

YOUTH RESIGNATIONS HIT UNITED PROGRESSIVE PARTY

Story on Page 2



Children of Antigua and Barbuda turned out in their numbers to participate in Children's Carnival in St. John's yesterday.

More fallout in UPP camp

The main opposition United Progressive Party continues to spiral out of control with new resignations submitted recently by four youth members.

According to reports, youth arm advisor, Guishone Powell, tendered his resignation as advisor, while his wife, Lexianne Powell vacated the position of youth arm chairman.

There were also resignations from Chelsea Agard (vice-chairman) and Sherry-Ann Cornelius, secretary.

It is alleged that in their resignation letter, the quartet expressed feelings of being unwanted, having no room to grow in the party and disrespect.

One youth member highlighted the hurtful experience of the UPP chairman abstaining from voting for her to become a member of the party, despite her sacrifices for the UPP.

The youth members also chronicled the action that was taken against them for congratulating former UPP member and MP, Anthony Smith, in his new role as Minister of Agriculture, Lands, Fisheries and the Blue Economy, stating they were deleted from all UPP chat groups.

They argue that expressing support for someone outside of the party should not result in such severe actions being taken



against them.

Despite their disappointments, which have resulted in their departures, the former executives of the party's youth arm expressed gratitude for their time with the UPP and have extended best

wishes to the party in their future endeavours.

The recent resignations of the Powells, Agard and Cornelius, further adds to the chorus of dissatisfaction within the United Progressive Party, directed mainly at its chairperson.

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PM Browne participates remotely in CARICOM Meeting

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is participating remotely in the 47th Regular Meeting of The Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM).

The meeting opened yesterday in the Grenadian capital Saint George's and will end on Tuesday, 30th July, 2024.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and Senior Foreign Service Officer, Kurt Williams, are in attendance at the CARICOM meeting.

In addition to the ongoing recovery efforts in Grenada and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, the meeting's agenda will comprise the agri-food systems agenda which prioritises food and nutrition security; climate change



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and sustainable development; foreign policy; the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME); and engagement with social partners, according to a CARICOM statement.

As CARICOM deepens regional integration through the CSME and other sectoral programmes, attention

will be placed on the operationalisation of the Multilateral Air Services Agreement (MASA) that envisages a single market for air transport services within the Community.

Heads of Government will also review the progress toward the goals for full free movement and the 25 percent reduction in food imports by 2025. A Strategy for Regional Digital Resilience 2025-2030 will also be on the table for discussion.

During last evening's opening ceremony, legendary Guyanese cricketer, Sir Clive Hubert Lloyd, and Jamaican regionalist, Roderick Rainford, former Secretary-General of CARICOM were bestowed with the Order of the Caribbean Community.

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Local News



Destruction of Sagicor fence dominates social media

A debate is raging on social media as to who should be held responsible for the damage caused to part of the perimeter fence of insurance giant Sagicor.

The company was issued a removal order by the Development Control Authority, after it placed barbed wire on Friday at the Factory Road end of its property.

The barbed wire was subsequently removed, but it was what took place during T-Shirt Mas that has sparked outrage in some

quarters.

While some of the bands were in the vicinity of the business place on Saturday, many of their revelers mounted the Factory Road fence gyrating and, in some instances, others were being encouraged by Disc Jockeys to join in.

Mobile phone videos show that at some point as more people hung on to it, the fence broke from the weight and fell.

Many people have expressed their dissatisfaction that such callous behaviour

was allowed to take place. They criticised those who participated for their disrespect and complete disregard of Sagicor's property.

The argument on social media is that while it may be difficult to individually identify those who were involved in the vandalism, their T-shirts should be enough to connect them to T-shirt mas troupes and those band(s) should be made to compensate Sagicor for the damage that was done to its fence.

There has been no re-



sponse from the insurance company.

However, Myst Carnival issued a statement last evening, denouncing what took place on Saturday.

“We want to make it unequivocally clear that we do not condone or support any form of vandalism or destructive behavior. We consider the actions of the individuals to be unacceptable behavior which does not respect the values or principles of Myst Carnival.

“In the spirit of having a good time, we firmly believe that respect for people and property must be maintained. We remain dedicated to upholding integrity and respect within our company and our community.”

The mas troupe said of priority, is their “strong commitment to corporate social responsibility and community service”, which they intend to maintain.

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Local News



Desrie Markham looks ahead to Jaycees



Queen of Carnival 2024 Desrie Markham has commenced preparations for the 61st edition of the Jaycees Queen Show, scheduled for Wednesday, 31st August, 2024.

Markham, who won the Queen of Carnival title in the early hours of Monday, 22nd July, entered the Jaycees training camp yesterday, with the other 10 delegates who will compete for the coveted title, currently held by Ischikelle Corbin of Antigua and Barbuda.

