

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA TO THE RESCUE

*Story on Page 2*



From left: President of the Steel Band Association, Patrick 'Stone' Johnson, Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew and Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Creative Industries, Sharon Stevens. *Story on page 6*

# Local News



## Antigua and Barbuda to the rescue

A contingent of officers from both the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is leaving the country today (Tuesday) for security and disaster relief operations in St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

Chief of Defense Staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin reported that the contingent

will travel aboard two Barbados Coast Guard vessels that traveled to Antigua and Barbuda for safe harbour with the threat of the oncoming hurricane Beryl. The contingent will therefore travel first to Barbados for onward journey to Petite Martinique, Carriacou and St. Vincent.

The ABDF is contributing 23 of its personnel

to the contingent with the police adding another 15. According to Col. Benjamin the reports from the Windward Islands speak of widespread destruction on these islands although he said there are no initial reports of loss of life.

“Our team will help with security operations on the affected islands as well as relief operations that



Chief of Defense Staff, Col. Telbert Benjamin

will be coordinated by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA). Additionally, I will be sending down a drone team to help with the overall assessment from above,” he explained.

He revealed that Barbados has been designated as the staging area for the relief operations while here in St. John’s, the Office of the Prime Minister, the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) and the Antigua Port Authority have been holding discussions to coordinate relief and other resources destined for the affected islands.

According to the ABDF head, reports from the affected islands indicate extensive damage to properties including churches, police stations, businesses and private homes. All of the islands are said to be without power as distribution lines and perhaps even power stations have been impacted from the strong winds of the hurricane.



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## NODS coordinating relief efforts for Hurricane Beryl affected islands

The National Office of Disaster Services is coordinating Antigua and Barbuda's efforts to provide disaster relief to Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines both of which have been severely impacted by the Category 4 winds of Hurricane Beryl on Monday.

Director of NODS Sherrod James said his office has been busily collating information as well as the packing of relief items for onward shipping to the two OECS countries.

"We spent the day mobilizing a national effort to provide relief supplies and other materials to these islands from our stock here at NODS as well as from contributions



Sherrod James that are being made by corporate entities as well as from individuals," he reported.

With the cooperation of the Antigua Port Authority, NODS is making arrangements for a vessel to ferry supplies and other resources to the affected islands.

"We are working with the port authority and the Global Support Development, an international non-government organization, which along



Prime Minister Gaston Browne with CDEMA are helping with the regional relief efforts," he stated.

He revealed that the request for assistance received a boost with the personal involvement of Prime Minister Gaston Browne who has been on the phone throughout the day soliciting assistance for the affected islands.

James said both Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines have provided a list

of immediate wants to CDEMA and that NODS has been working to meet those needs according to the list. "Right now, our efforts are concentrated on providing basic relief items such as water, food, clothing and in particular, flashlights, which are necessary since there are reports of total blackouts on these islands," he remarked.

The NODS director added that the list will change as more information comes to hand following a more detailed assessment on the ground. "This preliminary list is being compiled immediately after the storm passed; over time that list will change as the needs change," he explained.

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# Local News



## Antigua and Barbuda police officers on standby for RSS deployment to Grenada and St. Vincent

### STRATCOM Press release

Fifteen members of the tactical unit within the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda are on standby, and ready to be deployed to the neighboring islands of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, following the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

These officers will join their regional counterparts to assist with security and to help maintain law and order. Their deployment is in keeping with the man-

date of Regional Security System-RSS, to provide the necessary assistance to its member states during disaster and matters of security.

Four additional officers will also be on the ground to assist the Caricom Disaster Relief Unit-CDRU team with their assessment of damages and providing relief to the affected countries.

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has responded to the needs of



Police officers ready for deployment to hurricane-affected Windward Islands

the Government of Grenada and St. Vincent and the

Grenadines by answering their call and providing this level of support.

The officers will be deployed for two weeks in the first instance and they will also be supported by members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force.

Commissioner Atlee Rodney said he is happy that these 19 officers will be providing the necessary support and assistance to law enforcement colleagues in the various forces.

He further stated that it is during these difficult times and crises the region shows solidarity, and rise to the occasion to demonstrate regional unity.

He encouraged the officers to be safe and to be good ambassadors of Antigua and Barbuda.

The contingent is expected to leave the island by Tuesday.

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# Local News

## Signed, sealed and delivered!

The protracted negotiations between the National Festivals Commission and the Antigua and Barbuda Steelbands Association over the staging of the 2024 Panorama Competition and other activities of Carnival have come to a successful end.

Both sides signed a multi-year agreement Monday paving the way for the staging of Panorama on August 3 at Carnival City. The agreement is for three years over which time the association will receive \$1 million from the Commission.

Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, said he is pleased that both sides have finally been able to reach an understanding to the point of signing a Memorandum of Understanding for the three-year period.

"We are here now to



bring an end to the negotiations, a successful end, where we will be signing for the staging of Panorama not only for this year, 2024, but an MOU that would indicate

what our relationship would be and how this would be managed over the next three years," he stated.

President of the Steel Band Association, Patrick

'Stone' Johnson described the signing as 'a great day' as he extended appreciation to the teams of negotiators who were able to complete the task and saving the Panorama competition for 2024.

"How we look at Carnival is that our involvement goes beyond Panorama; bands like to perform on the road, the bands like to play on the stage during the shows and we also like to perform at promotional events. So, the figure that we quote to the Festival Commission for our involvement encompasses the entirety of pan's involvement in Carnival. We are quite happy that we have reached the end of the negotiations as we look forward to greater things in the future," he declared.

Following the signing

*cont'd on pg 7*



## State Insurance Corporation opts out of Panorama sponsorship

State Insurance Company, which had earlier indicated that it would come onboard with the Festivals Commission to be the title sponsor of the Panorama Competition, has indicated that it no longer wishes to be associated with the show.

Making the announcement at a news conference on Monday, Creative Industries Minister Daryll Matthew said the SIC's decision may have been influenced by the prior protracted ne-

gotiations between the pan men and the Festivals Commission.

"It's a bit unfortunate that I have to announce that State Insurance Company has decided to back out of the sponsorship of Panorama because of the 'back-and-forth' between the pan association and the Commission," Minister Matthew revealed.

He then issued an appeal to the management and the board of directors to recon-

sider their position whilst acknowledging that this was a development which the Commission wanted to avoid.

"This epitomizes what we have been trying to avoid where we have an event which always seemed to be shrouded in controversy, is being seen as a turn-off. We are hoping that with a multi-year agreement, all that is ow behind us and we can now proceed to really market the event, market

pan and Antigua and Barbuda generally," he remarked.

On hearing of the decision of SIC to withdraw its sponsorship of Panorama, President of the Steel Band Association, Patrick Stone Johnson, made an offer to reach out to the company himself, in an effort to have it reverse the decision.

Up to going to the press, attempts to reach Johnson to ascertain whether or not he did in fact reach out to the company proved futile.

*cont'd from pg 6*

ceremony where the MOU was signed by Johnson and the Permanent Secre-

tary Ministry of Creative Industries, Sharon Stevens, both Minister Matthew and Johnson fielded questions

from media representatives gathered for the occasion.

The minister used the occasion to repeat a call he made last week asking members of the public to support pan and culture generally, in more tangible ways.

"The pan association and our cultural artforms need the support of the public. It cannot be enough to support from the sidelines, it cannot be enough to show your support on social media. These entities; our cultural entities need the tangible support from all in the society; from the corporate community to our citizenry and one way to demonstrate your support is to come out and to support the artform," he urged.

The Panorama competition 2024 is slated for August 3 at Carnival City. Seven steelbands are slated to participate; CUB Hell's Gate Steelband, WIOC Gemonites, Harmonites, Panache, Original Steelband, Halcyon Steel Band and Westside Steel Band.



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## Indian community celebrates 10th International Day of Yoga

Members of the local Indian community joined together on Saturday to celebrate the 10th International Day of Yoga.

This event was held at the newly built American University of Antigua (AUA) Conference Center. Organized by Honorary Consul of India, Vijay Tewani, the event attracted attendance from several senior members of government.

These include Minister of Tourism Charles Fernández, Permanent Secretary from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, Senator Kiz Johnson, a Member of the Diplomatic Corps, and the High Commission of India in Guyana, Manoj Kumar.

“Over 100 yoga enthusiasts, including many new faces, joined the event. This



There is a growing interest in Yoga here in Antigua and Barbuda

year’s theme, “Self and Your Society,” highlighted the importance of personal well-being and its positive ripple effects on the broader community.

The theme underscored how individual health and mindfulness contribute to a more harmonious and connected society,” Tewani reported.

Minister Fernández emphasized, “Yoga is a path to

peace and well-being, both individually and collectively.” The event successfully brought together diverse participants, showcasing the growing interest in yoga within the community.

Antigua Barbuda Tourism Authority has participated every year by promoting wellness, recognizing that Yoga plays a very important role in relaxing one’s mind, body, and soul.



Participants at Saturday’s 10th International Day of Yoga at the AUA Conference Center.

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Dated the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024

.....  
Allison Miguel  
736-2860



MP for St. Paul, E.P Chet Greene addresses attendees at the annual summer camp held at the Liberta Primary school.



