its 55th General Assembly in June, 2025, is a reflection of Antigua and Barbuda's growing stature in international circles.

That's the view of Prime Minister Gaston Browne commenting on the decision last Friday where the Antigua and Barbuda bid was accepted by acclamation at the closing exercises of the OAS 54th General Assembly held in Asuncion, Paraguay.

"Following on a successful SIDS conference, it's a testament to the value and esteem in which our country is held internationally.

"Our Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ron Sanders has been and continues to be a very influential and respected and consistent contributor to the work of the OAS. Our people should be proud of the contribution and significant impact of Antigua and Barbuda on regional, hemispher-

ic and international affairs," PM Browne stated in a late-night post.

Colombia also made a bid to host the General Assembly but withdrew its offer, paving the way for the acceptance of the Antigua and Barbuda bid.

This means, that in successive years, Antigua and Barbuda will host a major international conference, following the country's successful hosting of the Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) held from May 27 to 30 this year.

The country now boasts of a conference centre that meets all the requirements for hosting a major international gathering such as the OAS General Assembly.

The American University of Antigua (AUA) where the SIDS4 conference was held has built out an ultra-modern conference centre with its many ancillary facilities that serve as a perfect venue for that conference. It is expected that the OAS 55th Gen-



Ambassador to the OAS, Sir Ron Sanders

eral Assembly will also take place at AUA next year.

In his letter making the offer for the hosting of the conference, Sir Ronald stated;

"On behalf of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the people of Antigua and Barbuda, I am delighted to extend a warm and heartfelt invitation to host the 55th Regular Session of the General Assembly of the Organization of American States in the allure of our islands in June next year.

"Our deep regard for the OAS is rooted in our commitment to its principles of freedom, equity, and justice.

"These values guide our collective efforts, from combating organized crime and advancing women's rights to protecting the most vulnerable in our communities and safeguarding the integrity of our democratic processes

"It has been 22 years since the OAS General Assembly graced the Caribbean, and we believe it is time to bring this gathering back to our region, to a place where the warmth

of our community reflects the spirit of our cooperation.

"Our recent success, hosting the 4th UN Conference on Small Island Developing States, with over 5,000 delegates, highlights our ability to bring leaders together, in a setting that inspires dialogue and strengthens partnerships.

"We invite you to experience Antigua and Barbuda - not just as a venue, but as a home where the spirit of unity and the joy of collaboration are part of the very air we breathe."

It is expected that a national committee will soon be appointed to begin the serious work of planning for the conference.

Based on the successful engagement of volunteers for the SIDS4 conference, it is also expected that a similar appeal will also be launched to recruit people to serve as volunteers.

As was done for SIDS4, the successful hosting of the OAS 55th General Assembly will also require a national effort.



NOTICE

CARNIVAL VENDORS MEETING:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - THURSDAY 06th June 2024 - St. John's, Antigua.....
Carnival-Is-Calling ALL VENDORS and BOOTH OPERATORS who wish to conduct business during the 2024 Carnival celebrations at Carnival City, Las Vegas, and Independence Avenue. There will be an important meeting on Thursday, July 4, at the Multipurpose Cultural Centre in Perry Bay, starting at 5:00 p.m. It is crucial for vendors and booth operators to arrive on time, as the meeting will begin promptly at 5:00 p.m.

- END -



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SPA

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority invites eligible proponents to submit Request For Proposals (RFP) for Concession opportunities at the New V.C. Bird International Airport Terminal.

RFPs for the following can be collected at the address below as of Monday 1st July 2024 with a payment of fifty (\$50.00) US dollars non-refundable fee. Payment shall be cash, bank draft, or wire transfer.

Departure Lounge Spa:

- Airport Spa (1 unit)

RFPs must be deposited in the RFP box at the address below.

Closing Date for RFP: Friday 30th September, 2024

**Finance & Accounting Department
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority
V.C. Bird International Airport
Coolidge
St. George's
Antigua and Barbuda**

Local News



Dean Evanson appointed to OAS Audit Committee

There's more good news for Antigua and Barbuda coming out of the just-concluded Organisation of American States (OAS) 54th General Assembly in Paraguay with the Director of Audit, Dean Evanson elected to serve for a second term on the OAS Audit Committee.

Evanson is currently a member of the Audit Committee, whose tenure in office expires in December this year. However, on Friday, Evanson was elected to a second three-year term to run until 2027.

He describes role of the audit committee as supporting Permanent Council in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to financial reporting, internal control structure, risk management systems, internal and external audit functions and ethical accountability.

Evanson said he was thrilled to have been elected to serve another term as the work of the committee is critical to the smooth operations of the OAS.



Dean Evanson

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Press statement from Ministry of Foreign Affairs on US/Cuba standing

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda remains deeply concerned that the Republic of Cuba remains on the US State Department’s list of countries that have been deemed to be state sponsors of terrorism.

The Government further notes that keeping Cuba on the State Sponsors of Terrorism (SSOT) list continues to cause severe hardship and suffering to the Cuban people and calls on the United States Government to immediately re-

move Cuba from that list.

Additionally, Antigua and Barbuda is aware that the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, which took effect in 1960, still remains in place, and continues to have an adverse effect on the economic and social development of Cuba, and particularly, on the Cuban people, in light of crippling challenges, such as rising global inflation, and increases in food and fuel prices,

Since 1992, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has annually voted in favour of resolutions regarding the need to put an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed against Cuba, and notes that the most recent resolution put forward by the UNGA on 2 November 2023, titled the “Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba,”

achieved near-universal consensus, underscoring the international community’s firm opposition to the embargo.

It is against this background that Antigua and Barbuda urges that both the designation as a state sponsor of terrorism and the 62-year-old embargo be terminated as a matter of urgency so that relief can be brought to the harsh conditions under which the Cuban people have had to endure.