Shortly after her win last week, Desrie told this publication the local show, to a great extent, had prepared each delegate for the Jaycees Queen Show.

“The Marsh and Marsh team has always told us that they are not just training us for the Queen of Carnival Pageant, but they are training us for the international pageant. So, I definitely feel like I’m prepared,” even though she acknowledged Wednesday’s competition will be different in some aspects.

“What I need to do is get a whole of that package. I need the criteria – I need to eat it up, because I want to be able to say that I am preparing myself.”

With one title bagged,

she continues to credit the members of her team who have dedicated their energies toward her success. She is also relying on them to aid her in capturing a second title in just over a week.

“I know that the committee and my team have played a great part in my preparation, but when I get out on the stage, it really is just me. So, I want to be able to execute as much as I can,” the Queen of Carnival asserted.

She applauded the organisers for re-considering an earlier decision not to stage the Jaycees Queen Show, which she believes provides a platform for Caribbean women like her to promote their ideas and platforms and share their talents.



Desrie and her dad after winning Queen of Carnival

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Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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Key tasks include, but are not limited to the following:

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- Developing sales plans by forecasting and developing sales quotas, projecting sales volumes and profit for existing and new products, analyzing trends, establishing pricing strategies while monitoring costs, competition, supply and demand;
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- Preparing comprehensive monthly reports to include growth trends, customer churn & receivables by product line.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing, Business Management (or related field) from a reputable tertiary institution;
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- Demonstrated ability to successfully lead a sales team.

Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:

- Experience in planning and implementing sales strategies and customer relationship management;
- Proven leadership experience managing and directing a sales team with the ability to inspire and motivate them to achieve targets;
- Dedication to providing outstanding customer experiences;
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Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Human Resources Manager
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Deadline for application is Wednesday 7th August, 2024

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Heritage Trust lecture series well received

The Heritage Trust of Antigua and Barbuda has given an undertaking to extend a lecture series aimed at educating members of the general public on Antigua and Barbuda's diverse history.

The commitment follows a successful event that was held at Government House on 24th July, 2024, that brought together more than one hundred people for an evening of cultural reflection under the theme, "Embracing our History".

Archeologist Dr. Reginald Murphy, one of the presenters, delivered a compelling presentation on the "Pre-history of Antigua and Its First People," while Agnes Meeker, a respected author and historian, delved into the "Plantations of Antigua in the Colonial Era," bringing to life pivotal chapters that have shaped the island's cultural identity and which included old sugar mill ruins and plantation houses.

The event is said to have fostered lively discussions among attendees, who expressed a keen interest in integrating more local history into the curricula of schools and promoting active participation in heritage preservation efforts.



Archeologist Dr. Reginald Murphy addresses the gathering.

Governor General and President of the Heritage Trust of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Rodney Williams, has underscored the importance of understanding and sharing of our history. "This event is based on the idea that we should begin to share aspects of our history with the wider population," he stated. His Excellency emphasised the significance of connecting with our past "to foster a sense of purpose and belonging, providing context for

our present and a foundation for our future".

In response to the enthusiasm of the audience, the HTAB Board has announced the next lecture is scheduled for October, 2024. The talks will continue to spotlight top experts in their fields, offering further opportunities for the public to engage with and learn about Antigua and Barbuda's diverse history.

The Heritage Trust Antigua and Barbuda has also embarked upon an initiative to preserve the nation's past via the active "Unite for History" campaign, through which a public appeal is being made for the loaning or donation of historical items. Government House has committed to include relevant and acceptable pieces in future museum displays.

The audience was reminded that Government House is not only eager to receive artefacts such as old cooking utensils, generation clothing or antique crockery and furniture, but also letters, newspapers, documents and early photographs, which give insight into life of a bygone era.





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Tony and the sea fever

By Tony Deyal

As we headed to the fishing village in Tobago where our friend, the fisherman, Nkosie Walker, was waiting for us, I was glad that my son Zubin was driving.

I was tense and had to work off the anxiety with jokes like, “Zubin. What happens when you mix a fish and a banker? You get a loan shark.” “How do fish go into business? They start on a small scale.” “So why are they called sperm whales? Because seamen discovered them.” “Do you know that fish sleep in a waterbed? And fish pray to COD almighty?”

Then, my favourite question - “What’s the difference between roast fish and pea soup?” I waited and then laughed, “Well, even you can roast fish but, since you small, I never see you pea soup.” That was enough. We had arrived with all our fishing gear, ready to rumble.

The first thing I said to Nkosie was, “Long time no sea!” Eventually, the boat came close to the seaside for us to get in. The good news this time was that I didn’t miss the boat and tumble into the water and sand.

