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A&B SENDS RELIEF TO GRENADA, SVG

Story on Page 2



ABDF personnel moments before departure for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada. (Inset top right) Prime Minister Gaston Browne helping to coordinate relief efforts for the hurricane-stricken countries.

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda government sends water to Grenada, SVG

Antigua and Barbuda has been at the forefront of regional efforts to provide disaster assistance to fellow CARICOM/OECS countries, Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines which have suffered major devastation from the powerful winds and water of Hurricane Beryl on Monday.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has spent the past two days on the phone helping with coordinating the local and regional responses to the situation in the two countries.

From the Antigua and Barbuda government, PM Browne revealed that ten containers of water have been donated and were scheduled to leave the St. John's Harbour on Tuesday evening for the disaster-stricken countries.

He said the relief supplies will travel aboard the vessel, MV Dawn, which will also ferry other supplies.

According to the prime minister, there are supplies that have been based here in St. John's by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Man-



agement Agency (CDEMA) some of which will be taken aboard the vessel for dispatch this evening.

The supplies include tarpaulin, small folding tents, lanterns and other supplies.

Along with the water that the government is sending, the prime minister announced that a cash donation will be made to these countries to help with the recovery. He did not disclose the amount at this time. In addition, the prime minister is offering aerial support for the relief efforts promising that the air wing of the ABDF will be deployed to fly teams of line-men and other personnel to the affected countries.

"We are going all out to help as much as we can the governments and peoples of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines," he declared.

While soliciting support for the two countries via telephone, the prime minister reached out to both the Grenadian Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell and SVG's Dr. Ralph Gonsalves, to offer Antigua and Barbuda's support; materially and otherwise

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PM Browne empathises with Grenada, SVG and suggests pledging conference

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has expressed empathy to the governments of Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines over the widespread destruction that both countries have suffered at the hands of the powerful hurricane, Beryl on Monday.

Speaking during a ZOOM meeting of CARICOM leaders on Tuesday, PM Browne noted that he was expressing support to 'our Caribbean brothers and sisters' at this time noting that Barbuda had suffered a similar fate back in 2017.

The prime minister added that he was very



Prime Minister Gaston Browne during a ZOOM meeting of CARICOM leaders.

pleased with what he saw as 'a strong regional response' to calls for assistance from the affected countries.

He said Antigua and Barbuda is very pleased with the strong culture

of solidarity and support within CARICOM. In fact, he noted, that this level *cont'd on pg 4*

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NODS offers support to countries affected by Beryl and echoes preparedness

The National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) and several stakeholders are offering support to St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada after they suffered severe damage by Hurricane Beryl on Monday.

Based on a list of items that was identified through the regional disaster management system, several relief items are being shipped to these territories. Among the items are water, food and tarpaulin.

Director of the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) Sherrod James says Tropical Shipping has come on board to support moving supplies along with the international non-governmental organization Global Support Development (GCD) which has partnered with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA).

In addition to the movement of supplies, a team of police and defence force officers has left the island for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada to be part of the Caricom Disaster



Sherrod James

Relief Unit (CDRU) or security operations.

They will be away for at least two weeks. Other personnel from NODS have been put on standby to be part of the regional team to help with emergency centre operations, telecommunications and rapid needs assessment.

The NODS Director says the needs in the affected territories will change over time as services are restored and assessments are ongoing. NODS is appreciative of those national stakeholder partners that are willing to assist.

Meanwhile, following the severe impact of Hurricane Beryl on St Vincent and Grenada on Monday, the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) is urging residents to ensure their own preparations for the season are in order.

This should include a home disaster management plan outlining what should be done in the home and what emergency kit and supplies should be kept on hand. These supplies should consist of food, water, medication, personal hygiene items, flashlight, first aid kit and other necessary

items. Important documents should be secured in a water-proof bag or container.

Family members should also determine where they will go if they must evacuate their home, whether it's with family or friends as the first option or at a public shelter which NODS advises should be the last resort.

Individuals should pay attention to official sources of information coming from the Met Office, NODS, Police, the Fire Department, the Ministry of Health and other national authorities.

This year's hurricane season, which began in June and ends in November, is forecast to be an active one and persons are urged to remain vigilant of their surroundings including waterways, water channels and gutters.

Residents are encouraged to stop littering and dumping garbage illegally as items carried by wind and water block drains. This has been one of the significant causes of flooding in many areas even those that have not been flood prone.

cont'd from pg 3

of support was heightened following the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria that devastated the region back in 2017.

He welcomed the spontaneous support for the affected countries and their peoples from across the Caribbean and he expressed the hope that this support continues to grow into the future when similarly powerful

storms are expected to have similar impacts on the region.

PM Browne is also recommending to his Grenadian and St Vincentian counterparts that they seek to organize a 'pledging conference', perhaps under the aegis of the United Nations. This, he believes is necessary as from the photos that he has seen the level of devastation will likely value hundreds of millions of

dollars and perhaps even billions.

According to the prime minister...these resources are beyond the means of the Caribbean so there is a need to look outside the region for this level of funding.

He explained that back in 2017, he saw the need to host such a conference which generated millions of dollars in pledges to assist the relief efforts in Barbuda.