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Growing interest in upcoming conference on Artificial Intelligence (AI)

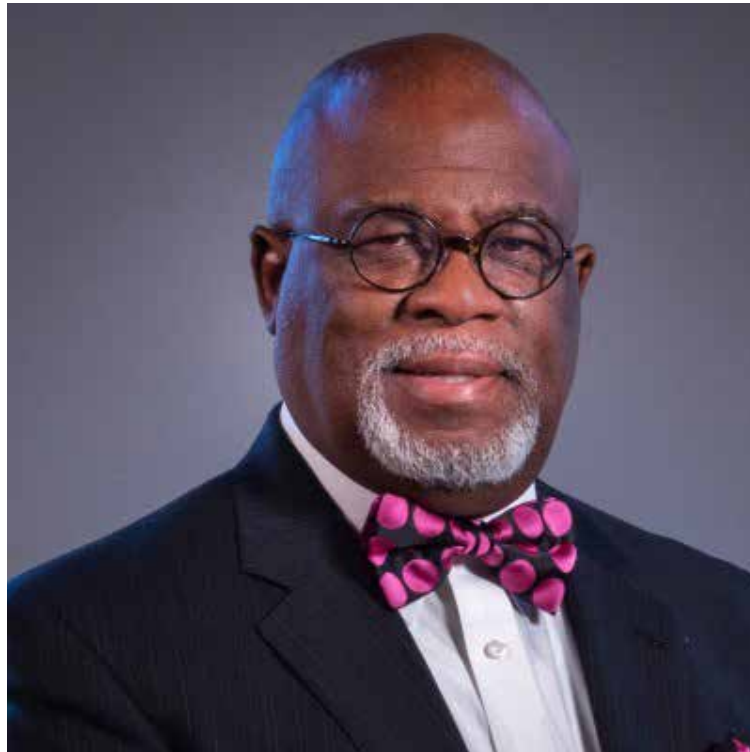
There has been a buzz surrounding Antigua and Barbuda, through the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, hosting the region's first ever major conference on the 5th Industrial Revolution and Regenerative Artificial Intelligence next week.

Conference coordinator, Director of Academic Studies at the UWI FIC, Dr. Curtis Charles said there has been an increase locally in the number of people who have been registering for the July 8-10 conference.

"Its good to see Antigua and Barbuda nationals coming on board with an interest in participating in the conference. The interest from across the globe has been equally high. We have fifty slots remaining and we expect to fill up quickly. There are two ways that one can register; in person at the UWI FIC or online," he stated.

Scholars, academics and technicians who operate in the AI sphere from the Caribbean, the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Africa and even as far as China are slated to participate.

Dr. Charles revealed that with the help of Prime Minister Gaston Browne, he held a meeting with the Resident Chinese Amba-



Director of Academic Studies at the UWI FIC, Dr. Curtis Charles

sador Zhang Yanling, who has arranged for a top Chinese expert in AI to address the conference.

On the first day of the conference, some 45 research papers will be presented and later in the evening the official opening will take place at the Hodges Bay Club where the Vice Chancellor of the UWI, Professor Hilary Beckles will address the function. The Keynote address will come from Prime Minister Browne who will share his vision on AI and the many ways in which the technology can help the country solve problems related to climate change, food security, crime, tourism among others.

On the issue of crime,

Dr. Charles said this is one area of focus at the conference given the impact that this is having on Caribbean communities. There will be a panel discussion on crime with Superintendent Louisa Quashie of the police department being a member of the panel.

The conference coordinator said the conference is timely, as it could be the springboard for the development of a Caribbean data system to track and plot models to determine the impact of climate change on not just the weather but also on every other aspect of society such as health, tourism, crime etc.

In a media release, the UWI underscored the importance of the conference.

"The regional University is bringing together the brightest minds from the region and beyond to delve into the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital transformation opportunities and challenges for the Caribbean.

"Themed 'Reimagining the Digital Transformation of the Caribbean in an Age of Regenerative AI and the Fifth Industrial Revolution', this landmark event takes place at The UWI's Five Islands Campus in Antigua and Barbuda, offering both physical attendance and virtual participation options.

"The Conference aims to explore adoption strategies, risks, and ethical considerations related to AI, specifically within the Caribbean context. Anticipated attendees include AI experts, policymakers, government officials, academics, and business leaders.

"An impressive lineup of 80 international and regional speakers, 40 academic paper presentations and over 20 sessions include UWI academics and subject matter experts, regional business leaders and executives, and global affiliates from Meta, Google, UNESCO GlaxoSmith-Kline, Harvard University, IBM and more," the release stated.

Cyprus President shares Ms Botchwey's Commonwealth vision

The President of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides said on Wednesday that he shared Ghanaian Foreign Minister and candidate for Commonwealth Secretary-General Ghana's Foreign Affairs Minister, Shirley A. Botchwey's, vision for the Commonwealth, according to diplomats.

President Christodoulides made the remarks when he hosted a meeting with Ms. Botchwey, one of Africa's top diplomats, at his office in Nicosia, the Cypriot capital, to discuss bilateral and multilateral issues.

Ms. Botchwey's vision for what she has called "A New Commonwealth" is founded on six-pillars, including stimulating trade and investment among the organization's 56 member-countries who have a total annual GDP of over US\$13 trillion.

Other pillars of Ms. Botchwey's agenda include skills training, innovation and financial support for start-ups to open up job opportunities at home for the youth, to stem the tide of illegal migration. Young people below age 30 comprise 60 percent of the Commonwealth's 2.6 billion population.

The rest are democracy and good governance; climate change; building resilience in Small Island De-



Ghana's Foreign Affairs Minister Botchwey meets with the Cypriot President

veloping States (SIDS) and Small States, and strengthening the London-based Secretariat to serve member-countries better.

Ms. Botchwey, has pledged to magnify and use the collective voice of Commonwealth nations to address the global climate crisis which is having a devastating ecological and socio-economic impact on the planet, and on SIDS and Small States in particular.

In May, at a SIDS Forum in Antigua and Barbuda, she called on international financial institutions and industrialized countries to re-engineer the global financial architecture to protect countries facing a clear existential threat from climate disasters and other external political crises.

The Commonwealth includes 33 Small States, of which 25 are SIDS. The Commonwealth is considered a voice for the most vulnerable states.