The bad news is that it happened after. I had caught over 20 fish and was so anxious to go home and show off to my wife, I jumped out of the boat, not

knowing how deep the water was.

This was The Old Man And The Sea again. This time, despite my clothes getting totally wet, I didn’t mind. I had too many fish to fry.

This was because the first thing Nkosie did was throw his cast net to get “bait” for us to use. I told Zubin that it is a skill he should learn, especially since he is taller than me and, if he falls into the water, he could swim.

In my case, the lady teaching me to swim at the university in Canada told me bluntly, “Tony, there are two kinds of people, those who swim and those who sink. You’re a sinker.”

Well, the only consolation was that, after the first time I fell in the water and smelled, not like a fish but like a whole fish market, I was not a stinker either. I got a life jacket.

The second thing was that Nkosi knew the best “banks” that had fish at that time of that day, and, while he managed the boat, he handed me a trolling line which I held in my finger, rather than on a rod.

Zubin had his rod and caught a kingfish. “Better than a queen fish”, I said, remembering a story that a friend had told me when I was at university in Canada.

He said that a colleague in Canada, Jack,



Tony Deyal

loved fishing. Eventually, Jack found a lovely girl and they got married. With the honeymoon over, Jack was in his garage sorting out his rods, reels and other stuff when his wife joined him.

She watched on for a while and then told him, “You know, darling, I think that now we are married you wouldn’t have to spend time by yourself in the garage messing around with those rods and smelly stuff. You could sell them and the old boat you have, and we could use the money to buy a really fancy bathroom.”

Jack was horrified and just stared at her. She asked, “Darling, what’s wrong?” He replied, “Nothing, really. But I can tell you that, for a minute

there, you started to sound like my ex-wife.”

She screamed, “Ex-wife? You never told me you were married before!” Jack looked even more closely at her and replied, “I wasn’t ...” It reminded me about a story a priest-friend once told me.

God asked Noah, “Hey, have you been out in the Ark lately?” Noah replied, “Yes Lord, I went out for a bit of fishing yesterday.” God asked, “Any good?” Noah shook his head, “No Lord. I couldn’t stay out long. I only had two worms ...”

Unlike Noah, I learnt that good things come to those who bait. I also found out that friends like Nkosie are happy where they are and what they do.

cont’d on pg 12



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Opinion



cont'd from pg 10

It is a life and not just a job.

In the boat with him, he continues to help us learn and improve our skills. On Monday, my best fishing day in a long time, Nkosie was even happier than I was when I caught three red snappers, one on each hook, twice.

For Nkosie, fishing is not an escape from life but a deep immersion into it. If, like him, the rest of us concentrate on the really important things in life, there will be a shortage of fishing rods and equipment.

It makes me share with all of you a story that fits the way Nkosie looks at his world.

An English banker was at the bay in the Trinidad Marine when someone like my friend Nkosie came with his small boat trying to sell the fish he had just caught.

The banker asked the fisherman how long it had taken him to catch the fish. The fisherman told him, "Not long. Just a little while." "So why you didn't try to catch more?" the Englishman asked.

The fisherman laughed, "Nah, that is enough to sell and still have a few for my family and my friends in the village."

The Englishman was surprised, "But what you do with the rest of your time?" The fisherman responded, "Well, I sleep late, spend time with my children, go in the rum shop for a while, play some cards, and hang out until it's time to go home."

The Englishman was concerned, "Listen, buddy. You're a man with real talent and I can help you. The first thing is, you have to spend more time fishing and then use the money you make to buy a much bigger boat.

"Then, with that money, you buy a whole fleet of fishing boats, open your own factory and control the whole thing. Next thing, you will move from here to live in Port-of-Spain and make plenty money.

"Then, after about 15 to 20 years, you will become so rich that you can sell your company for millions and then you can retire and move to a small fishing village where you could sleep when you want, fish when you want, lime with your friends, spend time with your wife and children, and drink your rum, play your cards and totally enjoy yourself."

The fisherman replied, "Listen, mister. I already doing that without any advice from you."

Tony Deyal was last seen asking how fish, instead of fishermen, go into business. They start on a small scale.

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Regional News

Suriname requests for extradition of politician from Brazil

CMC - Suriname has formally asked Brazil to extradite Surinamese politician Joel 'Bordo' Martinus.

Martinus, a member of the ruling party, was arrested in May based on a Red Notice issued by Interpol Suriname.

"Suriname wants the extradition of a Surinamese who is suspected of having committed serious criminal offences in Suriname, so that he can stand trial for them," the Communications Unit of the Public Prosecution Service (OM) said.

It said that Attorney General Garcia Paragsingh made the request for extradition based on the extradition treaty between Suriname and Brazil of December 2004.

The request of the Attorney General, who is the central authority under the treaty, was forwarded to the Brazilian judicial authorities via diplomatic channels on 12 July 2024.

