

A&B WANTS LOSS & DAMAGE FUND HEADQUARTERED HERE

Story on Page 2



Top 2024 Grade Six National Assessment Student



Elyze M. Henry

Minoah Magnet Academy

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries congratulates Ms. Elyze M. Henry on her exceptional performance.



2024 Second Place Grade Six National Assessment Student



Naliyah Lewis

Baptist Academy of Antigua

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries congratulates Ms. Naliyah Lewis on her stellar performance.



2024 Third Place Grade Six National Assessment Student



Keira A.S. Weekes

St. Nicholas Primary School

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries congratulates Ms. Keira A.S. Weekes on her outstanding performance.

Local News



A&B wants Loss & Damage Fund headquartered here

Antigua and Barbuda is making a bid to be the host country for the Loss and Damage Fund which is to be established to assist small islands developing states recover from the damage caused by natural disasters such as hurricanes.

The announcement comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne while speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday. The PM said already Antigua and Barbuda has a representative on the board of the fund, Peter Abraham Jnr., who according to the prime minister has been representing ‘Antigua and Barbuda and the region very well’.

The prime minister holds strongly to the view

that small island developing states are not the ones whose actions have led to climate change, yet they are the ones most impacted by the results of this phenomenon.

“There has to be a mechanism or facility put in place from which countries can draw down immediately after a disaster. That is why we here in Antigua and Barbuda have been pushing for the establishment of the Loss and Damage Fund. We have argued that point for several COP’s (Conference of the Parties) meetings in the past, and when we go to Azerbaijan in November, we will be arguing more vehemently for the Loss and Damage Fund to be capitalized and to be fully opera-



tionalized,” he remarked.

In explaining how the fund would work, PM Browne said each small island developing state would establish a fund of their own into which payments from the overall fund would be made. The funding for the Loss and Damage Fund would come from major polluting countries and entities such as oil companies all of whom are expected to make billions of dollars available to be paid directly into the fund; that money will then be divided among small island developing states such as those in the Caribbean and the Pacific Ocean.

“We will be recommending that they set up their own national Loss and Damage Fund to be capital-

ised from the international Loss and Damage Fund and we would want them to be able to draw down on those funds, which we hope will be in the millions of dollars (US),” he explained.

The idea is, he further explained is for countries to draw down on the funds whenever there is a disaster and for the funds to then be replenished from the international Loss and Damage Fund.

“Having the loss and Damage Fund is even more critical now in light of the frequency and ferocious nature of these storms and the fact that these countries just do not have the resources to recover. Those countries that have been creating the

cont'd on pg 3



Barbuda airport approvals expected this week

The final approvals necessary for the full operationalizing of the new airport in Barbuda will likely come during this week, according to Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

Speaking last Saturday on the Browne and Browne show on Pointe FM, PM Browne said he is aware that the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority

(ABAA) has satisfied all the requirements of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA) for the approvals for the airport to begin commercial operations.

“I am confident that we will have the approvals this week as I am aware that they (ABAA) have satisfied all the requirements necessary as I have also seen the

paper works (that ECCAA requires,” the prime minister told his audience.

PM Browne said once the approval comes this week, he will make the announcement on the show on Saturday of the date for the formal opening of the airport, which he promises, will be a ‘grand affair’.

Scores of people from Antigua will travel over to

Barbuda aboard the available LIAT 2020 aircraft as well as the two planes in the ABDF Air Wing as well as aboard Calvin Ayre helicopters.

Already, the government has announced that it will extend the airport runway further in the coming years to enable it to accommodate commercial jet aircraft, such as those in the fleet of the major carriers serving VCBIA out of the United States and Canada.

The current runway will be able to accommodate the aircraft in the fleets of the different regional carriers serving the area.

cont'd from pg 2
environment for these storms are committing a tort against us; they are the ones polluting the earth’s atmosphere; they are the ones polluting the marine environment.
“Therefore, they have a legal obligation to pay based on the ruling from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea Convention,” he declared.
Antigua and Barbuda obtained an opinion from the ITLOS earlier which states that the actions of polluting countries have resulted in harm to the marine environment.

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Local News



DoE Browne commends students, teachers for 88 percent pass rate in Grade 6 exams

Director of Education, Clare Browne, is celebrating the successes of students and their teachers in both the public and private schools for achieving an overall pass rate of 88 percent of the 1288 students who wrote the Grade 6 National Assessment Examinations.

The director said credit ought to go to the students who topped the list in the examinations – First Place, Elyze M. Henry of the Minoah Magnet Academy, Second Place, Naliyah Lewis of the Baptist Academy of Antigua and Third Place, Keira A.S Weekes of St Nicholas Primary School.

He said it was instructive to note that the private primary schools continue to dominate the passes in the Top 100 with only twenty percent of students from the public school system within the top 100.

According to the director there are many reasons why the private schools will dominate in the top 100. These include smaller classes generally, but most significantly, he said there is evidence to show that when parents are paying for a student's education, those parents are usually more attentive to their child's needs as they want 'value for mon-

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Director of Education, Clare Browne

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Historic 5IR Artificial Intelligence conference opens today

Scores of academics, thinkers and others at the cutting edge of the new technologies, Artificial Intelligence, are converging on Antigua and Barbuda over the next few days for the historic conference on the subject.

Hosted by the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus, the July 8-10 gathering is billed as the Caribbean's first AI conference, UWIFIC 5IR.

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

"This landmark event, titled 'Reimagining the Digital Transformation of the Caribbean in an Age of Regenerative AI and the Fifth Industrial Revolution,' will



take place at the UWI's Five Islands Campus in Antigua & Barbuda," a release from The UWI stated.

It added that the impressive line-up of 80 international and regional speakers, 40 academic paper presentations and over 20 sessions include UWI academics and subject matter experts, regional business leaders and executives, and global affiliates from Meta, Google, UNESCO GlaxoSmith-Kline Harvard University, IBM and more.

Registration for the conference begins early this morning (Monday) at the university with the sessions and various presentations to begin immediately afterwards. The opening exercises are planned for this evening at the Hodges Bay Club at Hodges Bay.

Vice Chancellor of the UWI, Sir Hilary Beckles, will deliver the opening welcome address as well as speak on the topic, AI and Education – the Inevitability of Innovation.

The keynote address will be delivered by Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister, Gaston Browne on the subject; Setting the Tone for Reimagining the Digital Transformation of the Caribbean.

The Governor of the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, Timothy Antoine, UWI FIC, Principal, Prof. C. Justin Robinson and Kevin Khelawan, CEO, Advent AI will participate in a discussion billed Beachside AI Chat.

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ey'.

Additionally, he said many of the parents of students in private schools are also able to afford private lessons for their children to augment what they learn in the classrooms. These privileges are often lacking for students in the public schools.