Unlike the UN where five permanent members have the power of veto on the Security Council, each member-country of the Commonwealth has an equal vote in decision-making.

"The Commonwealth is a powerful organization, but it needs a different outlook and a new approach to make it even more impactful," Cypriot foreign minister Dr. Constantinos Kombos, told Ms. Botchwey at a separate meeting.

Commonwealth Heads of Government will elect a new Secretary-General

at their next summit when they meet in October in the Pacific Island state of Samoa.

The new leader will replace Baroness Patricia Scotland, a British Dominican, whose final term ends this year.

Ms. Botchwey, a lawyer, has served as Ghana's foreign minister for nearly eight years, and is a member of Ghana's national security council. She was deputy foreign minister nearly 20 years ago, and chaired the Council of Ministers of Ecowas, the west African regional body from 2020 to 2022.

Antigua and Barbuda has already indicated that it will support the Ghanaian Foreign Minister for the Commonwealth post.

Bye, bye Bugsy

By Tony Deyal

Talcum powder, or soapstone, is the softest thing in the world unless my daughter Jasmine sees an animal in trouble, especially if it is being treated badly. That tears it for her. If she has to fight, she will do so and leave the real tears for later.

On June 14, 2018, she needed to buy a birthday gift for her mother and ended up in St James, a district west of Port-of-Spain. Jasmine went into a dingy pet store and found a poor little weeks old rabbit, clinging to life, all skin, bones, ill-health and great pain.

What we learnt after is that particular breed was sold for meat. There are many people who carry around a rabbit's foot for luck, but the rest of the rabbit is not so lucky. Jasmine's rabbit was.

I was also lucky since, as the home's "namesis", I was expected to come up with a good but unusual name for the rabbit. So, I asked myself, "If God is love, what is a rabbit? If with a nick, knack, paddy wack you give a dog a bone, what do you give your rabbit?" Then I asked my daughter, "What about 'Lucky'?"

"After all, you went into the place by accident, so the rabbit was lucky you were here." Then I remembered our first 'Lucky', an Antiguan fledgling who my family found and tried to

save.

I always felt that he was Lucky for a while, but we were luckier still for the opportunity to enjoy him and revel in his voyages of discovery, especially flying on to my balding head, or going around the house on my shoulder.

"What about 'James' instead?" I asked, and then added, "The rabbit is from St James and St James was one of Christ's apostles." My wife said, "James is a man's name." I then suggested "Rabby", the name of our leader in cricket, football, drinking and liming, whose only police records were for wounding.

I insisted that "Rabby" was short for "Rabbit". I got a look from my wife that would have destroyed me like Sodom and Gomorrah. At that point, upset that they were bugging me and knowing that "Bugsy" was the nickname of a US criminal and also means "infested with bugs", and in Kansas, US, "Bugsy" means "Name of a rabbit" while in Jamaica it is "a mischievous or cheeky individual", our first real rabbit became 'Bugsy'.

Fortunately for me, I knew a thing or two about rabbits. For instance, a really clever rabbit is a hare brain; one who keeps looking neat and tidy uses hare spray; and a rabbit with flies is a Bugs Bunny.

Then, over the years



Tony Deyal

with Bugsy, I learnt that love comes in all shapes and sizes, and my wife, Indranie, had fallen in love with long ears and a cotton tail.

She so loved the rabbit and when Bugsy, by then one-eyed, was finally put to sleep last Sunday because of ongoing illness, Indranie cried for days. She admitted, "Yes. I miss her. She was the first one I fed each morning. Bugsy loved company, music, cuddles, and playing with coloured markers by picking them up in her mouth and racing around the room."

Perhaps in those very early days we kept calling and repeating, "Rabbit, rabbit, rabbit" without knowing it was a superstition found in Britain and North America which, if you wake up on the first day of the month and that was the first thing you said, you will have good luck for the rest of it.

We actually did have good luck without ever trying because baby Bugsy would come and allow me to rub her back with my giant feet and sit close to me

and all the others. Indranie remembered last Monday, "She was beautiful and feisty to the end. Bugsy was only six, but she developed health issues. I am still trying to come to grips with her loss. It was so much a habit that I went to her hutch this morning!

"She had been with us in the house as her condition worsened. Even now, I keep finding silky bits of white fur because Bugsy could no longer groom herself. Worse, as she aged, her teeth kept growing out like a sabre-toothed bunny, so she had to be regularly trimmed.

"In fact, two weeks ago we did that, but she continued to decline. All she ate was a bit of her favourite banana, a few mixed greens or fresh kale, some lettuce and pak choy (bok choy) that we bought every week from the farmers' market."

I decided to treat Bugsy's death like a "wake" and instead of playing cards, I tried a few jokes like, "What is a rabbit's favourite
cont'd on pg 13

Bahamas: FBI assisting in case of missing US woman

The Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPF) has sought assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the ongoing search for Taylor Casey, an American woman who went missing here last week.

The authorities said Casey, 41, from Chicago, Illinois, travelled to the Bahamas to attend the Sivananda Ashram Yoga Retreat Centre on Paradise Beach and was last seen on June 19.

Casey's mother, Colette Seymore, told US television network, CBS News, that she last heard from her daughter on June 18.

Employees from the retreat reported her missing last Thursday after she failed to attend some classes and police said they found Casey's cell phone in the ocean near Paradise Island and have questioned several people.

National Security Minister Wayne Munroe confirmed the FBI's involve-

ment in the search for Casey stating that "They (the FBI) have made an extensive survey of the entire area using the drone technology that they have.

"I know they have used technology with regards to the cell phone of the individual. I know that they have interviewed people. I know they have met with a representative of the US government."

Munroe said at this phase of the investigation, the FBI is only providing advice to the Bahamas police and expressed the hope that they will share everything they can to aid in the search for Casey.

"We have engaged the resources of our law enforcement. We have gotten assistance from the law enforcement agency of the individual's own country," Munroe said, dismissing criticism that police are not doing enough to locate Casey.