But so far, no response has been received to the request, for which no deadline has been set. The OM further states that it is not formally aware whether France has also requested extradition and whether Suriname is the first or second requesting country.

The authorities here suspect Martinus, the former chairman of the youth department of ABOP, the party of Vice President Ron-



Joel "Bordo" Martinus.

nie Brunswijk, of murder, manslaughter, complicity in murder/manslaughter, participation in a criminal organisation, violation of the Narcotic Drugs Act and money laundering.

Martinus came into the picture as one of the suspects after investigators stumbled upon a plane that was buried in an area near the border with French Guiana.

Prosecutor's also believed that a drug gang reportedly killed a man in connection with that case. The body was never found.

After authorities ordered an investigation against him, Martinus went into hiding. From his hiding place, he indicated in a statement on Facebook that he is innocent and that his arrest is a witch

hunt set up by the ruling party because he has seriously criticised the policies of President Santokhi.

It had long been suspected that he was in Brazil. He regularly appeared with live streams on his Facebook page, criticising government policies and also commenting on other developments in society.

The lawsuit against Martinus and four co-suspects is still pending in court. An arrest warrant was issued against Martinus on November 21, 2022.

According to the extradition treaty between the two countries, if Martinus has been arrested at Suriname's request, he will have to be extradited within 60 days. However, he must agree that

he wants to be extradited as soon as possible and does not want to go to court.

The judicial authorities will then coordinate with each other on the date of transfer. However, if he is against his extradition to Suriname, the 'long road' follows, to the Brazilian judicial system and the Public Prosecution Service said that it will accept the decision.

"The judicial authorities in Brazil have the sovereign power to grant or not the request, taking into account the agreements reached in the treaty," it said, adding "we are aware that both countries see the usefulness and necessity of this and are certainly working towards it".



A fisherman winds his fishing rod as the patrol boat “Neustrahimiy” arrives for a “working visit”, in the bay of Havana, Cuba, Saturday, July 27, 2024. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

Russian warships make a new visit to Cuba

Three Russian warships arrived in Cuban waters on Saturday, Moscow’s second such maritime voyage in as many months in a reflection of deepening ties between Russia and Cuba.

The naval group, consisting of a training ship, patrol frigate and refuelling tanker, are expected to remain docked in Cuba’s port of Havana until July 30. The arrival of the vessels comes mere weeks after another squadron of Russian warships, including a powerful nuclear-powered submarine, visited Havana as part of planned military exercises last month.

American officials closely tracked the mid-June military exercises, saying that the four-vessel group posed no real threat. At the time, experts described the warships’ Caribbean tour as a symbolic show of strength in response to continued U.S. and Western support for Ukraine.

Cuban defense officials announced the latest port call earlier this week,

calling the arrival of the Russian warships a “historical practice” and show of “friendship and collaboration.” But neither government elaborated on the purpose of this latest deployment.

Cuba greeted the Baltic fleet on Saturday with a booming cannon salute. The docking of the flotilla has sparked a flurry of excitement among the general public, with Cubans strolling the port avenue to get a better glimpse of the warships Saturday and authorities saying interested visitors would be admitted on board the Russian training ship, called Smolnii, on Sunday and Monday.

“It’s a friendly thing. A bond between Russia and the Cubans,” said 29-year-old onlooker Maydelis Perez, pointing the hulking warships out to her three children. “I’m taking a family outing.”

Russia is a longtime ally of Venezuela and Cuba, and its warships and aircraft have periodically made forays

into the Caribbean and docked in Havana.

Though Cuba is not a key player in Russian foreign policy, experts say that Russia sees Cuba — with its port less than 100 miles (160 km) from Florida — as strategically important given its continued clout among developing nations.

Cuba and Russia — Cold War allies now both under severe U.S. sanctions — have strengthened their political and economic ties in recent years, particularly as Moscow aims to boost diplomatic support for its war in Ukraine and Havana seeks whatever economic assistance it can get.

Cuba has consistently abstained on U.N. resolutions on the invasion of Ukraine and avoided criticism of Moscow’s war. Russia has sold significant volumes of oil to Cuba, which has struggled with regular power outages under Washington’s economic embargo.

Huge California wildfire tears through 5,000 acres every hour

An enormous wildfire has grown by 8 sq miles an hour (20 sq km) as it spreads across parts of northern California.

The Park fire, which started on Wednesday in a suspected arson attack, has burned more than 350,000 acres of land north-east of Chico, and was only 10% contained as of Sunday morning, the state's fire agency Cal Fire said.

About 3,700 firefighters are battling the blaze, which has been fuelled by steep terrain and wind gusts.