Chandera Codrington wins Queen of Carnival public speaking competition

One of the preliminary events of the Queen of Carnival competition – the public speaking competition – has been won by Miss Furniture Gallery, Chandera Codrington.

Co-producer of the pageant, Brucilla Marsh of Marsh and Marsh Productions, said the public speaking competition is designed to test the public speaking and communications skills of the seven delegates taking part in the competition.

It was held at Casa Palmadita in Fitches Creek on Tuesday night.

The contest was judged on the basis that on entering the pageant, each delegate was asked to select a platform upon which she was expected to speak for a total of two minutes. At the end of the presentation, the delegates were questioned by members of the seven-member panel of judges.

Head of the panel of judges, Alicia Knowles of the Ministry of Education, commended the delegates for the high level of discussion they brought forth in their respective presentations. However, she felt that the delegates too often relied upon notes rather than speak from their hearts.

She said this may have affected some presentations as this did not allow for eye-contact with the audience. She also recommended to the organisers



that for next year, perhaps they ought to allow more time for the presentations to give the delegates time to add more ‘body’ to their arguments.

As part of the format for the show, only a single prize was awarded; there were no runners-up. Additionally, the marks from this competition do not go over into the main competition on July 21 at Carnival City.

The other delegates were:

Contestant number 1 – Shakkia Carlos Miss Boardwalk Casino

Contestant number 2 – Desrie Markham Miss Rawdon & Associates

Contestant number 3 – Kevinya Joseph Miss Cool & Smooth

Contestant number 4 – Jamalyn Stevens Miss Kennedy’s Club Limited

Contestant number 5 - Shania Samuel Miss LIAT 2020

and, Contestant number 6 – Dominique Trotman Miss Antigua Barbuda Port Authority

The platforms the delegates will speak on are;

Shakkia Carlos Miss Boardwalk Casino – Platform is Tourism with a Purpose

Desrie Markham Miss Rawdon & Associates – Drama, a safe space for the depressed, deprived and delinquent.

Kevinya Joseph Miss Cool & Smooth – Homeless not Hopeless- Empower, Shelter, Care.

Jamalyn Stevens Miss Kennedy’s Club Limited – Health is our Greatest Wealth

Shania Samuel Miss LIAT 2020 – This is Beauty (Body Shaming/Body Image)

Dominique Trotman Miss Antigua Barbuda Port Authority - Mental Health: Cyberbullying and Suicide

Chandera Codrington Miss Furniture Gallery – Youth Empowerment, brighter future



State Insurance Corporation re-commits to Panorama sponsorship

Now that the dust has settled regarding whether or not there will be a Panorama competition as part of the 2024 Carnival Programme...State Insurance Company now says it will recommit to being the title

sponsor after all.

Carnival sources have confirmed that the Panorama will have a title sponsor and that SIC will sign a document committing it to be associated with steel band competition for this

year.

After several days of a public spat between the National Festivals Commission and the Antigua and Barbuda Steelbands Association over the issue of the annual subvention,

State Insurance Company had indicated that it no longer wished 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 negotiations 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 reconsider their position whilst acknowledging that this was a development which the Commission wanted to avoid.

It appears as though the management of the company along with the board of directors heard the Minister's appeal and reconsidered their position in favour of moving forward with the sponsorship.

It is expected that both parties will sign an agreement for the title sponsorship sometime over the coming days.





Antigua and Barbuda native receives two honorary degrees for outstanding work in US

Antiguan Colette Phillips, recently received two honorary degrees, one from Boston’s Curry College and another from the Urban College of Boston.

Phillips who is the author of the recent bestselling book “The Includers: The 7 Traits of Culturally-Savvy Antiracist Leaders,” made history as the first person from the Caribbean to be the subject of a Harvard Business School case study for her creation of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion ecosystem in Boston, Massachusetts.

She is the daughter of the late Antiguan entrepreneur and proprietor of the Masses House, D.A.R. Phillips and Mrs. Ionie Phillips of Dian Point.

Phillips was bestowed the title of Doctor of Humane Letters from Curry College and received an Honorary Bachelor of Arts from the Urban College of Boston, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the city of Boston and her tireless advocacy for diversity, equity, and inclusion.

In addition to these esteemed accolades, Phillips was recently honored with the highly coveted Eleanor Roosevelt Following in Her Footsteps Award by the Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill

partnership. Eleanor Roosevelt was the wife of President Franklin D. Roosevelt the 32nd President of the United States.

Past recipients of the award included Hillary Clinton the first woman

Presidential Nominee of a major American party and Geraldine Ferraro, the first woman Vice Presidential Candidate.

This award is a testament to Phillips’ unwavering commitment to social justice and empowerment.



Colette Phillips



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SPA

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

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Local News



From left: Julia Harripaul (Resort Mngr), Cameron Mayers (F & B Mngr) Olvanah Richardson Burnette, CHTA Scholarship Award-ee, Karen Whitehead (HR Manager) and Carla Gonsalves Barreiro (Asst. F&B Manager)

From left: Careena Eastwood, Linda Watkins (Hotel Director - Trade Winds) and Kerissa Henry

Three hospitality professionals to receive scholarships

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association has announced that three of the nation's hospitality professionals have been awarded scholarships by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association Education Foundation (CHTAEF) to advance their careers in the hospitality industry.