Participants at the St Paul's Summer Camp listen attentively

## Scores attend St Paul annual summer camp

Scores of young people are participating in the annual summer camp for the youth of St. Paul organized by the area representative,

MP E.P Chet Greene.

The summer camp runs for two weeks during which time the young people will engage in a variety

of workshops in art and craft, pan, horse-back riding, sailing, picker-ball, football, robotics among the many activities.

The events are being held at the Liberta Primary school as the central point as well as other areas in the community.



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## Hurricane makes landfall as Caribbean braces for days ahead

By Will Grant

Hurricane Beryl has made landfall on Carriacou Island in Grenada, according to the US National Hurricane Center (NHC).

The hurricane, which has regained strength in the past hours, has sparked warnings of life-threatening winds and dangerous storm surges.

"In half an hour, Carriacou was flattened," according to Grenada Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell.

A hurricane warning is also in effect in Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tobago.

Earlier, airports and businesses shut down and residents across the Caribbean were urged to seek shelter as the potentially devastating storm hit the region.

Dozens of flights were cancelled across the region as Beryl approached on Sunday night, while leaders urged the public to heed warnings.

In a news briefing on Monday, Mr Mitchell warned: "We are not yet out of the woods." Grenada has also experienced several power outages, impacting communications and access to government updates.

Maximum sustained winds for the hurricane are near 150mph (241 km/h), according to the NHC's latest update, as the storm moves west.

A hurricane watch is in effect for Jamaica, which means the region is likely to experience hurricane conditions by Wednesday.

"It is not a joke," said the prime minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Ralph Gonsalves, reminding people of the devastation caused by past hurricanes in the Caribbean.

In a national address from his official residence, Mr Gonsalves said he was seeking shelter in his basement.



Damage on Carriacou from Hurricane Beryl. (Photo via: Ron Redhead, Member of Parliament for St George North East)

"The roof, certainly the old part of the roof, may not survive winds at 150mph. I am making preparations to go downstairs," he said.

The hurricane was upgraded to a category four on Monday after slightly weakening earlier.

The NHC said fluctuations in strength were likely to continue but warned that portions of the Windward islands should prepare for "potentially catastrophic wind damage".

It said St Vincent and the Grenadines as well as Grenada were at the highest risk of damage.

Hurricane shelters opened at 18:00 local time (22:00 GMT) on Sunday.

The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

has warned that the North Atlantic could get as many as seven major hurricanes this year - up from the average three in a season.

It said record high sea surface temperatures were partly to blame.

Meteorologists have also remarked on how quickly Beryl developed.

The storm strengthened from a tropical depression into a major hurricane - category three or above - in only 42 hours, hurricane expert Sam Lillo told Associated Press news agency.

Much of the region has heeded the warnings.

Shops have closed and people have stocked up on fuel and groceries.

Grenada issued a state of emergency and St Lucia imposed a "na-

*cont'd on pg 11*

*cont'd from pg 10*

tional shutdown", ordering schools and businesses to remain closed.

As Hurricane Beryl came barrelling towards St Vincent and the Grenadines, journalists Colvin Harry and Dionne John were running a live radio programme on the country's National Broadcasting Corporation.

As they discussed the storm's approach – informing the public of the latest developments, urging people to remain indoors and to heed the warnings of the authorities – their livestream showed the winds picking up quickly in the capital, Kingstown.

After about an hour of the broadcast, the roof of a neighbouring building came crashing down and they had to take shelter in nearby home to ride out the storm.

"We're going to have to take a break as we assess our own safety here", said Colvin with typical unstated calm on air.

"We had to literally run away from our studio", he told the BBC after the broadcast via WhatsApp messages. "We're safe in a temporary facility but from what we're hearing countless number of roofs have gone. Churches, public buildings, schools have all lost their roofs."

"It's really bad, we've taken a hard hit," he added.

St Vincent and the Grenadines is just one of the Caribbean nations in the path of the hurricane which intensified to a Category 4

## Predicted path of Hurricane Beryl



Source: US National Hurricane Center. All times local (GMT minus four hours) **BBC**

storm in a matter of hours.

In fact, Hurricane Beryl has shattered several records in that regard.

The speed with which it strengthened from a tropical depression into a Category 4 storm is unprecedented this early in the hurricane season and Beryl is now considered the earliest Category 4 storm on record.

In fact, only six other hurricanes have intensified as much in under 48 hours in Atlantic hurricane history.

Storms that strengthen rapidly can catch people off-guard and while the governments and the populations of the region have a lot of experience in preparing for and dealing with hurricanes, ample warning is a critical factor in keeping people safe.

Warming ocean temperatures, caused by human activity, are making these storms more frequent and more powerful. Storms like Beryl have the potential to

wreak havoc in the region bringing sustained winds, dangerous gusts and large amounts of rain onto the Caribbean islands.