"In one private school, there is a whole month of teaching for students during the summer for those entering the Grade Six classes. However, this comes at a cost; what parent in the public schools has the means for those

extra classes?" he queried.

Overall, though, Director Browne said there is much to be happy about the results with 88 percent receiving acceptable grades. All students, will move on to secondary school in September under the universal secondary education system.

However, there are twenty students – 18 in Antigua and 2 in Barbuda, who will receive specialized learning because they did not earn 100 marks in the exams. Those on Antigua will go to the Clare Hall Secondary School where they will be placed in a special-

ized stream. They will be exposed to literacy, numeracy, science as well as vocational training.

The director noted that among the students who perform poorly are those students for whom English is not their first language. He said many enter the education system at an age where they do not have enough time to master English and that this has been a setback for them.

Overall, 639 girls and 649 boys wrote the examinations with 739 from the public schools and 549 from the private primary schools.

Antigua Cruise Port wins awards

The Antigua Cruise Port, the local subsidiary of Global Ports Incorporated, has been selected for two awards for the work that it is doing here in the cruise industry.

The announcement comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who

revealed that the awards are for professionalism and overall performance by ACP over the past twelve months with the continued growth in cruise passenger arrivals here in Antigua and Barbuda.

The prime minister recalled that when the govern-

ment made the decision to engage Global Ports to operate the St. John's Harbour and all its cruise facilities, there was much push-back from segments of the society, especially from opposition quarters.

However, based on the performances of the cruise

sector over the past six months, where Antigua and Barbuda is on track to establish a new record for cruise passenger arrivals for 2024, he remains fully convinced that the decision was the right one.

“What we are seeing in the record number of arrivals is based on a decision that we took, that was not popular initially, to engage Global Ports as the largest private port operators in the world. We knew that they were able to help us lift our product; to increase the amount of traffic and the revenues, that was why we engaged them and here we are, benefitting. In fact, we have been selected for two awards and we are quite pleased with this development,” he stated.

He noted that Global Ports has ‘well-established’ connections with all the major cruise lines, not just from North America but from Europe and elsewhere.

“They have been able to help us with our home-porting and they are going to build-out the physical infrastructure for home-porting right here in St. John's starting from October this year.

“They have already given out the contract and homeporting next year will be even greater based on the bookings so far,” he reported.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Tourism has released *cont'd on pg 7*

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PM Browne to meet with Randy Baltimore this week

Political Leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party and Prime Minister Gaston Browne, is convening a meeting this week with the victorious candidate in the St. Phillip's North constituency primary last Thursday, Randy Baltimore.

The ABLP Political Leader was gushing in his praise for Baltimore who won the two thirds of the votes cast in the primary. He secured a total of 424 votes compared with 169 for his closest rival, Telly Cornelius.

According to the prime

minister...Baltimore's candidacy came at a pivotal point as it demonstrates quite clearly that rather than being on the decline as has been promoted in opposition circles, the ABLP is showing clearly that it is on the ascendency.

"Clearly, Randy (Baltimore) has been able to create an excitement at the constituency level and it is very pleasing to see how he has revived the party support throughout the constituency. This is an ABLP 'garrison' constituency and we know that the opposition has been



Randy Baltimore, centre, celebrating with supporters at People's Place on Friday evening.

predicting the demise of our long-serving representative, Sir Robin Yearwood, hoping to have a by-election, but what we have seen here will certainly send them a very strong message; Labour is getting stronger, not weaker," he declared.

PM Browne also noted that the number of people who participate in the primary totaled more than the UPP candidate in the last general elections. "The primary was a sub-set of the entire constituency, which means our

overall support in the area is still very strong," he added.

The prime minister wants to have a discussion with Baltimore to hear directly from him what are his priorities so that the government can mobilise resources in the area to deal with infrastructural and other needs.

Baltimore said he is humbled by his primary victory and his focus now is to unite the ABLP support in the area by reaching out to the other candidates in the primary and that the party may present a united front going into the next general elections.

Meanwhile, PM Browne said he has had direct contact with Sir Robin and members of his family and that he has been assured that the senior politician is doing well and that he is expected to return to the country shortly to resume duties.



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statistical data drawn from the latest arrival figures which have indicated a record breaking May this year.

Air arrivals are up 12% over the same period in the year 2019 which is on record as being the best year overall in tourism pre-covid.

Cruise arrivals have also indicated an increase of 35% while yachting is up 34%.

"We knew we were going to have a re-

cord year. It is important to note that forecasts indicated these increases outside of the expected numbers for the SIDS conference as well as World Cup cricket", Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez noted.

The minister commended the efforts and commitment of every tourism stakeholder in Antigua and Barbuda as well as team members of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the Ministry of Tourism for this achievement.

Weekend international flights bring more tourists

There were seventeen international flights that flew into the VC Bird International Airport on Saturday and Sunday with over twenty-five hundred persons aboard.

Chief Executive Officer of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority,

Colin C. James said there were nine flights on Saturday bringing a total of 1,356 persons, with another eight flights on Sunday with 1,173 passengers.

James said not all the passengers are tourists, but that the majority of them are visitors to the country.

These, he added, were just from the international flights originating out of the United States, mainly New York and Miami, and Canada in North America and the UK. Those passengers arriving on the several regional carriers were not included, according to James.

Antigua Samaritan Lodge donates \$86,700 for ultrasound equipment to SLBMC

The Antigua Samaritan Lodge #10029 has made a substantial donation of \$86,700.00 to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre. This generous contribution is earmarked for the purchase of a much-needed ultrasound machine, enhancing the hospital's capability to provide critical medical services.

The cheque presentation ceremony was a notable event, attended by members of the lodge, donors, and government officials. The Worship Master of Antigua Samaritan Lodge #10029, Ambassador Arthur B. Thomas, handed over the cheque to Minister of Health, Sir Molwin Joseph. This significant donation underscores the lodge's unwavering commitment to charity and commu-

nity support and it is viewed as 'a heartwarming display of community spirit and dedication to public health'.

Antigua Samaritan Lodge #10029. Rooted in the principles of charity and brotherhood, the lodge was consecrated with the purpose of working towards bettering the lives of those in need. The recent donation to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is a testament to the lodge's purposeful mission and its dedication to making a tangible difference in society.

The donation for the ultrasound equipment is not an isolated act of kindness but rather the beginning of a series of charitable initiatives planned by the lodge. As expressed by Ambassador Thomas during the presenta-



tion, the lodge is committed to supporting various causes and enhancing community welfare through their continuous efforts.

In a statement, the Lodge said it hopes to build on the momentum of their recent charitable act, and it is already planning its next fundraising event. Scheduled for the 25th of July, this event will be held at the Clement

E. M. Bird Masonic Center. The lodge invites everyone to join them in their ongoing efforts to raise funds for further charitable causes, ensuring that their mission of goodwill continues to flourish.

