

FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2024

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 228

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Local News



Today is the 50th Anniversary of Sir Viv's test selection

The Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association extends heartfelt congratulations to our national hero, Sir Vivian Richards, on the 50th anniversary of his cricketing debut.

Sir Vivian's journey from Antigua's shores to becoming one of the most iconic figures in cricket history is a source of immense pride for our nation. His fearless batting, unmatched leadership, and unwavering commitment to the game have left an indelible mark on cricket globally.

As a proud son of Antigua and Barbuda, Sir Viv has not only elevated the sport but also inspired countless young players to dream big and work hard. His legacy is a beacon of excellence and determination.

Today, we salute Sir Viv for his extraordinary contributions and thank him for being a true ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone!





CARICOM leaders discuss West Indies cricket

gagement with the Indian leader Narendra Modi, Heads of Government of the Caribbean community CARICOM on Thursday sat down to brainstorm on the ongoing challenges confronting West Indies cricket.

The occasion was the

Ministerial Sub-Committee (PMSC) on cricket at the CARICOM Secretariat, Turkeyen, Guyana.

Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister, Dr. Keith Rowley chaired the meeting of the Heads of Government.

Reports from George-

NATURALISATION NOTICE

Date: 21st November, 2024

Notice is hereby given that Arelis Castro Sepulveda of Ottos, St. John's, Antigua is applying to the Minister of Naturalisation and that any person who knows any reason why naturalisation should not be granted should send a written and signed statement with the facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.

One day after their en- 21st meeting of the Prime town, said that among other things, considered key issues and recommendations emanating from the CARICOM regional cricket conference in April 2024; review of Cage International proposal in respect of funding for West Indies cricket: discussions with Cricket West Indies, and an update on T20C World Cup 2024 as well as a review of the CPL contracts.

> During his contribution to the extensive discussions. Prime Minister Gaston Browne cited the urgent need for a reinvigo-



PM Gaston Browne listens intently t the meeting discussing West Indies cricket

ration of West Indies cricket and the adoption of clear strategies to return "our cont'd on pg 3

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Prime Minister Keith Rowley of Trinidad and Tobago chaired the meeting

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cricket to the halcyon days of the past".

"Today cricket is a billion-dollar business, and our players must take advantage of the opportunities to etch their names in the history books like the Sir Viv Richards, Sir Clive Lloyd, Sir Garfield Sobers - those great cricketers of the past."

He also agreed with the recommendation of commissioning a textbook or booklet, the development of a video, and placing West Indies cricket as a curriculum subject in schools across the Caribbean to help change the fortunes of "our game" while disseminating the history of the game in the Caribbean.



President of CWI, Dr. Shallow

He argued that a diagnostic study could help determine the elements that should be incorporated into the textbook.

"Our players require the deployment of soft skills, which are just one element of a transformational approach to a resurgence of West Indies cricket," he told his colleagues.



Local News





Sports Minister Daryll Matthew (centre) with Senator Shenella Govia (right) and Directorof Sports, Hether Daley (left)



Representatives from the sporting associations meet with the Ministry of Sports

Sports ministry convenes meeting with sporting bodies

The Ministry of Sports convened a roundtable discussion on Thursday with several of the sporting associations responsible for organizing and executing various sporting activities in the country.

Leading off the discus- reward. sion was the Minister of Sports, Daryll Matthew who commended the members of the sporting bodies for the yeoman's service they perform each year for the country, often without just

The minister also expressed his delight when Antigua and Barbuda athletes travel abroad and excel, not just for themselves, but certainly for all of Antigua and Barbuda.

Minister Matthew assured the associations of the continued support of his ministry and that of the government to assist the sporting bodies so that they can in turn produce world class athletes. Noting that it is important when the nation's athletes are celebrated whenever they perform well at these external sporting events, the minister said it is equally important to celebrate the athletes even when

they don't 'medal'.

He also urged the associations to submit to the ministry their work programmes for the upcoming year. The minister disclosed that the ministry's Athlete Development Assistance Review Panel (ADARP) has provided \$454,384.38 to assist sporting associations.

Along with Minister Matthew, the Sports ministry was also represented by Senator Shenella Govia and Director of Sports, Heather Daley. The meeting took place at the John E St Luce building.

The meeting also received an update on the upcoming National Sports Award.





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Local News

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St. John's forges path to disaster resilience with multi-stakeholder workshop

from various sectors of society convened at the John E. St. Luce Conference Center this week for a three-day workshop focused on bolstering disaster resilience in Antigua and Barbuda.

Organized by the National Office for Disaster Services (NODS) in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with support from the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security (UNTFHS), the workshop brought together key actors including the Antigua Barbuda Defense Force, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, Women Against Rape, the Antigua Barbuda Met Service, the Ministry of Social Transformation, Ministry of Tourism and many others.

Centered on the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative, the workshop explored important topics such as Disaster Resilience for human security, Disaster Displacement, and the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for St. John's. Participants engaged in dynamic discussions and collaborative exercises designed to strengthen the city's capacity to withstand and recover from disasters.

A key outcome of the workshop will be the devel-

Over 20 stakeholders opment of a comprehensive Local Resilience Strategy and Action Plan specifically tailored to the needs of St. John's and St. George's parishes. This plan will serve as a guide for enhancing preparedness, response, and cont'd on pg 6





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- · Possesses strong verbal and written communication skills
- Provides excellent customer service
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Local News



Message from the Medical Association of Antigua and Barbuda (MAAB)

It is with profound sadness that we, the members of the MAAB, express our deepest condolences to the family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Albert Duncan following his untimely passing.

Dr. Duncan was not only a dedicated and visionary leader but also an inspiring colleague whose contributions to the medical community have left an indelible mark. His commitment to excellence, compassion for patients, and and all who had the privilege of working unwavering dedication to advancing healthcare were hallmarks of his tenure as Medical Director.

We mourn the loss of an exceptional professional whose guidance and passion enriched our medical society and the lives of countless individuals. During this difficult time, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his loved ones

alongside him.

May we find strength in his legacy, and honor his memory by continuing the work he was so passionate about. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone affected by this profound loss.

> With deepest sympathy, Regene Johnson President

cont'd from pg 5

recovery efforts in the face of various hazards, and with a view to protecting people, their livelihoods, infrastructure and the environment.

Anderson Tuitt, paredness Manager NODS, emphasized need for anticipatory action when it pertains to flooding in St. John's. "It's not enough to clean the drains, but perhaps some engineering work to construct new bridges and other means of managing the flow of rainwater in St. John's."

Other participants, such as Dr. Adelle Blair from the Ministry of Tourism, highlighted that St. John's needs to be improved holistically. She emphasized that "Tackling the littering situation, the upkeep of buildings, managing the congestion on the roadways, emphasizing green spaces and walkability, all contribute to the cleanliness and by extension, resilience of St. John's City."

Alana Lewis, Technical Consultant - MCR2030 Caribbean, emphasized the



Various agencies discussing the social aspect of strengthening resilience

significance of the workshop in empowering local communities to take ownership of their own resilience, ensuring the most vulnerable populations are not left behind.

Mali Barnes, Technical Consultant for the Early Warnings for All (EW4ALL) initiative, highlighted the complementary nature of these efforts: "Work is underway to ensure that Anti-

gua and Barbuda is covered against a wide variety of hazards through EW4ALL, and now, with MCR2030, we are further strengthening community-level resilience."

