

ELECTRIC VEHICLE DISCUSSION SPARKS NATIONAL INTEREST

Story on Page 2



Antigua Cruise Port Ltd won the Cruise Industry Award at the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Awards Gala 2024. *Story on page 3.*

Electric vehicle discussion generates much interest

The announcement that the government has established a working group to craft a national policy on the introduction of electric and hybrid vehicles has generated much interest from a cross-section of the community.

Following the announcement that the Cabinet-appointed committee first met last week, Committee Chairman Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim is reporting that he has received numerous calls with suggestions as well as requests from others who wish to be

part of the process of design the policy.

“There is widespread interest for broader stakeholder inclusion and this is a very important aspect towards the development of a policy. Members of the working group have been contacted by persons wanting to be involved,” he revealed.

Ambassador Pilgrim said the working group now has a clear path which it plans to follow on the way forward. These are;

Wider consultations as invitations will be extended



Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, right, at the meeting last week.

to additional stakeholders Discussions with the general public and key economic sectors to ensure diverse views are included

Presentations at various stages of the policy development process

Discussions on policy alignment and frame of development in keeping with international objectives and commitments on the issue of fossil fuel dependency and fuel efficiency

Pilgrim is promising follow-up meetings and the establishment of several sub-committees to examine specific areas.

According to the chairman, the working group

was asked to complete its work within a year’s time, but he said he believes that it will complete its assignment much sooner.

“We will have the first draft ready for discussion by the end of the first quarter of 2025 which we will circulate for further stakeholder consultation,” he stated.

Ambassador Pilgrim credits the Minister of Trade, E.P Chet Greene for being the driving force behind the setting up of the working group that is charged with creating a policy framework for EV and Hybrid vehicles in Antigua and Barbuda.

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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.

The tourism industry celebrates top performers

The Ministry of Tourism and the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association joined forces to honour outstanding performers at all levels of the tourism industry.

The event was a gala dinner held at the Sandals Grande Resort where scores of industry personnel from hotels, restaurants, tour guides and the transportation sector were honoured for providing exemplary service to their customers, visitors to Antigua and Barbuda.

Among the honourees are;

Tour guide of the year - Nutilia Simon

Transportation Service Provider of the Year - Llewelyn Willock (United

Taxi Company Antigua Ltd.)

Port Frontline Officer of the Year - Sgt Jamie Charles

Customer Service Excellence Award - Chesley Simon - Royalton Antigua

ABHTA Awards

Employee of the Year:

Alisa Smith (Hermitage Bay)

Supervisor of the Year:

Lunessa Mills (Awesome Development Ventures)

Rising Star of the Year:

Abigail Bynoe (The Escape at Non-such Bay Resort)

Young Hotelier of the Year:

Kris Krisendat (Cocos Hotel)

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Local News



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Young Chef of the Year:
Shirlon Anthony (Jumby Bay Island)

Chef of the Year:
Eustace Cabral Jr. (Jumby Bay Island)

Cruise Industry Awards

Antigua Cruise Ports Ltd on the occasion of their 5th anniversary of operations.

Jeannie Joseph ...who worked for Bryson's Shipping for 8 years. Started as

front desk clerk and is now Operations Manager.

Mrs. Belinda Hanson-Peters: Vendor at the Vendors Mall for over 20 years, recognized for her outstanding customer service and contribution to tourism.

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority Award Winners

Digital Marketing Excellence Award: The Escape at Nonsuch Bay Resort

Social Media Excel-

lence Award: Antigua Inside Out

Special Awards Lifetime Achievement Award:

Chef Brian Joseph Executive Chef at the Hawksbill Resort Antigua. Chef Brian is a culinary icon with over 35 years in the industry, he has been recognized for his remarkable career, international training, and dedication to community service.

Culinary Excellence

This year, Team Antigua and Barbuda dazzled at the Taste of the Caribbean, earning prestigious accolades:

Ronald Wilson (Bronze Medal, Senior Chef)

Azarie Crump (Bronze Medal, Junior Chef)

Britanya McLaren (Silver Medal, Pastry Chef)

Auslando Davis (Bronze Medal, Mixologist)

Sir Clare Roberts believes members of the Senate ought to be elected

Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts would be supportive of any move where members of the Upper House of parliament, the Senate, are elected.

Speaking during the swearing-in ceremony for the new Minority Leader in the Senate, Pearl Quinn-Williams, Sir Clare said he noted comments from the incoming senator that she felt that members of the Senate ought not to be mere 'rubber stamps' for the government.

He said this is a viewpoint that finds favour with him as the observation brings into focus the broader discourse on the role and independence of the Senate in the country's democracy.

"While the current structure of the Senate often aligns its members with the policies of their sponsors, I believe that our democracy would be greatly strengthened if members of the Senate were elected. This would enhance their ability to serve independently and without the limitations that come from serving at the discretion of appointing authorities. As someone who has served in this chamber as an independent senator, I speak from experience when I say that reforms to empower the Senate could elevate its role as a meaningful check on the executive and a critical part of our democratic framework," Sir Clare suggested.

The Governor General's Deputy did make it clear that

these were his views and not those of the substantial holder of the post, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, who is traveling at this time.

"I must emphasize that these are solely my personal views and should not be ascribed to His Excellency Sir Rodney Williams. In the words of a former Prime Minister, these are the thoughts of "your humble servant" – Clare Roberts," he explained.

In extending congratulations and best wishes to Senator Quinn-Williams, Sir Clare noted that she continues a tradition of public service within her family, as her sister – Dr. Jacqui Quinn – was



Sir Clare Roberts

the first woman elected to the House of Representatives in 2004. "This legacy speaks to a shared commitment to contributing to the development of Antigua and Barbuda," he

observed.

Sir Clare also commended outgoing Minority Leader, Shawn Nicholas for the work she had done for more than ten years in the role.

LIAT (1974) LIMITED (In Liquidation)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Cleveland Seaforth and Raquel Glynn of BDO Eastern Caribbean, Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival Gardens, St. John's, Antigua, have been appointed as Joint Liquidators of LIAT (1974) LIMITED with effect from October 24, 2024.

Notice is also given to any person, who believes that the Company holds property belonging to him/her or property in which he/she has rights, should submit his/her claim in writing to the Joint Liquidators with all supporting documents in respect of such ownership or right.

All persons holding any property, documents, books and records of the Company are requested to deliver them forthwith to the Joint Liquidators.

Notice is further given that all sums due to the Company should be payable to the Joint Liquidators and receipts for such payments shall only be valid if they bear the signature of the Joint Liquidators or their duly appointed representative(s).

Any person having a claim against the Company, whether liquidated, unliquidated, future or contingent, is required to present particulars of their claim in writing to the Joint Liquidators not later than December 15, 2024.

The business, assets and affairs of the Company are under the control of the Joint Liquidators, who are agents of the Company and act without personal liability.

All correspondences should be addressed to:

Cleveland Seaforth and Raquel Glynn
Joint Liquidators

Contact for enquiries:
Name: Cleveland Seaforth/Raquel Glynn
Telephone: (268) 462 8868/9
Facsimile: (26) 462 8808
Email: cleveland.seaforth@bdoecc.com
raquel.glynn@bdoecc.com

Address for Service:
Cnr. Factory Road & Carnival Gardens
P.O. Box 3109
St. John's, Antigua

Local News



Possible breakthrough in churches' break-in cases

A man is being questioned by the police in connection with reports of break-ins into two separate places of worship on Sunday.