The Antigua Samaritan Lodge #10029's donation to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is a shining example of how dedicated community organizations can make a significant impact. With more charitable initiatives on the horizon, the lodge continues to uphold its noble principles, fostering a spirit of generosity and support within the community. As they prepare for their upcoming fundraising event, the lodge looks forward to rallying the community once again for a worthy cause.



Kiwanis Club receives donation

The Kiwanis Club of St. John's has received a cash donation from the Halo Foundation to help fund the club's activities and programmes.

Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, Patron and President of the Halo Foundation, presented a cheque for \$1,500.00 to Janelle Whener-Watts, the current President of the Kiwanis Club.

The Kiwanis Club of St. John's, an organization comprised of dedicated volunteers, is committed to serving the children of the world, with a particular focus on enhancing the lives of young people in the local community. Through their ongoing programs and initiatives, the Club strives to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.



Lady Williams reaffirmed the Halo Foundation's unwavering commitment to supporting organizations that

make a positive difference in the lives of individuals, particularly children and youth.

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Top 100 list



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Government Complex, Queen Elizabeth Highway
St. John's, Antigua
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Overseas: 268-462-4959/1051
Fax: 268-462-4970

2024 Grade Six National Assessment Top Students

Rank	Student Name	Sex	Primary School	Total	School Choice
1	Elyze M. Henry	F	Minoah Magnet Academy	385	AGHS
2	Naliyah C. A. Lewis	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	383	AGHS
3	Keira A. S. Weekes	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	382	AGHS
4	Jordan D. Lawrence	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	378	AGS
4	Erin Shen	F	Post Millennial Academy	378	AGHS
6	Jordan D. Weste	M	Seventh Day Adventist Primary School	374	SNRA
7	Alessandra J. Morcos	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	373	AGHS
7	Kenzeek H. Goodwin	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	373	AGS
7	Koree C. S. Willock	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	373	AGHS
10	Cledaliah A. S. Destin	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	371	AGHS
11	Oskeya K. Toney	F	Villa Primary School	370	AGHS
11	Kaylee A. C. Francis	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	370	AGHS
11	Selina Cao	F	Post Millennial Academy	370	AGHS
14	Tamzin R. Gordon	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	368	AGHS
14	Jordyn A. Henriques	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	368	AGHS
14	Christy Cao	F	Post Millennial Academy	368	AGHS
17	Christ-Le D. A. Colbourne	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	367	AGS
18	Lamoy L. Spencer	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	366	AGS
19	Marcel Lewis-Ishaka	M	Urlings Primary School	365	AGS
19	Anthony P. Aflak	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	365	AGS
19	Charles J. B. Southwell	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	365	AGS
19	Nalicia A. Otto	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	365	AGHS
23	Elodie M. Hall	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	364	AGHS
24	Faith G. C. Joseph	F	Divine Academy of Excellence	363	AGHS
24	Tien Jian	M	Post Millennial Academy	363	AGS
26	Ashton D. G. Greaux	M	St. Nicholas Primary School	362	AGS
26	Willow Z. Zreibi	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	362	AGHS
28	Yaneisy Michel Francis	F	Golden Grove Primary School	361	PMS
28	Jayden C. W. Joseph	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	361	AGS
30	Miah K. Francis	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	360	AGHS
30	Michael Bero	M	Kids Unlimited School	360	AGS

Top 100 list

Rank	Student Name	Sex	Primary School	Total	School Choice
32	Sa Sheel Lewin	F	Sunnyside Tutorial School	358	CHSS
32	Shreya S. Viswanath	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	358	AGHS
32	Tristan A. J. Nicholas	M	Post Millennial Academy	358	AGS
35	Ramique G. E. Mascal	M	Potters Primary School	357	AGS
35	George Hourani	M	St. John's Lutheran School	357	AGS
37	Tarell D. D. Henderson	M	Golden Grove Primary School	356	AGS
37	Xander Liam Birk-Roches	M	Kids Unlimited School	356	AGS
39	Caitlin M. Gilkes	F	St. Andrews School	355	AGHS
39	Summer L. Brooks	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	355	AGHS
39	Janecke J. Bridgewater	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	355	AGHS
39	Keziah J. Joseph	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	355	AGHS
39	Taijaun X. George	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	355	AGS
39	Taya M. Hlwea	F	St. John's Lutheran School	355	AGHS
45	Malachi Lewis-Ishaka	M	Urlings Primary School	354	AGS
45	Ricky J. R. Christopher	M	New Bethel SDA Academy	354	AGS
45	Joy Hourani	F	St. John's Lutheran School	354	AGHS
48	Zoree R. Benjamin	F	Jennings Primary School	353	AGHS
48	Dejonte' N. A. Allen	M	Urlings Primary School	353	AGS
48	Roy-Anique S. Hector	F	Grace Christian Academy	353	AGHS
48	Tercada D. Welsh	M	St. John's Lutheran School	353	AGS
52	Aiden B. T. Joseph	M	Golden Grove Primary School	352	AGS
52	Ashley O. Z. Durrand	F	Cobbs Cross Primary School	352	AGHS
52	Sofia K. Yhap	F	St. Andrews School	352	AGHS
52	Madison C. Hunte	F	St. Andrews School	352	AGHS
52	J'deira J. A. Meyer	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	352	AGHS
52	Jeren M. E. Jeremy	M	Post Millennial Academy	352	AGS
58	Shaston W. Harris	M	Old Road Primary School	351	AGS
58	S'Nae H. F. Lewis	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	351	AGHS
58	Sadae K. N. Drew	F	Grace Christian Academy	351	AGHS
61	Eliena Nader	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	349	AGHS
61	Greta Di Massa	F	Kids Unlimited School	349	AGHS
63	Ezekiel I. Webber	M	Villa Primary School	348	AGS
63	Ne'veah T. R. Johashen	F	St. John's Catholic Primary School	348	AGHS
63	Matthew Bero	M	Kids Unlimited School	348	AGS
63	Emeral Soufan	F	St. John's Lutheran School	348	AGHS
67	Skye K. Meade	F	Old Road Primary School	347	AGHS
67	Isabelle A. George	F	Island Academy	347	AGHS
67	Zoé A. M. Browne	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	347	AGHS

