

PM BROWNE: WE ARE CONTINUING THE LEGACY OF SIR V.C. BIRD

Story on Page 2



Local News



PM Browne: We are continuing the legacy of Sir V.C. Bird

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said his administration is continuing to build on legacy of the late Father of the Nation, Sir V. C. Bird, in providing economic and social benefits for the people of Antigua and Barbuda.

PM Browne was speaking Monday at the annual VC Bird Day ceremony held at the Bust of VC Bird on Lower Market Street as hundreds gathered to celebrate the life of this extraordinary man, who is still loved and admired some twenty-five years after his death.

“Sir VC Bird was a transcendent hero; he made the single largest contribution to the socio-economic develop-

ment of our country, standing ‘head and shoulders’ above all others. That is why we insisted that VC Bird Day should be a stand-alone holiday, separate from the others as we celebrate the achievements and contributions of our late Father of the Nation. It is unfortunate that our political opponents continue to disrespect Sir Vere by refusing to honour his contributions on this, the day set aside in his honour,” PM Browne noted.

The prime minister recalled that the UPP Administration had abolished the VC Bird Day and instead substituted it with National Heroes Day. However, he revealed that this was a move which the

ABLP opposed and when the party was returned to office in 2014, it re-instated the VC Bird Day holiday.

“It is very fitting that we continue to celebrate his contributions and his achievements to inspire our generation and future generations to higher levels of achievements. He was a courageous man who was self-taught with significant wisdom,” PM Browne observed. According to the prime minister those individuals who attempt to make the case about the need for higher learning by using the example of Sir VC Bird, they are just wrong!

cont'd on pg 3



cont'd from pg 2

ABLP Chairman E.P Chet Greene also spoke at the ceremony noting that VC Bird was that leader who took Antigua and Barbuda from a sugar plantation economy to one of diverse activities led by tourism.

"He championed education, recognizing that the key to unlocking our nation's potential lay in empowering its people. Today, free primary and secondary education is a right we enjoy because of the groundwork he laid. Sir Vere must be proud of the addition of tertiary education to the mix of educational opportunities readily made available by today's labour administration.

"He modernized our infrastructure, paving roads, building homes and constructing the airport that now bears his name and is the gateway that is connecting Antigua and Barbuda to the rest of the world," Greene noted.

President of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union, Bernard DeNully, made a call for the involvement of young people in the Labour Movement, that link between the AT&LU and the ABLP.

"Youth involvement in 2025 within the Antigua Trades and Labour Union is most critical now than before.

"The reality of the situation is that Union's Membership has aged considerably and soon will need the energy and drive of our vibrant, intelligent and influential youth members to take on leadership roles in the various positions of our executive and internal staff of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union.

"As the president of AT&LU, I sincerely encourage the Central Youth for Labour to prioritize their time and start to become fully involved in steering the ship of our mother institution of the Labour Movement, the Antigua Trades and Labour Union," he stated



JOIN OUR TEAM AS SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

We are seeking a highly skilled **Senior Accountant** to join our finance team. This role encompasses treasury, accounts receivable, payroll, and general accounting, requiring exceptional attention to detail, strong organizational skills, and the ability to meet deadlines.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Prepare and maintain accurate financial statements, including balance sheets and income statements.
- Oversee monthly/year-end closing and reconciliation processes.
- Assist with budgets, forecasts, and financial analysis.
- Ensure timely and accurate payroll processing, including adjustments and compliance.
- Monitor and manage petty cash accounts.
- Perform audits and support internal/external audit requests.
- Mentor and guide the accounting team, ensuring service standards and team morale are upheld.
- Ensure compliance with tax regulations and internal controls.
- Reconcile bank accounts and general ledger.

REQUIREMENTS

- **ACCA or CPA** certification is required.
- Minimum **3 years** of accounting experience with a strong focus on financial reporting.
- Proficiency in accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks, Xero) and Microsoft Excel. Knowledge of roomMaster would be an asset.
- Strong understanding of accounting principles and payroll regulations.
- Excellent attention to detail, organizational skills, and communication abilities

Applicants must be authorized to work in Antigua & Barbuda. Email your resume and cover letter to tradewinds.hr@twhantigua.com with the position in the subject line. Deadline for application **December 20, 2024**.



Local News



Government subsidy: An essential plank in its social programme

The Gaston Browne Administration continues to demonstrate that it is a caring government with its policies of providing subsidies to various groups in the society.