This initiative builds upon ongoing efforts to strengthen Antigua and Barbuda's multi-hazard early warning system through EW4ALL initiative launched last year.

The workshop marks a significant step forward in Antigua and Barbuda's journey towards comprehensive disaster resilience.

Future workshops are planned to extend this important work to the remaining parishes and Barbuda, ensuring that the entire nation is equipped to face the challenges of a changing climate and disaster risk landscape.



CIBC

Congratulations

Congratulations to CIBC Caribbean team in Antigua on being awarded the Technological Innovation Award in the annual **Eastern Caribbean Currency Union Bank of the Year Awards.** The Awards recognise commercial banks which have made outstanding contributions to the overall development of the people of the OECS region.

CIBC Caribbean also extends congratulations to our team of outstanding Information, Technology, Infrastructure, and Innovation professionals across the Caribbean. Their dedication to providing our clients with the best technological support and solutions, has driven CIBC Caribbean's record-breaking and award-winning Digital Banking Services to new levels. These innovations add a level of security and convenience our clients need to bank anywhere, anytime with confidence.

Local News



Prematurity Awareness Week focuses attention on premature children

the premature birth of a child are the focus of the inaugural Prematurity Awareness Week now underway in Anftigua and Barbuda.

The activities are being spearheaded by Tiny H.O.P.E - Parents Support Group, a dedicated team of parents who have experienced the unique challenges of parenting premature babies.

President of Tiny H.O.P.E, Jhavline Patrick said the initiative aims to provide essential support and resources to parents of preterm infants, newborns, and those who have faced the heartbreaking experience of premature loss.

"At Tiny H.O.P.E, we believe that no parent should navigate the jour-

Issues associated with ney of premature birth alone. Our community is here to uplift, support, and empower families during this challenging time," said Patrick, "We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our local businesses, whose contributions make a real difference in the lives of parents and their precious little ones."

> On November 20th, Tiny H.O.P.E hosted its inaugural Appreciation Day, where heartfelt gratitude was extended to parents currently in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Each participating family received thoughtful gifts including spa vouchers from Wellness Foot-Print Spa, dinner passes from Carlisle Bay Resort, care packages from Johnson and Johnson (Anjo











Wholesale), food and vouchers from Epicurean. The response from parents was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the importance of community support during such challenging times.

In addition to supporting families, the NICU team was recognized for their unwavering dedication and compassion. Generous contributions from local businesses included electrical kettles from Townhouse Mega Store, thermometers from TMS Pharmacy and Ramco Pharmacy, as well as gift vouchers from South Coast Horizon, The FoxHouse Restaurant, and Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa. This day of appreciation served as a reminder of the teamwork required in caring for our most vulnerable infants.

Vice President Isher Alfred added, "The bonds formed within our support group are invaluable. We invite all parents who have experienced the challenges of prematurity to join us. Together, we can share our stories, provide encouragement, and foster a sense of belonging in a supportive environment."

Today, the activities continue with a fashion show where a premature girl will model with her father and a boy with his mother. The theme for the fashion show is 'tea party' so those who model must be dressed as if attending a tea party.

On Sunday, there will be a fun day at the Rising Sun Grounds where parents and their children will engage in a variety of games and other activities such as a scavenger hunt.

Local News

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Antigua and Barbuda nationals in the UK celebrate Independence

The Antigua and Barbuda National Association (UK) hosted its celebration of Antigua and Barbuda's 43rd Independence Day with its annual Dinner and Dance event. Among the guests were Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew, High Commissioner to the UK, Karen-Mae Hill, and President of the Antigua and Barbuda National Association (ABNA), Everton George who delivered speeches, honouring the resilience, achievements, and unity of the Antiguan and Barbudan diaspora in the United Kingdom.

Minister Matthew addressed this year's independence theme "From Community Collaboration to Global Gains", underscoring the significance of the diaspora's role in advancing Antigua and Barbuda's interests on the world stage.

He commended the diaspora for their dedication and



Left to right - Everton George, Cherrie Osborne, Shakyrah Davis, H.E. Karen-Mae Hill, Minister Daryll Matthew (1)

continued contributions, noting that their support is an invaluable asset to the nation's ongoing progress and global recognition. "The achievements of Antigua and Barbuda are a testament to the strength of our shared identity and commitment. Through collaboration we expand our influence and reinforce our presence on the global stage".

High Commissioner, Karen-Mae Hill, expressed her pride in the diaspora community's commitment to Antigua and Barbuda, emphasising their role in preserving and celebrating the nation's heritage. "Our independence theme, 'From Community Collaboration to Global Gains,' resonates deeply within our diaspora here in the UK. Your dedication not only strengthens our connection to home but also ensures that our traditions and values are passed on to future generations. Together we are keeping the spirit of Antigua and Barbuda alive."

Everton George, President of ABNA (UK), expressed his gratitude to the members of the association

and all attendees for their support of the event. "I want to thank everyone who came out tonight to celebrate our nation's independence with us," he said. It's truly heartening to see such a strong turnout, especially from our younger community members. Their presence and enthusiasm mark a promising future for our association, as they carry on the legacy, culture, and pride in Antigua and Barbuda. Together, we're building a foundation for continued membership and support for years to come."

The celebration was also attended by Cherrie Osborne, Director of Tourism to the UK and Shakyrah Davis, the recently crowned 2024 Ms Caribbean UK.

Entertainment for the evening was provided by the sounds of Harry's Steel Band, alongside performances by singer Carroll Thompson and Soca artists Brother B and Lady Isha.

				A	Antigu	a & B	arbud	a Ele	ector	al Co	mmi	ssio	n							6		
	OFFICIAL REPORT																					
		August 202	4		September 2024						October 2024						November 2024					
# COUNSTITUENCY	12th - 16th	19th - 23rd	26th - 30th	TOTAL	2nd - 6th	9th - 13th	16th - 20th	23rd-27th	30th	TOTAL	1st - 4th	7th - 11th	14th - 18th	21st - 25th	28th - 31st	TOTAL	4th - 8th	11th - 15th	18th - 22nd	25th - 29th	TOTAL	GR. TO
1 ST. JOHN'S CITY WEST	95	84	54	233	38	40	26	12	5	121	6	25	18	17	16	82	9	17	0	0	26	4
2 ST. JOHN'S CITY EAST	32	26	24	82	26	25	29	11	3	94	5	11	12	14	11	53	12	13	0	0	25	2
3 ST. JOHN'S CITY SOUTH	40	24	34	98	30	17	17	13	1	78	3	20	10	10	13	56	9	10	0	0	19	:
4 ST. JOHN'S RURAL WEST	83	158	164	405	25	92	75	61	11	264	7	37	28	30	34	136	27	33	0	0	60	
5 ST. JOHN'S RURAL SOUTH	89	82	87	258	68	36	38	29	2	173	15	29	25	30	19	118	26	23	0	0	49	
6 ST. JOHN'S RURAL EAST	145	111	94	350	61	46	64	30	8	209	19	49	32	38	30	168	17	23	0	0	40	
7 ST. JOHN'S RURAL NORTH	148	130	73	351	80	39	43	35	9	206	16	33	23	27	14	113	13	15	0	0	28	
8 ST. MARY'S NORTH	81	137	85	303	92	54	68	34	5	253	28	35	42	34	14	153	26	25	0	0	51	
9 ST. MARY'S SOUTH	85	76	64	225	27	64	42	35	10	178	19	20	33	22	20	114	15	14	0	0	29	
10 ALL SAINTS EAST AND ST. LUKE	97	127	88	312	80	67	41	38	9	235	22	37	20	40	27	146	20	23	0	0	43	
11 ALL SAINTS WEST	72	122	86	280	4	106	85	57	3	255	30	37	57	53	29	206	27	36	0	0	63	
12 ST. GEORGE	131	162	129	422	99	78	67	49	9	302	23	32	40	37	23	155	34	24	0	0	58	
13 ST. PETER	100	106	65	271	80	22	27	39	2	170	32	25	27	22	19	125	35	33	0	0	68	
14 ST. PHILIP NORTH	75	61	44	180	32	27	35	28	3	125	28	20	16	23	15	102	19	10	0	0	29	
15 ST. PHILIP SOUTH	7	57	29	93	29	24	17	12	3	85	10	15	8	7	4	44	10	4	0	0	14	
16 ST. PAUL	85	93	72	250	80	50	64	38	5	237	12	28	30	30	30	130	25	20	0	0	45	(
17 BARBUDA	0	25	71	96	40	23	28	9	6	106	11	6	12	9	4	42	5	11	0	0	16	
ly Replacement Application Count	1365	1581	1263		891	810	766	530	94		286	459	433	443	322		329	334	0	0		
MONTHLY TOTAL			4209						3091						1943					663		