The suspect was picked last evening, and is assisting the police with their investigations.

On Sunday, November 24, two men broke into the St. John's Pentecostal Church (S.J.P.C) House of

Restoration around 3:30 am and ransacked two offices. Nothing was reported stolen. During the incident, one the perpetrators allegedly attempted to shoot a member of the church; however, no one was injured.

Meantime, someone allegedly broke into the Baptist Retreat Center at Pares and stole two monitors, a quantity of agricultural produce, a

propane gas cylinder, and other food items from the chapel. This incident occurred sometime between 1pm on Saturday, 23rd November and 7:45am the following day.

The police are appealing to anyone with information surrounding both incidents to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.

Urlings man jailed for wounding

A 45-year old man – Karl Browne – of Urlings has been sentenced to a prison term of 7 months, 1

week and 3 days after he pleaded guilty in the Magistrate's Court on a charge of wounding a fellow villager.

Browne appeared before Senior Magistrate for District B, Ngaio Emanuel last week and pleaded guilty

to the charge of wounding Adrian Pryce, also of Urlings.

The court heard that on October 27, Pryce was at his sister's home and had gone to an outside kitchen to get something to eat. It was then that Browne approached him and struck him about the face with a cutlass.

Pryce then went to the Johnson's Point Police Station where he made a formal report. The police officer on duty confirmed in their report that Pryce was bleeding from a wound to the right side of his face when he made the report.

The Emergency Medical Services were summoned and Pryce was taken to the hospital for medical attention.

Last week, Magistrate Emanuel remanded Browne to prison to await sentencing on Monday.

The sentencing guidelines regarding this offence were followed when he appeared before the magistrate to learn of his fate.

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Veggie Stall



CBH launches anti-rat campaign

The Central Board of Health (CBH) has launched a campaign designed to help home owners tackle the problem of rat infestation.

Principal Public Health Inspector, Julienne Mannix-Horsford said the campaign entitled: Wanted dead – not alive – came about following repeated requests from members of the public for assistance to rid their homes and yards of the rodents.

“We have been having a lot of issues with rats so

our Tip of the Week focuses on actions that home owners can take to keep the rats from entering their homes.

“Rat infestation is a serious problem within many communities and we are particularly concerned because these rodents are associated with the leptospirosis, a disease that can be problematic for many,” she stated.

Currently, the CBH is only responsible for rat control at buildings that house government’s minis-

tries or departments.

Additionally, elderly resident can apply for assistance from the department for rat control.

Mannix-Horsford explained that there are several methods that the department employs to get rid of the rats.

It either uses rat poison or places traps in areas where the rodents frequent.

The department is advising home owners to implement a number of measures to keep the rats away from their homes, these in-

clude eliminating the practice of throwing food outside their homes that the rodents often end up eating afterwards.

The other measures are;

Make doors tight-fitting

Rodent proof doors, sills, edges with metal

Block all homes in walls with wire mesh and concrete

Screen and repair all windows

Keep structures and buildings in good repair



CBH PUBLIC HEALTH CORNER

TIP OF THE WEEK

Monday November 25, 2024





WANTED DEAD-NOT ALIVE!

KEEP THEM OUT!

- ⇒ Make doors tight fitting
- ⇒ Rodent-proof doors, edges and sills with metal
- ⇒ Block all holes in walls and floors with wire mesh and concrete
- ⇒ Screen and repair all windows
- ⇒ Keep structures and buildings in good repair

Office of the Chief Health Inspector
Tel: 268-462-2936

Complaints Line
Tel: 268-562-9300

Vector Control Unit
Tel: 268-764-4327

Central Board of Health-Upper Church Street
 [centralboardofhealthantiguaandbarbuda](https://www.facebook.com/centralboardofhealthantiguaandbarbuda)

Beyond the Bruises: Breaking the silence on the mental health impact of gender-based violence

A Message from WISH Founder Chaneil Imhoff for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence

Dear WISH Family, Advocates, and Fellow Antiguan and Barbudans,

As we begin this year's 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, I find myself reflecting deeply on the complex web of trauma, resilience, and healing that defines our work at WISH. The statistics we encounter – one woman killed every 11 minutes globally, nearly 89,000 lives lost in 2022 – are more than just numbers on a page. They represent shattered families, broken dreams, and communities forever changed. Yet behind these stark figures lies an even more pervasive reality: the profound psychological trauma that ripples through generations.

In my years of working in communities throughout Antigua and Barbuda, I've witnessed how the mental scars of gender-based violence manifest in countless ways. These wounds don't always leave visible marks, but their impact runs deep through the fabric of our society. We see it in the mother who startles at sudden movements, decades after escaping an abusive relationship. We recognize it in the young professional who struggles with intimate relationships because childhood trauma has taught her that love and violence are intertwined. We hear it in the trembling voice of a survivor who, despite achieving career success, still battles daily with feelings of worthlessness instilled by years of emotional abuse.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, we face a unique challenge. Our close-knit island community, while a source of strength in many ways, can some-



Chaneil Imhoff

times intensify the psychological burden of gender-based violence. The fear of judgment, the weight of shame, the pressure to maintain appearances – these cultural dynamics can compound the mental health challenges that survivors face. When everyone knows everyone, the courage required to seek help becomes even greater.

This is precisely why WISH exists, and why our approach to mental health must be as nuanced and comprehensive as the trauma we address. We understand that healing from gender-based violence isn't a linear journey. It's not simply about moving from victim to survivor; it's about reclaiming one's whole self – mind, body, and spirit. The panic attacks, depression, anxiety, PTSD, and complex trauma responses we see are not signs of weakness. They are the mind's natural response to unnaturally violent experiences, and they deserve our most careful and committed attention.

As we reflect on this year's theme, "UNITE to End Violence Against Women," I want to address several critical aspects of mental health and violence that often go unspoken:

Intergenerational Trauma: We must

acknowledge how the mental health impacts of gender-based violence cascade through families. Children who witness abuse or grow up in environments of fear don't just observe trauma – they inherit it. Their nervous systems adapt to survive, often carrying these adaptations into adulthood and their own relationships.

Cultural Stigma and Mental Health: In our Caribbean context, we must confront the double stigma that survivors face – both around their experiences of violence and their mental health needs. The old saying "what happens in the house stays in the house" has silenced too many for too long.

The Complexity of Recovery: Healing from gender-based violence isn't just about processing past trauma – it's about rebuilding one's entire sense of self. Many survivors struggle with questions of identity, worth, and purpose. The mental health support needed must address not just the trauma itself, but help individuals rediscover who they are beyond their experiences of violence.

Economic Impact: We cannot ignore how mental health challenges stemming from gender-based violence affect survivors' economic independence. Anxiety, depression, and PTSD can impact job performance, career advancement, and financial decision-making. Our mental health support must therefore include practical strategies for managing these impacts in the workplace and beyond.