The scholarship recipients are:

- **Chef Olvanah Richardson-Burnette**, Executive Sous Chef at Blue Waters Resort & Spa, who will pursue a Bachelor of Science in Operations Management at Southern New Hampshire University.
- **Ms. Careena Eastwood**, Events Coordinator at Trade Winds Hotel, who will study for a Bachelor of Science in Management (Tourism & Hospitality Management) at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.
- **Ms. Kerissa Henry** Rooms Division Coordinator at Trade Winds Hotel, who will continue



Careena Eastwood - Trade Winds Hotel her studies towards a Bachelor of Science in Management (Tourism & Hospitality Management) at the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

Established in 1986, the CHTAEF

cont'd on pg 9



Chef Olvanah Richardson Burnette - Blue Waters Resort & Spa



Kerissa Henry - Trade Winds Hotel

Plans for the annual cancer care fundraiser are in progress

The planning has commenced in earnest for this year's edition of the Caribbean's largest cancer fundraiser, CIBC Caribbean's Walk for the Cure.

Walk Managers across the bank's 11-member footprints have been meeting with their committees and fine-tuning this year's fundraising activities aimed at surpassing the over USD\$450,000.00 raised in support of cancer care and support organizations across the region last year.

In addition to donations

and sponsorship other fundraising activities held around the region include Paint for the Cure, Hike for the Cure and Golf for the Cure.

The walk began as part

of the celebrations to mark the bank's 10th anniversary in 2012 and takes place across its 11-member host countries.

The funds generated

from the walk are used primarily to assist with the purchase and maintenance of equipment used in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer patients.

cont'd from pg 8

is a charitable organization that offers scholarships and special assistance for the education of Caribbean tourism industry personnel and students pursuing careers in tourism and hospitality.

The foundation raises awareness of the varied career opportunities within the industry and provides technical and professional development throughout the Caribbean region.

The CHTAEF volunteer trustees manage one of the largest scholarship programs available in the Caribbean Hospitality & Tourism Industry, funded through corporate sponsorships, benefit auctions, and special events.

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Rotary Club Antigua Sundown gets new president

The Rotary Club of Antigua Sundown (RCAS) held its annual Handover Event with a cocktail party at Brew on Sunday, June 30, under the theme ‘ Rotary Sundown Turn’s 21’.

The event was a wonderful mix of festive cheer, a summation of the past year’s community service projects, and a call for even more outstanding performances by the new incoming President and Board.

The RCS said it takes this moment to celebrate the remarkable achievements of its outgoing President and Board, who have set a high standard for community service and leadership.

Reflecting on his term, President Athlyn Davis stated, “Let us be reminded that as a community and people of action, we must continue to sow common seeds of peace so that future generations can reap the benefits of a world free of fear, hatred, and violence. Stay Irie” and handed the ‘Presidential baton’ to Khari Lewis.

Khari Lewis, the new President, shared his inspiring vision for the upcoming year, emphasising the importance of fellowship and enjoyment in service.

“Fellowship is key. If we can’t have fun while doing it, why do it at

all?” said President Khari Lewis.

His vision for a year filled with meaningful service and enjoyable fellowship had members eagerly looking forward to the future.

The evening was also a time to shine a spotlight on the exceptional contributions of the Rotary Club’s members.

Secretary and President-Elect Nicole Stevens was honoured with the Malcolm Edwards Rotarian of the Year Award and the Kendrickson Kentish Rising Star of the Year Award, and Rotarian Dorrett George received the Dianna V. Browne Spirit of Service Award.

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'Almost whole island homeless' in Hurricane Beryl's wake

By Will Grant

Having survived the night as Hurricane Beryl tore across her idyllic home of Union Island with ferocious force, Katrina Coy was taken aback by the extent of the devastation which lay before her.

Virtually every building on the island, which lies off St Vincent and the Grenadines, has been razed or badly damaged, she said.

"Union Island is in a terrible state after Beryl passed. Literally, almost the whole island is homeless," said Ms Coy in a video message.

"There are hardly any buildings left standing. Houses are flattened, roads are blocked, the electricity poles are down in the streets."

Fisherman and fishing guide Sebastien Saily agreed.

"Everything is lost. I have nowhere to live right now," he said.

A resident of Union since 1985, he lived through Hurricane Ivan in 2004. But Hurricane Beryl, he said, was on another level.

"It's like a tornado has passed through here. Ninety percent of the island – easily 90% – has been erased."

The extent of the shock and fear is still evident in his voice.

"I was sheltering with my wife and daughter and,



to tell you the truth, I wasn't sure we would make it out at all."

His cousin, Alizee, who runs a hotel with her family, described a horrific experience as Beryl passed over their town.

She said they had to push furniture against the doors and windows to keep the sustained winds and huge gusts from blowing them open.

"The pressure was so intense that you felt it in your ears. We could hear the roof coming apart and smashing into another building. Windows breaking, flooding."

"No one knew it would be this bad, everyone is traumatised."

An organic farmer and beekeeper as well as a fisherman, Sebastien's two farms and his beehives have been completely destroyed as well.

Still, he said the community's immediate priority is shelter. People have been trying to gather wood and plastic sheeting to make some kind of temporary accommodation for their families.