Top 100 list

Rank	Student Name	Sex	Primary School	Total	School Choice
67	Rajuan H. Valerie	M	Grace Christian Academy	347	AGS
67	Cajahna R. N. Emmanuel	F	Grace Christian Academy	347	AGHS
72	Kameisha A. B. Adams	F	Sea View Farm Primary School	346	AGHS
72	Keante K. Byers	M	Old Road Primary School	346	AGS
74	Jacie-ann J. N. Aaron	F	Jennings Primary School	345	AGHS
74	Tevin T. Cornelius	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	345	AGS
76	Tianshu Lai	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	344	AGS
76	Jayden K. Hughes	M	Grace Christian Academy	344	AGS
78	Rayson R. Anthony	M	Villa Primary School	343	AGS
78	Kyle S. Green	M	St. Andrews School	343	AGS
78	Trevonique G. K. Lewis	F	New Bethel SDA Academy	343	AGHS
78	Kemar A. Withy	M	St. John's Lutheran School	343	SNRA
82	Elijah C. Quinland	M	Pigotts Primary School	342	AGS
82	Jhanae A. Grant	F	Antigua Wesleyan Junior Academy	342	AGHS
82	Marcia V. Hall	F	St. John's Lutheran School	342	AGHS
82	Giselle N. Clarke	F	Post Millennial Academy	342	AGHS
86	Grace A. Hanna	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	341	AGHS
87	Lia L. E. Paul	F	New Bethel SDA Academy	340	AGHS
87	Bruce J. Williamson	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	340	AGS
87	Jedidiah A. Abraham	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	340	AGS
87	Khyrie D. Lawrence	F	Baptist Academy of Antigua	340	AGHS
87	Alana S. Bramble	F	Post Millennial Academy	340	AGHS
92	Rhys J. Roberts	F	Nelvie N. Gore Primary School	339	AGHS
92	Glitter S. E. I. Joseph	F	Golden Grove Primary School	339	AGHS
92	Marjani S. Serieux	F	St. Andrews School	339	AGHS
92	Jerdarrie D. Graham	M	Grays Crescent Primary School	339	AGS
92	Nasiah A. R. Simon	F	Sunnyside Tutorial School	339	AGHS
92	Delecia D. K. Weste	F	New Bethel SDA Academy	339	AGHS
92	Joseph T. Bowen	M	Baptist Academy of Antigua	339	AGS
92	Annaliese J. M. Edwards	F	Grace Christian Academy	339	AGHS
100	Faith T. Bethel	F	Potters Primary School	338	AGHS
100	Xyon A. T. Henry	M	Golden Grove Primary School	338	AGS
100	Skylar J. Powell	F	Minoah Magnet Academy	338	AGHS
100	Zaheim K. Marshall	M	Minoah Magnet Academy	338	AGS
100	Cindy Eid	F	St. Nicholas Primary School	338	AGHS
100	Larianna L. Douglas	F	Grace Christian Academy	338	AGHS



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Letter to the Editor



Re – Recent Antigua and Barbuda 2024 National Panorama Issue

Dear Editor,

It is said that ungratefulness is a sin. I would add that it is also a very serious crime. The Steelpan is gifted to us as a ‘People’ by The Most High Yah, and we must forever continue to give thanks.

In 1838, the European

colonial powers banned the use/playing of the Alkebulan (African) Talking Drums, by our ancestors. They, the colonial powers, feared that our ancestors would use the Alkebulan Talking Drums to incite rebellions throughout their colonies. This decision tak-

en by the colonial powers, gave our ancestors the impetus to utilize their Yah given imagination and creative abilities to develop alternative means to foster and maintain ‘social unity’ our Alkebulan people, The invention of the Steelpan is evidential proof of this.

The colonial powers were ignorant of the reality that ‘telepathy’ existed, and that our ancestors communicated via this medium.

Hence, the Steelpan is indeed a revolution, that has continued to positively impact our spiritual, cultural, intellectual, physical and social well-being in ALL spheres. Hence, it is the only force that can attract all people of all ages and all walks of life in one setting, for a positive purpose. The Steelpan has proven to be a positive deterrent to youth deviance.

In 1946, Antigua’s first set of Steelpan were built by the Antigua pan pioneers from ‘The Point’. Subsequently, men from Ovals, Barnes Hill and New Winthropes, journeyed to The Point to learn the art on Steelpan building.

In 1947, steel band performed at the opening of the Mill Reef Club.

In Antigua, the interest of Lord Baldwin, then Governor of the British Leeward Islands, did much to stimulate the pride and accelerate the improvement, that the Steelpan Movement attained a standard of performance which equaled if not surpassed that of the best there was in Trinidad.

In 1949, an association of eight member bands was formed. In 1949, An-

cont’d on pg 15



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SPA

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

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

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

Closing Date for RFP: Friday 30th September, 2024

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

Letter to the Editor

cont'd from pg 14

tigua and Barbuda first Steel Band Competition, was held at the for Antigua Girl's School, formerly located on East Street, presently Independence Avenue. Trinidad's first Steelband Competition (Panorama) was held in 1963.

In 1949, the Antigua and Barbuda Steelband Association crowned its initial efforts with the publication of "The Steel Band Herald" as it's official organ.

In 1950, steel band performed in Parham St. Peter's Anglican Cathedral.

In 1951, the idea of Carnival was brought to Antigua by a Steel Band that toured Tortola and the US Virgin Islands of St. Thomas and St. Croix.

In 1952, at the first Calypso Competition, steel bands provided back-up music. Lord Black Shirt (Rosevelt Tobitt) was crowned King.

It is my sincere intention to share more detailed historical information regarding Antigua and Barbuda Steelpan history sometime in the future, The snippets shared are intended to "educate, agitate but not violate".

Focusing on the Subject Matter, and with specific reference to the outcome, I wish to commend the committed Steel Bands that are conscious about the uppermost importance of preserving the Steelpan Art Form via social unity, continued respect and discipline, youth empowerment

and capacity building. Also, exhibit keen knowledge the organizations are created to ensure the greatest good for the greater many and not for the interest of any individual or selected group of individuals.

Additionally, I wish to commend the principles of the Antigua and Barbuda National Festivals Commission for the no-nonsense approach taken and the professional negotiating skills exhibited.

I also wish to commend those amongst the leadership of the Antigua and Barbuda Pan Association – ABPA, that woke from

their slumber to realize the serious negative impact and perhaps irreversible harm that the ABPA's action would have had on the Steelpan Art Form in Antigua and Barbuda.

It is my sincere hope that the member bands of the ABPA that are seriously committed to the positive advancement of the Steelpan Movement, to call for a General Election in accordance with the ABPA Constitution, to select officers who are prepared for the office assigned to.

"When an office is prepared for an individual, there is disorder; when an

individual is prepared for an office, there is order."

The Government/Leadership of an organization must be entrusted to the good, the just, the competent and the trained. Such men are necessarily few.

It is of uppermost importance that the membership of the ABPA meet in advance and agree on the Prize Monies for various placed positions in the 2024 National Panorama, and for other performances related to Carnival 2024.

Wish all a successful 2024 Carnival.

Good luck!
Stafford Joseph



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While we wait for the next one

By Tony Deyal

International Joke Day was Monday, July 1. I had planned to post an article with a background and lots of jokes for my readers. However, given what Hurricane Beryl was doing to so many of our countries and people in the region, I decided to reach out to the Almighty on behalf of all the people at risk.