Digital Violence and Mental Health: In today's connected world, abuse doesn't end when physical distance is created.

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Commentary



Statement by Senator Nedd-Charles on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and the 16 Days of Activism

As we mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we embark on a crucial journey of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. This period is not only a call to awareness but a rallying cry for action and change - a chance to envision a society free from the scourge of violence that disproportionately affects women.

Violence against women is an egregious violation of human rights and a stark reminder of the inequalities that persist in our world. It transcends boundaries of age, race, and socioeconomic sta-



Senator Knacyntar Nedd-Charles

tus, affecting millions across the globe. Each act of violence leaves deep scars - not only on the victims but also on families, communities, and societies at large.

In our collective pursuit of justice and equality, it is

imperative that we engage all sectors of society. This includes men and boys, who play a pivotal role as allies and advocates for change. We must encourage sensitivity and empathy, fostering a culture of respect and equality. Men must be seen not only as part of the problem but as integral to the solution.

During these 16 Days of Activism, I urge every individual to reflect on their role in ending violence against women. This journey requires a commitment from all of us to create a world where every woman and girl can live free from fear and vio-

lence. It is through education, awareness, and legislative action that we will achieve lasting change.

Let us work together to build an inclusive society where violence has no place. By standing united, raising our voices, and taking decisive action, we can break the cycle of violence and pave the way for a future where equality and safety are a reality for all.

Together, let us pledge to protect and empower women everywhere. We owe it to ourselves and to future generations to take a stand and make a difference.

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Cyberstalking, online harassment, and digital abuse can create persistent psychological stress that follows survivors everywhere they go. Our mental health approaches must evolve to address these modern forms of violence.

As we commemorate these 16 Days of Activism, I call on every member of our community to deepen their understanding of how gender-based violence impacts mental health. This isn't just about supporting WISH's mission - it's about fundamentally transforming how we view both violence and mental health in our society.

To survivors reading this: Your mental health journey matters. The nightmares, the flashbacks, the moments of overwhelming anxiety - these are not signs of weakness, but of a spirit that has endured too much. At WISH, we see you. We understand that healing takes time, and we're here to support you through every step of that journey.

To those still living in situations of violence: Your mental health matters. The confusion, fear, and self-doubt you're experiencing are not your fault. They are natural responses to unnatural circumstances.

To our supporters and allies: Your role in addressing the mental health impacts of gender-based violence is crucial. By understanding these impacts, by speaking out against violence, by supporting organizations like WISH, you help create an environment where healing is possible.

As we look toward the future, WISH remains committed to expanding our mental health services, breaking down barriers to access, and creating innovative programs that address the full spectrum of trauma recovery.

We envision an Antigua and Barbuda where survivors have access to culturally competent, trauma-informed mental health care, and where the psychological impacts of gender-based vi-

olence are understood and addressed at every level of society.

At WISH, we believe in the power of collective healing. Every time a safe space is created for someone to share their story, every time counseling is provided that helps someone sleep through the night again, every time someone understands that they're not alone in their healing journey - we're not just supporting individual recovery, we're strengthening our entire community.

The mental scars of gender-based violence may run deep, but our commitment to healing runs deeper. Together, we can transform trauma into triumph, fear into freedom, and silence into strength.

In unwavering solidarity and hope,

Chaneil Imhoff
Founder, WISH
Wadadli Initiative for Self-care
and Healing

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Opinion



A day in the man day

By Tony Deyal

A female friend wished me a “Happy International Men’s Day” but not the men. As we say in Trinidad and a few other places in the region, some men “day”, others “day, day”, and there are even a few who “day, day, day.” “Worse, many aren’t “day” or “there” when you need them most, and they make jokes about serious things and situations. Women are the toughest in town, especially when the subject and sole topic is men.

In fact, one lady asked, “Why don’t men often show their true feelings?” I suggested they prefer free things than “feelings”, but she said, “You like too much jokes. This is serious business. Men don’t show their true feelings because they don’t have any!”

Even a friend from the city joined in and wanted to know, “Why are men like commercials?” He didn’t wait for me to think of a response and shouted on the phone, “You can’t believe a word they say.”

Even my cousin in Canada came up with, “Tony, what do men and women have in common?” I responded with, “Ha! Ha! Ha!” She grinned, “You too full of sex talk. This has nothing to do with that. What we and men have in common is that we both distrust men! Ask my husband, John.” Immediately, John jumped into the action, “Ask

her what’s a man’s idea of safe sex?”

She “steups” with all her teeth. John laughed and told us, “A padded headboard.” Another man came with, “Tony boy, we in trouble. I read that there are two times in our lives when men never understand women, before they’re married, and after.”

However, a little boy was smart enough to ask his father, “Daddy, why is men’s day not as popular as women’s day?”

The smart daddy looked at his son and boasted, “Son, that is because we cannot celebrate a man’s achievements in a single day.” Then he added, “But keep that between us and never tell your mother what I say, you hear!”

Unfortunately, my wife heard something that was even more pressure for me. She called and asked, “Did you know that today is World Toilet Day?” I didn’t reply with any four-letter word starting with “S” but responded nicely, “I didn’t know that.”

She said, “I just find out and they are right to make it the same day as the men’s ‘special’ day. I feel it is men with their rum and money-wasting that cause 3.5 billion people still living without real sanitation.”

She didn’t stop there, “The reason we get infected and sometimes badly hurt is because of you men who always leave the toilet seat up



Tony Deyal

secretly, because you want us to get up to go to the bathroom in the middle of the night and fall in.” Poor me! When I was growing up in the country, not too many people had a toilet. In fact, we had a “Toilit”.

That was because our “privy” was very far behind the house, in fact by the fence, and it was very dark. If my father was home, I took his bicycle light without his knowing or, when he remained in the shop drinking, I had to take a candle and was scared because the darkness looked even worse then. So I tried to grab the gaslight. However, if my father came home and caught me with it, there were threats and the occasional “tap”.

Using the facility had its own problems and jokes like, “What’s worse than a cold toilet seat?” A warm one. Or the sign in a male toilet, “Dear Mister Gentleman! Don’t flatter yourself, step closer, much closer.”

There was the question, “What do they call an army soldier living on a toilet?” A loo-tenant. But, despite the jokes, I found out that success is like male toilet paper. It only seems important when you don’t have it. Even Confucius, the Chinese philosopher, got into the act.

Before he went into the toilet business, he already had some good stuff like, “Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it.”

This was most likely because they were in the washroom at the time. Then there was, “Wheresoever you go, go with all your heart.” Again, as one of my kids in the school I taught reading suggested, “Mr D, he better carry some paper with him, yes. A big shot man like that can’t just go down in the road and let it out.” However, Confucius supposedly said, “Man who stand on toilet, high on pot!” I wanted to stop toiling with the Brit man

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Opinion

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who said, "I ran out of toilet paper, so I had to start using old newspapers. The times are tough." But not as tough as the police force, "Breaking News: There was a break in at the police station today and the toilet was stolen. The police have nothing to go on."

And I had nothing more to say, especially given that men are at the top of the heap, or so they think. Right now, we're like a woman pursued by two men. One was a baker and one was a poet.