This photo provided by Emily Williams shows Taylor Casey on July 2, 2022. Casey, 41, was last seen June 19, 2024, at the Sivananda Ashram Yoga Retreat on Paradise Island, Bahamas, according to a news release from her family. (Emily Williams via AP)

cont'd from pg 12

ite type of music? Hip hop!" and "Did you hear about that rabbit that got into a fight? He was hopping mad", and even, "What do you call a rabbit who tells jokes?" The first answer was, "You! You are the joker in the pack." I replied, "No, not me. It is a funny bunny!"

At that point, I gave up and decided to tell the story of St Melangell, the patron saint of Rabbits and Hares whose feast day was a month ago. In Christianity, rabbits represent rebirth and resurrection, particularly during Easter celebrations.

The rabbit's ability to reproduce quickly also sig-

nifies fertility and new life. In Buddhism, rabbits symbolise humility, kindness, and compassion.

"Once upon a time, in the 6th or 7th century, a young Irish princess fled her home after vowing celibacy and refusing her father's command to marry a nobleman of the court. Melangell took refuge in the Kingdom of Powys in Wales. There she lived as a hermit, completely alone in the wilderness. She did not see a man's face for over fifteen years, until one fateful day.

"While she was in deep devotion, a hare ran out from the thicket and hid

under the skirt of her dress. The hare was followed by huntsmen and dogs of the Prince of Powys.

"Despite the efforts of the huntsmen, the dogs stood at a distance howling and unwilling to seize the hare from the praying woman. Melangell refused to give up the hare, even though, by being on the land of the prince it was by rights his property.

"This was a bold move but something about the hare moved her to protect it, and the dogs responded to that.

"The Prince, Brochwel Yscythrog, was so taken by the woman's courage and

beauty, he did not pursue the hare any further. Instead, he declared the land sanctuary to all that fled there. On the spot an abbey was formed for women seeking refuge, where Melangell became abbess for 37 years until her death."

"Melangell was made the Saint of Hares and Rabbits. It is said that if anyone utters "God and St Melangell be with thee" to a hare being pursued by dogs it would escape. To this day, hares are not hunted in the area."

Tony Deyal was last seen consoling himself and his family with "Hare today, gone tomorrow."

Regional News



Beryl strengthens to 'extremely dangerous' Category 4 Hurricane

Hurricane Beryl strengthened into what experts called an “extremely dangerous” Category 4 storm as it approaches the southeast Caribbean, which began shutting down Sunday amid urgent pleas from government officials for people to take shelter.

Hurricane warnings were in effect for Barbados, St Lucia, Grenada, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Beryl’s centre is expected to pass about 70 miles (112 kilometres) south of Barbados on Monday morning, said Sabu Best, director of Barbados’ meteorological service.

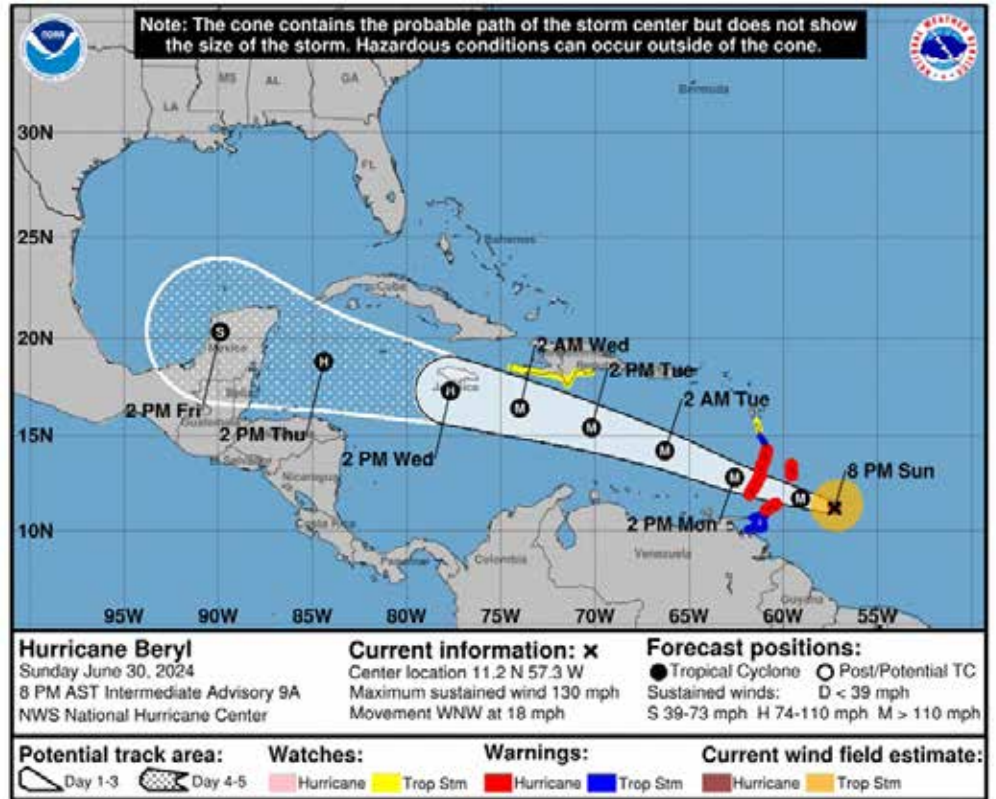
“This is a very serious situation developing for the Windward Islands,” warned the National Hurricane Center in Miami, which said that Beryl was “forecast to bring life-threatening winds and storm surge.”

Beryl was located about 335 miles (570 kilometres) east-southeast of Barbados. It had maximum sustained winds of 130 mph (215 kph) and was moving west at 21 mph (33 kph). It is a compact storm, with hurricane-force winds extending 15 miles (30 kilometres) from its centre.

Beryl is expected to pass just south of Barbados early Monday and then head into the Caribbean Sea as a major hurricane on a path toward Jamaica. It is expected to weaken by midweek, but still remain a hurricane as it heads toward Mexico.

Beryl had strengthened into a Category 3 hurricane on Sunday morning, becoming the first major hurricane east of the Lesser Antilles on record for June, according to Philip Klotzbach, Colorado State University hurricane researcher.