"And obviously, finding water and food is going to be tough," he added.

Alizee Saily said many other goods are also urgently needed on Union Island – from tinned foods and powdered milk to sanitary products, first-aid kits and tents.

Plus, of course, generators.

With power and communications still down, she has only managed to send out messages by connecting to the Starlink network launched by Elon Musk's SpaceX.

For its part, the government in St Vincent and the

Grenadines says it recognises the scale of the problem.

In a morning address, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves summed up the sense of the shock across the Caribbean nation: "Hurricane Beryl – this dangerous and devastating hurricane – has come and gone and it's left in its wake immense destruction. Pain and suffering across our nation."

He also promised to react as quickly as possible to tackle the long list of post-hurricane priorities facing his administration.

On Union Island, however, there remains some scepticism that the government has the funds, resources and manpower to cope.

"I hope they can send us the military and the coast-guard to help us. I have no idea if they're able to re-

cont'd on pg 13



cont'd from pg 12

build the island but I don't think so", said Sebastien. "This is going to take billions, it will take a year or more and is going to need international help."

Katrina Coy, the direc-

tor of the Union Island Environmental Alliance, also implored members of the Caribbean diaspora to help in any way they could.

"We're in dire need of help. Emergency kits, food, evacuation, all of that is

needed in this moment."

For years, Ms Coy has carried out crucial work for Union Island's water security, a vital resource for small island communities in the Caribbean.

Heartbreakingly, her in-

ternational colleagues say, that work has been lost to Hurricane Beryl.

Beryl hit land on Monday as a category four hurricane, with sustained winds of 150mph (240km/h).

Thousands of people are still without power and many are in temporary shelters in St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada and St Lucia.

Yet despite the chaos and the homelessness across every inch of the island Sebastian Saily said he was just thankful things weren't even worse.

"The most important thing is that we are still alive, not the material losses."

"After witnessing the power of what we went through, today I was just pleased to see my neighbours were still here."



Regional News



CARICOM leaders to convene meeting on Hurricane Beryl response

By Dillon De Shang

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) leaders are set to hold a meeting at 10 am to discuss a joint response to the devastation caused in Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines by Hurricane Beryl on July 1.

St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister Dr Ralph Gonsalves said he's hoping that the meeting will be one of action and less talk.

"I spoke to the secretary general of CARICOM last night and I'm hoping that we don't carry too long in the meeting and that we just take quick decisions about what we need to do. After the meeting, we will know the full extent of what CARICOM may or may not be able to do," Gonsalves said.

Some CARICOM members have already begun prepping aid to be shipped to both St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada.

Guyanese president Dr



A tree lies on the roof of a house in Kingstown, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, after Hurricane Beryl on Monday, July 1, 2024. Photo: AP/Lucanus Ollivierre

Mohamed Irfaan Ali, who is the outgoing chairman of CARICOM, has plans to send an aircraft full of relief supplies to both nations.

Gonsalves said St Vincent and the Grenadines has food and water, but the challenge remains getting it to those in need.

Gonsalves said he is working with Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell to coordinate delivery since Grenada is closer to some of the small islands of the Grenadines that were ravaged by Beryl.

Gonsalves said the recovery from Hurricane Ber-

yl will be a herculean effort for St Vincent and the Grenadines, which is still dealing with the effects of the La Soufrière volcano eruption of 2021.

"We are seeing that Beryl has occasion a setback, but we have to turn the setback into an advance," he said.

The full extent of damage to both Grenada and St Vincent and the Grenadines is yet to be known and Gonsalves will be doing an aerial tour today when an aircraft from the Regional Security System arrives in Kingstown.

Caribbean islands sweep categories in World Travel Awards

Several Caribbean nations have been recognized for their excellence in tourism in this year's World Travel Awards.

The awards highlighted the region's diverse offerings, from pristine beaches to eco-friendly resorts.

In a press release, it was announced

that Jamaica emerged as a multiple award winner, securing 'Caribbean's Leading Destination', 'Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination', and 'Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board'.

Turks and Caicos claimed the title of

cont'd on pg 15

Biden blames jet lag and travel for poor debate performance

By Kayla Epstein

President Joe Biden has blamed his poor debate performance last week on jet lag, telling reporters that he “wasn’t very smart” for “travelling around the world a couple of times” before the debate.

“I didn’t listen to my staff... and then I nearly fell asleep on stage,” he said.

Mr Biden, 81, last returned from travel on 15 June, nearly two weeks ahead of the 27 June debate.

Mr Biden’s remarks come amid intra-party panic ahead of November’s election over his mental fitness,

and after a congressman from Texas became the first sitting Democratic lawmaker to call for him to step aside following his debate.

“I am hopeful that he will make the painful and difficult decision to withdraw,” Rep Lloyd Doggett said in a statement on Tuesday.

President Biden appeared to struggle through some responses during a debate with former President Donald Trump last Thursday.

“It’s not an excuse but an explanation,” he said at a private fundraiser in Vir-

ginia on Tuesday evening, referring to his travel.

He also apologised for his performance and said it was “critical” that he win re-election, according to ABC News.

Mr Biden made two separate trips to Europe in the span of two weeks last month.

On 15 June, he appeared at a fundraiser alongside former President Barack Obama after an overnight trip from Italy. He returned to Washington DC the following day.