In his Budget statement last Thursday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne revealed that millions of dollars have been

spent on subsidies to the most vulnerable, taxi and bus operators as well as to fisherfolk in Antigua and Barbuda.

“Our government, the people’s government, continues to provide crucial support to bus and taxi operators through its Fuel Voucher Subsidy Programme.

For the first nine months of this year the government provided fuel support to 197 bus operators and 733 taxi operators amounting to over 704,000 gallons of fuel at a cost of \$2 million,” PM Browne stated.

The prime minister however hinted that there may

be changes coming to these programmes now that the pandemic is over and with persons returning to the workforce with gainful employment. “It is time to revisit this programme and deliver more targeted support where needed,” he noted.

“Since 2021, the Government has spent nearly \$9 million on fuel subsidies for both bus and taxi operators and \$2 million on fuel subsidies to fisherfolk.

“Additionally, the Government continues to provide food vouchers through the Government Assistance Programme to assist the vulnerable segments of the population that require financial support. As of September 2024, the Government has spent \$17.2 million on this programme. Also, at \$14.25, the price for diesel is below the ECCU average of \$14.95.

“Further, at \$32 for the 20-pound bottle and \$155 for the 100-pound cylinder, LPG prices are well below the ECCU average of \$38.44 and \$193.99 respectively,” PM Browne disclosed.

According to the prime minister this has been achieved though the Government’s provision of subsidies amounting to \$5.16 per 20-pound bottle and \$17.64 per 100-pound cylinder. These subsidies, he recalled, are valued at nearly \$12 million for the period January 2022 to October 2024.



APUA to scrap plans to erect R/O Plant at Bethesda

APUA will not proceed with plans to erect a new reverse osmosis plant at Bethesda as it had announced previously.

Instead, according to General Manager, John Bradshaw, the authority will erect the plant at Crabbes Peninsula to replace an aging plant already at that site.

According to Bradshaw, the move is in the best interest of both APUA and the public in Antigua.

"The present plant at Crabbes was constructed back in 1988 by Enerserv, which tells you just how old this plant is. Like all engines, it has an economic life and a production life. The plant has surpassed its economic life and it is get-



ting more and more expensive just to keep it running. Reverse osmosis plants consume much energy and this plant is no longer economical to operate.

What we plan to do is to phase it out over a period of time. Meanwhile, the plant we intended to erect at Bethesda, we will now erect at Crabbes," the general

manager told reporters last Friday.

According to Bradshaw erecting the new plant at Crabbes makes economic and operational sense. "This aging plant which has become inefficient and unreliable so we have decided to phase it out as this makes much more economic sense. This also gives us a

quicker turn-around time as all the necessary infrastructure is already at Crabbes. If we were to build these at Bethesda it would have added several million dollars to the overall cost of the project," he explained.

He added that Bethesda would require new tanks, distribution systems and feeder system etc. while these are already in place at Crabbes. "If we go ahead with the plant at Crabbes it would at an estimated \$20 million to the overall cost of the project," Bradshaw further explained.

Overall, Bradshaw said APUA aims to have an additional seven million gallons of water to the system by the end of 2025.



KFC

FESTIVE FEAST

Santa's Wow Box **\$28.99**

- Burger
- Fries
- 1pc Leg/Thigh
- Med Drink

Santa's Festive Feast Bucket **\$59.99**

6 Pieces of Chicken
 (2 1/2 pieces 2 medium; 1 small; 1 mini)

Included Sides:
 Fries, Corn, Mash,
 Biscuit x2

Download the KFC app on the App Store or Google Play.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT www.kfc.com

Follow us on social media: www.kfc.com, www.kfc.com, www.kfc.com, www.kfc.com

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda celebrates outstanding travel agents



The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority held a gala ceremony on Saturday night at the Sandals Grande Resort to honour the outstanding travel agents who excelled in selling holiday packages to the destination.

Billed as the inaugural 'Black Pineapple Award', the event brought together the top performers from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and the Caribbean to a special evening of dining, entertainment and for the presentation of awards.

Tourism Minister

Charles Fernandez, in his remarks, noted that travel agents are not just intermediaries but instead they are the architects of unforgettable experiences.

"They possess a wealth of knowledge about the diverse offerings our islands provide – from pristine beaches and vibrant coral reefs to rich cultural heritage and warm hospitality. It is through their expertise and passion that travelers discover the magic of Antigua and Barbuda, turning dreams into reality," he stated.

cont'd on pg 7

Information Minister Nicholas: Ivor Bird was 'a pioneer' in radio broadcasting

Information Minister Melford Nicholas is celebrating the life and achievements of the late founder of the popular Grenville Radio Ltd. (ZDK Radio), Ivor G.T Bird, who died last Tuesday at his Halcyon Heights home.