Low-lying coastal regions are also at risk of storm surges and flash flooding while mountain regions can experience landslides, especially when rain is dumped on already wet ground.

In this instance, it does seem that, despite the limited warning, many residents in the path of the storm had enough time to at least gather the basics. Lines of people formed at petrol stations and hardware stores in St Vincent and the Grenadines and in Grenada – another island likely to feel the worst of Beryl. Thousands of homes have been boarded up and there is still some hope that a combination of experience and emergency procedures will have helped to save lives.

However, with storms are as powerful as this one, sometimes all the warning

in the world isn't enough.

A particularly bad hurricane season in 2017 saw Hurricane Irma wreak devastation in much of the Caribbean, only to be followed just weeks later by Hurricane Maria which caused extensive damage in Puerto Rico.

Given that the official alerts in the case of Beryl will have been late in comparison to other hurricanes, it's very possible that some communities will have been caught on the back foot. Whether that be homeowners failing to tie down infrastructure that can turn into projectiles or some communities not having appreciated the gravity of the storm, the potential for the loss of life from Beryl is self-evident.

At this stage, communications to some smaller islands of Grenada, like Carriacou and Petit Martinique, have been knocked out. Even for the governments at this stage, it's simply a question of waiting out the storm to then assess the extent of the damage.

For now, Beryl is the immediate concern of several nations who have already felt its effects and other islands who are still waiting for it to pass.

Yet none of this situation bodes well for the rest of the Atlantic hurricane season. Forecasters and climate experts predict this will be a particularly busy and intense year in which Hurricane Beryl has set the tone from the start.

## Emotional Usher accepts lifetime achievement award

By Yasmin Rufo

Usher delivered an emotional speech as he accepted a lifetime achievement prize at the BET Awards on Sunday.

The singer-songwriter told the audience as he accepted the award that “getting here has definitely not been easy, but it has been worth it”.

The 45-year-old is best known for hits including Yeah! and You Make Me Wanna.

Usher also picked up the award for best R&B and hip-hop artist at the ceremony.

He opened his 15-minute-long acceptance speech by saying: “This life achievement award, I don’t know, man, is it too early to receive it? Cause I’m still runnin’ and gunnin’ like I did when I was eight years old.”

The singer went on to speak about his dad leaving his family when he was a child.

“I was trying to make sense of this name a man gave me that didn’t stick around because he didn’t love me,” he said.

“You have to have a forgiving heart to understand the true pitfalls and hardships of a black man in America and my father, he was a product of that.”

He also reflected on



Usher also won the award for best R&B and hip-hop artist.

what it means to now be a father himself.

“This is the year of the father. Stand up for your daughters and sons and lead,” he told the audience at the Peacock Theatre in Los Angeles.

“It’s important to understand that fatherhood is so important.

“For all the fathers tonight at home or in the audience I would like for y’all to stand up just for two seconds for me.

As several men in the audience got on their feet, Usher said: “We don’t get a chance to say enough, ‘Dad I did it’, so this one is for all of the men out there being generals to their sons, and motivation for our future black leaders - young men.”

Usher also said he was

“turning over a new leaf” and addressed the topic of forgiveness.

He said: “We’ve got to be willing to forgive, we’ve got to be willing to be open.

“I’m telling you, you’re standing before a man who had to forgive a man who never showed up ever. And look what I made with it. Look what I was able to ‘usher’ in. But that’s what’s real, that’s what makes us human, that’s what makes us women and men.”

The award was presented to him by producers Jimmy Jam and Terry Lewis.

After a montage of career highlights, including clips from his teenage years and his recent Super Bowl performance, there was an all-star tribute to the singer.

Childish Gambino,

Keke Palmer and Summer Walker were among the artists to each perform one of Usher’s songs.

The recognition for Usher comes just a few months after he played the prestigious half-time show at the Super Bowl.

Other highlights from the event included Will Smith debuting a new single - You Can Make It.

“I don’t know who needs to hear this right now, but whatever’s going on in your life right now, I’m here to tell you, you can make it,” he told the audience ahead of his performance.

The Black Entertainment Television awards have been running since 2001 and celebrate black talent across a variety of industries.



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# Regional News



Hurricane damaged building in St Vincent and the Grenadines.

## Death confirmed in St. Vincent as Beryl leaves trail of destruction

By Dillon De Shang

At least one person has died in St Vincent and the Grenadines as a result of the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

The death was announced by Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves on Monday night in an address to the nation.

“There may well be more fatalities, we are not yet sure,” Gonsalves said as he noted the devastation brought to Union Island, Canouan and Mayreau in the Southern Grenadine islands by Beryl.