It took Beryl only 42 hours to strengthen from a tropical depression to a major hurricane — a feat accom-



plished only six other times in Atlantic hurricane history, and with Sept. 1 as the earliest date, according to hurricane expert Sam Lillo.

Beryl is now the earliest Category 4 Atlantic hurricane on record, besting Hurricane Dennis, which became a Category 4 storm on July 8, 2005, hurricane specialist and storm surge expert Michael Lowry said.

“Beryl is an extremely dangerous and rare hurricane for this time of year in this area,” he said in a phone interview. “Unusual is an understatement. Beryl is already a historic hurricane and it hasn’t struck yet.”

Hurricane Ivan in 2004 was the last strongest hurricane to hit the southeast Caribbean, causing catastrophic damage in Grenada as a Category 3 storm.

“So this is a serious threat, a very serious threat,” Lowry said of Beryl.

Reecia Marshall, who lives in Grenada, was working a Sunday shift at a local hotel, preparing guests and urging

them to stay away from windows as she stored enough food and water for everyone.

She said she was a child when Hurricane Ivan struck, and that she doesn’t fear Beryl.

“I know it’s part of nature. I’m OK with it,” she said. “We just have to live with it.”

Forecasters warned of a life-threatening storm surge of up to 9 feet (3 meters) in areas where Beryl will make landfall, with up to 6 inches (15 centimetres) of rain for Barbados and nearby islands.

Long lines formed at gas stations and grocery stores in Barbados and other islands as people rushed to prepare for a storm that has broken records and rapidly intensified from a tropical storm with 35 mph (56 kph) winds on Friday to a Category 1 hurricane on Saturday.

Warm waters were fueling Beryl, with ocean heat content in the deep At-

cont’d on pg 15



In Barbados people have been boarding up their homes ahead of Hurricane Beryl's arrival

cont'd from pg 14

Atlantic the highest on record for this time of year, according to Brian McNoldy, University of Miami tropical meteorology researcher. Lowry said the waters are now warmer than they would be at the peak of the hurricane season in September.

Beryl marks the farthest east that a hurricane has formed in the tropical Atlantic in June, breaking a record set in 1933, according to Klotzbach.

"Please take this very seriously and prepare yourselves," said Ralph Gonsalves, the prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines. "This is a terrible hurricane."

Thousands of people were in Barbados for Saturday's Twenty20 World Cup final, cricket's biggest event, with Prime Minister Mia Mottley noting that not all fans were able to leave Sunday despite many rushing to change their flights.

"Some of them have never gone through a storm before," she said. "We have plans to take care of them."

Mottley said that all businesses should close by Sunday evening and warned the airport would close by nighttime.

Kemar Saffrey, president of a Barbadian group that aims to end homelessness, said in a video posted on social media Saturday night that those without homes tend to think they can ride out storms because they've done it before.

"I don't want that to be the approach that they take," he said, warning that Beryl is a dangerous storm and urging Barbadians to direct homeless people to a shelter.

Echoing his comments was Wilfred Abrahams, minister of home affairs and information.

"I need Barbadians at this point to be their brother's keeper," he said. "Some people are vulnerable."

Meanwhile, St Lucia Prime Minister Philip J Pierre announced a national shutdown for Sunday evening and said that schools and businesses would remain closed on Monday.

"Preservation and protection of life is a priority," he said.

Caribbean leaders were preparing not only for Beryl, but for a cluster of thunderstorms trailing the hurricane that have a 70% chance of becoming a tropical depression.

"Do not let your guard down," Mottley said.

Beryl is the second named storm in what is forecast to be an above-average hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30 in the Atlantic. Earlier this month, Tropical Storm Alberto came ashore in northeastern Mexico with heavy rains that resulted in four deaths.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts the 2024 hurricane season is likely to be well above average, with between 17 and 25 named storms. The forecast calls for as many as 13 hurricanes and four major hurricanes. An average Atlantic hurricane season produces 14 named storms, seven of them hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

One dead after armed gunmen storm French wedding

By Lipika Pelham

A man in his 30s has been killed and several others wounded in a shooting at a Turkish wedding in north-east France, police have said.

French media report that three armed, hooded men arrived at the reception venue in Thionville late on Saturday night before opening fire on guests.

Quoting police sources, Le Figaro newspaper says the attackers came at 01:15am local time to “settle scores between well-known gangs in Moselle”.

A pregnant woman was among the wounded, police said, and three of the injured are reportedly in a critical condition at the Bel-Air hospital nearby.

Around 100 people were celebrating at Eden Palace when the gunmen arrived at the event in a 4x4 car, according to French media, in the region of Lorraine near the borders of Germany and Luxembourg.



A group of armed and hooded men stormed the reception venue in Thionville

“At a quarter past one in the morning, a group of people went outside to smoke in front of the hall, and then three heavily-armed men opened fire in their direction,” a police source was quoted by AFP.

The men reportedly used automatic weapons and shotguns.

In a statement, prosecutor Nancy Francois Capin-Dulhoste said the men had fired “several dozen

times”, adding four people had been hit by the bullets. The victims are said to be between 25 and 50 years old.

When the emergency services arrived, the attackers had already fled the scene.

Local newspaper Le Républicain Lorrain reports that police are investigating whether the vehicle came from Germany or Luxembourg - about 15km

(9.3 miles) away.

The border region of Lorraine has often seen violent incidents linked to drug trafficking.

According to Le Parisien, the dead and the injured are known to the authorities for drug-related cases.

In May 2023, in the neighbouring town of Villerupt, a shooting between rival gangs left five people injured.

Boy, 13, shot dead by New York police had replica gun, authorities say

By Megan Fisher

Police in New York state have shot dead a 13-year-old boy after he ran from police while holding a replica handgun, authorities said.

Officers stopped Nyah Mway and another 13-year-old on Friday night as the pair matched descriptions of suspects wanted for recent robberies in

Utica, police said.

As the officers questioned the boys, Nyah Mway fled on foot and a chase ensued. Utica Police Chief Mark Williams said police spotted what “appeared to be a handgun”.