Local News



WIOC singles out Whitson Southwell for special honour

The West Indies Oil Company Limited (WIOC) held a special ceremony recently in honor of a distinguished former employee, Whitson "Southie" Southwell for his exceptional service and dedication to the company.

Southwell had the rare honour and privilege to have the Fabrication Shop that forms part of the Maintenance Department renamed after him. It is now the Whitson Southwell Fabrication Shop.

Southwell, who began his career at the company as a Layman in Construction, retired as a Maintenance Supervisor after nearly 50 years of service to WIOC.

Throughout his tenure, he consistently arrived an hour early for his shift and was known for demonstrating remarkable commitment by constantly going above and beyond in the execution of his duties.

Southie's personal mantra, "Eyes make work look plenty! Full speed ahead!" echoed his proactive approach to his responsibilities. Well admired among peers, Southie mentored many, always willing to share knowledge and trade expertise while constantly highlighting more economical solutions to execute projects.

During the ceremony, Chief Executive Officer, Gregory Georges recalled a pivotal moment when WI-OC's facility was inspected by a prominent international petroleum company. The Inspector noted the quality of the fabrication performed by Southwell was superior to what he had seen in a number of facilities that he inspected worldwide.

Georges expressed his hope that the work ethics of Southwell would inspire the younger generation within WIOC and he urged them to strive to uphold and replicate that same high standard of quality in their own work.

Southwell conveyed his heartfelt gratitude for receiving this honor, surrounded by his family and former colleagues who came out in large numbers to show their support.

This gesture was particularly meaningful, because he played a key role in building the very structure that now bears his name.

While all long-serving employees are recognized annually by the company, this special recognition highlights the organization's deep appreciation for committed employees and their significant contributions. The company wishes Southwell good



Whitson "Southie" Southwell health and hopes that he continues to enjoy his retirement.