White House officials have previously said Mr

Biden’s was battling a cold on the day of the debate.

The president did not mention any illness in his remarks on Tuesday. A spokeswoman for the White House said earlier in the day that he was not taking any cold medication during the debate.

Mr Biden also spent six days at Camp David, the presidential retreat outside Washington DC, preparing for his debate against Mr Trump.

The New York Times, citing an unnamed source familiar with Mr Biden’s

cont’d on pg 16

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‘Caribbean’s Leading Beach Destination’, while The Bahamas was honoured as the ‘Caribbean’s Leading Luxury Island Destination’. St Vincent and The Grenadines stood out as the ‘Caribbean’s Leading Nature Destination’.

In the hospitality sector, St Lucia’s Fond Doux Eco Resort was named ‘Caribbean’s Leading Green Resort’. Sandals Resorts International continued its streak of excellence, winning ‘Caribbean’s Leading Hotel Brand’, with its newest property, Sandals St Vincent & The Grenadines, taking ‘Caribbean’s Leading New Resort’.

Other hospitality winners included Jamaica’s Half Moon as ‘Caribbean’s Leading Hotel’, Round Hill Hotel & Villas as ‘Caribbean’s Leading Villa Resort’, and Beaches Turks and Caicos as ‘Caribbean’s Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort’.

In the aviation category, Bahama-sair was recognized as ‘Caribbean’s



Leading Airline’, while Jamaica’s Sangster International Airport won ‘Caribbean’s Leading Airport’.

Graham Cooke, Founder of World Travel Awards, commented on the winners saying: “Our winners represent the very best in travel and tourism from across the Caribbean and Americas, and my congratulations to each and every one of them. They are

all playing starring roles in driving the regions to even greater heights.”

The World Travel Awards are part of a global tour, with upcoming ceremonies in Manila, Philippines, and Diani Beach, Kenya.

The grand finale will take place in Madeira, Portugal, where the “World’s Leading” categories will be announced.



cont'd from pg 15

schedule, reported on Tuesday that his days began at 11:00 each morning and that he was given time each day to nap.

The newspaper also reported that he was so exhausted from his travel that his debate preparations were cut short by two days to give him time to rest at his beach house in Delaware.

Andrew Bates, a spokesman for Mr Biden, said the president began “working well before” 11:00, after his exercise routine, during his time at Camp David.

His age has been a long-simmering issue this election, with voters in multiple polls saying they think he is too old to be effective.

Mr Biden is currently the Democratic Party’s presumptive nominee for the White House.

He has vowed to stay in the race despite the debate performance.

In his Tuesday statement, Rep Doggett, 77, said the debate solidified his decision to urge Mr Biden to step aside.

“Instead of reassuring voters, the President failed to effectively defend his many accomplishments and expose Trump’s many lies,” said Rep

Doggett, who was sworn in in 1995 and is running for reelection.

He said too much is at stake to risk the president losing to Trump over fears about his age.

“While much of his work has been transformational, he pledged to be transitional,” the congressman said of Mr Biden.

“He has the opportunity to encourage a new generation of leaders from whom a nominee can be chosen to unite our country through an open, democratic process.”

“My decision to make these strong reservations public is not done lightly nor does it in any way diminish my respect for all that President Biden has achieved,” Rep Doggett said.

Mr Biden will give a primetime interview to ABC News’ George Stephanopoulos on Friday, his first since the debate.

Some prominent Democratic lawmakers voiced their concerns about Mr Biden’s age and stamina this week, but none until Rep Doggett has called for him to move aside as a candidate.

Other top Democrats have acknowledged fears about Mr Biden’s ability to win but emphasised that the

choice to leave the race is the president’s alone.

Several have flocked to liberal-leaning network MSNBC to defend him.

“It’s going to be up to Joe Biden” to do what he thinks is best, former US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi told MSNBC on Tuesday.

One of President Biden’s most important backers, Congressman Jim Clyburn of South Carolina, said he would support Vice-President Kamala Harris as the party’s nominee if Mr Biden stepped down.

But he told the network: “I want this ticket to continue to be Biden-Harris.”

Congressman Jamie Raskin, a Democrat from Maryland, told MSNBC this weekend that the debate created a “difficult situation”.

He acknowledged that there were “very honest and serious and rigorous conversations taking place at every level of our party.”

But he added: “Regardless of what President Biden decides, our party is going to be unified and our party also needs him at the very centre of our deliberations in our campaign.”

Hungary's Orban urges ceasefire on Kyiv visit

By Gordon Corera

Viktor Orban arrived in Ukraine on Tuesday for an unannounced visit having just taken over as rotating president of the European Union.

While in Kyiv, the Hungarian prime minister said a ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine could speed up negotiations to end the war that followed Russia's full-scale invasion in 2022.

Mr Orban has been a critic of Western support for Ukraine and is seen as the European leader closest to Russian President Vladimir Putin. This was his first visit to Ukraine in 12 years, although he has met Mr Putin repeatedly during that time.

During his joint appearance with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky the body language between them was not warm and neither took questions from the media after they gave their statements.

Mr Orban previously slowed agreement on a €50bn (\$54bn; £42bn) EU aid package designed to support Ukraine in its defence against Russia.

