

A&B WANTS 'LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND' PUT INTO IMMEDIATE EFFECT

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From left: Jesse Thomas, Chef Wilson, Chef Tuitt and Chef Richardson-Burnette. Two of the country's top chefs are to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 10th annual Nevis Mango Festival this weekend. *Story on page 7.*

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda wants 'Loss and Damage Fund' put into immediate effect

Antigua and Barbuda will be making a strong case at the upcoming meeting of COP for the 'Loss and Damage Fund' to be put into immediate effect in light of the devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl to multiple Caribbean countries.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said the damages caused by the hurricane served to confirm what the experts have been saying for some time; that climate change poses an 'existential threat' to countries such as the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) of the Caribbean.

"When we go to Azerbaijan in November for the next COP meeting, we will be pushing hard for the capitalization and the operationalization of the 'Loss and Damage Fund'. Additionally, one of the recommendations that we will be making to all SIDS is for them to set up a Disaster Contingency Fund to be capitalized by proceeds of the Loss and Damage Fund to be replenished from time to time. We should not be in the situation where we have to have these pledging conferences and trying to determine where we are going to get resources from to recover," the prime minister noted.

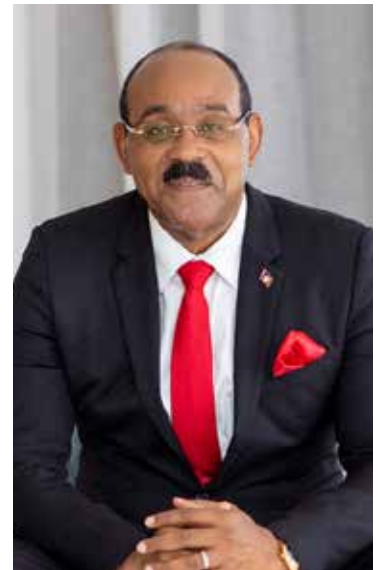
He suggests that there

should be compensatory mechanism within the Loss and Damage Fund to assist countries, such as those affected by the hurricane, to recover.

PM Browne noted that Antigua and Barbuda has been at the forefront on this issue and it intends to con-

tinue its advocacy to ensure that the Loss and Damage Fund is not only capitalized but operationalized with the next year.

"The expectation is that by the time we go into the next hurricane season (June 2025) we will have money to recover," he declared.



Prime Minister Gaston Browne



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Cabinet discusses hurricane relief for affected islands

The Antigua and Barbuda government continues to monitor the situation in the Southern Caribbean where multiple islands are assessing the devastation caused by the passage of Hurricane Beryl on Monday.

According to well-placed sources, the Cabinet held a discussion around the impact of Hurricane Beryl, the harm it caused to Grenada, Petit Martinique and Carriacou, St. Vincent and the Grenadines including Bequia, Union Island, and others.

A Barbadian Coast Guard vessel that sought safety in the waters of Antigua, is returning to the Southern Caribbean loaded with supplies from

Disaster Relief



both Government and NODS (National Office of Disaster services), and with a contingent of both police and soldiers from Antigua. The ABDF aircraft will also fly both personnel and supplies to the two affected countries.

“We are our brothers’ keepers”, the Cabinet declared, expressing sympathies to the affected countries and condolences where deaths have been recorded.

The government has already dispatched ten containers of water to the affected islands and disaster supplies that were housed at the NODS warehouse have also been sent to the affected islands.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne stated that in addition to the water, the government will also make a cash donation to the relief efforts. No figure was given, but he did say, ‘as much as our resources would allow’.

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Local News



The education minister leads efforts to ensure students' safety in Jamaica

Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew, is spearheading urgent efforts to ensure the safety and security of Antigua and Barbuda students attending institutions of higher learning in Jamaica with powerful Hurricane

Beryl already affecting the island from Wednesday afternoon.

A statement from the Ministry of Education said there is great concern at the senior levels of the ministry, including Minister Matthew,

to seek all available information and to do what is necessary to safeguard the students at this time.

“The well-being and security of our students who are engaged in their studies in Jamaica is of utmost im-



Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew

portance.

“Minister Matthew is actively communicating with the Jamaican authorities to ensure all necessary precautions are taken to protect our students during this difficult period. We wish to reassure the families and loved ones of the students that we are closely monitoring the situation closely to evaluate their condition and provide the needed support,” the statement read.

According to the release the minister and his team are addressing the safety and well-being of Antiguan and Barbudan students in Jamaica, particularly those at the University of Technology (Utech), UWI Mona, and Edna Manley Campuses of the University of the West Indies.

The Minister stands ready to provide the necessary assistance to the students as soon as ministry officials are able to make direct contact and understand their specific situations and requirements. Minister Matthew and the Ministry of Education are prepared to assist and support our students in Jamaica as they deal with the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl.

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Justice reform the subject of two-day workshop

More than fifty persons are attending a two-day crucial workshop on restorative justice, criminal mediation and Juvenile justice under the PACE JUSTICE PROJECT.

The workshop is being held through the aegis of the Partnership of the Caribbean and the European Union on Justice (PACE Justice).

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

“The identified backlogs are occasioned by pervasive human and technological resource and capacity constraints, which contributes to massive bottlenecks in the work of the justice sector,” according to the report.

Speaking at the opening ceremony at the Trade Winds Hotel on Wednesday, Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel noted that the workshop comes at a pivotal moment in the evolution of



Christalle Gemon

the criminal justice system.

The winds of change have blown, she noted, and a new, more compassionate and effective approach has emerged - one that recognizes the inherent dignity of every individual and the power of healing over punishment.

“Restorative justice, a paradigm shift in the way we address crime and harm, has gained significant traction in recent years. At its core, restorative justice seeks to repair the harm caused, address the underlying needs, and facilitate a transformative encounter between the offender, the victim, and the community.