Ninety per cent of buildings on Union Island are either severely damaged or destroyed, Gon-



Damage to the Union Island Airport following the passage of Hurricane Beryl.

salves stated.

The situation on Canouan and Mayreau is still unclear as communication with first responders is dif-

ficult.

Despite the devastation, Gonsalves is thankful that many lives and homes were spared.

He said St Vincent and the Grenadines will start the reconstruction effort as soon as conditions are safe for first responders to begin clearing roadways and restoring power to cut-off communities.

Most public services are expected to be up and running tomorrow but the prime minister said he understands that many public servants may not be able to turn up for work.

He appealed for the private sector to open and urged employers to understand that their staff will have issues such as damaged homes that will prevent them from assuming duties.



Colombia's defence ministry posted a photo of Larry Amaury Álvarez Núñez with his face blurred.

## Founder of Venezuela's most feared gang arrested

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

Police in Colombia have arrested one of the founders of the feared transnational crime gang Tren de Aragua.

Larry Amaury Álvarez Núñez, also known as "Larry Changa", was captured in a rural area in Quindío province.

Colombia's ministry of defence said Larry Changa was wanted in his native Venezuela as well as in Chile on charges of terrorism, arms trafficking, extortion and kidnapping.

The Tren de Aragua criminal group which he co-founded has spread in recent years from Venezuela as far south as Chile and as far north as the United States.

Larry Changa, 46, is from the Venezuelan state of Aragua, from which his criminal gang takes its name.

Under his leadership, the Tren de Aragua grew from a prison gang based at Tocarón jail, where he and co-found-

er Héctor Guerrero Flores were serving time for murder, into an international crime syndicate.

Changa managed to escape from Tocarón in 2015.

Three years later, he reappeared in Chile, where, according to prosecutors, he set up money laundering operations for the gang.

Venezuelan author Ronna Rísquez, who has written a book about the Tren de Aragua, has described in a BBC News Mundo article [in Spanish] how crime has shot up in Chile as a result of the expansion of the Tren de Aragua.

Ms Rísquez says that the gang took advantage of the flow of millions of migrants from Venezuela to other Latin American nations to expand its empire.

It extorts migrants, is involved in sex trafficking, contract killings and kidnappings.

Larry Changa is believed to have

fled Chile in 2022 as Chilean police closed in on him.

Police in Colombia tracked him down in the small town of Circasia, in Colombia's coffee region.

Officials have so far not provided any details as to how they managed to locate Larry Changa but said that he would be transferred to the Colombian capital, Bogotá.

The ministry of defence said in a tweet that the message for other criminal leaders was clear: "We will continue to go after them until we hunt them down so that they will pay for their crimes."

Among the Tren de Aragua co-founders still on the run is Héctor Guerrero Flores, who escaped from Tocarón prison last year.

Police forces across Latin America will be hoping that Larry Changa's arrest may yield clues to Guerrero Flores's whereabouts.

## Trump victory as top court deals blow to Jan 6 case

By Anthony Zurcher

Shortly after the Supreme Court issued its decision on his claim of presidential immunity, Donald Trump took to social media to celebrate.

“Big win for our constitution and democracy,” he posted on Truth Social. “Proud to be an American!”

While Trump did not get the sweeping protections that he and his lawyers had sought, he got more than enough to achieve his immediate objective of delaying another trial until after November’s election.

The ruling from the six conservative justices dealt a serious blow to the federal criminal case against him on charges of attempting to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Special Prosecutor Jack Smith and his team will have to significantly restructure their case against the former president, and the evidence they can rely upon to support it, if they want to continue. The trial was put on pause pending this decision.

Monday’s 6-3 ruling guarantees any prosecution that emerges from this decision will be delayed well past November’s presidential election, as the trial court sorts through the Supreme Court’s guidance.

In effect, the six conservative justices have set an extremely high bar for Mr Smith and his team to meet.

Trump, the court held, has total immunity for official acts as president related to his core constitutional duties. That includes the communications he had with Department of Justice officials about allegations of election fraud. And so, that portion of the indictment against Trump is effectively dead.

Beyond that, the six justices said there is a presumption of immunity for any other official acts. In practi-



The former president’s comments on 6 January 2021, before the Capitol riot, are likely to be deemed official actions.

cal terms, that means prosecutors will have to work much harder to bring a case against Trump.

The court added, however, that presidents do not have immunity for non-official actions.

Chief Justice John Roberts, in his opinion, went on to apply this standard specifically to the former president – guidance that could be particularly damaging to the prosecution in the election interference case.

Trump’s attempts to pressure Vice President Mike Pence not to certify Joe Biden’s election victory – a key part of Jack Smith’s case – is the kind of official action subject to that higher standard of legal review.