A 42-year-old man was arrested on Thursday on suspicion of starting the fire by rolling a burning car into a gully near Alligator Hole in Butte County.

It is now the largest fire in the state this year, and the seventh largest ever recorded in California. It has consumed an area more than 1.5 times the size of New York City's five boroughs.

Fire captain Robert Foxworthy said steep terrain and very few roads have made it a challenge to battle the blaze. He said the sheer scale of the fire was made worse by embers being flung out a "great distance" ahead of the main fire, sparking a large number of spot fires.

Cal Fire incident commander Billy See said the fire had spread at a rate of 5,000 acres an hour.

Speaking at an opera-



The Park fire engulfs a building and vehicle near Chico.

tional briefing, Mr See said there were almost three times the personnel fighting the fire on Saturday compared to Friday, and "we still don't have enough".

Scott Weese, a fire behaviourist with Cal Fire, said that there was a high fuel load in the area with an abundance of grass.

"The heat signature is huge," he told the operational briefing, adding that the fire burned through 150,000 acres yesterday.

Authorities were hopeful they could use Saturday's easing of conditions to contain some of the blaze.

Wind speeds decreased and temperatures dropped by about 3-4C, but still hover in some areas in the low 30s (90F).

Cal Fire said lower temperatures and higher humidity have reduced the spread

of the blaze but it is still growing in some areas.

On Saturday, officials said the chance of fire whirls had decreased after a rare "firenado" – a swirling vortex of flames and ash formed in intense heat and high winds – was filmed twisting through bushland the day before.

California Governor Gavin Newsom on Friday declared a state of emergency in Butte and Tehama counties because of the Park fire.

On Saturday, the governor announced new federal assistance for Tehama County. Federal assistance for Butte County was announced earlier in the week.

"This is already one of the biggest fires in California history, and we're continuing to see dangerous conditions – our firefighters

and emergency responders are working day and night to protect our communities. Californians must heed warning from local authorities and take steps to stay safe."

At least 16 helicopters are fighting the blaze, as well as multiple air tankers dumping water from the sky when conditions allow.

The wildfire has forced mandatory evacuations in Butte, where California's deadliest blaze, the Camp Fire, killed more than 80 people in 2018.

The 400-strong population of Cohasset has already been moved as the fire burns out of control.

Cal Fire said that 134 structures had been destroyed, while 4,200 were under threat.

Officials arrested Ron-
cont'd on pg 17

Nine die in Democratic Republic of Congo gospel concert chaos

At least nine people died and others were injured at a live concert in the Democratic Republic of Congo on Saturday, the country's health minister has said.

Gospel singer and pastor Mike Kalambay was performing at the 80,000-seater Martyrs Stadium in the capital, Kinshasa, but photos taken at the event show scenes of overcrowding.

A 10-year-old child is among those who died, according to local media.

The governor of Kinshasa, Daniel Bumba, has released a statement blaming "excesses and crowd movements" for the disaster.

DR Congo's justice minister has ordered an investigation, and the questioning of the police officers who were present at the time and the event organiser Maajabu Gospel.

In a statement released after Saturday's concert, Maajabu Gospel said it was deeply saddened to learn of



It is said to be one of the biggest stadiums on the continent (photo from archive).

the deaths. It blamed "troublemakers", and said there were 2,000 police officers at the event who had tried to pacify them.

The organisers also insisted there were about 30,000 people at the concert - much less than the venue's maximum capacity.

The stadium, which is a major landmark and said to

be one of the biggest in Africa, is now closed until further notice.

It regularly plays host to some of the biggest names in music, various football matches, and was also the venue for President Félix Tshisekedi's swearing-in ceremony.

Following Saturday's chaos, Kinshasa city author-

ities have asked police to strengthen security measures and told event organisers to adhere to safety regulations.

Incidents like these are not uncommon at large-scale events in DR Congo.

In 2022, a stadium crush at the same venue during a concert by Congolese star Fally Ipupa left 11 people dead.

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nie Dean Stout, 42, and accused him of "calmly leaving the area by blending in with the other citizens who were in the area and fleeing the rapidly evolving fire" that he had set.

He is being held in jail without bail as authorities determine what charges he will face.

A woman who answered the door of the mobile home listed as his home address in Chico told the San Francisco Chronicle that prosecutors «are

trying to make him the scapegoat».

"They're saying he did it intentionally, but he didn't. The car caught on fire," the unidentified woman said, before refusing to answer further questions.

The Park fire is one of many currently burning across the US and Canada.

The National Interagency Fire Center is currently monitoring 102 large fires in the US, mostly in states on the west coast.

In Oregon, a firefighting pilot was killed in a tanker plane crash after the aircraft went missing on Thursday night.

In Canada, a large wildfire in the Jasper National Park destroyed hundreds of buildings in the town of Jasper.