“Mediation in criminal matters in the magistrates’ court is welcomed especially for youth offenders and specific permitted cases. It is not necessarily intended to soften the harshness of legal consequences,” she explained.



Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel

She added that incarceration often has life-changing consequences and may hamper future opportunities for example, completing tertiary education, employment or even hinder travel options for young offenders.

Magistrate Emanuel said one of the aims of the workshop is to explore new approaches to criminal justice and in the process reduce/break the cycle of recidivism and foster genuine rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Participants include probation officers, prison officers, police prosecutors, court staff, police officers and attorneys. Chair of the National Justice Reform Committee, Kayode O’Marde is also attending.

The main facilitators are Christalle Gemon, Team Leader, PACE Justice Project and Vanessa Untiedt, Project Specialist and Liaison with El PACtO.



Vanessa Untiedt

Ambassador Webson calls for urgent implementation of ABAS

The Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) convened its first meeting in New York this week, since the convening of the Fourth International Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) here in St. John's in May this year.

There, Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson was among government representatives at the meeting that was being convened against the backdrop of the powerful Category 4 Hurricane Beryl that has already devastated multiple islands in multiple countries in the Caribbean and it is already posing a threat to others.

The monthly meeting was held in a sombre mood recognising that Beryl made landfall as a powerful category five hurricane impacting the nations of Grenada and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, mere hours before the meeting convened, leaving death and destruction in its wake. Hurricane Beryl cut a path across the Caribbean Sea to Jamaica as a very powerful category 4, a stark reminder of the urgency confronting AOSIS in addressing all their pressing needs as Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

AOSIS Chair, Ambassador Fatu-



manava Dr. Pa'olelei Luteru, commended Antigua and Barbuda for its exceptional organization of the historic and successful SIDS4 conference. He emphasized that the focus must now swiftly shift to ensuring the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) achieves its goal of building safe and prosperous societies for all SIDS.

Expressing gratitude for the recognition, Ambassador Webson echoed Ambassador Luteru's sentiments, urging AOSIS members to capitalize on the momentum generated by the Antigua and Barbuda conference. He reported ongoing high interest from

major international partners in the Centre of Excellence, a key pillar of the ABAS outcome, with efforts now underway to fully operationalize the institution before year-end.

Ambassador Webson is also advocating for a two-year framework to guide the monitoring and evaluation mechanism of the ABAS to ensure it holds steady in meeting the various goals and ambition that address the numerous challenges facing SIDS.

In this connection, the Antiguan and Barbudan diplomat welcomed the commitment of support from key UN agencies including the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the Office of the High Representative of Landlocked Developed Countries, Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (OHRLLS).

Their support of SIDS4 is expected to help accelerate the process in achieving the key outcomes as outlined in the ABAS. One of the key initiatives is the establishment of an Interagency Task Force that will help to manage the monitoring and evaluation framework and the overall implementation of the outcome document.



Antigua and Barbuda to take part in Nevis Mango Festival

Two of the country's top chefs are to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the 10th annual Nevis Mango Festival this weekend.

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association says two of its culinary elites will be competing at the festival at the invitation of the Nevis Tourism Authority and in partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

The team competing this weekend includes:

Chef Ronald Wilson, who will lead the team as Head Chef. Chef Wilson was named Chef of the Year 2023 at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Awards Gala and is the Chef de Cuisine/Head Chef at Blue Waters Resort & Spa.

Chef Jean-Pierre Tuitt, who will function as Sous Chef for the competition. Chef Tuitt earned the distinction of Young Chef of the Year 2023 at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Awards Gala and is the Junior Sous Chef at Jumby Bay Is-



Chef Ronald Wilson
land.

Chef Olvanah Richardson-Burnette, Executive Sous Chef at Blue Waters Resort & Spa, will serve as the team's Manager and has been preparing the chefs for the competition over the past three weeks alongside Jesse Thomas, The Director of Agri-Tourism in the Ministry of Tourism.

The Nevis Mango Festival is a vibrant celebration of the island's most beloved fruit, the mango. Celebrating 10 years, this event invites attendees to indulge in the sweet and juicy flavors of Nevis mangoes. From July 4th to 7th, 2024, immerse yourself in a variety of events that showcase all things mango, from tantalizing mango tastings to thrilling culinary and mixologist competitions. Talented chefs will showcase their creativity by infusing mangoes into every dish and cocktail, offering a unique experience that celebrates the versatility of mangoes.

Craig Marshall, Chairman of the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association, remarked,



Chef Jean-Pierre Tuitt

«The current mission of the ABHTA is to ensure that we are supporting the development of the culinary arts here in Antigua and Barbuda. We are pleased with the support being offered by the Nevis Tourism Authority to have our chefs compete and with the continued partnership with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority in seeing the growth of our sector and supporting initiatives like these. We wish our team the absolute best as they compete to represent Antigua and Barbuda.»

Colin James, CEO of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, expressed his excitement about the competition, stating, «We are always excited to showcase Antigua and Barbuda, and what better way than through the culinary arts. We love mangoes, and they are a part of our culture and way of life. I am looking forward to seeing the delicacies that our competing chefs will produce, and we wish them the best of luck as they represent our twin islands.»

Chefs Wilson and Tuitt will be
cont'd on pg 8



From left: Chef Ronald Wilson and Chef Jean-Pierre Tuitt

Local News



ABLP's St. Phillip's North constituency primary is today

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party is staging a primary election

in the St. Phillip's North constituency today to select a caretaker candidate

with the anticipation that the current representative, Sir Robin Yearwood, will

likely not contest the next general elections.

Party sources say the voting will be done from the within a four-hour window; starting at 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Willikies primary school.

A total of 907 electors are eligible to vote in the contest.

Four candidates; Randy Baltimore, Dr. Oswald Thomas, Telly Cornelius and Robin Yearwood Jr are contesting the primary election.