The former president’s comments on 6 January 2021, which are alleged to have incited the Capitol attack, are also likely to be deemed official actions.

The chief justice also said “testimony or private records of the president or his advisers” are not admissible in court. This greatly limits the kinds of evidence prosecutors can introduce to support their case, even in instances involving non-official actions.

Meanwhile, Trump’s contacts with private citizens will have to be considered by the trial court as to whether they are unofficial actions.

Justice Roberts explained that presidents need such broad immunity for official actions because the threat of criminal prosecution – and the “peculiar public opprobrium that attaches to criminal proceedings” – might “distort” presidential decision-making.

“The president is not above the law,” he wrote. “But Congress may not criminalise the president’s conduct in carrying out the responsibilities of the executive branch under the Constitution.”

If the former president and his team were celebrating the decision as a victory for American democracy, the three liberal justices on the court had a very different view.

“In every use of official power, the president is now a king above the law,” Justice Sonia Sotomayor warned in her opinion disagreeing with the court’s ruling.

She went on to list a variety of actions for which presidents could not be prosecuted, such as ordering the assass-

*cont’d on pg 17*

## South Africa's new coalition government unveiled

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has unveiled a new coalition government, after his ruling African National Congress (ANC) party lost its parliamentary majority in May's elections.

He said "the government of national unity... is unprecedented in the history of our democracy".

The ANC will have 20 out of 32 cabinet posts, while the pro-market Democratic Alliance (DA) - until now the main opposition party - will hold six. Six other portfolios are shared amongst smaller parties.

These appointments followed weeks of tense negotiations that threatened to scupper the agreement - at one point Mr Ramaphosa had accused the DA of trying to create a «parallel government» in breach of the constitution.

The shrinking of ANC support in the elections reflected public frustration over its poor record on delivering basic services and tackling unemployment, poverty and corruption.

The ANC led by Nelson Mandela came to pow-

er in 1994, ending decades of white-minority rule in South Africa.

Some of its activists have criticised it for sharing power with the DA, which some see as representing white interests.

The coalition government was welcomed by the business community who said it would ensure economic stability, in contrast to a potential deal with two radical parties which have split off from the ANC.

In the new cabinet, the ANC will keep key ministries such as defence, finance, and also foreign affairs - where it has been vocal in its support of the Palestinians and intensely critical of Israeli actions in Gaza. Outgoing Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor has been replaced by Ronald Lamola, who was previously justice minister.

The DA's portfolios include home affairs - which controls immigration, as well as public works - which has been at the centre of a series of corruption scandals. The party also takes over basic education, but not higher education.



Long-time rivals President Cyril Ramaphosa (L) and John Steenhuisen (R) agreed to share power.

Party leader John Steenhuisen will lead the ministry of agriculture - a sector dominated by white farmers and corporations.

In a televised speech on Sunday, Mr Ramaphosa said: "The incoming government will prioritise rapid, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and creation of a more just society."

The ANC welcomed the move as "an important step forward, and a testament to the resilience of our democracy".

DA leader Mr Steenhuisen told the nation his party "drove a hard bargain" during what he called "robust negotiations" to make

sure the DA got portfolios of "real substance".

"Good governance, zero tolerance for corruption and pragmatic policy-making," have all been promised by the head of the DA, who said his party was now "proud to rise to the challenge and take our place, for the first time, at the seat of national government".

Despite a coalition cabinet deal, stark political disagreements remain between the ANC and the DA.

Perhaps the biggest and most contentious issues are DA opposition to the ANC's national healthcare policy and to its black economic empowerment programme.

Crucially the ANC retains control of those government ministries - mines, trade and land reform - which are key to its policies on black economic empowerment.

In May's elections the ANC got 40% of the vote, while the DA secured 22%.

### *cont'd from pg 16*

sination of a political rival, taking bribes in exchange for pardons and organising a coup to hold on to power.

"Immune," she wrote. "Immune, immune, immune."

"With fear for our democracy," she concluded, "I dissent."

The Supreme Court now hands the

election interference case back to the lower court judge, who will have to apply the details of the decision. Those decisions will also be subject to appeal and review - a process that could take months if not years.

And if Trump wins the presidency in November, his appointees to the justice department could drop the case entirely.



India's players celebrate with the trophy after beating South Africa in the final to win the ICC Men's T20 Championship at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Saturday, June 29, 2024. (Reuters)

# T20 triumph may herald India's dominance, say former players

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - The era of India's dominance in cricket may have kicked in with their spectacular triumph in the T20 World Cup on Saturday, according to several former players.

India prevailed in an edge-of-the-seat thriller against South Africa in Barbados to claim their second 20-overs global trophy 17 years after winning the inaugural edition.