Weekend conditions have improved in Jasper, with rain and cooler temperatures helping efforts to protect other parts of the historic tourism town.



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Grenades FC defeat Guyana Defence Force in CFU Club Shield

Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades FC of Antigua and Barbuda have advanced to the Round of 16 in the 2024 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Club Shield Championship in Willemstad, Curaçao.

The Grenades recorded a 6-2 victory over the Guyana Defence Force FC at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca in the third and final match of the preliminary round and claimed the last spot into the round of 16.

The Grenades were able to overcome a slow start after falling behind. Kelsey Benjamin failed to score from the penalty spot after Grenades' Jordan Britto fouled Guyanese forward Abumchi Opara in the 16th minute.

Britto committed another infringement against Opara in the 19th minute, and referee Okeito Nicholson once again awarded the Guyanese another penalty, which was converted by Benjamin to give the Defence Force a one-nil lead.

But Sherman Agustin scored in the 36th minute to equalize for the Grenades as both reached half-time deadlocked at 1-1.

Barrington Blake put the Grenades ahead with a conversion in the 65th minute.

Malcolm Stewart extended the lead in the 71st



The Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades FC starting XI against the Guyana Defence Force FC in the 2024 Caribbean Football Union Club Shield Championship at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca in Willemstad, Curaçao, on Friday, July 26. (CFU Media)

minute after latching on to a through-pass and, with time and the goalkeeper at his mercy, calmly slotted home his effort from close range to make it 3-1.

Tony Sanchez got in on the goal spree when he went around his marker and slotted home into an empty goal to make it 4-1 in the 74th minute.

Substitute Rakeem Henry extended the lead for Grenades with his first touch of the game. A Kenneth Goulbourne corner kick was headed back across the goal, and Henry met it with a glancing header, taking the score to 5-1.

Guyana's Shemar Scott found himself with time and space in the box and scored the second goal for the Defence Force.

Grenades' second-half substitute Daryl Massicot added his name to the scoresheet after latching onto a through-pass and lifting his shot over the head of the Defence Force goalkeeper Jamain Cumberbatch to make it 6-2.

The Grenades joined SWA Sharks FC of the Turks and Caicos Islands and B.A.Y.S. Football Club of St. Lucia as the three qualifiers from the preliminary round into the round of 16.

SWA Sharks FC snatched a 1-0 win against Paradise FC International of Grenada, and B.A.Y.S. Football Club also prevailed 1-0 against SCSA Eagles of St. Maarten in the first two matches in the preliminary round.

Twenty teams from across the Caribbean, including defending champions SV Robinhood from Suriname, are contesting the 2024 CFU Club Shield in Curaçao from July 25 to August 4.

As in previous editions, the top two teams at the end of the competition will qualify for the CONCACAF Caribbean Cup.

US men's basketball routs Serbia in Olympic opener

Kevin Durant scored 23 points and LeBron James had 21 points, nine rebounds and seven assists to help the US men's basketball team rout Serbia 110-84 in their first game at the Paris Olympics on Sunday.

Durant made his first eight shots from the floor, coming off the bench after a calf injury sidelined him for all of the exhibition games leading up to the tournament.

The Americans are looking to win a fifth consecutive gold medal. They next play Tuesday against upstart South Sudan, which won for the first time at the Olympics earlier Sunday.

Maria Araujo hit a 3-pointer with 3:06 left in overtime as Spain finished off a rally and beat China 90-89 to open women's basketball group play at the Paris Olympics with a flourish.



Kevin Durant of the USA passes the ball as he heads out of bounds while under pressure from Serbia's Marko Guduric in a men's basketball game at the 2024 Olympics in Villeneuve-d'Ascq, France, Sunday, July 28, 2024. (AP)

Spain had a chance to win in the final seconds of regulation. Leonor Rodriguez was knocked to the floor on her tying 3-pointer

with 6.5 seconds to go, only to see her free throw rim out leaving the score tied.

Megan Gustafson led Spain with 29 points. Rodriguez finished with 25 as the fourth-ranked Spaniards try to bounce back after finishing sixth at the Tokyo Games. Spain lost to the United States in the final at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games.

Li Yueru had a game-high 31 points and 15 rebounds, and Li Meng added 13 points for the Chinese.

South Korea now has six medals at the Paris Olympics, the same total as Australia, after two roommates each broke the world record

in the women's 10-meter air pistol. Oh Ye Jin took the gold and Kim Yeji the silver in the shooting event Sunday.

"She is like my youngest sibling, and I always want to care for her and always be there for her. So, when she won the gold medal, I was extra happy," said silver medalist Kim, who at 31 is 12 years older than her teammate.

Rafael Nadal is off to a winning start in singles play at the Olympics, beating Marton Fucscovics in three sets.