She had to make up her mind for better or worse. In my thinking about men and a "man day", the first issue is what is described as "Captivating a man, making him unforgettable". Vanessa Van Edwards of "Science-People" provides "120 compliments for men that'll make him feel loved."

That is unless his wife finds out. While research suggests that, when someone feels appreciated by their partner, the relationship will likely be healthier and last longer, that is not how wives and lovers see it.

Can you imagine them saying or hearing some other woman telling the man, "It never ceases to amaze me how you understand ideas so thoroughly and easefully." "I admire the way you look at the world. Your perspective is always so insightful and thought-provoking." Or "Our conversations about life and philosophy always leave me thinking deeper. You have such a profound understand-

ing of complex ideas."

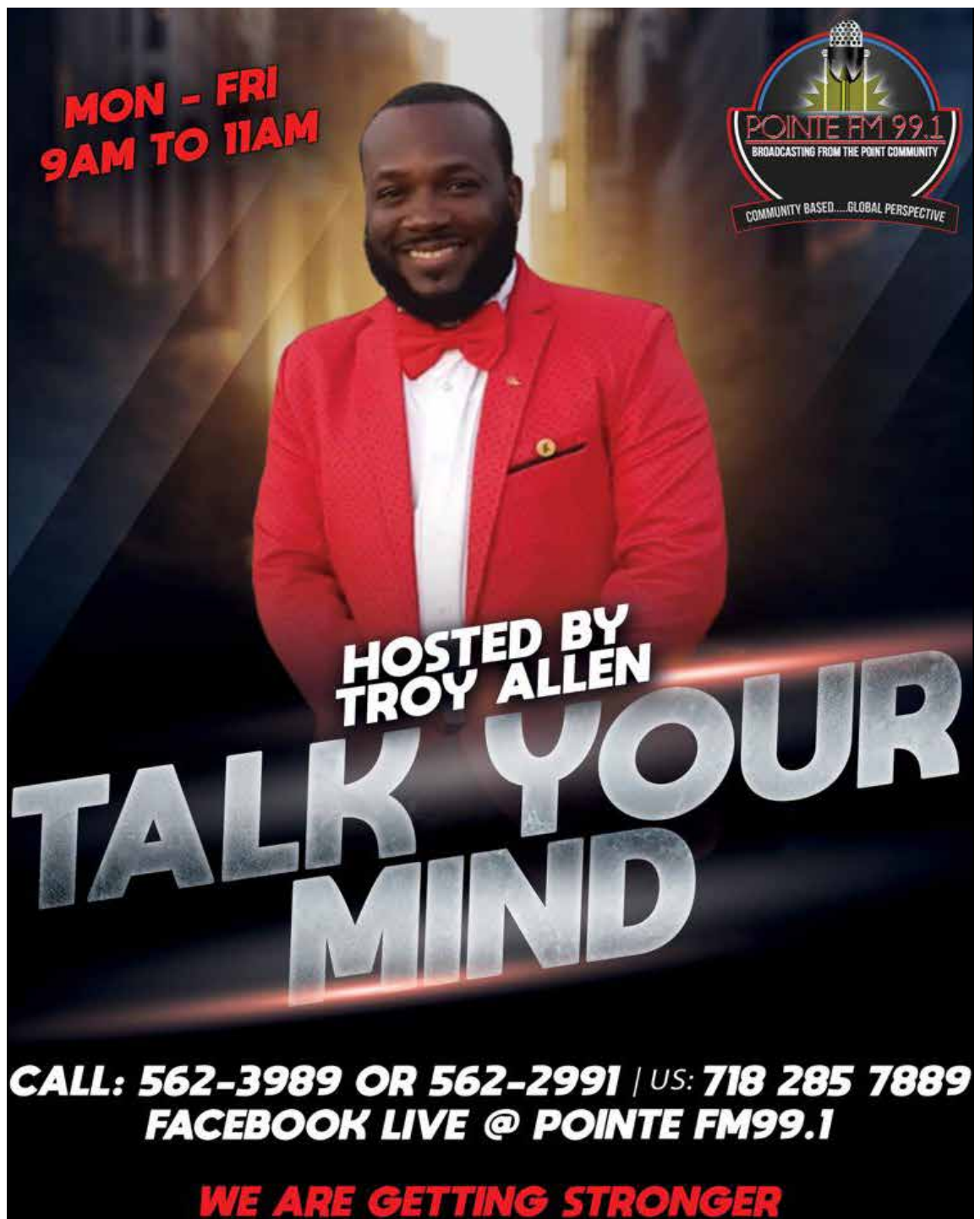
Worse, there are "15 compliments men can't resist" that men love. A favourite one is, "Your smile is the most welcoming thing I've ever seen.

It brightens my world." While the man might say, "Darling, you haven't seen anything yet", the wives and girlfriends will not take it lying down.

Worse for them is when they hear a woman tell their man, "You are so determined and motivated to make something of your life and I know nothing will stand in your way", or "I love how you make me feel each time we are together. I feel like the most fortunate woman in the world" (unless the wife catches up with either or both of them), and "There's some-

thing about you that makes me want to grab you and kiss you. You're so charming!" That is when the damning and harming start!

Tony Deyal was glad that he is out of the loop and nobody asks his wife, "How do you bring a sparkle to a man's eyes?" She would say, "Shine the torch, the one he takes to go to the toilet, and shine it in his ear."



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Transportation: Covering travel expenses to and from medical appointments

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Every contribution, no matter the size, will help ease the financial burden and allow Darren to focus on what matters most: his health and recovery.

Thank you for your support and kindness.

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Donate: Any amount helps and makes a difference.

📧 PayPal @ swissbeats7@gmail

Share: Please share this campaign with your family, friends, and social networks. The more people who see it, the greater the chance of reaching our goal.

If you have any questions

With heartfelt gratitude:
Melissa Richards

✉️ Shynemh@gmail.com 📞 (1-268-779-2524)



SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER, 2024

3.00PM -11.00PM

VILLA AREA, BLACKBURN NORTH 5TH AVE

Medical facility for cancer screening launched in Martinique

CMC - The first Caribbean Institute for Nuclear Imaging (ICIN) has opened in the French-island of Martinique offering a unique medical facility for cancer screening and diagnosing services for regional and international patients.

The Euro 63 million (One Euro=US\$1.29 cents) facility is financed by the Territorial Collectivity of Martinique (CTM) through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the framework of the REACT European Union system.

The facility is also a joint venture involving the CTM, the Prefecture of Martinique, the Regional Health Agency (ARS) and the University Hospital of Martinique (CHUM).

“More than 10 years ago, Martinique began a reflection to strategically rethink its health development and redraw the map of its care offer, not only for Martinicans but also for all populations of the Caribbean,” said Serge Letchimy, President of the CTM Executive Council.

“The inauguration of the ICIN is therefore a major step forward. Through this major investment, CTM is confirming its commitment to contribute to quality local healthcare and the necessary improvement of health infrastructure.”

He said given the prevalence of cases of cancer and



cardiovascular disease, it is essential that patients in Martinique, and the wider Caribbean, benefit from screening and diagnostic tools that are available through cutting-edge technological innovation without having to travel to Europe or other continents.