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competing in a culinary showcase on Sunday, July 7, where mango will be the star ingredient in a two-round competition.

The opening round of the competition is a plant-based round where, in 30 minutes, the team must prepare a dish with mango as the main ingredient, featuring plantain, avocado, and beet in their creation. In the second round, the team will compete in a mystery basket round where they will have 45 minutes

to prepare a dish, with mango being the star ingredient.

Team Antigua & Barbuda will compete head-to-head with Team Nevis in this culinary event.

Antiguans and Barbudans can follow the chefs' competition on the digital platforms for the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association @antigua-hotels (Facebook and Instagram) and the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority @antiguaandbarbudatourismlive (Facebook) and @abta_live (Instagram).

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State Insurance Company Limited reaffirms its commitment to Panorama Sponsorship

St John's, Antigua (July 3, 2024) - Reaffirming its commitment to the development and vitality of Antigua's cultural landscape, State Insurance Company Limited (SICL) is thrilled to announce its annual sponsorship of Panorama for Antigua's Carnival; *The Caribbean's Greatest Summer Festival*. The Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission is also excited to continue its partnership with SICL to ensure that this event is not only a success, but one that will exceed the expectations of patrons on the night of August 3, 2024.

As our company reflects on our promise to develop the eclectic steelpan artform, we continue to stay focused and guided by our ethos which is to empower the youth in the communities where we operate. For so many young people across our nation, the steelpan is the driving force; providing a safe and musical gateway for young people to thrive and excel; especially during the summer period. We are dedicated champions for this most noteworthy event, acknowledging the positive ripple effect it has among our 'grassroot' community.

Honourable Daryl Matthew, Minister with responsibility for The Creative Industries (Antigua's Carnival) expressed his delight that SICL has continued its title sponsorship, recognizing that Panorama plays a significant role in our annual cultural Summer Festival. Chairman of the SICL Board of Directors, Ms. Leslie-Ann Yearwood expressed that *"Panorama is beyond a sponsorship for this company. Steelpan has far-reaching effects as the summer pan yards provide a safe haven for young people. We are extremely proud to be onboard as sponsors for this event."*

As we gear up to celebrate what promises to be a dynamic evening of pan, we take this opportunity to invite residents and visitors alike to support and attend the State Insurance Company Limited Panorama scheduled for August 3, 2024.

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Peaceful coexistence towards a better future

Authored by H.E. Zhang Yanling
Chinese Ambassador to Antigua
and Barbuda

Entering the second half of 2024, regional conflicts and wars continue to bring huge casualties and economic losses to relevant countries and regions, posing more severe challenges to world peace and stability.

On 28th June, the Conference marking the 70th Anniversary of the official release of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence was held in Beijing. Focusing on the historic question of “what kind of world to build and how to build it”, the Conference proposed to answer the call of the times by carrying forward the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence and jointly building a community with a shared future for mankind.

70 years ago, In the wake of the Second World War, the world was overshadowed by the dark clouds of the Cold War. Like every newborn country that had just gained independence from colonial rule, New China aspired to safeguard its sovereignty and grow its national economy.

To actively seek peaceful coexistence with all countries, New China specified the Five Principles in their entirety for the first time, namely, mutual respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, mutual non-aggression, mutual

non-interference in each other’s internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence. The Five Principles were officially included in the China-India and China-Myanmar joint statements, which called for making them basic norms for state-to-state relations.

With their inclusion also in the Declaration on Principles of International Law adopted at the 25th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1970 and the Declaration on the Establishment of the New In-



ternational Economic Order adopted at the Sixth Special UNGA Session in 1974, the Five Principles that born in

Asia, have become open, inclusive, and universally applicable basic norms for *cont'd on pg 11*

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international relations and fundamental principles of international law.

70 years later, the world again has to choose between peace and war, prosperity and recession, unity and confrontation. The Five Principles fully conform with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter, emphasize the importance of mutuality and equality in handling state-to-state relations, aim at protecting the interests and pursuits of less developed countries from power politics, and offer a new path toward a peaceful settlement of historic issues and international disputes, triumphing over obsolete, narrow-minded, antagonistic and confrontational mindsets such as bloc politics and sphere of influence.

The Vision of Building a Community with a Shared Future for Mankind carries forward the same spirit of the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence. It advocates that all countries, regardless of their size, strength, and wealth, are equal members of the international community, and have common interests, common rights, and common responsibilities in global affairs; calls on all countries to bear in mind the future of humanity and the wellbeing of the people, and uphold their essential commitment to equality, mutual benefit, and peaceful coexistence and deliver more benefits to all peoples; keeps pace with the efforts for an equal and or-

derly multipolar world and universally beneficial and inclusive economic globalization bringing the international community broad prospects of peace and stability, and presenting the world with more prosperity and development.

The past 70 years have proved time and again that an effective way for countries to meet challenges to-

gether and create a better future is to enhance unity, cooperation, communication, and understanding. In the era of economic globalization, what is needed is not gaps of division but bridges of communication, not iron curtains of confrontation but highways of cooperation.

China and Antigua and Barbuda are both develop-

ing countries and share the common pursuit of national independence, peace and stability, sustainable development, and fairness and justice. China stands ready to continue to work with Antigua and Barbuda, to jointly promote the building of a community with a shared future for mankind and to create a better future for both countries.

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Brazil blocks Meta from using social media posts to train AI

By Malu Cursino

Brazil has blocked Meta from using Brazilians' Instagram and Facebook posts to train its artificial intelligence (AI) models.

It comes weeks after the company abandoned similar plans to use UK and European users' posts for the same purpose.

On Tuesday, Brazil's national data protection agency (ANPD) said it would immediately suspend Meta's latest privacy policy, which allows it to train generative AI models such as chatbots based on posts from its users.

A Meta spokesperson told the BBC the company was "disappointed by the decision", adding that their approach complied with local privacy laws.