But for the next six months his position as head of the European Council means he has an influential role as a figurehead for Europe. He came to Ukraine on his second day in that role for discussions, saying there was a need to solve previous disagreements and focus on the future.



The body language between the two leaders was not warm.

In his statement following their meeting, Mr Zelensky said it was “very important to have Europe’s support for Ukraine maintained at sufficient level... it’s important for co-operation between all the neighbours in Europe to become more meaningful and mutually beneficial”.

In his own statement, Mr Orban stressed the need to work together but also said he had raised the idea of a ceasefire to hasten negotiations with Russia.

“I have asked the president to consider whether... a quick ceasefire could be used to speed up peace negotiations... I am grateful for his frank dialogue and his answers.”

Mr Orban also said: “My first trip has taken me here because the issue of peace is important not only for Ukraine, but for the whole of Europe. This war that you

are suffering is deeply impacting European security.”

President Zelensky did not publicly respond to those comments.

Later, in a post on X, the Ukrainian leader said Mr Orban’s visit to Ukraine was a “clear signal to all of us of the importance of unity in Europe and taking collective steps”.

“We discussed the path to a just, lasting, and fair peace.”

Many Ukrainians believe a ceasefire would simply cement Russia’s hold over territory it has taken from Ukraine and, if negotiations were to take place, they would prefer them to be conducted from a position of strength rather than on the back foot.

Ukraine’s Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said his country was open to “work with everyone and solve problems”.

“This work is difficult and time-consuming, but it eventually yields tangible results,” he told the BBC.

“During the visit, President Zelensky had a candid but constructive discussion with Prime Minister Orban about ways to achieve a just peace, not simply a ceasefire or peace talks.”

The two leaders also discussed bilateral issues including the 100,000 ethnic Hungarians who reside in Ukraine.

Mr Orban said the two countries were determined to put past disagreements behind them, and that he was reassured progress was being made on the rights of the ethnic Hungarians.

He also wished Ukraine “every success”.

The EU opened membership talks for Ukraine the week before Hungary assumed the EU Council Presidency.

First defending women's Wimbledon champ out in the first round since 1994

LONDON (AP) — Marketa Vondrousova became the first defending women's champion at Wimbledon to lose in the first round the next year since 1994, eliminated 6-4, 6-2 by Jessica Bouzas Maneiro at Centre Court on Tuesday.

Vondrousova was a surprise title winner at the All England Club 12 months ago, the first unseeded woman to claim the trophy at the grass-court Grand Slam tournament.

Now she enters the books in another — and less-wanted — historic way. The only other time in the sport's Open era, which dates to 1968, that a woman went from a championship at Wimbledon to an immediate exit a year later was when Steffi Graf was defeated by Lori McNeil 30 years ago.

"I was happy to be back on the Centre Court," Vondrousova said. "It just didn't go as planned today."

Vondrousova was seeded No. 6 this time, but the left-hander, who was the runner-up at the 2019 French Open and a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics three years ago, was never quite able to demonstrate her full game Tuesday.

She appeared to still be suffering after-effects from a fall during a tune-up tournament on grass in Berlin last month that hurt her hip.



Marketa Vondrousova of the Czech Republic reacts during her first round match against Jessica Bouzas Maneiro of Spain at the Wimbledon tennis championships in London, Tuesday, July 2, 2024. (AP)

How big a deal was this for Bouzas Maneiro? She is competing in a Grand Slam tournament for only the third time and came into the day with an 0-2 record at those events. Bouzas Maneiro also had never won a match at a tour-level grass tournament and never beaten an opponent ranked in the top 10.

"This is one of the most important moments in my life, in my career, here in this sport. This is amazing," said Bouzas Maneiro, a 21-year-old from Spain, who is ranked 83rd this week, equaling her career high.

Earlier Tuesday, Andy Murray pulled out of singles because he decided he

wasn't able to compete a little more than a week after having surgery to remove a cyst from his spine. His final appearance at Wimbledon, which he won in 2013 and 2016, will come in doubles alongside his older brother, Jamie.

Two seeded women who both have been ranked No. 1 and own two Australian Open championships apiece, No. 3 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 16 Victoria Azarenka, withdrew on Monday before their first-round matches because of shoulder injuries. Sabalenka was the pre-tournament favourite to take the women's title, according to BetMGM Sportsbook.

Intermittent rain de-

layed matches on the outside courts more than once Tuesday, and the retractable roofs at Centre Court and No. 1 Court were shut to allow play in those two stadiums.

No. 6 seed Andrey Rublev lost, while winners on Day 2 included No. 1 Iga Swiatek, 2022 champion Elena Rybakina and No. 5 seed Jessica Pegula among the women, and seven-time champion Novak Djokovic No. 4 seed Alexander Zverev and No. 7 Hubert Hurkacz among the men.

For Djokovic, his 6-1, 6-2, 6-2 win against qualifier Vit Kopriva was the first match since having surgery to repair a torn meniscus in his right knee on June 5.

Contingent from Nevis set to compete in Antigua Cup tournament

A contingent from Nevis has confirmed their participation in the first annual Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament, which will take place at Buckley's Primary School Playing Field in Buckley's Village from July 7-15.