The Director General of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Dr Didacus Jules, speaking at the launch of the facility over the last weekend, said the facility “is a signal of hope... a brighter future for the people of the French territories, the OECS and the wider Caribbean.”

The OECS groups the islands of Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Kitts and Nevis and Montserrat.

“With this facility, we are making an unequivocal statement that access to world health care should not be a privilege, but right, regardless of the size of our

nations,” Jules said, adding, “This initiative ensures that the people of our region can have access to cutting edge technology, treatment and early diagnosis.”

He said the availability of the facility to other Caribbean countries reinforces the prin-

ciple of unity in regional integration, pooling resources, and sharing expertise.

“It also calls on us to continue to raise awareness and advocate for preventative measures in handling access to health care,” the OECS Director General added.



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Suriname observes 49th anniversary of Independence

CMC - Suriname is observing its 49th anniversary of political independence from the Netherlands with both the coalition government and the opposition giving differing views on the socio-economic development of the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

In a statement, the Progressive Reform Party (VHP) of President Chandrikapersad “Chan” Santokhi, said the coalition government has significantly improved the relations between Suriname and The Netherlands which had become increasingly worse after the coup of 1980 by former military strongman, Desi Bouterse.

“Fortunately, after the inauguration of the Santokhi government in 2020, a turnaround has occurred in the relationship between Suriname and the Netherlands.

“The diaspora community has an extraordinary value for Suriname in economic, social, cultural and educational areas, among others.

“Both countries have an immense bond with each other. Politically, the relationship between both countries is good. We are now two equal countries and sovereignty is the symbol of national independence.

“With oil & gas production in 2028, Suriname is taking big steps forward. We are at the crossroads to bring prosperity and well-being to the population so that they no longer have to live in poverty. It is our responsibility to give our future generation a prosperous and balanced nation,” the VHP said in its statement.

The National Party of Suriname (NPS), which is also a member of the coalition, also commented on the 1980 coup, saying it is “a moment in the history of our country that was initial-



ly experienced as positive by society, but soon had increasingly far-reaching disastrous consequences for monetary stability, the economy of Suriname, the investment climate and the development of our country and people”.

It said Suriname is now on the eve of making an important choice in the direction that should positively influence the economy and the development of the country, a reference to the May 25, 2025 general election.

“Do we go for stability, improvement of the economy and progress of the country and its people or do the people choose for further deterioration in living, working and living conditions? “We are at a crossroads! From its position at the beginning of the current government, the NPS has tried to make a positive contribution to the development of the country, based on a clearly presented development vision.

“Insufficient cooperation and questionable actions within the gov-

ernment have forced the green party to leave the government. The observation was and still is that the current government policy does not serve the general interest.”

The NPS said that as a result, as the country enters its 50th year of independence “an important phase will be entered to learn from the mistakes of the past 49 years and in which corrective action must be taken.

“Where Surinamese people left for the Netherlands in 1975 because of political and economic uncertainty, we will more seriously than ever start the process whereby citizens want to return to their own country. The NPS will strongly advocate for this in the coming period. “Let us work on what unites us and not what divides us,” it added.

The main opposition National Democratic Party (NDP) said that independence reminds the people of Su-

cont'd on pg 17

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riname “of the complexity of the path we have walked since then.”

It said after centuries of colonial rule by the Netherlands, “our country still bears the heavy legacy of division, imposed by a divide and rule policy that hinders our development.

“The Netherlands, unlike other colonial powers, was known for deliberately sowing divisions between population groups in its colonies. This divide and rule strategy was intended to weaken resistance and strengthen the power of the colonizer. Unfortunately, we still feel the aftermath of this to this day in the form of social tensions and structural inequality,” said the NDP, whose leader, Bouterse has had public confrontations with the Dutch.

The party said that it is important to recognize that the Netherlands used this tactic not only in Suriname, but also elsewhere, such as in South Africa where it “introduced the “Act 9 Reserve,” the policy of which was to set aside separate areas for the black population, systematically excluding them from economic opportunities and isolating them from the political process.

“This was a subtle but destructive form of divide and rule that left deep wounds. Our struggle for independence and the subsequent process of decolonization was not only a struggle against colonial rule but also against the di-

vide and rule practices that have sought to divide our country.

“Today, 49 years after our independence, it is time to reiterate that working towards the creation of ‘One Nation with One Destiny’ is essential for our future. The recovery of our country depends on our collective efforts to advance racial, social and economic equality,” the party said, adding that this Independence Day should be used “to reflect on our past, but above all to focus on a future of cooperation, peace and progress.

“The lessons of our history, both in Suriname and abroad, should encourage us to continue building our beloved country stronger, wiser and united.”

The Speaker of the National Assembly, Marinus Bee, in a statement, said he wanted to use the occasion to remind the Surinamese how valuable unity is in the

pursuit of progress.

“Although we still have a long way to go, we must never lose sight of the fact that growth involves trial and error. The trick is not to give up,” he said, adding that a permanent task is building a harmonious society, “in which the diversity of our unique population manifests the hidden power of Mama Sranan.

“Every Surinamese should realize that the construction of our country is a joint effort, which can only be victorious if we all show collective responsibility. If every Surinamese is guided by the spirit of solidarity, then our future can only become better by the grace of the Almighty,” Bee said.

Meanwhile, the 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping has extended congratulations to Suriname, commending the country’s commitment to sustainable

development, its vibrant cultural tapestry and role in CARICOM.

CARICOM Secretary General, Dr Carla Barnett in a message to President Santokhi, said that the country can proudly reflect on the steady progress and the development it has achieved since 1975.

“Excellency, the Caribbean Community places great value on the role played by the Republic of Suriname to the regional integration movement, particularly in community development and cultural cooperation.

“Suriname’s motto and core values of justice, faith and loyalty have shaped its unique national identity and spirit. You can proudly reflect on the steady progress and development achieved since 1975, which is a testament to Suriname’s commitment to sustainable development,” she added.



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Regional News



Dominica focused on resilient, sustainable agriculture

As Dominica waits for developed nations to fulfill their pledge to deliver financial aid aimed at helping developing countries enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change under the terms of the Paris Agreement, the Caribbean island nation is proactively working to make its agriculture sector more sustainable and resilient.

This effort is being supported by the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA) and other international organizations.

The resilience of Dominica's agricultural sector, which is home to around 6,000 active farmers, is crucial not only for the island but also for the broader Caribbean region.

For decades, much of the country's agricultural output has been exported to neighbouring islands, underscoring its significance, explained Roland Royer, Dominica's Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Blue and Green Economy.

Royer recently participated in activities at the Home of Sustainable Agriculture of the Americas pavilion, an initiative by IICA, at COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The pavilion, which featured contributions from IICA and its partners from



Dominica's Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Blue and Green Economy, Roland Royer.

both the public and private sectors, aimed to highlight the realities of agriculture in the Americas and showcase the efforts made by farmers across the hemisphere to produce food in harmony with nature.

"Like other developing countries in the region, we emit almost no carbon or other greenhouse gases, but are extremely vulnerable to increasingly frequent and more extreme weather events," Royer said during his address at the pavilion.