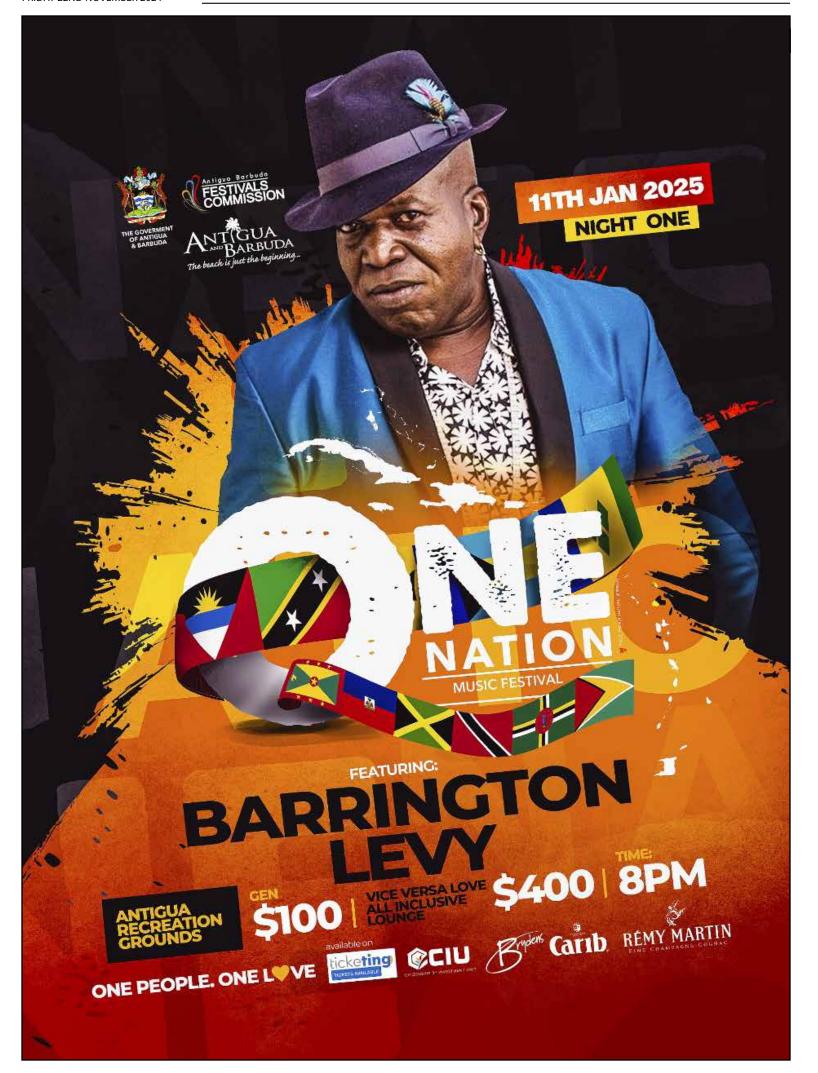


Photo Essay



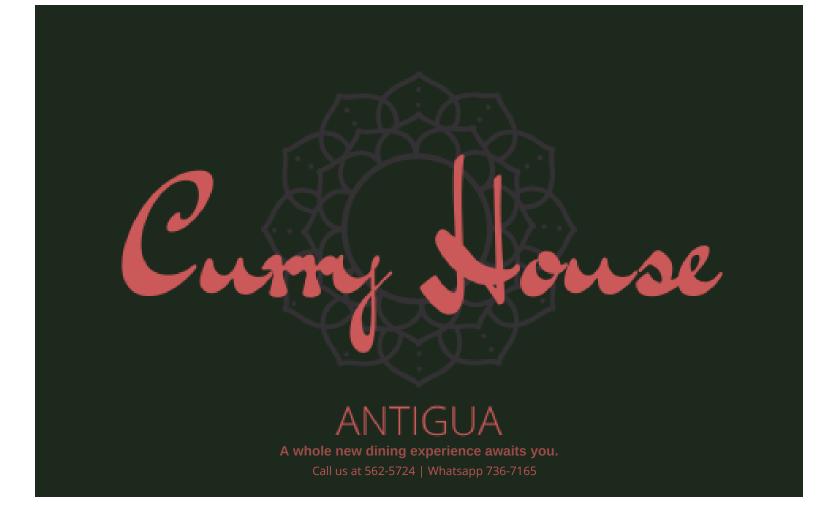


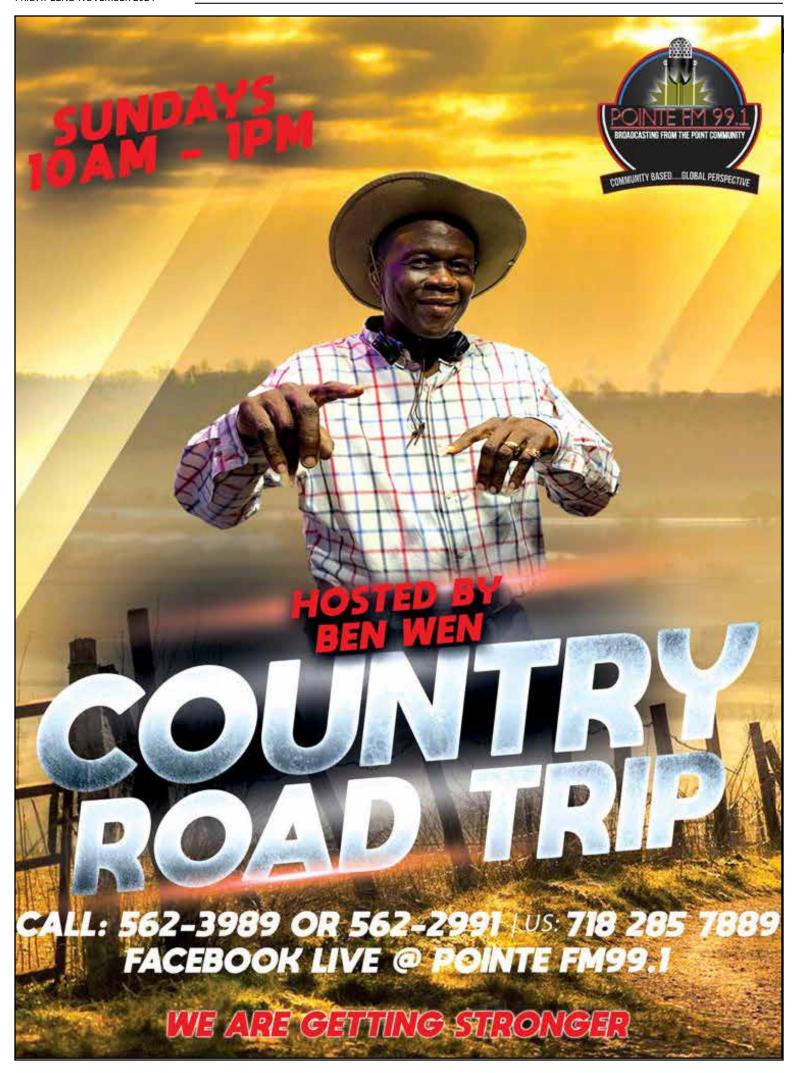












Opinion



People of English-speaking Caribbean freer than most in the world

By Sir Ronald Sanders

If you live in an English-speaking Caribbean country, do you consider yourself freer and more fortunate than many others around the world? In a world where freedoms are under siege-where journalists are imprisoned, political dissent is silenced. persons are jailed without trial, and religious leaders persecuted—residents of the Commonwealth Caribbean enjoy liberties that are envied by many. Our nations stand as beacons of democracy and freedom.

Yet, how often do we stop to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy? These rights are not only the foundation of individual dignity but also the pillars of national prosperity. And while we may take them for granted, they are far from guaranteed elsewhere in the world.

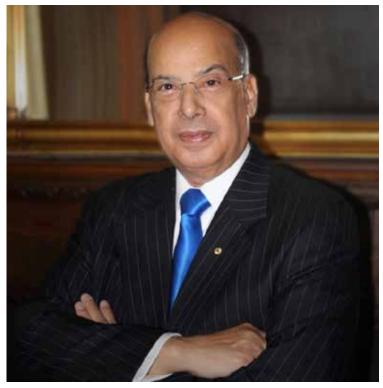
Globally, the situation is dire. Over 320 journalists are imprisoned worldwide, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Thousands of political prisoners languish in detention for dissenting against oppressive regimes, while organizations like Open Doors document the persecution of religious leaders in several countries including Nicaragua and Iran. These grim realities highlight the freedoms that many in the world do not have.

In contrast, the Com-

monwealth Caribbean is free of these injustices. Journalists work without fear of imprisonment, citizens practice their faiths openly, and political prisoners are not a feature of our democracies. Nations like Jamaica, Barbados, and Trinidad and Tobago rank among the freest in the world, supported by robust legal protections, free elections, and dynamic press freedoms. Antigua and Barbuda, too, is classified as "Free" in Freedom House's 2024 Freedom in the World report, scoring 85 out of 100, with strong ratings in both Political Rights and Civil Liberties. These freedoms are not only moral imperatives but also drivers of economic growth, as studies show that democratic nations achieve higher and more sustainable prosperity.

Recognizing Shared Responsibilities

While the Commonwealth Caribbean has much to celebrate, freedoms are fragile and must be actively nurtured. This is a collective responsibility shared by governments, opposition parties, and citizens alike. As Nelson Mandela reminded us, "Freedom is indivisible; the chains on any one of my people were the chains on all of them." Protecting freedom requires building strong institutions, ensuring transparency, and fostering accountability at every level



Sir Ronald Sanders

of governance.

Political parties play a critical role in this process. Governments must lead with integrity, adhering to truth and transparency to earn and sustain the trust of their people. Policies and decisions should be presented with clarity, grounded in reasoned argument and tangible benefits. At the same opposition parties time. must fulfil their responsibility to hold governments accountable constructively. This involves proposing viable alternatives and engaging in critiques that strengthen democratic institutions rather than undermine them.

The misuse of freedoms to promote disinformation, spread division, or serve narrow political purposes undermines the very liberties that are central to democracy. This applies equally to all political actors. Democracy thrives when governments and opposition parties alike act in the public interest, building consensus and advancing shared goals.

Better conditions demand action when rights are violated elsewhere

Caribbean citizens, too, have a role to play. While it is their right to demand better services, it is important to recognize the financial, economic, and trade constraints faced by small, open economies. Governments must be held accountable for improving public services, but citizens must also balance these demands

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Opinion

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with an understanding of the broader challenges. Few stop to consider how much better off they are compared to those in conflict zones or under authoritarian regimes.

This perspective does not excuse inefficiency or lack of accountability, but it encourages a responsible conversation about priorities, shared responsibilities, and the collective effort required to sustain freedoms and development.

The stark realities of imprisoned journalists, political prisoners, and persecuted religious leaders globally should serve as a wake-up call to value and protect the freedoms enjoyed in the Caribbean. These freedoms are rare and precious.

Internationally, the Caribbean also has a moral responsibility to champion these freedoms. The region's leadership in organizations like the United Nations and the Organization of American States should serve as an example of how small, free nations can amplify the principles of democracy and human rights. As Martin Luther King Jr warned us, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

That is why we must be mindful of the disastrous effects of corruption, weakened institutions, and the disregard for democratic practices in Haiti. These challenges have led to social and political instability, fostering lawlessness and human suffering. We must also remain deeply concerned about the immense suffering caused by conflicts around the world. In Sudan, a devastating war has claimed approximately 150,000 lives and displaced millions, leaving people to face starvation and disease. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, ongoing violence in the Kivu region has resulted in mass killings and the displacement of millions. These tragedies, alongside the war in Ukraine and the conflict between Israel and Palestinian groups,

including the decimation of Gaza, remind us of the fragility of peace and the devastating cost of injustice.