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

The president of the Young Warriors Football Club, Colin James, said a 30-member contingent from Nevis will be participating in the event. James said interest has also been shown by a group from St. Kitts, but they have yet to confirm their participation in the Antigua Cup tournament.

"I think we can say that Nevis, with a delegation of about 30 people, comprising Under-17, Under-15, and Under-13 players, will be here.

"We are also awaiting final confirmation from St. Kitts in terms of their participation because they are willing to come as well," James stated.

"I think we have a product, an event, and a tourna-

ment that can really excite the imagination of not only Antiguan and Barbudan footballers and Caribbean players, but also the rest of the world.

"From all indications, we are getting support from Nevis, St. Kitts, and hopefully, Dominica, for this tournament. We did approach the other neighbouring islands, such as Montserrat and Anguilla, and it's not all lost in terms of getting teams from those two islands to come to Antigua."

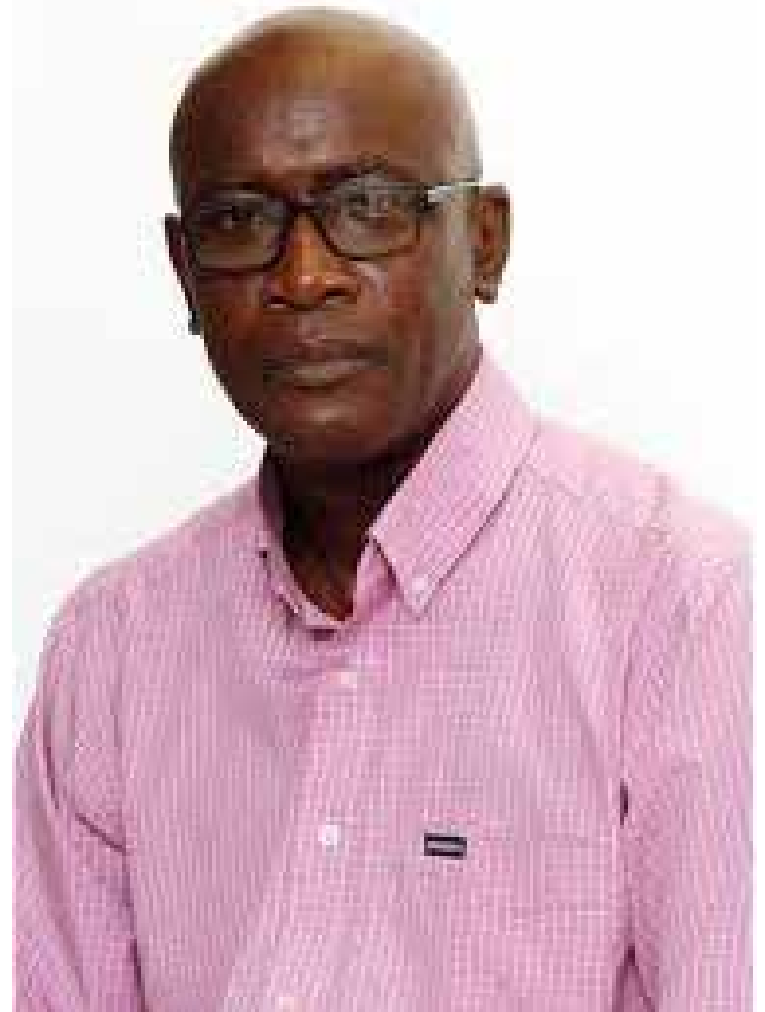
Organizers have announced that 16 teams, grouped into four age categories, will compete in the first annual Antigua Cup International Youth Football Tournament.

The teams will compete in Under-10, Under-13, Under-15, and Under-17 age-group categories.

James said the organizers are expecting to have the overseas teams in Antigua by Saturday.

"We want the teams to be in Antigua by this Saturday, July 6, and leave by Sunday, July 14," James said.

"The Young Warriors have been engaging the Nevis and St. Kitts teams since 2022, and we know that they will be competitive teams. Dominica's football is also on the rise, so it will be interesting to see what Dominica is doing at the grassroots level in terms of



Colin James

their football development."

James said he is waiting to confirm the participation of the national Under-14 team after Antigua and Barbuda's national technical director, Sowerby Gomes, indicated that the team is interested in taking part in the tournament.

"From the point of view of other local teams, we have Young Cubs, which is the Lion Hill youth team; Gray's Green Youth Soccer Club; CPTSA Wings; Urlings; Jennings; and we may also have a team coming from the All Saints commu-

nity," James said.

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

The Antigua Cup will commence with a brief opening ceremony at Buckley's Village on Sunday. President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee, Paul "Chet" Greene, and other dignitaries will deliver brief remarks at the ceremony.

Sports News



All Saints United and Villa Lions remain unbeaten in Under-19 Youth Premier League

All Saints United FC and Aston Villa Lions extended their unbeaten runs in the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Under-19 Youth Premier League over the weekend.

Both teams advanced to 21 points at the top of the standings after recording their seventh win in as many games during the seventh round of matches at the ABFA Technical Center.

After beating Garden Stars FC 4-2, All Saints United FC also prevailed 4-1 against Willikies FC.

After trashing Willikies FC 9-0, Villa Lions romped to an emphatic 7-0 victory against Greenbay Hoppers FC.