The minister also took the opportunity to reflect on Dominica's own vulnerability to climate change. He reminded attendees

that in September 2017, the island was devastated by Hurricane Maria, which caused significant damage to its infrastructure and agriculture.

"We had to rebuild not only the agriculture sector, but the entire country, and we had to do it with our own resources, even though we are not responsible for climate change," Royer said.

He emphasized the need for greater support from the international community, particularly from industrialized nations, to help Caribbean countries like Dominica in the face of such devastating weather events.

Dominica has long had a fruitful partnership with IICA, with the country maintaining a 40-year relationship with the organization. Royer acknowledged IICA's crucial role in supporting Dominica's agricultural development.

"IICA has been a good friend of Dominica over the past four decades in terms of transferring technologies, helping farmers, and improving the lives of rural communities in general," Royer stated.

"IICA has also helped to get young people interested in agriculture and provided great support to women in the communities."

The minister shared a personal connection to the organization's work, noting that he himself had benefited from IICA's initiatives.

"I myself am a beneficiary of IICA's work, having participated in a training programme in Costa Rica in 2019, which I believe has given me the impetus to continue in the sector and try to improve," Royer said.

"The organization is essential for farmers to acquire knowledge and be more competitive in the market.

"So, we thank IICA for its support over the past forty years and we look forward to continuing to work together," he concluded.

Israel and Hezbollah close to Lebanon ceasefire deal

Israel and Lebanon appear to be close to a ceasefire deal, with the Israeli cabinet set to meet on Tuesday to discuss it, Israeli and US officials say.

A 60-day truce is being proposed to end fighting between Israel and the Iranian-backed Lebanese militia Hezbollah.

It is said to include the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and an end to the Hezbollah presence in the area.

“We believe we’ve reached this point where we’re close,” US National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said. But he added, “We’re not there yet.”

The US and France - a long-term ally of Lebanon - have been involved in the search for a ceasefire.

It is often said that the darkest hour is before the dawn. There has been an intensification in the exchange of fire between Israel and Hezbollah, just as the two sides haggle over the final details of the deal.

Sunday saw around 250 projectiles fired into Israel from Lebanon, with most intercepted, while the Israeli Air Force has continued to carry out air strikes on suspected Hezbollah positions and weapons stores in Beirut and elsewhere.

The deal would include an increase in the presence

of the Lebanese army in the area vacated by Israel and Hezbollah, according to a Western diplomat who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is said to have agreed to the deal “in principle” and Lebanese deputy parliament speaker Elias Bou Saab said, quoted by Reuters, that there were now “no serious obstacles” to a ceasefire.

One major sticking point - who would monitor the truce - had been resolved, he said, with a five-country committee set up including France as a member and chaired by the US.

Also holding up the deal has been Israel’s insistence on its right to go back into Lebanon and take whatever military action it decides is necessary if it believes Hezbollah is moving back into southern Lebanon south of the Litani River or preparing to launch an attack on Israel.

This freedom of movement was unpalatable to both Hezbollah and the Lebanese government but Amos Hochstein, the US envoy, is believed to have made it clear, as he shuttled between the two countries, that there was a time limit on this ceasefire deal.

Concerns over how a ceasefire would be enforced, given the compar-



The Lebanese army would be expected to increase its presence in the ceasefire zone.

ative weakness of both the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (Unifil) and the Lebanese Army, appear to have been allayed.

But then there is the domestic Israeli factor. The hard right National Security Minister, Itamar Ben Gvir, has taken to social media to voice his opposition to a ceasefire deal, calling it “a grave mistake”. He said that now, with Hezbollah on the back foot militarily, was “a historic opportunity” to destroy it.

The hostilities began on 8 October last year, as Hezbollah fired rockets at Israel in support of Hamas in Gaza.

Israel’s stated goal in its war against Hezbollah - which intensified in September - is to allow the return of about 60,000 residents who have been displaced from communities in northern Israel because of the group’s attacks.

It was then that it launched a major offensive

against the militia, destroying much of its infrastructure and weapons, and killing its leader Hassan Nasrallah and other senior figures.

Lebanese authorities have said any ceasefire deal should be limited to the terms of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701, which ended the 2006 war between Hezbollah and Israel.

The resolution includes the withdrawal of Hezbollah’s fighters and weapons in areas between the Blue Line - the unofficial frontier between Lebanon and Israel - and the Litani river, about 30km (20 miles) from the boundary with Israel.

Israel says that was never fully respected, while Lebanon says Israeli violations included military flights over Lebanese territory.

In Lebanon, more than 3,750 people have been killed and at least 15,600 injured since October 2023,

cont’d on pg 20

Pakistan police clash with Imran Khan supporters heading to Islamabad

At least one policeman has been killed and more than 50 injured, Pakistan's authorities say, as officials try to stop thousands of opposition protesters reaching Islamabad.

Scores of supporters of jailed former PM Imran Khan have been arrested and the capital is under lockdown for a second day.

Khan has been detained for more than a year on various charges, but remains hugely popular despite his legal troubles.

His wife, Bushra Bibi, told supporters on Monday the march would continue until her husband was freed.

Roads to D Chowk - a key point in central Islamabad near government buildings, the Supreme Court and parliament - remain blocked with shipping containers to keep protesters at bay. The streets are lined with coaches that have carried police from around the country to the capital.

Paramilitaries in riot gear are lined up, water cannon ready, but on Monday the atmosphere was calm as protesters were yet to reach the city.

As news circulated that the protesters were on the move, the police began to close more streets and move some of their officers around the city.

Some internet services have been suspended. Schools and colleges have been shut because of fears of violence.



The rally has been declared illegal and Islamabad is under lockdown.

Imran Khan's party has been protesting for months. The latest rally came after he issued a "final call" to his supporters, urging them to stay in the capital until their demands were met.

They are also calling for the overturning of election results they say were rigged - a claim disputed by the government.

The march, which began on Sunday, has seen police using tear gas against protesters, who have responded by pelting officers with stones.

Police told the BBC on Monday that 139 people had been arrested.

Khan's wife is one of the leaders of the main convoy.

"Until Khan comes to us, we will

not end this march," Bushra Bibi told crowds as the rally neared the capital.

"I will stand till my last breath and you have to support me. This is not just about my husband but about this country and its leader," she said.

Bushra Bibi was sentenced alongside Khan in January, but released on bail in late October.

Although Khan has now been behind bars for more than a year, he is still the dominant force of Pakistan's opposition politics.

He was voted out of power by parliament in 2022 amid reports that he had fallen out with the country's powerful military.

He denies all the charges against him, which range from corruption to instigating violence to getting married to Bushra Bibi illegally.

In February's general election, his party was banned from standing. Independent candidates backed by the PTI unexpectedly won the most seats - but not enough to form a government.

Khan accused the two parties now in government - the PML-N and PPP - of stealing the election. The authorities deny accusations of vote tampering.

cont'd from pg 19

according to Lebanese authorities, with more than one million forced from their homes.

Several people were injured and buildings damaged in Hezbollah's Sunday attacks on northern and central Israel, some of them near Tel Aviv, Israel's police said.

The attacks followed an Israeli air strike on central Beirut on Saturday,

in which the Lebanese health ministry said 29 people were killed.