A Collaborative Call to Action

As free nations, we cannot ignore the suffering of others. These crises have shattered lives, undermined freedoms, and inflicted untold hardship. They demand our attention and our advocacy for a world where the rights and dignity of all people are protected.

The freedoms enjoyed by the people of the Commonwealth Caribbean are the result of generations of struggle and sacrifice, from the abolition of slavery and the termination of indentured labour to the fight for independence. They are not self-sustaining; they require vigilance, courage, and a commitment to principles. Free, fair, and transparent elections must remain the bedrock of our democracies, and institutions that protect freedoms must be fortified. This is not just the responsibility of governments but of all who call these countries home.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries:www.sirronaldsanders.com)



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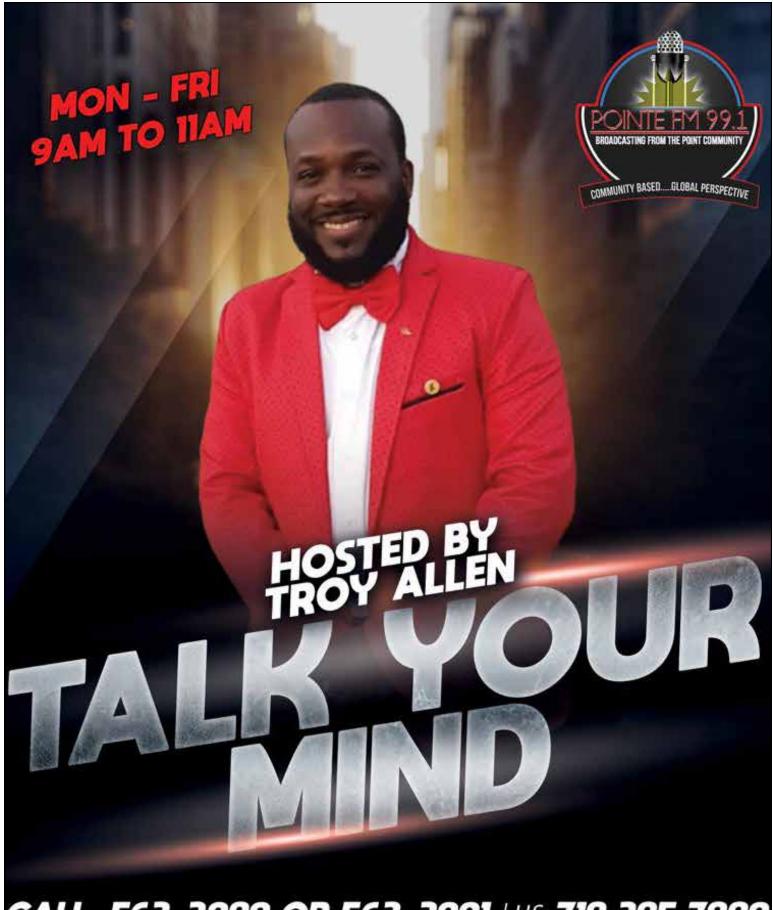
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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Environment

PAGE 17

Climate change made Atlantic hurricanes 18 mph stronger, study finds

Human-caused climate change made Atlantic hurricanes about 18 miles per hour (29 kilometres per hour) stronger in the last six years, a new scientific study found Wednesday.

For most of the storms — 40 of them — the extra oomph from warmer oceans made the storms jump an entire hurricane category, according to the study published in the journal, Environmental Research: Climate. A Category 5 storm causes more than 400 times the damage of a minimal Category 1 hurricane, more than 140 times the damage of a minimal Category 3 hurricane and more than five times the damage of a minimal Category 4 storm, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

For three storms, including this month's Rafael, the climate change factor goosed wind speed so much that the winds increased by two storm categories.

This isn't about more storms, but increasing power from the worst ones, authors said.

"We know that the intensity of these storms is causing a lot more catastrophic damage in general," lead study author Daniel Gilford, a climate scientist at Climate Central, which does research on global warming. "Damages do scale (up) with the intensity."



A person walks in the rain after the passing of Hurricane John in Marquelia, Mexico, Tuesday, September 24, 2024. (AP Photo/Luis Alberto Cruz)

The effect was especially noticeable in stronger storms, including those that made it to the top of the Saffir-Simpson scale of storm intensity: Category Five, study authors said. The study looked at 2019 to 2023, but the authors then did a quick addition for the named storms this year, all of which had a bump up due to climate change.

"We had two Category Five storms here in 2024," Gilford said. "Our analysis shows that we would have had zero Category Five storms without human-caused climate change."

This year's three most devastating storms — Beryl, Helene and Milton — increased by 18 mph (29 kph), 16 mph (26 kph) and 24 mph (39 mph) respectively because of climate change, the authors said. A different study by World Weather

Attribution had deadly Helene's wind speed increase by about 13 mph, which is close, said Imperial College London climate scientist Friederike Otto, who coordinates the WWA team and praised the Climate Central work.

"It absolutely makes sense from a fundamental standpoint that what's going on is we've added more energy to the system," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief Rick Spinrad said at United Nations climate talks in Baku. Azerbaijan. "The change is going to manifest in terms of what we're already seeing. You look at Hurricane Helene which was massive. 500 miles across. We're going to see changes in terms of the velocity of these storms. We're going to see changes in terms of Hurricane Milton spawning so many tornadoes."

Since 2019, eight storms — 2019's Humberto, 2020's Zeta, 2021's Sam and Larry, 2022's Earl, 2023's Franklin and 2024's Isaac and Rafael — increased by at least 25 mph (40 kph) in wind speed. Humberto and Zeta gained the most: 31 miles per hour (50 kph).

In 85 per cent of the storms studied in the last six years, the authors saw a fingerprint of climate change in storm strength, Gilford said.

Warm water is the main fuel of hurricanes. The warmer the Atlantic, Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico get, the more potential energy goes into storms. Other factors — such as high level crosswinds and dry air — can act to weaken hurricanes.

The waters in the hurricane area have increased by 2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit cont'd on pg 18

Regional News



Grenada's water network suffers over \$800K in damage from bad weather

Recent extreme rainfall events in Grenada have caused damage to the water system of the National Water and Sewerage Authority (NAWASA) amounting to \$880,000.

This is nearly 60 per cent more than the impacts of Hurricane Beryl on Grenada's water infrastructure.

NAWASA in an update said over the past 11 days, Grenada experienced unprecedented weather conditions, with intense rainfall leading to widespread flooding, landslides, and significant damage to NAWASA's operations.

These events disrupted dam intakes, transmission lines, and water treatment plants, while landslides dislodged pipelines and all sewage pump stations attached to the Grand Anse and True-Blue sewerage networks were inundated.



A dam intake in Grenada. (Photo credit: NAWASA)

The first event, on Friday, November 8, recorded a maximum rainfall depth of 174.08mm (7 inches) in Grand Roy and Concord over 18 hours, with an average depth of 127.31mm (5 inches) across the island. This initial deluge affected 50 per cent of NAWASA's water production systems.

Subsequent events on November 13, 17, and 18/19 compounded the damage, particularly as the saturated soil from earlier rains exacerbated vulnerabilities.

Some systems, such as Annandale and Peggy's Whim, faced prolonged recovery periods, taking over four days to recharge due to heightened demand and network challenges.