In fact, what I found really funny was that, although Joke Day was Monday gone, World Laughter Day is yet to come and will not be until May 5, 2025. In essence, or whatever sense that is, you can make your joke but can't laugh at it for five months and three days. I thought that my readers can't wait that long, and we all need to relax a little before the next hurricane comes. So, this is for you, my friends.

The research shows that, while International Joke Day is supposed to have started in the United States (US), jokes have been with us from time immemorial, or at least from since Adam and Eve were around.

The oldest computer was there at the same time. It was an apple with extremely limited memory. Just one byte. And then everything crashed. On their first date, they shared a side of ribs and then Eve became the first carpenter. She made Adam's banana stand. In

any case, as my priest told me, God created man before woman because he didn't want any advice. They also didn't have a date together. They had an apple.

It is said that the first official joke was in Greece and was, "Asked by the court barber how he wanted his hair cut, the king replied: 'In silence'."

This one from 63 BC was, "The Emperor Augustus was touring the Empire, when he noticed a man in the crowd who had a striking resemblance to himself. Intrigued, he asked: 'Was your mother at one time in service at the Palace?' The man replied, 'No, your Highness. But my father was.'"

One from 429 BC in ancient Greece was a joke that was also a riddle by the playwright Sophocles, "What animal walks on four feet in the morning, two at noon and three at evening?" The answer was, "Man. He goes on all fours as a baby, on two feet as a man, and uses a cane in old age." In the 10th century, the Anglo-Saxon Brits came up with, "What hangs at a man's thigh and wants to poke the hole that it's often poked before?" The answer was, "A key."

Other countries got into the act. The French, "A man told the lawyer, 'Sir, you're a high-priced barrister! If I give you 500 dollars, will



Tony Deyal

you answer two questions?' The reply was, 'Absolutely! What's the second question?'" From Belgium, "Well, you see, there are basically three kinds of people in the world: those who can count and those that can't." A Swede called the local hospital and shouted, "Help! Help! My wife's in labour!" The nurse replied, "Calm down. Is this her first child?" The man shouted, "No! This is her husband!"

The Canadians (where I went to university for a while) told me that driving in winter is better because all the potholes are filled in with snow, and -40C is just a little chilly. My favourite is when a Chinese man was walking through a mall in the US with his American friend and said, "Seeing all those flags make me proud of my country." The American replied, "But Chan, you're Chinese! All these

flags are about our country, America." Chan laughed and said, "No, they're not. Just take a look at those labels!"

It is true that laughter can benefit all of us, because, when we laugh, we take in oxygen-rich air which stimulates the heart, lungs and muscles. It also helps to release the endorphins that elevate your mood. Laughter also relieves stress and anxiety. It makes us more relaxed and soothes tension while it boosts immunity. As one comedian said, "I asked the doctor the other day if I'd be able to play the piano once I got my stitches removed. 'Yes,' he told me, 'I imagine that won't be a problem.' 'Great,' I said. 'I've always wanted to play a musical instrument.' Actually, we don't laugh because we're happy. We're happy because we laugh or, as the

cont'd on pg 17

cont'd from pg 16

comic actor, Charlie Chaplin, said, “A day without laughter is a day wasted.” And Bill Cosby explained, “Through humour, you can soften some of the worst blows that life delivers. And, once you find laughter, no matter how painful your situation might be, you can survive.” Despite his being found liable for sexually assaulting a woman named Judy Huth when she was 16, Cosby is still around and, most likely, still making jokes.

The one I like is Mark Twain who insisted, “The human race has only one really effective weapon and that is laughter.” While one view is that “Laughter is carbonated soda”, and Woody Allen claimed that he is thankful for laughter “except when milk came out of his nose”, for me as a reader, writer and old-talker, laughter is by far the best medicine and here’s some more for you.

I will now share with you what many people think are the best jokes of all time. For example, “A man, shocked by how his friend is dressed, asked him, ‘How long have you been wearing that bra?’ The friend replied, ‘Ever since my wife found it in the glove compartment.’” One that is everywhere is, “A woman gets on a bus with her baby. The bus driver says: ‘Ugh, that’s the ugliest baby I’ve ever seen!’ The woman walks to the rear of the bus and sits down, fuming. She says to a

man next to her: ‘The driver just insulted me!’ The man says: ‘You go up there and tell him off. Go on, I’ll hold your monkey for you.’” I like, “I went to the zoo the other day, there was only one dog in it. It was a shitzu.” Another of my favourites was when a man went to the doctor and complained, “Doc, I can’t stop singing the Green Green Grass of Home.” The doctor replied,

“That sounds like a Tom Jones song.” The man asked the doctor, “Is it common?” The doctor shook his head and said, “It’s not unusual.” The one considered the top joke is, “Two hunters are out in the woods when one of them collapses. He doesn’t seem to be breathing and his eyes are glazed. The other guy whips out his phone and calls the emergency services. He gasps, “My friend

is dead! What can I do?” The operator says, “Calm down. I can help. First, let’s make sure he’s dead.” There is a silence; then a gunshot is heard. Back on the phone, the guy says, “OK, now what?”

Tony Deyal was last seen asking, “Don’t you hate it when someone answers their own questions?” I do (and not just at my wedding).

Regional News



Union Island left in ‘total darkness’ after Hurricane Beryl

By Melissa Wong

The exact timeline to restore power to the Grenadine Island of Union Island remains unknown due to the level of devastation caused by Hurricane Beryl.

Dr Vaughn Lewis, CEO of the St Vincent Electricity Services Limited (VINLEC), provided an update on restoration works during the Issue at Hand programme on WEFM 99.9 on Sunday.

Lewis believes Union Island was the epicentre of destruction from Beryl as after having a conversation with a colleague from Grenada Electricity Services Limited (GRENLEC), the destruction that colleague described in Carriacou while terrible, seems to pale in comparison to Union Island. Lewis

was told Carriacou still has some poles and transformers standing, and its power station and parts of the network are mostly intact.

However, on Union Island, virtually all of VINLEC’s network is on the ground, some poles are barely upright, and the power station has been badly damaged.

According to a preliminary assessment, on Union Island alone the power station suffered six million dollars’ worth of damage, as Lewis explains the power station on Union Island is not a conventional one as there was a solar farm present.

Since Beryl’s passage, a lot of people have been evacuated from Union Is-



A man stands next to a business destroyed by Hurricane Beryl in Clifton, Union Island, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Thursday, July 4, 2024. (AP Photo/Lucanus Ollivierre)

land.

Lewis says he was in a meeting chaired yesterday by the Prime Minister and the objective is to improve conditions on Union Island and other parts of the Southern Grenadines quickly to sustain those who re-

main there as well as teams required to do restoration work.