It was India's first global title since winning the 2013 Champions Trophy, but their consistency in recent years was never in doubt.

India lost back-to-back finals of the World Test Championships in 2021 and 2023, while their only defeat in the 50-overs home World Cup last year came in the summit clash against Australia.

They ended that barren streak in International Cricket Council (ICC) events on Saturday when India became the first team to win the T20 World Cup going unbeaten in the tournament.

"I have a feeling that this is a breakout win for us," former India opener Virender Sehwag wrote on X.

"For years, we have played well, been consistent in a range, consolidated but not able to get past the finish line," he wrote. "With this win, I think we would be winning many ICC trophies consistently in the years to come."

India's resurgence follows the demise of England's white-ball dominance as the Jos Buttler-led side have now failed to defend two World Cup titles in eight months.

India appear to have inherited that mantle, believes former England fast bowler Steven Finn.

"India are formidable - they have got all bases covered in all conditions," Finn told the BBC. "This experience could see them go on to dominate now. It is an experience that will serve them very well."

Former India captain Sourav Ganguly predicted "they will win many more" after the success in the Caribbean.

Batting great Sachin Tendulkar said India's overall fourth World Cup title in limited-overs cricket would be a major motivation for young talents in the country.

"Every star added to the Team India jersey inspires our nation's star-

*cont'd on pg 19*

## Osaka wins at Wimbledon for the first time in six years

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Naomi Osaka had not won a match at Wimbledon in six years. Hadn't even played there in five. Grass courts never were her favourite surface.

Twelve months ago at this time, Osaka was off the tour while becoming a mother — her daughter, Shai, turns one on Tuesday — and recalls flipping on the TV in the hospital and seeing a certain Grand Slam event on the screen.

"I'm just really excited to be here," Osaka said Monday after pulling out a 6-1, 1-6, 6-4 victory over Diane Parry in the first round at the All England Club by taking the last two games from 4-all in the third set.

"It's funny, because Wimbledon was the first tournament I watched after pregnancy."

On a day when there was plenty of focus away from the courts and instead on the health and status of various players who have been ranked No. 1 and won multiple major championships — tournament favourite Aryna Sabalenka and Victoria Azarenka, each a two-time Australian Open



Naomi Osaka of Japan plays a backhand return to Diane Parry of France during their first round match of the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Monday, July 1, 2024. (AP)

winner dealing with a bum shoulder, withdrew hours before they were due on court.

Andy Murray, twice a titlist at Wimbledon, was trying to decide whether to compete less than 10 days after surgery to remove a cyst from his spinal cord — another person fitting that description, Osaka, was making a happy return.

She's won the US Open and Australian Open twice apiece on hard courts, but

never has been past the third round on either Wimbledon's grass or the French Open's clay.

Osaka had not entered Wimbledon since a first-round loss in 2019, and while she's topped the WTA in the past, she is now No. 113 in the rankings after being off the tour for 15 months until returning in January.

Other big names who won on Day 1 at Wimbledon included reigning

US Open champion Coco Gauff. Gauff, the 2021 US Open winner Emma Raducanu, and three-time major champion Carlos Alcaraz, all won on Centre Court.

Alcaraz began his title defense feeling a bit jittery, he said afterward, but came through with a 7-6 (3), 7-5, 6-2 victory over Estonian qualifier Mark Lajal.

A year after a first-round exit at Wimbledon, Gauff eliminated Caroline Dolehide 6-1, 6-2.

Raducanu was a 7-6 (0), 6-3 winner against Renata Zarazua, a late replacement when No. 22 Ekaterina Alexandrova pulled out because of an unspecified illness.

### *cont'd from pg 18*

ry-eyed children to move one step closer to their dreams. India gets the 4th star, our second in a T20WorldCup," Tendulkar wrote on X.

India's domination in the 20-overs for-

mat will have to be under a new leadership, though. Captain Rohit Sharma and stalwart Virat Kohli bowed out of T20 Internationals after winning the World Cup, while it was also head coach Rahul Dravid's last match in charge of the squad.

## Young Antiguan cyclists attend road cycling training camp in T&T

Three of the nation's young cyclists are part of an Antigua and Barbuda delegation that is currently attending an Under-19 Road Cycling Training Camp in Trinidad and Tobago.

The one-week event is being held at the Union Cycliste Internationale (UCI) World Cycling Center (WCC) Continental Development Satellite in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago, from July 1-7.

The UCI is the world-governing body of cycling, recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

According to a media release from the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF), "Our premier junior cyclists from Antigua are set to engage in the six-day road training camp, culminating with an exciting road race on day seven.