"This is a step backwards for innovation, competition in AI development and further delays bringing the benefits of AI to people in Brazil," the company added.

Meta has a significant market in Brazil. There are 102 million Facebook users and more than 113 million Instagram users in the country.

The ANPD said it had acted over the "imminent risk of serious and irreparable damage, or difficulty repairing fundamental rights of the affected [ac-



count] holders".

Meta was given five working days from ANPD's decision to show it has amended its privacy policy to exclude the use of personal information found in public posts to train generative AI. If it fails to comply it will face a daily fine of R\$50,000 (£6,935).

The company's updated policy was also the focus of scrutiny in the UK and the European Union (EU).

Under its privacy policy changes, which were due to take effect in the region on 26 June, Meta users' information would be used to "develop and improve" its AI products.

In Europe, the policy change would include posts, images, image captions, comments and Stories that users over the age

of 18 had shared with a public audience on Facebook and Instagram, but not private messages.

But that was put on hold after Meta said it had received a request from the Irish Data Protection Commission (DPC) on behalf of other European stakeholders to delay its training of large language models (LLMs).

LLMs are a type of artificial intelligence that powers chatbots, such as OpenAI's ChatGPT and Google's Gemini.

On 14 June, when it announced the delay, Meta said this was a "step backwards" for AI in Europe.

However Meta decided to press ahead with the policy change in Brazil.

Pedro Martins, from Data Privacy Brasil, welcomed the ANPD's decision. He told the BBC there

was a discrepancy between Meta's data protection measures for its Brazilian and European users.

Meta had planned to use posts from Brazilian children and teenagers to train its AI models, he said, while in Europe nobody under 18 would have their posts used.

Brazil's data protection regulator also found that personal data found in children and teenagers' posts could be collected and used to train Meta's AI systems, which could be in breach of the country's data protection law.

In addition, Mr Martins said, in Europe the steps users can take to prevent Meta from using personal information are more straightforward than in Brazil, where he said it can take as many as eight steps

cont'd on pg 13

Tesla surprises with better than expected car sales

By Natalie Sherman

Tesla sales, hit by a significant slump earlier this year, may be showing signs of revival.

Elon Musk's electric car-maker delivered nearly 444,000 vehicles in the three months ended 30 June, up more than 14% from the prior quarter.

That was far more than most analysts had expected - though still down nearly 5% from the same period in 2023.

Tesla has been navigating a slowdown in demand, as high borrowing costs weigh on buyers and competition increases.

It has slashed prices repeatedly to try to win back shoppers, while also introducing low-cost borrowing plans.

But its success in this has been limited.

The firm, which announced plans in April to sack more than 10% of its workforce, has seen sales fall in the first half of the year.

At the start of the year, Tesla blamed its poor performance in part on supply shortages due to shipping disruption in the Red Sea and an alleged arson attack



The cyber truck has been selling well, although it is a tiny part of Tesla's business.

at its factory in Germany.

But analysts say Tesla needs to freshen its lineup, if it hopes to stop rivals from making inroads.

The company started selling its cyber-truck last year but that remains a tiny part of its business. Its mainstream Model 3 sedan was first released in 2017.

Mr Musk, who recently won shareholder support for a record-breaking pay package worth roughly \$50bn, has outlined a bright future for the firm, underpinned by self driving and automation.

And despite industry

concerns that demand for electric vehicles in the US in recent months has been weaker than anticipated, the sector is still growing globally.

More than one in five cars sold this year around the world are expected to be electric - including nearly half in China and roughly a quarter in Europe, according to a recent outlook from the International Energy Agency (IEA).

Wedbush Securities analyst Dan Ives said he thought the worst was behind Tesla, noting signs

of improvement in China, where the government recently announced it would give money to people who trade in older cars in a wider boost for the industry.

"While its been a difficult period for Tesla and the company has been through some significant cost reductions (roughly 10%-15%) to preserve its bottom line/profitability, it appears better days are now ahead," he wrote in a note to investors on Tuesday.

He said he expected the firm's upcoming August presentation on robotaxis to drive a new wave of growth.

Shares in the firm jumped more than 6% in morning trade on Tuesday following the news.

cont'd from pg 12

for users to block the company from using their posts. The BBC has asked Meta to respond to the claim that it had

planned to use posts from Brazilian children and teenagers to train its AI models, and whether it imposed more onerous steps for opting out on users in Brazil.

Regional News



CDEMA pleased with regional countries' support to hurricane damage

CMC - The Barbados-based Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) says it is still awaiting an official death toll from the passage of Hurricane Beryl through the Windward Islands earlier this week.

CDEMA executive director Elizabeth Riley, speaking at a news conference on Wednesday, said that while the international media may be providing figures regarding the number of people killed when the storm passed through St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada, no official report of deaths had been provided.

“As to whether we could give a confirmation with regards to fatality, the answer is no. We have not yet received an official report from any of the states with respect to this item and of course, once this is available, we will make this available to the press as well”.

Both Prime Ministers Dr Ralph Gonsalves and Dickon Mitchell had earlier reported persons being killed as a result of the passage of the category 4 hurricane in the Grenadine islands, but both acknowledged that they were providing figures that had been reported to them.

Riley said both St Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada have indicated that



while they will accept cash donations to help in the reconstruction exercise, they have both issued a needs list urging donors to provide what's on the list.

She said it is “too early” to provide a financial picture as to the damage caused and that officials are still conducting field operations.

Riley told reporters that she was pleased with response by the CDEMA member states to assist the countries affected so far by the storm and as it relates to Jamaica and the Cayman Islands, where the hurricane is now heading “we have activated our regional response mechanism.

“It is on standby to support Jamaica and we were in discussions with Jamaica on the operational scenario they were anticipating including looking at matters of population to be affected etc.

“So the arrangements are on standby within the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit. We are also looking at having appropriate search support available for them as well,” she said, noting “this is quite a complex operation that is happening in the region.”