Recognising the growing risks posed by climate change, NAWASA said it is taking decisive action to enhance its resilience to extreme weather events.

The organisation announced that it is committed to implementing the following measures:

Infrastructure Upgrades: Strengthening dams, intakes, and critical facilities.

Pipeline Stabilisation: Protecting transmission lines in landslide-prone ar-

Watershed Management: Proactively monitoring and managing critical ecosystems.

Advanced Hydrological Analysis: Leveraging data to predict and mitigate future impacts.

Disaster Risk Management Training: Building capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to emergencies. NAWASA noted that these investments reflect its proactive stance in addressing the effects of climate change while ensuring a safe and reliable water supply for all customers.

cont'd from pg 17

(1.1 to 1.6 Celsius) in general and as much as 4 degrees (2.2 C) due to climate change, Gilford said.

They know this because Climate Central has used scientifically accepted techniques to regularly track how much warmer oceans are because of the burning of coal, oil and natural gas.

That technique basically uses computer simulations to create a fictional world with no human-caused warming and then compares it to current reality, with the difference being caused by greenhouse gases.

They account for other factors, such as the lessening amount of sulphate pollution from marine shipping which had been counteracting a bit of the warming before the skies cleared up more.

To go from warmer waters to stronger storms, the authors looked at a calculation called potential intensity, which is essentially the speed limit for any given storm based on the environmental conditions around it, Gilford said.

MIT hurricane expert and meteorology professor Kerry Emanuel, who pioneered potential intensity measurements, wasn't part of the study but said it makes sense. It shows the increase in storm strength that he predicted would happen 37 years ago, he said.

Past studies have shown that climate change has made hurricanes intensify quicker, and slower moving, which causes even more rain to be dumped.

Regional News

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PM Drew labels RICO lawsuit as an extortion scheme

By Dillon De Shong

Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew has described the lawsuit filed by movie producer Phillipe Martinez against several officials involved in the Citizenship by Investment Program (CBI) as an attempt to extort the government and people of St Kitts and Nevis.

In an interview with a panel of local journalists on Wednesday, Drew expressed confusion about a decision by the previous government to admit Martinez into the CBI program in 2022 given his checkered past.

"We're dealing with somebody who's convicted of fraud and spent jail time for fraud, who should not be in our programme in the first place," Drew said.

The prime minister claims he was approached by someone connected to Martinez demanding that the government pays at least US\$40 million to settle the matter.

Drew said he was left astonished by the figure, which represents about five per cent of the country's budget.

"If you care about St Kitts and Nevis, why are you attempting to extort tens of millions of US dollars from the people of St Kitts and Nevis through the treasury?" the prime minster asked.



Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew. Photo: SKN Info.

Corruption is not something that will be tolerated as the prime minister said steps are being taken to make CBI and government operations more transparent.

"We are the ones who made two years ago underselling a criminal offence. We are the only country that has made underselling a criminal offence," Drew said.

Drew said he will not be pressured into settling the matter, which will result in citizens of St Kitts and Nevis losing a vast sum of money.

Martinez, a French national, filed a Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations (RICO) civil

lawsuit earlier this year alleging officials connected to the CBI programs in St Kitts and Nevis and St Lucia were underselling citizenships to enrich themselves.

In the 132-page lawsuit filed in the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida, Martinez and his companies MSR Media SKN Limited, MSR Hotels and Co Limited and MSR Media International LLC alleged former St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Denzil Douglas and others engaged in a scheme to defraud the people of St Kitts and Nevis and St Lucia as well as American investors.

The plaintiffs alleged the fraudulent acts had the

potential to allow criminals to obtain visa-free or visa-on-arrival entry to the United States, the UK, the European Union, and other countries.

The defendants listed in the lawsuit include Les Kahn, the former head of St Kitts & Nevis' Citizenship by Investment Unit (CIU) and current CEO of Caribbean Galaxy; Mc Claude Emmanuel, the present CEO of the St Lucia Citizenship by CIU; Ying Jin of Caribbean Galaxy; former Prime Minister Dr Timothy Harris and Faron Lawrence, a Kittitian real estate developer.

Martinez is seeking several million dollars in damages from the defendants.

International



Brazil police formally accuse Bolsonaro of alleged coup plot

By Amy Walker

Ex-Brazilian president Jair Bolsonaro and some of his closest allies have been formally accused of allegedly plotting a coup, after he lost the 2022 presidential election.

Bolsonaro's vice-presidential candidate Walter Braga Netto and 35 other people have also been indicted by federal police for attempted violent abolition of the democratic rule of law, coup d'état and criminal organisation.

It comes after a nearly two-year-long investigation into whether Bolsonaro incited a failed coup after claiming the election was fraudulent.

In a post on X, Bolsonaro said he would mount a legal "fight" against the claims, and accused investigators of being "creative" and doing "everything that the law does not say".

In a statement, police said their probe "found the existence of a criminal organisation that acted in a coordinated manner, in 2022, in an attempt to keep the then president of the republic in power".

Police have forwarded the report with the indictment of the 37 people to the court.

The country's top prosecutor will now decide whether to press charges.

Among those accused of being part of a criminal



Police have been investigating whether Bolsonaro incited a failed coup after losing the 2022 election.

conspiracy to stage a coup are Bolsonaro's former spy chief Alexandre Ramagem, as well as former ministers Anderson Torres and Augusto Heleno.

The indictment is a fresh blow for Bolsonaro's hard-right backers, who had hoped to overturn a ban blocking him from office in time to him to run for president in 2026.

Earlier this week, federal police in Brazil arrested five people who are suspected of plotting to kill then president-elect Lula in the days before he took office.

In the last few months, federal police have also formally accused Bolsonaro of tampering with his Covid-19 vaccination cards while in office and of benefiting from an illegal scheme to sell jewellery gifted to his government by Saudi Arabia.

Bolsonaro was banned from running for office for eight years after being accused of undermining Brazilian democracy by falsely claiming that electronic ballots used in the October 2022 poll were vulnerable to hacking and fraud.

The bitterly fought election was won by an extremely narrow margin by left-winger Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

Mr Bolsonaro never publicly acknowledged his defeat and left Brazil for the US two days before Lula was sworn in as president.

His supporters, who refused to accept the outcome of the election, stormed Brazil's Congress, the presidential palace and the building housing the Supreme Court on 8 January 2023.

Parts of the buildings were ransacked and police arrested 1,500 of the rioters.

In his X post, Bolsonaro added that he would wait to see what was in the indictment.

"I will wait for the lawyer. This, obviously, will go to the attorney general's office. It is at the PGR [Prosecutor General of the Republic] that the fight begins," he added.

International

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Putin warns West as Russia hits Ukraine with new missile

By Robert Greenall

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that an attack by his forces on the eastern Ukrainian city of Dnipro on Thursday morning was carried out using "a new conventional intermediate-range missile".

He said that the missile, codenamed Oreshnik, was a response to the use by Ukraine of US and UK long-range weaponry to hit targets inside Russia.

Putin added that Russia could attack military facilities of those countries which allowed their weapons to be used for this purpose.

The US and the UK authorised the use of US ATACMS and UK-supplied Storm Shadow missiles this week, in a major change of policy.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said Russia's use of the new missile was "a clear and severe escalation in the scale and brutality of this war."

"[This] is yet more proof that Russia has no interest in peace," he wrote on X, adding: «Putin is not only prolonging the war - he is spitting in the face of those in the world who genuinely want peace to be restored.»