Lewis says VINLEC will continue to try to deliver diesel fuel to Union Island to supply generators for the hospital and other facilities that need it. VINLEC will also assist with the temporary installation of temporary generators as required.

It was also suggested that solar streetlights be acquired for security and morale boosting purposes as Lewis says, ‘the place is in total darkness.’ These will be sourced as soon as possible.



cont’d on pg 19

Guyana: Government fine-tuning legislation on oil-spill protection

CMC - Guyana's Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo has announced that the government is currently fine-tuning a new piece of legislation aimed at protecting the state from responsibilities in the event of an oil spill offshore Guyana.

Speaking during a recent press conference, Jagdeo said the legislative framework will set out the proposed procedures for oil spill preparation, planning and response, as well as issues relating to liabilities and damages.

It will also detail the state's responsibilities and the responsibilities of those accountable in the event of an oil spill.

"So, we would be equipped now with a tool, a law which says primarily that any company causes a spill, whether it is a shipping company, production company an exploration that



they would all be responsible for the cleanup and also that they would be responsible for consequential losses that is the fishermen and so should they be affected, so that is basically the essence of the bill and we are working on this," Jagdeo said.

He also said the Government is looking at similar pieces of legislation from other jurisdictions, in

an effort to get a fair understanding of the various positions and the goal is to get the piece of legislation sent to the National Assembly and passed soon.

"As I said before, want that to get to the Parliament soon, we are going through an intensive process going through the bill with all the technical agencies—EPA, GGMC, it is a tight squeeze

to table it before August 12 and pass it but that is one thing we promised."

According to Jagdeo the new legislative framework will further strengthen the institutional framework put in place by the Government. The government has since passed the Local Content Act as well as updated the Natural Resource Fund legislation.

cont'd from pg 18

The VINLEC CEO says they are in the process of completing the damage assessment on those islands and hopefully will be able to update the nation as to restoration activities, when they will commence and how long they are expected to take.

Lewis says from preliminary investigations, he believes VINLEC has a good chance on the islands of Mayreau and Canouan as while there was significant damage to its transmission and distribution infrastructure, the power stations were spared the worse and did not receive the significant damage that

the power station on Union Island experienced.

Lewis believes VINLEC should be able to make good progress on Canouan and Mayreau in a matter of months, but he does not have that same level of confidence for Union Island until it is in a better position to accommodate teams, and until VINLEC gets a better assessment on cleanup activities and supporting facilities that will be put in place to support Vincentian and regional teams.

VINLEC estimates damage to its infrastructure from Beryl on mainland St Vincent and Bequia to be in the hun-

dreds of thousands of dollars and in the Grenadine Islands to be in the tens of millions.

Meanwhile, so far on mainland St Vincent, Lewis says VINLEC had five full days of restoration with approximately 85 per cent of customers back online. VINLEC is working to ensure the remaining 10 to 15 per cent of customers get power back. The CEO of VINLEC mentioned that if the hurricane season continues to worsen and from this experience, he is considering buying a generator with the duty-free concessions and advises others if they could afford to do the same.



Niger's General Abdourahmane Tchiani (C) welcomed his Malian and Burkinabé counterparts, Col Assimi Goïta (L) and Capt Ibrahim Traoré (R), to Niamey.

Junta chiefs 'turn their backs' on West Africa bloc

By Damian Zane

Niger's military leader, speaking alongside the junta chiefs from Mali and Burkina Faso, has said they are "irrevocably" turning their backs on the wider West African bloc, Ecowas.

The three men are meeting together for the first time to cement an alliance created in the face of opposition from neighbouring countries.

Soldiers took power in Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger in a series of coups from 2020 to 2023.

All three countries – which now form the Alliance of Sahel States – have been affected by jihadist violence, in part a reason given for the army takeovers.

In January, they all announced a plan to leave Ecowas, which is hold-

ing its own summit on Sunday.

Speaking at Saturday's meeting in the Nigerien capital, Niamey, the country's leader, Gen Abdourahmane Tchiani, said that in the place of Ecowas, the junta chiefs wanted to build a community of sovereign peoples "far from the control of foreign powers. A community of peace, solidarity, prosperity based on our African values."

Gen Tchiani is hosting the talks with Burkina Faso's Capt Ibrahim Traoré and Mali's Col Assimi Goïta.

In a message on X, the Burkinabé leader said that "together, we will consolidate the foundations of our true independence".

Speaking at the summit, Capt Traoré went on to say that "this continent has suffered and continues to

suffer from the fire of the imperialists. These imperialists have only one cliché in mind: 'Africa is the empire of slaves'."

Security co-operation is high on the agenda, but the alliance, known by its French acronym AES, will also look towards forming closer economic ties, including the aim of creating a common currency. This would be a rejection of the France-backed CFA Franc, which is used in many states across the region.

All three countries have expelled French soldiers who were there as part of an anti-jihadist mission and turned towards Russia for military assistance.

Calls for greater sovereignty and

cont'd on pg 21

Ecuador police free 49 people held by gang

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Police in Ecuador say they have freed 49 people who had been kidnapped by a criminal gang in the southern of the country.

Two of the suspected kidnapers were arrested during the joint raid by the Ecuadorean security forces in a mining area in Azuay province.

The powerful Los Lobos (The Wolves) gang was behind the kidnaping, police said.

Ecuador has seen a surge in gang violence in recent years as transnational criminal organisations have expanded in to the Andean country to take advantage of its large ports to export drugs.

Video released by police shows heavily armed officers entering what appears to be the tunnel of a mine.

Little information has so far been released about those freed.

An earlier post on social media by the Ecuadorean armed forces stated that there were three women among the kidnap victims.

Dynamite, weapons and ammunition were seized during the raid, security forces also said.

Los Lobos is one of the most powerful gangs in Ecuador with an estimated 8,000 members.



Two suspects were detained by police.

Originally a jail gang accused of instigating some of Ecuador's bloodiest prison riots, Los Lobos has expanded its operations and now wields considerable power outside the prison system.

Its members are involved in contract killings, kidnappings for ransom and extortion.

The gang has also forged links with the Mexican Jalisco New Generation cartel (CJNG), for which it smuggles cocaine from Colombia through Ecuador's port cities to the US and Europe.

Fuelled by drug money and armed by their Mexican allies, Los Lobos have become a formidable enemy for the Ecuadorean state.

In January, following a particularly bloody wave of killings and attacks, President Daniel Noboa deployed the army to try and quell the violence.

Guayaquil, Ecuador's largest city and its most important port, has so far been the worst hit by gang-related violence but the raid in Azuay suggests that mining areas are now seen as lucrative targets by Los Lobos.

cont'd from pg 20

a rejection of the former colonial power have been a key part of the rhetoric coming from the junta leaders.

The countries have also resisted calls from Ecowas for a rapid return to civilian rule.