After losing for the first time in the tournament against All Saints United, Garden Stars FC returned to winning ways in the 14-team round-robin tournament with a 6-0 drubbing of TAMO FC.

Ottos Rangers FC snatched a 2-1 victory against Urlings FC, and Golden Grove FC recorded a one-nil win against Jennings United FC.

Soccer Academy won by default against Sea View Farm FC, which failed to show up for their seventh-round encounter.



Green City will face CPTSA Wings FC in a re-scheduled seventh-round match in ABFA's Under-19 Youth Premier League at the Jennings playing field on Wednesday (today) at 4:45 pm.

Cutting Edge FC extended their unbeaten run to remain at the top of the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Under-17 Youth Premier League over the weekend.

Cutting Edge FC beat CPTSA Wings FC 7-1 to remain the only unbeaten team in the competition after claiming their sixth win in as many games to advance to 18 points.

Aston Villa Lions remained in second place by grabbing a 4-1 victory against the Liberta Blackhawks.

Their fifth win in six matches carries the Villa Lions to 15 points.

SAP FC snatched a 3-2

victory against Empire FC, but the other two scheduled games were not played due to teams failing to show up for their encounters.

Five Islands FC and Old Road FC were awarded 3-0 victories by default after their opponents failed to show up for their encounters.

Five Islands FC won against the Young Warriors FC, and Old Road FC won by default against the Antigua Barracuda FC.

El Hombre go top of Group B in All Saints Community Football League

El Hombre moved to the top of Group B after the latest round of matches in the annual All Saints Community Football League (ASC-FL) over the weekend.

El Hombre prevailed 3-0 against the bottom team, Yorkshire, during their latest encounter at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Their fourth win in five matches allows El Hombre to move to the top of the standings in Group B with 12 points.

Yorkshire suffered their third defeat in five matches to drop into the cellar on goal difference with four points.

5 Star Kitchen remain in second place on goal difference in Group B after playing to a goalless draw with Sea View Farm in their latest outing.

Their first draw in four matches carries 5 Star Kitchen to seven points, the same as Fundamentals, who slipped into third place by virtue of an inferior goal difference.

Sea View Farm moved to second from the bottom of Group B by advancing to four points, the same as Yorkshire.

Strike Force advanced to fourth place in the group by beating Fundamentals 3-0 in their latest outing. Their second win in five matches

carries Strike Force to six points.

The Police and Young Warriors are currently leading Group A with nine points each. However, the Police have played four matches, one less than the Young Warriors.

Old Stagers are occupying third place with seven points from four matches.

They are followed by Freeman's Village with six points and Stone Ville with five points from five matches.

All Saints United are currently in the cellar of the six-team Group A standings with one point from three matches.



The Jamaica team that won the 2023 CWI Men's Under-19 Rising Stars championship. (File photo)

cont'd from pg 22

Trinidad and Tobago's manager Kerwin John pointed out that they did not get any word from CWI on the tournament's status.

"We are still at home.

We have not travelled to St. Vincent as yet, as the flight yesterday (Sunday) was cancelled from T&T to Barbados and Barbados to St. Vincent. We are waiting on the cricket board to say when is that re-

scheduled flight," John stated.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines' National Emergency Management Organisation (NEMO) reported significant damage to properties on

Monday.

The men's competition also has six teams down to vie for the three-day, and 50-over titles. Jamaica's men's under-19 team won both titles last year.

Hurricane Beryl causes delay to start of CWI's Rising Stars tournaments

As hurricane Beryl continues to wreak havoc across the Caribbean, the start of Cricket West Indies (CWI) Under-19 men's and women's Rising Stars tournaments have been delayed as host nations Trinidad and Tobago and St. Vincent and the Grenadines suffered blows from the category four storm.

Both tournaments were scheduled to start on Tuesday, but given the effects of Beryl, organisers were forced to shelf previous plans as they continue to assess the situation where travels and other logistical issues are concerned.

In fact, CWI vice president Azim Bassarath highlighted the uncertainty surrounding the tournament.

"Nothing as yet. We don't know what is the situation with flights coming out of the different islands after Beryl. So, it (the tournament) is on hold until everything returns to normalcy," he told T&T Newsday.

Trinidad and Tobago's Under-19 men's team were set to depart their shores for St. Vincent on Sunday. How-



The Leeward Islands Under-19 team at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Sunday, June 30, 2024. (LICB)

ever, flights were cancelled throughout the Caribbean.

But according to a revised schedule posted by the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) on its Facebook page on Tuesday, the women's Under-19 Rising Stars tournament will now commence on Thursday in Trinidad.

All six regional teams will be in action in three matches at the Brian Lara

Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad.

Trinidad and Tobago's women will face Guyana at 10 am, the Leeward Islands will meet Barbados at 2:30 pm, and the Windward Islands will clash with Jamaica at 7 pm.

The teams will play their second round of matches on Saturday, starting at 10 am.

Barbados and Windward

Island women's teams are already in the twin island republic as they recently engaged the host in a tri-series in preparation for the CWI tournament.

The Leeward Islands Men's Under-19 squad left Antigua and Barbuda for St. Vincent and the Grenadines on Sunday morning.

But up to late Monday,
cont'd on pg 21