Hostilities continued on Monday, with Lebanon's health ministry saying Israeli air strikes killed at least 31 people, according to news agency AFP.

Israel also carried out multiple attacks on Beirut's southern suburbs, saying it was targeting buildings linked to Hezbollah.

Rutherford gets big payday from Gujarat Titans at IPL 2025 Mega Auction

Guyanese hard-hitting left hander Sherfane Rutherford will get the opportunity to shine on T20 franchise cricket's biggest stage once again after being picked up by the Gujarat Titans on Monday's second day of the 2025 IPL Mega Auction in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Rutherford, who entered the auction with a base price of US\$182,000, was the subject of an intense bidding war between the Mumbai Indians and Gujarat Titans.

The Indians started the bidding at US\$243,000 before the Titans countered with a bid of US\$268,000.

Mumbai responded with a bid of US\$292,000 before the Titans returned with a winning bid of US\$317,000. Rutherford has previously made 10 appearances in the IPL, seven for the Delhi capitals in 2019 and three for

the Royal Challengers Bangalore in 2022, scoring 106 runs in nine innings at an average of 15.14.

He has also previously been part of the Mumbai Indians, Sunrisers Hyderabad, and Kolkata Knight Riders.

Other West Indians selected on day two include Romario Shepherd, who was snapped up by the Royal Challengers Bangalore for US\$182,000, and West Indies T20I captain Rovman Powell, who went to the Kolkata Knight Riders for the same price.

The Lucknow Super Giants exercised their right to match the Mumbai Indians bid of US\$91,000 for pacer Guyanese pacer Shamar Joseph.

Antigua's Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Akeal Hosein, Shai Hope, Kyle Mayers, and Roston Chase all went unsold.



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India crush Australia by 295 runs to win first Test

PERTH (Reuters) - India overcame an unpromising start to thrash Australia by 295 runs in the first Test at Perth Stadium on Monday, laying down the gauntlet for the rest of the series and putting to bed any question marks about their form.

Stand-in skipper Jasprit Bumrah led from the front with three for 42, named player-of-the-match after earlier picking up five for 30, as India wrapped up the comprehensive win well inside four days to take a 1-0 lead in the five game series.

Travis Head staged a rearguard action to delay the inevitable with a defiant 89, as Australia made 238, but the hosts will have many questions and few solid answers ahead of the day-night second Test in Adelaide, starting Dec. 6, after being outplayed by the tourists.

"We couldn't get the breakthroughs, I thought they played really well. Not much really went our way this game," Australia skipper Pat Cummins said.

Without a series win over India in four attempts going back to 2015, Australia now will also have to face the fact that they have not won a home series after losing the opening Test for 55 years.

Bumrah bowled magnificently throughout the match on a surface that was all fizz and bounce on day one when 17 wickets fell, but turned into a lifeless road that defied Australia's bowlers for the best part of two days.

Two wickets late on the third day to help decimate Australia's top-order, leaving them 12 for three at stumps chasing an improbable 534, was the cherry on top for Bumrah, but it was a four over spell late on day one which set the new tone for India.

The 30-year-old elected to bat first in seam-friendly conditions, a decision which has always paid dividends at



India's captain Jasprit Bumrah hugs teammate Virat Kohli after winning the first cricket Test against Australia in Perth, Australia, Monday, Nov. 25, 2024. (AP)

Perth Stadium, but one which he might have rued when his side were bowled out by tea for a paltry 150.

But with the home side reduced to 67 for seven at stumps, courtesy of a spell from the skipper which accounted for debutant Nathan McSweeney, Usman Khawaja and Steve Smith, the match had swung.

India's captain, who will now hand the reins back to new-dad Rohit Sharma, celebrated his 11th five-wicket haul on the first ball of day two, drawing an edge from Alex Carey, before Harshit Rana (three for 48) mopped up the tail leaving Australia shell-shocked and all out for 104.

The match was swept away from Australia during India's second innings when opener Yashasvi Jaiswal recovered from a duck in his first dig to post a glorious 161, which blended caution and youthful aggression.

The 22-year-old bashed and slashed for 432 minutes, audaciously upper-cutting Josh Hazlewood for six over deep fine-leg to bring up his fourth Test hundred.

He was ably supported by KL

Rahul (77) during a 201-run opening stand, and eventually fell playing a full-blooded cut off Mitch Marsh straight to Smith at point.

But it was the return-to-form of India's batting figurehead Virat Kohli, which sapped the hosts of any hope of a turnaround. Kohli heaped misery on the beleaguered bowlers, who ended up fielding for 135 overs, compiling a pressure-free innings of 100 not out.

He pierced the field with ease, and the fireworks started in earnest when Nitish Kumar Reddy, on his debut, came to the crease with a message that a declaration was imminent.

Reddy hammered 38 not out from 27 balls in a knock more suitable for the Indian Premier League than a Test match, and Kohli upped the ante as well.

The largest cheer of the match, which attracted 96,463 people over four days, came when the 36-year-old swept Marnus Labuschagne, who alternated between harmless medium-pace and unthreatening leg-spin, for four and India declared their second innings at 487 for six.



The media volleyball team

Media, Island Academy get second wins in business volleyball league

The Media and newcomers Island Academy recorded their second win in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship during the latest round of matches.

The Media claimed their second win in four matches by snatching a 2-1 victory against newcomers EZ Fit Flyers in an hour and four minutes at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex.

The Media got off to a good start by taking the opening set 25-19, but the Flyers hit back to level the match by winning the second set 25-23.

However, the Media were not to be denied as they secured victory by clinching the third and decisive set 15-12, sending the EZ Fit Flyers to their third loss in as many games.

The Island Academy secured their second win in four matches with a straight-set 2-0 victory against the Royalton in a keenly contested affair.

The Island Academy took 44 min-

utes to win the encounter, prevailing 25-18, 27-25 against the Royalton, who lost for the fourth time in as many games.

Meanwhile, Nate's Photography continued their perfect start to their campaign in the business volleyball league championship.

Nate's Photography won for the fourth time in as many games by securing a 2-0 victory against 77 Bus in their latest encounter.

Nate's Photography took 37 minutes to win the encounter, prevailing 25-16, 27-8, as the 77 Bus slipped to their third loss in as many games.

Newcomers University of the West Indies also recorded their first win in the business volleyball league.

After losing their first two games, the University of the West Indies snatched a 2-1 victory against the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT), which lost for the first time after winning their previous two matches. The University of the West Indies

started strongly by taking the opening set 25-22.

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology regrouped and fought back, winning the second set 25-19, showcasing their resilience and determination.

However, the University of the West Indies came back with a vengeance and produced a dominating display to win the final set and the match 15-11 in 65 minutes.

The business volleyball league will resume with a double header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Tuesday (today).

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) will take on the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) in the first encounter at 7 pm.

The University of the West Indies (UWI) will clash with the EZ Fit Flyers in a battle of the newcomers in the second encounter at 8 pm.

Bullets continue resurgence in Premier League under new coach

Terminix Pigotts Bullets continued their resurgence under new head coach Donavan Peart in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

Since Peart took over, the Pigotts Bullets won their third match in a row with a 3-0 victory against the Willikies Warriors in the opening game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Following a goalless first half, the Bullets scored three unanswered goals as Tyrique Thwaites converted a penalty kick in the 52nd minute, Isaac Hughes scored in the 60th minute, and Akeem Isaac had a 74th-minute conversion.