She said CDEMA has four geographical sub-regions allowing the Barbados-based agency to provide more effective response to member countries “and you probably will realise that Beryl has threatened three of those sub-regions”.

She said the sub-region led by Barbados with the countries involved were under threat at the same time and so too was the situation for the sub-region led by Trinidad and Tobago.

“We knew that Hurricane Beryl was going to traverse the Caribbean Sea and provide a bit of a con-

cern for Jamaica which is the sub-regional focal point for north west and of course Jamaica is very important within our system because of the significant assets that they hold etc.”

“I am raising this point to say what we have done is try to strategically utilise those states which have not been under threat to provide the horizontal cooperation support and we have collaborated very closely with our partners...like the UN agencies as well as some private sector entities”.

She said the Bahamas has also put a team on standby to help Jamaica “and we do have an arrangement with the international militaries that support our regional response mechanism through our multilateral Caribbean ...and that includes the militaries of the United States, Canada, France, the

cont'd on pg 15

Dominica: Pilot and passenger survive crash

CMC – A small single engine Cessna aircraft crashed on take-off at the Canefield Airport just on the outskirts of the capital on Wednesday, but the pilot and his wife, escaped unhurt.

“I was taking off and got pushed by the sheer winds... but we are all okay,” said the pilot, who did not identify himself to reporters.

The Canefield Airport, situated on the west coast of the island was officially opened in 1982. It is one of only two airports in the island, with the other being the Douglas Charles Airport on the northeast coast of Dominica.

The authorities have since launched an investigation into the incident.

In July, 2011, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit said his administration had no plans to re-open the Canefield Airport to commercial traffic because it is not economical.

“Every dollar we make at the airport, we are spending 25, so it is not a viable enterprise. I think eventually the people of Dominica will have to take a decision on it as to whether we continue to have it as an airport or some other facility,” Skerrit said then adding “at the end of the day you have to take a responsible decision of the contribution of the Canefield Airport.”

Dominica is currently building an international airport on the island’s northeast coast.



The aftermath of today’s plane crash at the Canefield Airport in Dominica.

cont’d from pg 14

Kingdom of the Netherlands”.

She said with respect to the Cayman Islands, which is also under threat from Beryl, it is a British Overseas Territory “and in that regard, our operational plans call for us to activate our arrangements with the UK for support to the UK Overseas Territories in events where regional resources are stretch and this is one of those scenarios”.

Asked by reporters what would be CDEMA’s role in Haiti, where security is a major issue following the July 2021 assassination of the President Jovenel Moïse, the CEMA executive director said the reality is that there would be some concerns going into the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

“Any time we are launching a humanitarian response, the first concern

is safety. Haiti has a real conflict situation, which is being managed.

“So at this time we would really have to have some very deep conversations with our colleagues in Haiti to understand the situation on the ground and we would need to be able to guarantee the safety of personnel who could be deployed to Haiti.

“I think we have to accept that the situation there is difficult. We understand that the leadership that is currently in place is doing its best, to bring some level of...normalcy...but they are trying to address the difficult situation”.

Riley told reporters “any time you have concerns relating to law and order and safety of humanitarian workers there is going to be a constraint, it is just a reality.

“But what I would say is that to the extent possible, if something should

happen in Haiti, we would do our best, but at the forefront always is that we have to ensure the safety of the humanitarian workers.”

The United Nations has also expressed concern for Haiti, which was already in a dire situation before the hurricane.

“The security situation is not making it any better.

“We are prepositioning, we are ready to help as soon as the storm hits and before,” said UN spokesperson Stephané Dujarric.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), aid agencies there are in close contact with Haitian authorities, who have amplified early warning messages.

“UN agencies, of course, stand ready to assist and have already taken anticipatory measures,” Dujarric said.

Israeli strike kills senior Hezbollah commander in Lebanon

Hezbollah has said one of its senior commanders was killed in an Israeli air strike in southern Lebanon, with the Iran-backed armed group retaliating with a barrage of rockets against Israel.

Mohammed Nimah Nasser is the latest senior member of Hezbollah to be targeted by Israel during almost nine months of cross-border violence which have raised fears of an all-out war.

Hezbollah said it had launched 100 rockets and missiles at Israeli military positions “as part of the response to the assassination”. The Israeli military said a number of projectiles which fell in open areas sparked fires, but no injuries were reported.

The military said Nasser commanded Hezbollah’s Aziz Unit, which is responsible for launching rockets from south-western Lebanon, and accused him of directing a “large number of terror attacks”.

It also described him as “the counterpart” of Taleb Sami Abdullah, the commander of another unit whose killing last month prompted Hezbollah to launch more than 200 rockets and missiles into northern Israel in a single day.

Since then, there has been a flurry of diplomatic



Rockets fired by Hezbollah in response to the strike sparked fires in northern Israel.

efforts to de-escalate tensions, with the UN and US warning of the potentially catastrophic consequences of a war that could also draw in Iran and other allied groups.

There have been almost daily exchanges of fire across the Israel-Lebanon border since the day after the start of the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza on 7 October.

Hezbollah has said it is acting in support of the Palestinian group that is also backed by Iran. Both groups are proscribed as terrorist organisations by Israel, the UK and other countries.

In recent weeks, Israeli officials have repeatedly

warned that they will use military force to restore security along the northern border if diplomacy fails.

“We are striking Hezbollah very hard every day and we will also reach a state of full readiness to take any action required in Lebanon, or to reach an arrangement from a position of strength,” Defence Minister Yoav Gallant said on Wednesday.

“We prefer an arrangement, but if reality forces us we will know how to fight.”

Hezbollah, heavily armed and long seen as a significantly superior foe to Hamas, has said it does not want a full-out war with Israel and that it will

observe in Lebanon any ceasefire in Gaza.