Nadal, who broke Fucscovics to go up 3-2 in the



Rafael Nadal celebrates his victory over Marton Fucscovics during men's singles tennis at the 2024 Olympics in Paris, France, on Sunday, July 28, 2024.

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third set before having part of his right ring finger taped up, finished off his opponent to win 6-1, 4-6, 6-4.

The victory sets up a blockbuster showdown against rival Novak Djokovic in the second round at Roland Garros, where Nadal has won the French Open a record 14 times.

Nadal also won his doubles opener Saturday night, playing alongside Spanish countryman Carlos Alcaraz.

A radiant Simone Biles made her long-awaited Olympic return at the Paris Games on Sunday, drawing boisterous cheers and applause from an ecstatic, star-studded crowd in a performance that gave US gymnasts the lead in women's qualifying.

After Biles' brilliance the US enjoyed a commanding lead with 172.296 points, more than five points ahead of second-placed Italy.

China, Japan, Canada, Britain, Romania and the Netherlands rounded out the standings with one subdivision left to go. The top eight teams will compete in Tuesday's team final.

Biles, the world's most decorated gymnast, returned for her third Olympics after she abruptly pulled out from the team final at the Tokyo Games suffering from the "twisties", a term used to describe the temporary loss of spatial awareness while performing high-difficulty elements.

Biles also withdrew from the all-around and a

number of apparatus finals in Tokyo, raising questions about whether she would ever set foot in an Olympic arena again.

With a flag-waving crowd cheering his every stroke, Léon Marchand delivered a swimming gold for France with a dominating victory in the men's 400-meter individual medley on Sunday night.

Marchand was ahead

as soon as his head popped from the water and he steadily pulled away from the field in what was essentially two separate races: Marchand racing the clock and everyone else competing for silver and bronze.

He was under world-record pace on the final turn but faded a bit coming home, touching in 4 minutes, 2.95 seconds — an Olympic record, but just shy of his own

world mark of 4:02.50.

Marchand claimed that mark at last year's world championships in Fukuoka, Japan, erasing a record held by Michael Phelps for 15 years.

The silver went to Japan's Tomoyuki Matsushita, who finished nearly six seconds behind the winner in 4:08.62. American Carson Foster claimed the bronze at 4:08.66.

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Dottin ends international retirement ahead of T20 World Cup

West Indies women's all-rounder Deandra Dottin will return to international cricket two years after retiring from the national team, Cricket West Indies (CWI) said on Saturday.

The 33-year-old, who is the second-highest run scorer for West Indies in women's limited-overs cricket behind Staphanie Taylor, has rejoined the 2016 champions ahead of the Women's T20 World Cup in October in Bangladesh.

Dottin retired in July 2022 after 14 years in international cricket but continued to play in franchise leagues.

She said she decided to return to the West Indies team after discussions with CWI, including the governing body's president Dr. Kishore Shallow.

"Representing West Indies in international cricket has always been a matter of great pride and passion for me.

"After a period of reflection and thoughtful dialogue with various parties within Cricket West Indies, including Cricket West Indies President, Dr. Kishore Shallow, I am pleased to inform you that I am eager to return to the game that I love, and contribute my utmost to the West Indies women's team across all formats, with immediate effect."



Deandra Dottin

She continued, "I am confident that my experience, maturity, and skills will add value to the team as it has done in the past, and I am prepared to furnish my best efforts in every match and training session to ensure the team's winning trajectory in international cricket.

"Moreover, I am enthusiastic about mentoring younger players and contributing to the overall development of women's cricket in our region."

CWI Director of Cricket, Miles Bascombe, wel-

comed Dottin's return, acknowledging her talent and potential impact on the team.

"Deandra is a player of immense ability and experience. We are pleased with her decision to return to international cricket and be eligible for selection. There is no doubt that she could add significant value to the West Indies Women's teams."

Dottin, who will lead the Trinbago Knight Riders women's team for the third consecutive year in the upcoming WCPL tour-

namment, last played for West Indies in 2022.

She has 270 international matches across ODI and T20I. In 2010, she scored the first Women's T20I century. Last month, MCC awarded Dottin with Honorary Life Membership of the club.

The West Indies women will have a camp in August 2024. The players will also be engaged in the CPL next month. The next international assignment will be the T20 World Cup in Bangladesh from October 2-19, 2024.

Antigua and Barbuda claim sixth place finish in Americas Group IV Davis Cup contest

Antigua and Barbuda finished in sixth place in the Americas Group IV Davis Cup Competition, which ended in Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday.

Antigua and Barbuda lost 2-0 against the United States Virgin Islands in the playoff for fifth place at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago.