Earlier, Zelensky said the missile had the characteristics of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). even as Western officials cast doubt on this theory.



Ukraine says critical infrastructure was targeted in Dnipro.

The US National Security Council, meanwhile, said "an experimental medium-range ballistic missile" had been used against Ukraine, adding that Russia probably only possessed a handful of these weapons and that they would not be a game changer in the war.

The Pentagon's deputy press secretary Sabrina Singh said the US had been notified "briefly" before the missile was launched through Nuclear Risk Reduction channels - which are used to exchange information on issues including missile launch notifications.

Putin said a "test" was successfully carried out on a non-nuclear hypersonic version of a ballistic missile and that the "target was reached".

"In response to the use of American and British long-range weaponry, on 21 November this year, the Russian armed forces carried out a combined strike on one of Ukraine's military-industrial complex sites," he said.

There is no way of counteracting this weapon, which attacks targets at a speed of 10 Mach, or 2.5-3km/s, he said.

And he warned the West that Russia was "ready for any developments. If anyone still doubts this, they shouldn't. There will always be a response".

Matthew Savill, director of military sciences at Rusi, a think tank, said available information about the Russian missile suggests something with a longer range than the Iskanders used so far in the conflict, which have a range of up to 500km (311 miles).

Intermediate-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs) which Putin appears to have been describing - generally have ranges of between 3,000 and 5,500km.

Savill says the use of such a weapon may not have huge military significance but is symbolically important, coming on the back of Russia's revised nuclear doctrine which many see as a lowering of the threshold for the use of such weapons.

It is, he says, a not so subtle reminder that Russia has a wider arsenal of different and larger missile types and is ready to develop more.

Putin's announcement comes as the conflict in Ukraine - which marked its 1,000th day on Tuesday - appears to be entering a new, dangerous phase.

cont'd on pg 22

Sports News



APUA Inet and ECAB continue to dominate business volleyball league

The two top teams for the past two seasons, defending champions APUA Inet and second-place finishers the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), continue to dominate the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship.

Both teams recorded wins in the latest round of matches at the indoor volleyball stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

APUA Inet continued their title defense in their quest to become three-peat champions with a winning streak of four games.

The defending champions took just 47 minutes to cruise to a straight forward 2-0 victory against Sandals, prevailing 25-22, 25-15.



Players of the APUA Inet volleyball team. (ABAVA)

time in three games.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank, which third win in as many games

Sandals lost for the second finished in the runners-up position for the past two seasons, notched up their

with a straightforward 2-0 victory against newcomers the University of the West

The ECAB utilized their experience and guile to cruise to their 25-13, 25-13 victory against the Police, who lost for the third time in four encounters.

The business volleyball league will continue with a double header at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturdav.

Newcomers EZ Fit Flyers will face the Media in the opening game at 7 pm, and another newcomer, Island Academy, will meet Royalton in the second encounter at 8 pm.

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Last Sunday US President Joe Biden gave Ukraine the go-ahead to use longrange Army Tactical Missile System (ATACMS) to strike inside Russia, and two days later they were launched into Russia's Bryansk region.

On Wednesday, Ukraine was reported to have used UK-supplied Storm Shadow missiles against Russian targets. On the same day, Biden also agreed to give Ukraine anti-personnel landmines.

The Western moves were apparently in response to Moscow's deployment of North Korean troops as it prepares for an offensive aimed at driving Ukrainian troops out of a small area they have occupied in Russia's Kursk region.

But they also come as Donald Trump prepares to return to the US presidency in two months> time.

Trump has promised to end the US involvement in wars and instead use taxpayers' money to improve Americans' lives. He has said he will bring the Russia-Ukraine war to an end within 24 hours, without saying how.

Also this week Putin - seemingly reacting to these moves - ratcheted up the tension still further by loosening the conditions of use for Russia's nuclear weapons.

And Russia stepped up air strikes against Ukrainian infrastructure, as its ground forces continue their advance in eastern Ukraine.

Sports News

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His Majesty's Prison (HMP) United team qualified for the round of 16 in the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

APUA Telecoms and Sandals into round of 16 in business football league

Defending champions APUA terprise. Telecoms and last year's losing finalist Sandals have advanced to the round of 16 in the 2024 JOMA Caribbean Ministry of Sports Business Football League Championship.

The round of 16 was decided after nine rounds of matches among 27 participating teams, which were equally divided into three groups of nine teams.

APUA Telecoms and Sandals are two of six teams that advanced from Group 3. The others are the Antigua Port Authority, Fresh Acres Enterprise, Her Majesty's Prison (HMP) United, and the St. John's Development Corporation (SJDC).

Five teams qualified from Group 2. They are the Ministry of Agriculture, the General Post Office (GPO), DEWS Pro Builders, the Central Housing and Planning Authority (CHAPA) Warriors, and Macky En-

The other five teams advancing to the round of 14 came from Group 1. They are Keyonna/Cocos, Royalton Strikers, APUA Head Office, Antigua Rainforest, and Hermitage Hotel.

In the last round of preliminary matches, Cocos/Keyonna prevailed 5-1 against the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWIF-IC), and Galley Bay Resort pulled off a 4-2 victory against the Department of Immigration at the Jennings playing field.

At the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park, SJDC hammered Sandals 5-0, the GPO and CHAPA battled to a 1-1 draw, and the Antigua Port Authority snatched a 2-1 victory against APUA Telecoms.

At the Radio Range playing field in Ottos, HMP United defeated the Blue Waters Hotel 3-0, DEWS Pro Builders prevailed 3-0 against APUA

Water, and Public Works Asphalt also beat the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) by a 3-0 scoreline.

At the Golden Grove playing field, the West Indies Oil Company (WIOC) and the Ministry of Tourism fought to a 1-1 draw, the Ministry of Agriculture snatched a 2-1 victory against Mack Enterprise, and the Hermitage Hotel prevailed 3-2 against the Royalton Strikers.

The round of 16 matches will be played on Saturday, November 30. Cocos/Keyonna will face Fresh Acres Enterprise, Royalton Strikers will take on Sandals, APUA Head Office will tackle HMP United, and Hermitage Hotel will challenge APUA Telecoms.

The Antigua Rainforest will clash with the Antigua Port Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture will oppose SJDC, the GPO will meet Macky Enterprise, and DEWS Pro Builders will clash with the CHAPA Warriors.

Sports News



Barbados Pride crush T&T Red Force to soar into Super50 final

Barbados Pride delivered a clinical performance to storm into the CG United Super50 Cup final, as they hammered defending champions Trinidad and Tobago Red Force by a massive 153 runs in their semi-final clash at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy on Wednesday.

This victory propelled the Pride—who last tasted glory in the 2016-17 season and reached their last final in 2017-18—into contention for their seventh title.

The Barbados Pride made 339 for seven off their allotted 50 overs), and the Trinidad and Tobago Red Force tumbled to 186 all out in 36.3 overs.

After being sent in to bat, the Pride's openers, Zachary McCaskie and Leniko Boucher, laid the foundation with a scintillating 142-run partnership.

McCaskie, the more aggressive of the pair, entertained with a blistering 94 off just 82 deliveries, smashing six boundaries and six towering sixes.

However, his departure, courtesy of Mark Deyal, did little to disrupt the Pride's momentum.