“Israel can decide what it wants: limited war, total war, partial war,” the group’s deputy leader, Naim Qassem, said in an interview with the Associated Press on Tuesday.

“But it should expect that our response and our resistance will not be within a ceiling and rules of engagement set by Israel.”

So far, more than 400 people have been reported killed in Lebanon, the vast majority of them Hezbollah fighters, and 25 people in Israel, mostly soldiers.

Tens of thousands from communities on both sides of the border have also been displaced.

'I'm not leaving', Biden says, as pressure to drop out grows

US President Joe Biden worked to calm senior Democrats and staff on his campaign on Wednesday, as reports suggested he was weighing his future after his disastrous debate with Donald Trump last week.

Mr Biden held a closed-door lunch with Vice-President Kamala Harris at the White House as speculation mounted over whether she would replace him as the party's candidate in November's election.

The pair then joined a call with the broader Democratic campaign where Mr Biden made clear he would remain in the race and Ms Harris reiterated her support. "I'm the nominee of the Democratic Party. No one's pushing me out. I'm not leaving," he told the call, a source told BBC News.

That same phrase was repeated in a fundraising email sent out a few hours later by the Biden-Harris campaign. "Let me say this as clearly and simply as I can: I'm running," Mr Biden said in the email, adding that he was "in this race until the end".

Questions have been swirling around whether the 81-year-old will continue with his campaign following the debate with Trump, which was marked by verbal blanks, a weak voice and some difficulty to follow an-



President Biden and Vice-President Harris presented a united front to Democrats on Wednesday (file image)

swers. It sparked concern in Democratic circles around his fitness for office and his ability to win the election.

Pressure on Mr Biden to drop out has only grown in the days since as more polls show his Republican rival's lead widening. A New York Times poll conducted after the debate, which was published on Wednesday, showed Trump holding his biggest lead yet at six points.

And a separate poll published by the BBC's US partner CBS News showed Trump with a three point lead over Biden in the crucial battleground states. That poll also showed the former president leading nationally.

The damaging polling has been compounded by some Democratic donors

and lawmakers publicly calling on the president to stand aside. Ramesh Kapur, a Massachusetts-based Indian-American industrialist, has organised fundraisers for Democrats since 1988. "I think it's time for him to pass the torch," Mr Kapur told the BBC. "I know he has the drive, but you can't fight Mother Nature."

And two Democrats in Congress also called for a change at the top of the party's ticket. The latest, Representative Raul Grijalva of Arizona, told the New York Times it was time for Democrats to "look elsewhere".

Despite this, the White House and the Biden campaign have vehemently denied reports he is actively weighing his future and say he is committed to defeating

Trump for a second time on 5 November.

The New York Times and CNN reported on Wednesday that Mr Biden had told an unnamed ally he was evaluating whether to stay in the race. Both reports said the president had told the ally he was aware his re-election bid was in danger and his forthcoming appearances - including an ABC News interview and a Friday rally in Wisconsin - were hugely important to his campaign.

A spokesperson rejected the reports as "absolutely false", shortly before White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre faced a barrage of questions about Mr Biden's commitment to the race. She said the reports he

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James signs two-year deal to stick with Lakers – reports

NEW YORK (Reuters) - LeBron James, the NBA's all-time leading scorer, has agreed to sign a two-year, US\$104-million maximum contract to return to the Los Angeles Lakers, according to multiple reports on Wednesday.

Both ESPN and The Athletic, citing sources, said four-times NBA champion James would have a player option for the 2025-26 season and a no-trade clause.

James's decision to stick with the Lakers, who drafted his son last week, was hardly a surprise as several outlets reported over the weekend that he intended to opt out of his US\$51.4-million player option for next season and seek a new deal with the team.

Reuters was unable to reach James's agent for comment while the Lakers did not immediately respond when asked to confirm

the reports.

In six seasons with the Lakers, the four-times league MVP has averaged 27 points per game, eight assists and 7.9 rebounds.

The Lakers finished seventh in the Western Conference this year with a 47-35 record and went on to lose to the defending champion Denver Nuggets in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

James, 39, has long expressed a desire to play in the NBA with his son Bronny, and the Lakers brought him one step closer to fulfilling that dream by selecting the 19-year-old in the second round of the 2024 NBA Draft.

The younger James, speaking during his introductory news conference this week, said he was ready for the pressure of playing alongside his father, who is regarded as one of the best players in NBA history.



LeBron James

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may drop out were untrue: "We asked the president [and] the president responded directly... and said 'no, it is absolutely false'. That's coming direct from him."

Mr Biden is due to meet with 20 Democratic governors from around the country, including California's Gavin Newsom and Michigan's Gretchen Whitmer, later on Wednesday. Both have been tipped as potential replacements if Mr Biden were to stand aside.

But Ms Harris is still considered the most likely replacement. The 59-year-old has been hampered by poor approval ratings, but her support has increased among Democrats since the Biden-Trump debate.

The vice-president gave an im-

mediate interview on CNN after the debate, and projected calm as she expressed full support for the president.

"She's changing nothing," a source close to Ms Harris told BBC News, adding that she would continue to hit the road on behalf of the campaign.

"She has always been mindful to be a good partner to the president," said Jamal Simmons, Ms Harris' former communications director.

"The people who ultimately will make the decision about who the nominee should be mostly are people who are pledged to him. Her best role is to be a partner to him."

Members of the Democratic National Committee are charged with voting to officially make President Biden the party's nominee at the Au-

gust convention, putting him on the ballot nationwide.

One member, who has spoken to other delegates and requested anonymity to speak frankly about sensitive discussions, told the BBC that the nomination should go to Vice-President Harris if Mr Biden opts not to run.

"If we open up the convention, it will cause pure chaos that will hurt us in November," they said.

A report by the Washington Post, meanwhile, said Mr Biden and his team recognise that he must demonstrate his fitness for office in the coming days.