De Andre Weeks of Antigua and Barbuda lost 6-0, 6-0 against Tomas Del Olmo in the first singles match. Antigua and Barbuda's Shaquan Rodain Monelle was beaten 6-1, 6-1 by Jan Neuburger Higby in the second singles.

Antigua and Barbuda recorded a 2-1 win against Haiti in their final round-robin match to finish third in Pool A during the round-robin preliminary group stage of the nine-team competition.

The Antiguan recovered after Ron Murraine lost the opening singles 6-3, 6-3 to Haiti's Luckens Dorcely.

But Antigua and Barbuda drew level when the nation's only professional tennis player, Jody Maginley,



Antigua and Barbuda's Jody Maginley competes in the Americas Group IV Davis Cup Competition at the National Racquet Centre in Tacarigua, Trinidad and Tobago, Friday, July 26, 2024. Maginley won all three of his singles matches during the tennis tournament from July 22-27. (TAT&T)

won the second singles match against Christopher Bogelin, who was forced to retire after picking up an injury.

Maginley won the first set 6-4 and was leading Christopher Bogelin 3-0 in the second set when the Haitian

conceded the match after picking up an injury.

Maginley then teamed up with Shaquan Rodain Monelle to clinch the tie by securing the doubles against the Haitian pair of Luckens Dorcely and Jayven Andrew Ryan Jean Baptiste, winning 6-4, 6-2.

Antigua and Barbuda lost their first two matches in four-team Pool A, losing 2-1 to both Honduras and Aruba.

Meanwhile, Aruba and Honduras finished as the top two teams in the competition and have gained promotion to compete in Americas Group III in 2025.

The top two teams in each pool at the end of the round-robin group play advanced to the promotion playoffs.

Pool A winner Aruba prevailed 2-0 against Nicaragua, who were runner-up in Pool B, in one of the two promotional playoff matches.

Honduras, who were runner-up in Pool A, prevailed 2-1 against Pool B winner Cuba in the other promotional playoff encounter.

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wickets costing only seven runs.

"I'm proud of the fact I keep my speeds up. Over the years it's been up and down but I manage to maintain it in these games. I've already watched the highlights of my spell twice and I'll be watching them a few more times," said Wood.

Windies were always up against it with a 94-run first innings-deficit but looked

to be putting up a fight in the morning session with half centuries from opener Mikyle Louis and Kavem Hodge.

They were never able to put together any meaningful partnerships, however, as England took three wickets before lunch and Wood ripped through the tail to finish with figures of five for 40 in 14 overs.

Louis and Alick Athanaze had resumed with

the Windies on 33 for two, and the 23-year-old Louis reached his 50 with an impressive six over long on before he was caught at slip by Crawley off Stokes.

Hodge raced to his half century in 56 balls as he looked to put pressure on the bowlers but was Wood's second victim as he got a healthy edge and was caught behind.

Wood had removed Joshua da Silva lbw, and

after Hodge went for 55, bowled Alzarri Joseph (2) and Jayden Seales (0) before finishing off the innings when Harry Brook caught Shamar Joseph at second slip.

England move onto a three-Test home series against Sri Lanka, starting on Aug. 21, while the West Indies return home for a two-Test series against South Africa, beginning next week in Trinidad and Tobago.

England crush West Indies to sweep series

BIRMINGHAM, England (Reuters) - England captain Ben Stokes butchered the West Indies bowling attack after Mark Wood had taken five wickets to lead England to a crushing 10-wicket win before tea on the third day of the final Test at Edgbaston on Sunday.

Stokes struck the fastest test half century by an English batsman and was unbeaten on 55 off 28 balls as England needed only 7.2 overs to reach their victory target of 82.

Wood claimed five wickets in four overs – three in a single over - to skittle out the West Indies for 175 in their second innings.

With Zak Crawley having hurt his hand, it was the perfect stage for Stokes



England celebrate winning the Test match series during day three of the Third Rothesay Test match at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England, Sunday July 28, 2024. (AP)

to promote himself up the order and the skipper wasted no time in thrashing the

bowling to all corners of the ground.

Ben Duckett played a supporting role, scoring 25 runs off 16 balls.

England matched their own record for being the fastest team to reach 50 runs in a Test, achieved in 4.2 overs, while Stokes' 50 off 24 balls bettered Ian Botham's 28-ball half-century in India in 1981.

"Pretty cool to go past Beefy (Botham) with that one. A bottle of champagne from him would be better appreciated than a well done message," said Stokes.

"I don't think we must underestimate this series. We were 50 for five at one stage but fought back to win it inside three days," he added.

Earlier, Wood produced a brilliant burst of fast bowling after lunch to run through the tourists' tail, with his five

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West Indies' Alzarri Joseph is clean bowled by England's Mark Wood during day three of the Third Rothesay Test match at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England, Sunday July 28, 2024.