One officer then wrestled the boy to the floor. “During a ground struggle”, another officer fired a single shot

that hit the teenager in the chest, the police chief said.

He was given first aid at the scene but later died at Wynn Hospital.

Police released several minutes of body camera footage on Saturday night, from all the officers’ cameras.

It came shortly after outraged

cont’d on pg 17

England confirm squad for Test series against West Indies

England have confirmed their squad for the first two Tests of the three-match series against the West Indies.

James Anderson will bring the curtain down on his stellar career after the first Test at Lord's, which starts on July 10.

Anderson has taken 700 Test wickets, the most of any fast bowler in the history of the format.

But with the 41-year-old bowing out, England captain Ben Stokes and coach Brendon McCullum also have an eye on the future of their bowling attack.

Fast bowler Dillon Pennington and wicketkeeper Jamie Smith have earned



England's fast bowler James Anderson

their maiden call-ups, while Gus Atkinson could be in store for his first cap, after he was included in the squad that toured India earlier this year but did not feature.

Chris Woakes, meanwhile, returns to the fold for the first time in a Test squad since last year's Ashes, and Shoaib Bashir has got the nod over Jack Leach.

This squad will cover

the second Test, at Trent Bridge, though a new selection is set to be made before the final match, which will start at Edgbaston on July 26.

Ollie Robinson, Ben Foakes, Jonny Bairstow, Jofra Archer and Mark Wood have been left out, though the latter three have been involved in England's T20 World Cup campaign.

England squad for first two Tests: Ben Stokes (captain), James Anderson, Gus Atkinson, Shoaib Bashir, Harry Brook, Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Dan Lawrence, Dillon Pennington, Ollie Pope, Matthew Potts, Joe Root, Jamie Smith, and Chris Woakes.

cont'd from pg 16

members of the local community heckled the Utica police chief at a press conference, which was attended by the boy's family.

Utica Mayor Michael

Galime called for calm, saying: "We understand the weight of this situation and want to ensure that every single piece of this is understood."

The footage appears to



Police released an image of a replica handgun recovered from the scene.

show the teenager pointing what police say was the replica weapon, while running away. The officers can be heard shouting "gun!" to each other.

The officers believed they had seen a real handgun, police said - but it was later determined to be a replica of a Glock 17 weapon that could only fire pellets or BB's.

The three officers involved were on a patrol of the West Utica area assisting with two recent robbery investigations nearby.

In one of the incidents on 27 June, two men armed with a black firearm forcibly demanded and stole

property from victims. The suspects were described as an Asian male and a dark-skinned male - one traveling by foot and one on a bicycle.

Authorities say they stopped Nyah Mway and the other teenager based on these "identifying factors" at around 22:00 local time.

The officers involved have been named as Patrick Husnay, who fired the fatal shot, Bryce Patterson and Andrew Citriniti. They have been placed on administrative leave.

The shooting is being investigated by both the New York attorney general's office and Utica police.

Young Warriors set to host Antigua Cup tournament in July

Organizers have announced that 16 teams, grouped into four age categories, will compete in the first annual Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament at Buckley's Primary School Playing Field in Buckley's Village from July 7-15.

According to a media release, "The Young Warriors Football Club (YWFC) and its marketing partner, Sports Promotions International (SPI), have combined to plan and execute this exciting competition, which has attracted overseas and Antiguan clubs and teams to compete in Under-10, Under-13, Under-15, and Under-17 age-group categories.

"Initially, clubs were invited from England, Europe, the United States of America (USA), and Canada; however, they have opted to participate in next year's tournament due to pre-ar-

ranged commitments.

"Nevertheless, a coach from a professional England club who competes in League One, the third level (tier) of the English Football Pyramid system, has been invited to coach and scout the players during the tournament."

Organizers say they expect clubs from at least three Caribbean islands to take part in this prestigious tournament, which will assist in the development and exposure of young talent.

President of the Young Warriors Football Club Colin James said, "We are confident that this tournament will be a springboard for the furtherance of the development of football in Antigua and Barbuda and the Caribbean, as well as excite the imagination of young players who will have an opportunity to showcase their football

skills and talents."

There will be four teams per age-group, and they will be playing on a round-robin basis, with the top teams in each group contesting a final. Matches will be played from 2 pm to 6:30 pm on match days.

The Young Warriors Football Club, established in 1990, is dedicated to the development of players in Antigua and Barbuda from ages five to 15 through its academy and also competes in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division domestic league.

Sports Promotions International is an Antigua-based company that organizes, promotes, and markets events globally, with connections to former and present professional players, sports officials, executives, companies, and organizations.



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Boys & Girls Age-Group Competition:
U10, U13, U15, U17

The poster features a soccer field background with a goal on the right. A young girl is on the left and a young boy is on the right. The Young Warriors Football Club logo is in the bottom right corner.



The West Indies Women's team celebrate with their trophies after clinching the T20 International series against host Sri Lanka at the Mahinda Rajapaksha International Cricket Stadium, Hambantota, Sri Lanka, on Friday, June 28, 2024. (CWI Media)

West Indies women clinch T20 series against Sri Lanka

The West Indies Women clinched a six-wicket victory in the third T20 International against Sri Lanka Women, securing a come-from-behind 2-1 series win in Hambantota on Friday.

The top three of Stafanie Taylor, Hayley Matthews, and Shemaine Campbelle were instrumental in this triumphant end to a challenging tour.

Chasing a target of 142, the West Indies reached 142 for four with just one ball to spare, but the margin of victory belies the control they exuded throughout the chase. Campbelle remained unbeaten at the end, scoring a crucial 30-ball 41, guiding the visitors home.

The innings began with Taylor and Matthews putting on a 60-run opening stand in just 48 deliveries. Their partnership set the foundation for the chase, with Matthews then pairing up with Campbelle for a 44-ball 51-run

stand.

Matthews fell for a well-played 49, trapped leg before attempting to swipe one from Kawya Kavindi across the line, leaving West Indies at 111 for two.