He appeared at a Medal of Honor ceremony on Wednesday, and has planned trips to Wisconsin and Philadelphia later in the week.

Hodge hits century in West Indies England tour opener against FCC XI

The West Indies began their tour of England with a resolute batting performance in their warm-up three-day match against a First Class Counties (FCC) Select XI at the Kent County Cricket Ground in Beckenham, finishing the opening day on a high note.

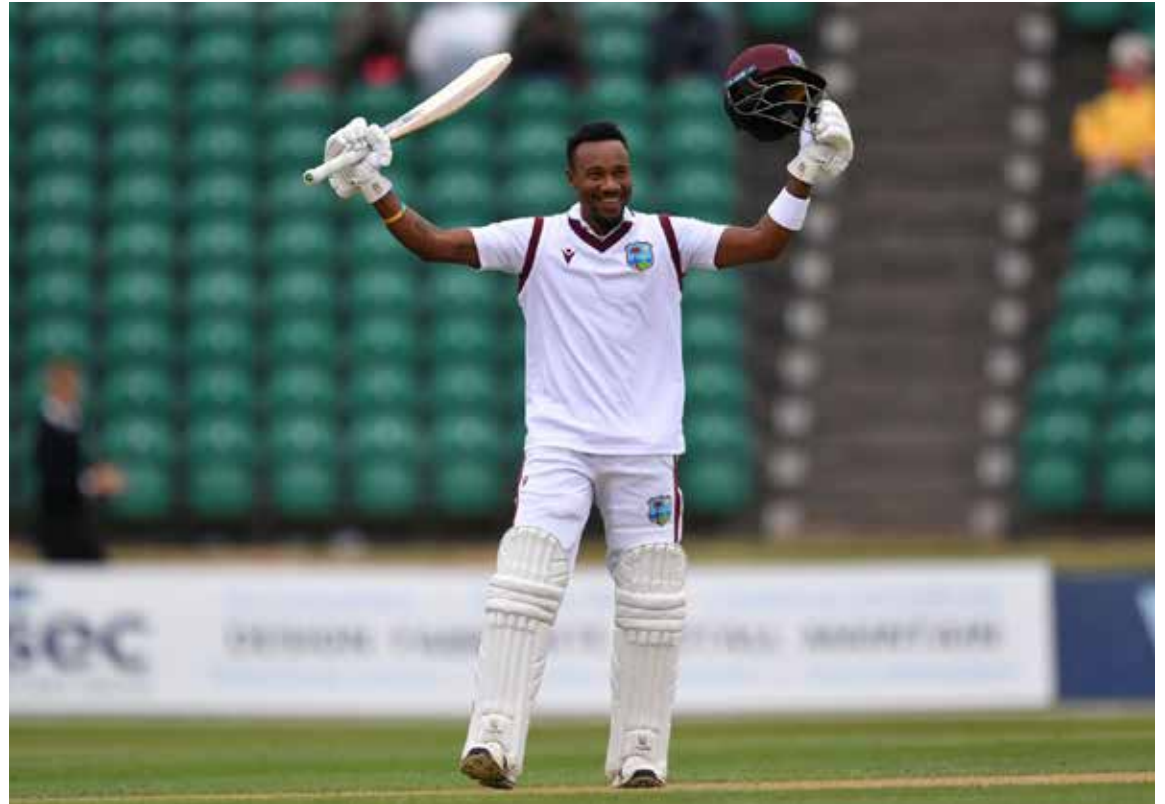
Led by Kavem Hodge's commanding century, the West Indies posted a formidable total of 339 in their first innings.

Opting to bat first after winning the toss, the visitors faced early adversity with captain Kraigg Brathwaite and fellow Barbadian opener Zachary McCaskie departing cheaply, leaving the West Indies struggling at 10 for two.

However, debutant Kit-titian and Leeward Islands batsman Mikyle Louis and Kirk McKenzie steered the innings back on track with a crucial 106-run partnership for the third wicket. Louis impressed with a composed half-century, scoring 50 before he was dismissed.

McKenzie continued to build on the foundation laid by Louis, playing fluently to score 73 valuable runs.

Alick Athanaze's fifth-wicket partnership with Hodge, who anchored the innings superbly, proved



West Indies batsman Kavem Hodge celebrates after reaching his century on the opening day of their warm-up three-day match against a First Class Counties (FCC) XI at the Kent County Cricket Ground, Beckenham, England, Wednesday, July 3, 2024. (Photo by Kyle Andrews/CWI Media)

pivotal as they added 138 runs together. Athanaze struck 74 off 105 balls, including eight fours and two sixes.

Hodge, displaying both patience and aggression, reached his century with a confident six off Farhan Ahmed, setting a strong platform for his team.

Following a rain interruption, the West Indies' middle and lower order faced a testing period, losing wickets in quick succession. Despite the lower-order collapse, Hodge stood

tall, guiding his team past the 300-run mark.

His innings finally came to an end when he was dismissed for a well-made 112, the last wicket to fall as the West Indies were bowled out for 339 from 72.1 overs.

John Turner was the pick of the bowlers for FCC XI, claiming four wickets for 60 runs, while Ahmed also made significant contributions with his four-wicket haul costing 48 runs.

The day's play showcased the West Indies' re-

silience and depth in their batting lineup, with partnerships crucial in steering them towards a competitive total.

At stumps, the FCC Select XI were 15 without loss. Ben McKinney is 11 not out and with him is Harry Singh on two not out.

As the West Indies continue their preparations for the upcoming series against England, this performance will serve as a confidence booster and provide valuable insights into the conditions and opposition.

Sports News



Wadadli Elite and Stingerz stage successful player tryouts

The recent tryouts for players held by Wadadli Elite in collaboration with its partner, Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Division 1 Club Northside Stingerz, have been deemed successful.