The result allows the Pigotts Bullets to move up to fifth place by advancing to 12 points after securing their fourth win in six matches.

The Willikies Warriors will remain in seventh place on goal difference with nine points after suffering their third defeat in six matches.

Meanwhile, cup-holders Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United remained on course for a successful defense of their title, coming from behind to snatch a 3-2 victory against John Hughes in the last game of Sunday's triple header.

Daniel Bryan put John



Players of the Terminix Pigotts Bullets football team.

Hughes ahead with an 18th-minute conversion. Raheem Deterville equalized for All Saints United by converting a penalty kick in the 41st minute.

D'Andre Bishop scored in the first minute of the first half added time to give All Saints United a 2-1 lead at halftime. Dorian Cole extended All Saints United's advantage with a 53rd-minute conversion.

John Hughes was reduced to 10 men in the 74th minute when Tyrece Green was expelled after receiving a red card for denying an obvious goal-scoring opportunity.

John Hughes was able to reduce the margin of their defeat as Devontae Looby scored their second and final goal of the match in the 86th minute.

Their fourth win in five matches allowed All Saints United to remain unbeaten and advance to 13 points, the same as Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades, and Aston Villa Lions.

All three teams are tied in joint second place, three points adrift of unbeaten leaders Garden Stars. However, Garden Stars and Villa Lions have played six matches, one more than Jennings Grenades and All

Saints United.

The result ensured that John Hughes will remain in the lower half of the standings on four points after suffering their fourth defeat in six matches.

Parham claimed their first win and points to climb out of the cellar with a 3-1 victory against former Premier League champions Greenbay Hoppers in Sunday's second game.

Nicquan Philipps scored in the 40th minute to give Parham a 1-0 halftime lead. Second-half goals by Kenja Benjamin in the 48th minute and Andy Daniel in the

cont'd on pg 25

West Indies close in on victory against Bangladesh

The West Indies have taken a firmer grip on the opening cricket Test against Bangladesh, needing to take the visitors' three remaining second innings wickets on Tuesday's (today) final day at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua to win the encounter and take a crucial one-nil lead in the two-match series.

Set an improbable 334 to win, Bangladesh struggled to 109 for seven in their second innings at the close of Monday's penultimate day of the first Test. Jaker Ali is unbeaten on 15, and Hasan Mahmud is yet to score.

The Bangladesh batsmen offered little resistance as skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz has so far top-scored with 45 before he became one of three wickets taken by fast bowler Jaden Seales, who has captured three for 31. Litton Das made 22. Fast bowler Kemar Roach has taken three for 20, and Shamar Joseph has picked up one for 22.

Earlier, a superb spell of fast bowling from right-arm seamer Taskin Ahmed, who bagged six for 64, helped



Bangladesh fast bowler Taskin Ahmed (#3) celebrates after taking one of his six wickets against the West Indies on the fourth day of the first cricket Test at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in North Sound, Antigua, on Monday, November 25, 2024. (CWI Media)

Bangladesh bundle out the West Indies for 152 in their second innings just before tea on the fourth day.

Taskin's impressive return, his first-ever five-wicket haul in Tests, saw the Windies setting Bangladesh 334 to win the match.

After the West Indies made 450 for nine declared in their first innings, the visitors sprang a surprise before the start of the fourth day, as Bangladesh declared on their overnight score of

269 for nine. The Bangladesh's declaration gave the West Indies a first-innings lead of 181.

But the West Indies batsmen didn't capitalize on their advantage and were quickly in trouble as Taskin rattled the top order.

He took the wickets of opener Mikyle Louis (eight), Keacy Carty (three), Kavem Hodge (15), and first-innings centurion Justin Greaves (two) to leave the regional team reeling on

95 for six.

Taskin Ahmed also took the last two scalps of Shamar Joseph and Kemar Roach to bowl the West Indies out for the paltry second innings score. Alick Athanaze hit a top score of 42, captain Kraigg Brathwaite got 23, and wicketkeeper/batsman Joshua Da Silva made 22.

Bangladeshi skipper Mehidy Hasan Miraz chipped in with two for 31 with his off-spin.

But solid bowling by the West Indies pacers allowed the Caribbean side to remain firmly in the driving seat as Bangladesh faces an uphill task to get the remaining 225 runs in three sessions to try and claim their first Test win in the Caribbean since 2009.

cont'd from pg 24

66th minute gave Parham a 3-0 lead.

Javorn Stevens, who failed to convert a penalty kick early in the second half, made amends by scoring a consolation goal for the Greenbay Hoppers in the 72nd minute.

After losing all previous five matches,

their first win in six matches carries Parham to three points and out of the cellar to second from the bottom of the standings on goal difference.

The Greenbay Hoppers will remain on three points and are just above Parham on goal difference after suffering their fourth defeat in five matches.

Ambassador Percival wins Bikini Fitness title in Chile

Antigua and Barbuda's top bikini fitness professional, Ambassador Kimberly Percival, won another major title in Chile over the weekend.

Ambassador Percival continued her successful run this year by winning the bikini fitness title at the IFBB (International Federation of Body-Builders) Professional Mr. Universe Chile in Santiago, Chile, on November 23 and 24.

The Antiguan bikini fitness queen reigns supreme over 10 competitors from across the globe to claim the winning prize of US\$2,000.

Germany's Franziska Lohberger clinched second place, and Flavia Carneiro Mendes of Brazil claimed third place. Rounding out the top five finishers were Anna Wozniakowska of Poland in fourth place and Yissel Leon of Mexico in fifth place.

Ambassador Percival's latest win came just a week after the Antiguan won the bikini fitness title at the IFBB Pro Cancun in Mexico on November 16 and 17.

The Antiguan demonstrated exceptional grace, poise, and determination, solidifying her reputation as



Antigua and Barbuda's top bikini fitness professional, Ambassador Kimberly Percival, poses on the podium after winning the title at the IFBB Pro Mr. Universe Chile in Santiago, Chile, on November 24, 2024.

a global fitness icon to win Mexico. the bikini fitness title and Yissel Leon on Mexico claimed the runner-up position

ahead of fellow compatriot Julia Prado. Jamaica's Deidre Lewis took fourth place, and Mexico's Raquel Ramos claimed fifth place.

Her victory in Cancun, Mexico, came less than a month after Ambassador Percival became the IFBB World Champion for the second time in her career.

Ambassador Percival, who won the event for the first time in 2021, was crowned the 2024 IFBB World Champion at the Arnold Classic World Championships in Madrid, Spain, from October 10 to 13.

The Antiguan then won another title at the IFBB Pro Grand Gala in St. Vincent, Italy, on October 20.

Ambassador Percival, who is the reigning Antigua and Barbuda Sports-woman of the Year, continued her outstanding run of form with a silver medal in the Bikini Fitness class at the 2024 IFBB's Night of Champions in London, England, on October 26.

This latest victory in Chile marks another achievement for the Antiguan ambassador at large, whose dedication continues to bring accolades to her nation.