Capt Traoré arrived in Niamey a day ahead of the meeting and was welcomed with an enthusiastic recep-

tion. Television pictures show cheering crowds waving Nigerien and Burkinabé flags.

Among them was Sidi Mohamed, the head of the National Youth Council.

"Today, as Africans, we are very proud to see a summit where it's an African summit, a summit where states have decided to pool their energies, to pool their forces to create an alliance

for their development, without any foreign stakeholders, without any counterparts from the powers that are used to ruling over us," he told journalists.

Col Goïta arrived on Saturday.

The presidents of the wider West African bloc will have their chance to respond at a heads of state meeting in the Nigerian capital, Abuja, on Sunday.

They are also due to announce the activation of a standby force to fight regional insecurity.

Over the past decade, the Sahel has become an increasing focus of Islamic State militant activity, creating insecurity and instability.

The juntas in Niger, Burkina Faso and Mali have so far failed to quell the violence.

CWI honours longstanding directors Lewis and Riley

President of the Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB), Enoch Lewis of Antigua and Barbuda, is one of two longstanding board directors who were honoured by Cricket West Indies (CWI) for their exemplary service at a prestigious reception held in Barbados recently.

The ceremony celebrated the remarkable contributions of Lewis, who was re-elected for a fourth consecutive term at the helm of the LICB last month, and Conde Riley, the President of Barbados Cricket Association (BCA).

Lewis, a banker by profession, has dedicated over 18 years to CWI, while Riley has committed more than 15 years to the organization.



Enoch Lewis, right, and Conde Riley pose with their awards. (CWI Media)

Both men have played pivotal roles in the development and success of West Indies cricket. The awards were presented by CWI president Dr. Kishore Shallow and vice president Azim Bassarath.

Dr. Shallow was full of praise for the awardees.

“Mr. Lewis and Mr. Riley have shown unwavering dedication and leadership within Cricket West Indies. Their contributions have been instrumental across regional cricket from junior to senior levels, and we are honoured to recognize their service,” Shallow said.

“The task of service in public life is not an easy one; it requires immense commitment, sacrifices, integrity, and a passion for making a difference. Directors Lewis and Riley have embodied these qualities throughout their tenure,” he added.

The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests, including the Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley; the Prime Minister of St. Lucia, Philip J. Pierre; the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne; and Mohamed Irfaan Ali, President of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana.

Greg Barclay, Chairman of the International Cricket Council, was also in attendance.

All Saints United take sole leadership in Under-19 Youth Premier League

All Saints United FC became the sole leaders of the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Under-19 Youth Premier League after the eighth round of matches. All Saints United FC remain the only unbeaten team in the 14-team round-robin competition after snatching a one-nil win against Aston Villa Lions in a top-of-the-table clash at the ABFA Technical Center.

All Saints United FC advanced to 24 points at the top of the standings after recording their eighth win.

The Villa Lions slipped to second

place with 21 points after suffering their first defeat in eight matches.

Garden Stars FC joined the Villa Lions on 21 points after snatching a 2-1 victory against Golden Grove FC to record their seventh win in eight matches.

Ottos Rangers FC prevailed 7-6 on penalties against Jennings United FC after both teams battled to a 3-3 draw at the end of regulation time.

There were wins for Green City, Soccer Academy, and Sea View Farm FC in the other eighth-round matches.

Green City hammered Urlings FC 4-0, Soccer Academy beat Greenbay



Hoppers FC 3-0, and Sea View Farm FC also recorded a 3-0 win against the CPT-SA Wings FC.

The match between Willikies FC and TAMO FC was postponed.

Abhishek hits century as India beat Zimbabwe to level T20 series

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) — Abhishek Sharma scored his first Twenty20 century as India crushed Zimbabwe by 100 runs in the second T20 on Sunday to level the five-match series at 1-1.

Sharma put behind him his nightmare T20I debut on Saturday — a four-ball duck — as he smashed eight sixes and seven fours before he fell to Wellington Masakadza for 100 off 47 balls.

Zimbabwe had stunned newly crowned T20 world champion India in the series opener, winning by 13 runs.

Ruturaj Gaikwad finished Sunday with an undefeated 77 off 47 balls, while Rinku Singh smashed a 22-ball 48 not out as India turned around their poor batting display in the first T20 to finish with 234 for two after choosing to bat first.

In reply, Zimbabwe was bowled out for 134 runs in 18.4 overs. Pacers Avesh Khan (3-15) and Mukesh Kumar (3-37) shared six wickets, while wrist spinner Ravi Bishnoi took two for 11 in four overs.

India's skipper Shubman Gill (2) was caught off Blessing Muzarabani. India could have been two wickets down but Muzarabani dropped Gaikwad early.

It was one-way traffic as Sharma took charge. He put on 137 runs off 76 balls for the second wicket with



India's batsman Abhishek Sharma, left, touches gloves with teammate Ruturaj Gaikwad during the T20 cricket between Zimbabwe and India at Harare Sports club, Sunday, July 7, 2024. (AP)

Gaikwad.

Sharma reached 50 off 33 balls, and then accelerated by reaching his hundred off a total of 46 balls before his dismissal. He scored his second 50 off only 13 deliveries, reaching his century in style with three straight sixes off Masakadza in the 14th over.

Sharma was caught immediately after. Singh joined Gaikwad, with the undefeated pair adding another 87 off the last 36 balls.

"The defeat yesterday wasn't easy for us. I felt today was my day and I made it count," Sharma said. "As

a youngster, you always want to express yourself. I always believe in my ability."

Gaikwad — who scored seven in the first T20 — reached 50 off 38 balls. He hit 11 fours and a six overall. Singh, who wasn't part of India's T20 World Cup winning squad, smacked five sixes and two fours. India hit 14 sixes in all.

Zimbabwe's reply was built on Wessly Madhevere's 43 runs off 39, and he put on 36 off 15 with Brian Bennett, whose nine-ball 26 included three sixes. Kumar got the breakthrough, add-

ing Bennett to his early dismissal of Innocent Kaia (4).

Avesh Khan got into the act, striking twice against the middle order, as Zimbabwe was down to 46-4 in four overs. Madhevere hung on until late, keeping one end together, but got little support elsewhere apart from a late charge of 33 from Luke Jongwe.

It was never going to be enough facing a tall chase as Zimbabwe equaled their highest T20 margin of defeat (by runs) — 100 versus Australia in Zimbabwe in 2018. The third T20 is on Wednesday.

Mixed fortunes for Leewards at CWI Under-19 Women's Rising Stars tournament

After winning their opening encounter, the Leeward Islands suffered defeat in their second match in the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Under-19 Women's Rising Stars T20 Tournament in Trinidad on Saturday.

The Leeward Islands women lost by four wickets against defending champion Trinidad and Tobago with just two balls to spare at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine.