Captain Raymond Reifer joined the fray with a brisk 65, and added another crucial 50-run stand with Boucher, who contributed a steady 69 off 84 balls in a knock that had seven boundaries.



Zachary McCaskie bats against defending champions Trinidad and Tobago Red Force in the first semi-final of the CG United Super50 Cup at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy, in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Wednesday, November 20, 2024. (CWI Media)

Reifer's 60-ball knock, which included six fours and a six, epitomized controlled aggression that applied further pressure to the Red Force bowlers.

Even when Boucher fell to Deyal, and Kevin Wickham (14) went to spinner Khary Pierre, Reifer, and Roston Chase (43), on return from West Indies duties, added another 50 runs for the fourth wicket.

Chase's quick-fire 31-ball knock, which had only two fours and a six, ensured the Pride capitalized on the foundation laid by the top order.

Reifer eventually became Deyal's third scalp, and Chase went to Shannon Gabriel, but the damage was already done, as the Pride were at 297 for five at that point. The lower order contributed the remaining runs to the daunting total.

Deyal stood out for the Red Force with figures of four for 53, but his efforts were insufficient to stem the tide.

Facing a challenge victory target, the Red Force faltered early and never recovered. The only bright spot in their reply was a 68-run second wicket partnership between Tion Webster and Amir Jangoo (16).

Webster's aggressive 56 off 47 balls, which featured eight boundaries and a six, gave fleeting hope before he

became the fourth wicket to fall with the score at 91.

After Webster's dismissal, Deyal (34) and Isiah Rajah (28) shared a brief 53-run stand for the seventh wicket, but the Red Force were ultimately bowled out for a paltry 186 in just 36.3 overs.

Dominic Drakes led the Pride's bowling charge with three for 24, with Chase (two for 40) and Kemar Smith (two for 42) also doing some damage.

The Pride's dominance sets up a highly anticipated final against the winner of the second semi-finals between the Jamaica Scorpions and Leeward Islands Hurricanes.

Sports News

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ABICE goes joint-second in the Under-20 Boys Division school league

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) moved into joint second place in the Under-20 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, and Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup football league on Wednesday.

The ABICE made the move after recording their fourth win in six matches by pulling off an impressive 5-1 victory against hosts Antigua Grammar School in one of two matches in the division that were played.

Jahlanie Barzey struck a hat trick with conversions in the 20th, 25th, and 38th minutes; Imar Nicholas scored in the sixth minute, and Karique Knight netted the fifth goal for ABICE with a strike in the 45th minute.

Sedique Adams scored the only goal for Antigua Grammar School when he converted a penalty kick in the 35th minute.

The result allows ABICE to join defending champions Antigua State College and Antigua Grammar School in second place with 12 points each. But ABICE and Antigua Grammar School have played six matches, one more than Antigua State College.

Clare Hall and St. Anthony's Secondary School fought to a goalless draw in the other Under-20 Boys encounter at the Antigua Grammar



Jahlanie Barzey struck a hat trick for AB-ICE against Antigua Grammar School on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.

School playing field.

Their first draw in seven matches allows Clare Hall Secondary to advance to seven points. It was also the first draw in six matches for St. Anthony's Secondary School, which advanced to four points.

But the other three matches in the

Under-20 Boys Division were not played on Wednesday.

The encounter between Princess Margaret School and Jennings Secondary School was postponed due to wet and soggy conditions at the PMS playing field.

Both matches at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints were not played due to the absence of referees. All Saints Secondary was to meet Ottos Comprehensive School, and Antigua State College was slated to tackle Irene B. Williams Secondary.

Princess Margaret School and All Saints Secondary School are currently joint leaders of the Under-20 Boys Division with 15 points. Both teams have identical records of five wins and one defeat from six matches.

Jennings Secondary remains second from the bottom of the standings with three points with a record of one win and five defeats in six matches.

The Irene B. Williams Secondary remains winless and without any points in the cellar of the 10-team round-robin competition after losing all five matches it has played.

The other team in the Under-20 Boys Division, Ottos Comprehensive School, has nine points and a record of three wins and three losses from six matches.

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Hodge, Mikyle Louis, Keacy Carty, and Justin Greaves are relatively new to the scene, but it has been a year of promise for this batting line-up.

They hold the key for the future, but the West Indies top seven have the lowest batting average among all Test teams this year. The West Indies have won just one out of the seven Tests in 2024, so the batting, despite its lack of experience, must now step up.

Two misfiring batting line-ups and impressive fast bowling attacks could produce a tight contest.

It will be up to the likes of Kraigg Brathwaite and Mominul Haque to get their respective batting line-ups in order.

The fast bowlers, meanwhile, will want to ensure that the runs come at a premium in the opening Test.

West Indies Team: Kraigg Brathwaite (captain), Mikyle Louis, Keacy Carty, Alick Athanaze, Kavem Hodge, Justin Greaves, Joshua Da Silva (wicketkeeper), Alzarri Joseph, Jayden Seales, Kemar Roach, and Shamar Joseph.

Bangladesh probable XI: Mehidy Hasan Miraz (captain), Mahmudul Hasan Joy, Shadman Islam, Zakir Hasan, Mominul Haque, Shahadat Hossain, Litton Das (wicketkeeper), Jaker Ali, Taijul Islam, Nahid Rana, and Hasan Mahmud.

S POOFTS FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2024



Windies and Bangladesh clash in first Test

The West Indies will take on Bangladesh in the first Test of the two-match series at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, starting on Friday (today).

The two teams will be looking to put their best into this game to win this game and start the series on a high. Bangladesh will get their usual Caribbean welcome.

They will be playing the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua, where they have opened the two previous tours with scores of 103 and 43 all out.

This time, the visitors are also without two of their best batters, Mushfiqur Rahim and Najmul Hossain Shanto, so the job to tackle the West Indies' pace and bounce will become that much harder for an under-par batting line-up.

After a brilliant display in the away series in Pakistan and clean sweeping them 2-0 in the Test series, Bangladesh has not tasted success.

Since the Pakistan tour, they have lost an away Test series to India, a home Test



West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, right, and fellow Barbadian fast bowler Kemar Roach share a light moment ahead of the first Test against Bangladesh at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, on Friday, November 22, 2024. (AP)

series to South Africa, and an away ODI series against Afghanistan. The team will be led by Mehidy Hasan Miraz in the absence of their regular skipper, Najmul Hossain Shanto.

The visitors are also undergoing a batting night-mare. South Africa brushed aside Bangladesh at home in a 2-0 defeat that will rankle for a long time. Bangladesh's overall batting has been ordinary, and now without Mushfiqur and Shanto, these West Indies

Tests will feel like an uphill

The last time the West Indies played Test cricket was in August against South Africa. They lost the two-match series at home, and since then they have only played limited-overs cricket.

The home team will now to have to reboot and readjust themselves and their playing style for the purest format of the game. Kraigg Brathwaite, their regular Test skipper, will be back leading the team in the series.

Jayden Seales and Shamar Joseph have the returning Alzarri Joseph to form a lethal pace attack. Kemar Roach is also in the squad, and given his superb record against Bangladesh, the West Indies will unleash a four-man pace attack on the visitors.

The West Indies, on the other hand, would like their batting unit to fire. The likes of Alick Athanaze, Kavem cont'd on pg 25

Editor: Everton Barnes. Published by Pointville Communications, Lower North Street, St. John's, Antigua (268) 562-4989 Editorials and Reporting: evertonbarnes55@gmail.com; advertising: Sales@pointville.ag.