With the requirement at roughly a run-a-ball, Campbelle expertly navigated the remainder of the chase. Despite the late wickets of Chedean Nation and Aaliyah Alleyne in the 18th and 19th overs, which added some drama, smart running in the final over ensured there were no further blips, sealing the victory for the West Indies.

Earlier, the West Indies bowlers had put in a commendable performance after opting to field first. They got off to an ideal start by dismissing Vishmi Gunaratne off just the second ball of the innings, as the aggressive 18-year-old top-edged an attempted pull off Chinelle Henry.

Sri Lanka's Chamari Athapaththu and Harshitha Samarawickrama responded well to the early setback with a partnership of 55 off 54 balls.

However, Samarawickrama's dismissal, chipping one back to Afy Fletcher, and Athapaththu's departure, caught excellently in the deep by Shamilia Connell, who made up for an earlier drop, came at crucial moments.

Athapaththu's 38 and Dilhari's 26 off 22 provided some resistance, but their wickets stunted Sri Lanka's momentum.

Some late blows from Ama Kanchana and Nilakshi de Silva pushed Sri Lanka's total to a competitive 141 for seven.

However, Player of the Series Matthews and her teammates ensured that the chase was completed with precision, making light work of what could have been a tricky target.

India win T20 World Cup after holding off South Africa

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) — India pulled off a sensational seven-run victory against South Africa in a gripping final to win the ICC Men's Twenty20 World Cup at the Kensington Oval in Barbados on Saturday.

South Africa, playing its first ever final of an ICC tournament, needed a run-a-ball 30 to win on the back of Heinrich Klaasen's belligerent 52 off 27 balls.

But Jasprit Bumrah, Arshdeep Singh and Hardik Pandya, who shared seven wickets between them, roared back in the death overs to restrict South Africa to 169 for eight off their 20 overs.

Kohli's first half-century of the tournament in what he later revealed was his last T20 international, anchored India to 176 for seven off their 20 overs after captain Rohit Sharma won the toss and elected to bat.

India won their second T20 World Cup but their first world title in 13 years. The frustration had been building. Over the last 12 months, India lost the World Test Championship final and, most grueling, the 50-over World Cup final at home.

But South Africa's heartbreak is on another level. It reached the climax unbeaten — India too — and looked to finally end its World Cup hoodoo.

South Africa sprinted to 147 for four in 15 overs when Klaasen smacked three sixes and a four in left-arm spinner Axar Patel's over, which cost India 24 runs.

But pace ace Bumrah conceded only six runs off his next two overs and, in between, Pandya got the dangerous Klaasen out caught behind.

David Miller couldn't get the strike much despite scoring 21, and left-arm fast bowler Singh conceded just four in the penultimate over. That gave Pandya a cushion of 16 runs to defend off the



India's head coach Rahul Dravid, center, holds the trophy as the management staff and players celebrate after India beat South Africa in the final to win the ICC Men's T20 Championship at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Saturday, June 29, 2024. (AP)

last over.

Off Pandya's first ball, Miller was dismissed when Suryakumar Yadav plucked a brilliant juggling catch on the edge of the long-off boundary and sealed the result.

Earlier, Kohli, who tallied only 75 runs in seven games, made 76 off 59 balls with six fours and two sixes after India was in early trouble at 34 for three inside the first five overs.

Patel absorbed the pressure well after getting promoted at No. 5, hitting four sixes in his brisk 47 off 31 balls, and put India back on track by sharing a 72-run stand with Kohli.

Kohli completed his half-century off 48 balls in the 17th over, then accelerated by smashing big sixes against Kagiso Rabada (one for 36) and Marco Jansen (one for 49). Kohli holed out in the deep in the penultimate over.

Shivam Dube made 27 off 16 balls and fell in Anrich Nortje's (two for 26)

last over as India scored 58 runs in the last five overs.

Kohli got India off to a flier when he hit left-arm fast bowler Jansen for three boundaries in the first over, and captain Sharma struck left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj (two for 23) for two fours off his first two balls.

But Maharaj struck twice in his first over when Sharma was brilliantly snapped up by Klaasen low at square leg, and Rishabh Pant hit off the toe-end of the bat while attempting a reverse sweep and ballooned a simple catch behind the wickets.

Klaasen shone again in the outfield when he caught Yadav at deep fine leg off Rabada's short-pitched ball before Patel and Kohli rebuilt the innings.

Patel was run out off a brilliant direct throw from wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock as he smartly intercepted Kohli's flick and then hit the stumps at the non-striker's end.



Falcons to stage events to garner support ahead of CPL's debut

The newest franchise, the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, will be embarking on a major campaign this week to bring awareness to its participation in the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League's (CPL) from August 29 to October 6.

Public Relations and Operations Manager Vernon Springer said the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will be hosting a major launch event on Friday and will kick off a road show on Saturday.

Springer said Friday's launch at the Antigua Falcons office at 8 pm is geared towards bringing awareness and generating support for the CPL, in which the team will make its debut in the opening match of the six-team tournament against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, on Thursday, August 29 at 7 pm.

"The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will be rolling out their CPL campaign. The Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League will start right here in Antigua on August 29. In the build-up to the Falcons opening game, the Fal-

cons will be rolling out their campaign with a launch party at Landing Strip on Friday, July 5," Springer said.

"At the launch party, we will see Chiki's hi fi prepping up the party. We will also launch some of the Falcons' influencers, ambassadors, and cheerleaders. Some of the Falcons' sponsors will also be on display there.

"Then we will launch the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons song, which will be the big thing at Friday's launch party. The song will be sung by Claudette 'CP' Peters.

"Every CPL team has their own song, so the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons song will be released at the launch party on Friday, July 5.

"There will be lots of prizes to be won, there will be giveaways, and we will also be hearing some video messages from some of the Falcons' players who are overseas, so we want the people to come out and show their support.

"This will be the start of an event that we will call Falcons Friday to encourage people in Antigua and Barbuda and across the world to show their

support for the Falcons by wearing the team's replica jersey or an Antigua and Barbuda shirt every Friday leading up to the team's opening game in this year's CPL.