The Wadadli Elite, which is a basketball academy for young players, and Northside Stingerz joined forces to stage two tryouts in an effort to select a team to prepare for its participation in a youth tournament in the British Virgin Islands from August 16-18.

Chief Executive Officer of Wadadli Elite, Byron Andrew, said some new players were discovered during the recent tryouts, which were held in partnership with Northside Stingerz.

Andrew said the new players will be incorporated into the Wadadli Elite training squad to continue preparations for the tournament in the BVI in August.

Andrew said the upcoming tournament will also serve as a basketball camp where players will be exposed to scouts who will be seeking to recruit talented players for colleges in the United States of America.

"It has been good so far. We had two open trials with our usual people from



Byron Andrew

Wadadli Elite, and we just wanted to see what is out there in terms of talent, so we have been able to see a couple of good guys. So we are going to try and incorporate them within the squad so we can have a strong team," Andrew stated.

"It's more of an exposure camp because there will be some scouts available. But it's also important for the younger players to put their skills against other players of similar age-groups from within the Caribbean.

"This will provide the players with the opportunity to assess what level they are at and what it will take for them to get to the next level.

"Typically, Tortola, BVI, is very strong in basketball. They do have a lot of people, sometimes playing outside of Tortola, but will return in the summer months, so that is the kind of level of competition we are expecting."

Andrew, who also performs duties as an assistant coach at Wadadli Elite, said the number of train-

ing sessions will increase from two days to five days per week at the JSC Sports Complex later this month.

"Normally, we train every Tuesday and Friday, but we want to have a meeting with the parents by Friday. The following week, school will be out for most people, so we will be holding training sessions for two hours every day from Monday to Friday in preparation for the event in the BVI," Andrew said.

"We are hoping to take no more than 15 players to the BVI. It will be two tournaments, under-13 and under-15. But the good thing for us is that some of our under-13 players are good enough to also play for the under-15 team.

"So rather than taking a full squad of Under-13 players and a full squad of Under-15 players, we will allow some players to play for both teams. So we will be taking about seven or eight Under-13 players and the same for the Under-15s.

"This will allow us to use about four players from the under-13s to play with the under-15s. So this will allow us the opportunity to cut down on some expenses, and it will also allow us to be better able to manage the squad during our travels."

CWI president issues statement on Hurricane Beryl

The President of the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Dr. Kishore Shallow has released a statement on the impact of Hurricane Beryl on islands in the eastern Caribbean.

Dr. Shallow said, "It is with a heavy heart that I express my deepest sorrow for the devastating impact Hurricane Beryl, a category 4 hurricane, has had on the Caribbean, striking less than forty-eight hours after our region celebrated the successful conclusion of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Barbados.

"As a citizen of St. Vincent and the Grenadines, it is especially painful to witness the tragic loss in Union Island and the catastrophic damage to Carriacou and Petite Martinique, part of the tri-island state of Gre-



Dr. Kishore Shallow

nada.

"The aftermath of Hurricane Beryl is a stark re-

minder of the vulnerability our region faces. The destruction and loss are pro-

found, and the road to recovery will be challenging.

"However, in the spirit of unity and resilience that characterizes the West Indies, we will rise to meet these challenges head-on.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with our brothers and sisters in Jamaica as Hurricane Beryl approaches, urging all to take necessary precautions.

"Cricket West Indies stands in solidarity with all those affected by this calamity. We pledge our unwavering support. Now more than ever, we must unite and 'Rally round the West Indies.' Together, we will rebuild and emerge stronger."

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This will be the first time that men's internationals will be part of a double header with a women's franchise competition, with cricket fans able to see the best male and female players taking part in matches on the same ticket.

All of the matches will take place at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad with the double headers taking place on August 23, 25, and 27.

Johnny Grave, CEO of Cricket West Indies, said, "Women's cricket continues to be a strategic priority for Cricket West Indies, and this is another exciting new concept for WCPL 2024.

"We are certain that there will be huge interest from people in Trinidad in

these double headers, as fans will be able to watch world class international Men's cricket, followed by the best female cricketers in the region competing alongside some of the best overseas players in the world."

Pete Russell, CEO of the Caribbean Premier League, said, "We are very excited to be able to work with Cricket West Indies to have the WCPL take place at the same time as these Men's T20 Internationals.

"It is another example of how the two organisations are working in harmony to provide the best outcome for fans, players and cricket in the region. We look forward to another successful WCPL as the tournament continues to grow year on year."

Antigua Falcons aim to add women's team to its CPL franchise

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons will be seeking to become the fourth franchise to feature in the Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL).

The Antigua and Barbuda Falcons were launched as the newest franchise of the Republic Bank Men's Caribbean Premier League (CPL) at its unveiling ceremony at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Since its inaugural tournament in St. Kitts in 2022, only three teams -- Trinbago Knight Riders, Barbados Royals, and Guyana Amazon Warriors -- have been involved and will once again contest the 2024 edition of the women's CPL that will take place at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad in August.

But Public Relations and Operations Manager Vernon Springer said the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons are seeking to join three other franchises in fielding a team in the women's CPL.

"We will also be making a pitch to have our own women's falcons team. There are currently three women's CPL teams, and the Antigua and Barbuda Falcons are looking to make a pitch to have our own women's team," Springer said.

"We want to be able to support our own women players from Antigua and the rest of the Leeward Islands, such as Shawnisha

Hector, who is the only female player from Antigua and Barbuda to play for the West Indies.

"We also want to give support to the other young female players from the Windward Islands so we can give them the opportunity to shine on a larger scale.

"So we are going to be making a pitch to the women's CPL. We have already started that discussion, and we are looking to make sure

that we have our own team."

Meanwhile, the Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League fixtures have been confirmed with the matches set to take place in Trinidad from August 21 to 29.

On three of the game days, these matches will be part of double headers with the Men's T20 Internationals between West Indies and South Africa.

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