"Representing our nation will be the talented National Junior Champion, Tahje Browne, alongside Jomari King and Aiden Tonge.

"Additionally, to bolster our cycling expertise, (President of the ABCF) St. Clair Williams and Omari King will participate in the coaching course conducted during the camp."

Held at the esteemed Americas World Cycling Centre in Couva, Trinidad, participants at the training camp will benefit from the guidance and mentorship of five UCI experts.

The experts will not only oversee the training sessions but will also conduct a coaching and mechanics course concurrently, enhancing the overall learning experience for all participants.

The release adds that "the primary objective of this training camp is to provide our young cyclists with a valuable platform to hone their skills



From left to right: Omari King, Jomari King, Tahje Browne, and St. Clair Williams. Missing from the photo is Aiden Tonge. The five-member Antigua and Barbuda delegation is currently attending an Under-19 Road Cycling Training Camp in Trinidad and Tobago. (ABCF)

and knowledge in road cycling disciplines.

"Emphasis will be placed on fostering camaraderie among participants while providing them with insights from seasoned coaches.

"The camp will conclude with a friendly competition, providing participants with an opportunity to put their newfound skills to the test and prepare for the busy cycling calendar.

"Looking ahead to 2025, our junior cyclists will have the Junior Pan American Games in Asuncion, Paraguay, in their sights. The training

camp aims to equip our cyclists with the necessary tools and expertise to excel at international competitions and represent Antigua and Barbuda with pride.

"We wish our delegation the best of luck and success at the U19 Road Cycling Training Camp in Trinidad and Tobago. May this experience be enriching, inspiring, and instrumental in shaping our young cyclists into future champions on the global stage.

"The event is made possible by the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee."



The Paragons 2 women's volleyball team

## Paragons 2 win ABAVA's female second division league title

Paragons 2 won the inaugural Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Female Second Division or Development League title on Saturday.

Paragons 2 captured the women's Division 2 title by beating TOA Media and MKUU Tours Chargers Eagles in a top-of-the-table championship decider at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

Paragons 2 took 58 minutes to prevail 25-15, 25-22,

and 25-16 against the Chargers Eagles, which finished in the runner-up spot with a record of eight wins and two losses from their quota of 10 matches in the six-team round-robin league.

The Paragons 2 secured the title with a record of nine wins and a loss from their quota of 10 matches.

Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad 2 captured third place with 27 points, three more than Starz 2 Juniors, by virtue of winning more sets after both

teams finished with identical records of five wins and five losses from their quota of 10 matches.

Da Squad 2 clinched third place by romping to a 3-0 win against the bottom team, Dynasty Queens, in their final encounter on Saturday.

It took Da Squad 2 an hour and five minutes to prevail 25-5, 25-11, and 25-8 against the Dynasty Queens, who finished in the cellar with a record of one win and nine losses from

their quota of 10 matches.

Starz 2 Juniors wrapped up their campaign with a hard-fought 3-2 victory against the Royal Cruisers 2.

After battling for two hours and 26 minutes, Starz 2 Juniors prevailed 25-10, 23-25, 25-18, 22-25, and 16-14 against the Royal Cruisers 2, who finished second from the bottom of the standings with a record of two wins and eight losses from their quota of 10 matches.

## ABSF announces swim team for Summer Olympics in France

The Antigua and Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) has announced the official selection of its national swimming team for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris, France.

The selected athletes who will represent Antigua and Barbuda on the world stage are female swimmer Ellie Shaw and male swimmer Jadon Wuilliez.

Both swimmers will compete in the 100-meter breaststroke races in their respective categories. The two-member team will be accompanied by national swim coach Nelson Molina Fojos at the Olympic Games in France from July 26 to August 11.



Swimmer Jadon Wuilliez



Swimmer Ellie Shaw



Swim coach Nelson Molina Fojos

According to a press release from the ABSF, “this marks a significant milestone in our nation’s sporting history, reflecting years of dedication, training, and unwavering commitment from our athletes, coaches, and officials.

“These talented swimmers have demonstrated exceptional skill, perseverance, and sportsmanship throughout their training and qualifying events, particularly in the recently concluded CCCAN Championships in Mexico in June. Their achievements are a testament to the high standards of excellence upheld by the ABSF and the support of our local community.”

“We are incredibly proud of our

athletes who have earned their place to compete at the Olympic Games,” says Edith Clashing, President of the ABSF.

“Their dedication and hard work have paid off, and we are confident they will represent Antigua and Barbuda with pride and distinction,” she added.

The press release adds, “The ABSF extends its heartfelt gratitude to all sponsors, partners, and supporters who have played a crucial role in the success of our athletes.

“Together, we celebrate this momentous occasion and look forward to an inspiring and triumphant Olympic Games.”