"Replicas are limited, and those shirts will go on sale starting Monday, July 1, at the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons offices in the Jasmine Court building on Friars Hill Road."

Springer said various communities across Antigua and Barbuda will be targeted during the Falcons' road show, which will commence on Saturday at 11 am.

"On Saturday we will hit the road. The road show will start at our office on Friars Hill Road at 11 am. We will be traveling through the streets of St. John's, and we will be heading east," Springer stated.

From St. John's, we will be aiming to visit about 15 communities across the eastern part of Antigua and Barbuda in our effort to sensitize and create some awareness in the villages. We want everybody in Antigua and Barbuda to take the Falcons team on their back."

Sports

MONDAY 1ST JULY 2024



Pytonz dethrone Stoneville to capture President's Cup title

The second-seeded Pytonz dethroned top-seed and defending champion Stoneville to win their maiden Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Male President's Cup title on Saturday night.

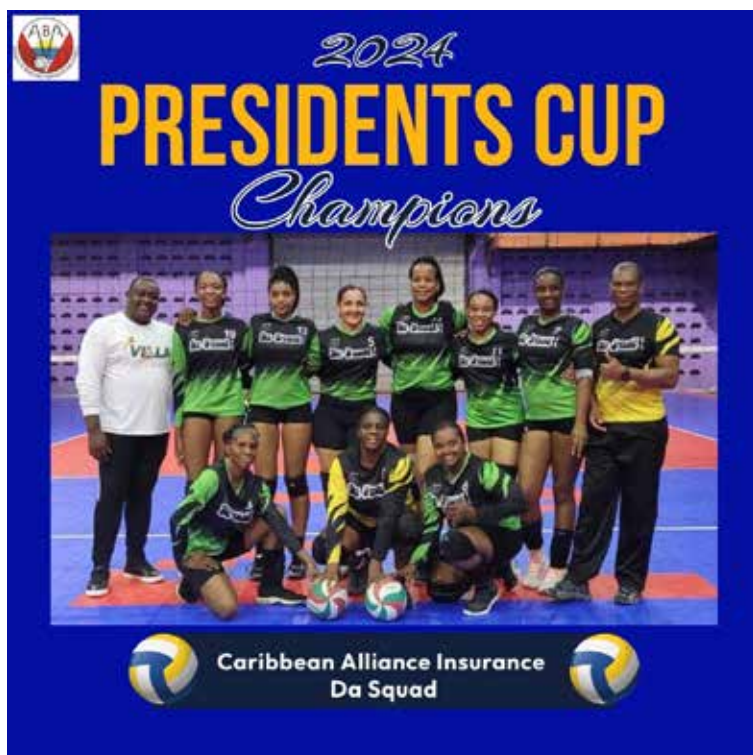
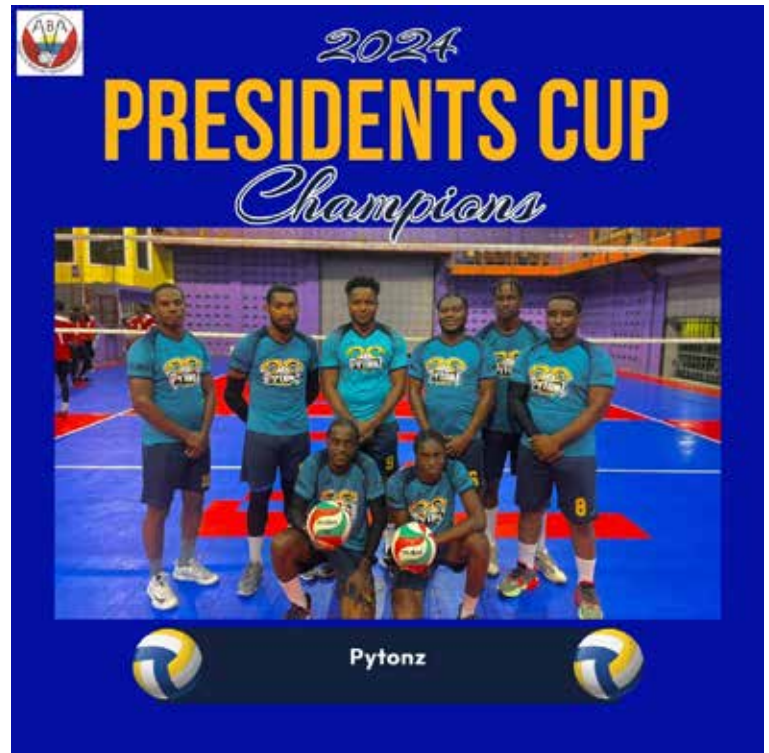
The Pytonz claimed their first title by snatching a 3-1 victory against Local League champion Stoneville in the third and deciding game to win their best-of-three male President's Cup final 2-1 at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Pytonz took two

hours and 14 minutes to oust Stoneville in Game 3, winning the keenly contested affair 22-25, 25-15, 25-23, and 25-17 before a packed stadium at the YMCA.

After winning last year's inaugural men's President Cup championship, Stoneville failed in their bid to close out their best-of-three finals against the Pytonz and retain their title on Thursday night.

Stoneville, which captured the men's Division 1 league title for the seventh time on June 23, was forced to play a third and decisive Game 3 after the Pytonz



prevailed 3-0 in the second encounter to level the three-match finals at 1-1.

After losing Game 1 by a 3-1 scoreline, the Pytonz hit back to win Game 2 in an hour and 29 minutes by prevailing 25-23, 25-21, and 25-22. However, top-seed Caribbean Alliance Insurance (CAI) Da Squad played unbeaten throughout the competition to retain the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) President's Cup women's title.

Da Squad, who also claimed their third successive Female Division 1 ti-

tle in the ABAVA's Local League on June 23, completed the double by beating second-seed Paragons 3-0 in Game 2 to wrap up their best-of-three President's Cup finals 2-0 at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Thursday night.

Da Squad, which won Game 1 by a 3-0 scoreline as well, took an hour and 15 minutes to beat the Paragons 25-19, 25-22, and 25-11 in Game 2 to capture their second successive President's Cup title after winning last year's inaugural championship.