Set 83 to win, Trinidad and Tobago achieved their victory target for the loss of six wickets in 19.4 overs. Captain and opening batter Samara Ramnath struck 35 off 53 balls, and Kenika Cassar was not out on 11 off 15 balls. Antiguan Kimberley Anthony claimed two for 19.

The Leeward Islands were restricted to 82 for eight off their allotted 20 overs after winning the toss and opting to bat.

Captain Jahzara Claxton hit a top score of 42 off 64 balls, and Sainvani Kamalapalli made 16 off 27 balls. Kenika Cassar captured two for 15.

The Leeward Islands won their first match on the opening day of the tournament, which was delayed by two days due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl through some islands in the Eastern Caribbean.

The Leeward Islands defeated Barbados by 19 runs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba.

The Leeward Islands made 113 for three off their 20 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Opener Megna Baishya hit 41 not out off 60 balls, Kimberley Anthony scored 40 off 34 balls, and Katherine Bean Rosarion made 10.

In reply, Barbados women were restricted to 92 for six off their 20 overs. Najjanni Cumberbatch hit 22,



Jahzara Claxton

Elecia Bowman made 16, Asabi Callender got 15, and captain Erin Deane chipped in with 10. Jahzara Claxton picked up two for 13.

Barbados' second-round match against the Windward Islands women ended in a no result at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy. The Windward Islands made 74 for nine off their 20 overs. Opener Zaida James struck 36 off 46 balls, Najjanni Cumberbatch grabbed four for 14, and Theanny Herbert-Mayers claimed two for 10.

But the match ended in a no-result after Barbados was unable to bat due to rain, which brought an end to the encounter.

The Windward Island made a winning start to the competition by snatching a 17-run victory against Jamaica at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy.

Scores: Windward Islands women made 110 for

five off 20 overs (Zaida James 51; Aneisha Miller 2/17, and Abigail Bryce 2/24). Jamaica women made 93 for three off 20 overs (Chrishana McKenzie 38; Zaida James 2/15).

In the other matches, Guyana women beat Trinidad and Tobago women by four runs at the Sir Frank Worrell Memorial Ground in St. Augustine. Guyana women made 94 for five off 20 overs; Trinidad and Tobago women made 90 for six off 20 overs.

Guyana women defeated Jamaica women by 81 runs at the Diego Martin Sporting Complex. Guyana women made 133 for seven off 20 overs (Naomi Bar-koye 46, Realeanna Grimmond 31; Abigail Bryce 3/22, Jaunel Deers 2/26).

The Jamaican women made 52 all out in 15.2 overs. (Danellie Manns 4/15, Nyia Latchman 2/8, and Trisha Hardat 2/11).



Kimberley Anthony

Uruguay beat Brazil to advance to Copa America semifinals

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Marcelo Bielsa knew what the world's reaction would be after Uruguay and Brazil grinded, scrapped and shoved their way through a Copa America quarter-final match with 41 fouls, four shots on target and no goals in open play.

Bielsa knows the beautiful game wasn't so attractive Saturday night, but the famously inventive coach now running Uruguay's bench only cared about the celebrations back home and in the Vegas stands when La Celeste picked up a landmark win.

Manuel Ugarte scored the decisive goal in the fifth round of the shootout and Uruguay advanced to the Copa America semifinals with a 4-2 penalty kick victory after the teams played to a scoreless draw.

Uruguay and Brazil played a bruising, choppy match with plenty of rough stuff, but little of the impressive soccer for which both South American powerhouses are known.

Uruguay's Nahitan Nández was sent off after a red card in the 74th minute for a dangerous tackle on Rodrygo, but Brazil still couldn't break through its 10-man opponent in the ensuing 21 minutes.

"I (prefer) offensive football, but in this match, we created more oppor-



Players of Brazil stand on the midfield as players of Uruguay celebrate their win in a penalty shootout during a Copa America quarterfinal soccer match in Las Vegas, Saturday, July 6, 2024. (AP)

tunities and we defended well," Bielsa said through an interpreter. "We did the things necessary to succeed at this level."

Uruguay led 3-1 after three rounds of the shootout when goalkeeper Sergio Rochet stopped Éder Militão and Douglas Luiz hit the post. Alisson Becker saved José María Giménez's shot in the fourth round to keep Brazil alive, but Ugarte banged home the clincher.

"If you ask me if I'm happy that we only created three goal-scoring opportunities, then no," Bielsa said.

"But our opponent only had two goal-scoring

opportunities. We had to work hard to create our opportunities ... but that was satisfactory to us."

After the third penalty shootout in four Copa America quarterfinal matches, Uruguay advanced to face Colombia in the semifinals on Wednesday night in Charlotte, North Carolina. Colombia routed Panama 5-0 earlier Saturday, extending its unbeaten streak to 27 consecutive matches.

"We believe we're in good shape to play against any opponent," Bielsa said.

Defending champion Argentina faces Canada in the other semifinal on Tuesday in East Ruther-

ford, New Jersey. The final is July 14 in Miami Gardens.

Brazil played without Real Madrid star Vinícius Júnior, who watched from the stands under suspension after accumulating two yellow cards.

The Seleção already are without Neymar, who hasn't played since tearing a knee ligament last fall during Brazil's loss to Uruguay in a World Cup qualifier.

That victory was Uruguay's first over Brazil in 13 meetings since 2001, but Bielsa's group has now beaten Brazil in back-to-back matches for the first time since 1992.



Masters cricket team

Masters and Mahico to clash in Curtly Ambrose final

Masters and Mahico have advanced to the finals of the Antigua Commercial Bank (ACB) Caribbean Parish League Curtly Ambrose Limited Overs Championship.

Both teams claimed contrasting wins in the semi-finals over the weekend to book their spots in the finals.

Kadeem Henry and Ian Gore hit half centuries as the Masters crushed the Stingray City Seatons by 54 runs at Ball Beef in Liberta.

Henry slammed an unbeaten 70, and Gore struck 57 not out to guide

the Masters to 177 for three off 26 overs.

In reply, Seatons were restricted to 123 for six off their 26 overs. Tarik Prince scored 28, and Goldwin “Boaster” Prince got 23.

Robert “Trophy” Browne picked up three for 24, and Pernel “Roxy” Joseph claimed two wickets for 10 runs.

Mahico snatched a one-run win against Freetown at the Clare Hall. Chasing a victory target of 108, Freetown just fell short as they were restricted to 107 for nine off their al-

lotted overs.

Keif Baltimore slammed an unbeaten 32, and Antwone Willock and Austin Richards Jr. each contributed 25 runs. Ian Tittle snapped up two wickets for six runs, off-spinner Cleve Cornelius claimed two for 18, and Samuel Peters captured two for 32.

Mahico batted first and were dismissed for 108 in 26.2 overs. Tittle got 17 not out, and Peters scored 15. Austin Richards Jr. grabbed three for 12, and Jarel Phillip bagged three for 25.