"It was revolutionary what he did; to have built up an institution from 1970 that is still going strong today more than fifty years later speaks volumes of the man. ZDK Radio became the essence of his contributions to us all. The memory of Ivor Bird spans the whole gamut; from culture, news packages, especially the notion of breaking news, he was clearly a visionary in many ways," Nicholas observed.

The Information Minister recalled the signature sound used to signal a 'breaking news' and the effect it had on the society as often times it was the announcement of a tragic event. According



Information Minister Melford Nicholas to Nicholas it was these types of innovations that set Ivor Bird apart from others and helped to cement his influence on broadcasting not just in Antigua and Barbuda but across the region as well as many broadcasters in neighbouring countries quickly sought to emulate the radio formats popularized by ZDK.

Nicholas also noted that despite popularizing radio broadcast in the country,

Ivor Bird achieved this feat by being the 'invisible hand' as even as he himself hosted a popular radio programme, he went by the moniker 'The Silent One' where he did not speak at all.

"There were so many innovations at that time; there were so many young deejays who came through the ranks at ZDK, the list is quite exhaustive. Additionally, what he did for calypso and for reggae, the sounds of the Caribbean must also be recorded as through ZDK these musical genres were heard year-round, another first for ZDK and Ivor Bird," he stated.

At the ceremony marking VC Bird Day, a moment's silence was offered in memory of Ivor Bird, as under his guidance ZDK earned a reputation as the '18th candidate' of the ABLP because of its role in the party's campaigns during election season.

Antigua and Barbuda signs MOU with a hospitality training institute in the DR

The Ministry of Tourism has signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Institute of Professional Technical Training (INFOTEP) of the Dominican Republic. The signing was attended by key representatives from both countries.

The MOU, signed by Minister of Tourism Charles 'Max' Fernandez, and General Director of INFOTEP, Rafael Santos Badía, aims to strengthen collaboration in hospitality and tourism education. This partnership will benefit both nations through shared expertise, resources, and knowledge. Through specialized short courses and hands-on training, the agreement will directly support those seeking to upskill in the tourism and hospitality

sectors, including students of the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI). It will equip them with the necessary skills to thrive in the rapidly growing tourism industry.

"Antigua and Barbuda will in a few weeks, be celebrating a milestone of 1.5 million visitor arrivals by air, cruise and yacht for the year 2024. To bring this into perspective this represents our population multiplied by 15. In addition to this, in 2025, a number of new property developments will be introduced to our product, and this means more rooms and the need for more trained and qualified workers to accommodate the influx of visitors that comes with increased room stock, cruise visits and airlift to any destination.



"This agreement has come at a remarkably opportune time for Antigua and Barbuda's hospitality sector, ensuring that our workforce is equipped with the technical expertise needed to meet the demands of our tourism

industry. ABHTI and hospitality workers will directly benefit from the various training programs, enhancing the skills of both students and the local workforce," said Fernandez.

General Director of INFOTEP noted, "This is an agreement that is born from the understanding that the tourism sector not only requires infrastructure and promotion, but also a highly trained human resource capable of offering memorable experiences to tourists. It is a sector that is constantly evolving, requiring innovation and a professional approach to ensure that tourist destinations remain attractive and competitive in a globalized market."

The MOU is designed to enhance human resources training and institutional development for both Antigua

cont'd from pg 6

Fernandez noted that the year 2024 has been nothing short of extraordinary for the country. "We've celebrated record-breaking arrivals in both stay-over and cruise tourism – a feat that could only be achieved through the incredible collaboration between our hardworking teams, our global partners, and, of course, you our valued travel agents," he declared.

ABTA Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James said both he and his team were thrilled to be able to host the top sellers among travel agents and that their trip to Antigua and Barbuda was an opportunity for them to immerse themselves in the destination.

"We're thrilled to host the Top 100 Travel Agents—the crème de la crème,

the MVPs of moving people on their holidays and vacations. This week is all about you—exploring, indulging, and discovering everything our beautiful islands have to offer.

"We invited you here to swim in the turquoise waters, dance to the rhythm of the steel drums, and taste your way through the island's culinary treasures. But don't relax too much; you've got a secret mission: fall so deeply in love with this destination that you sell it like never before!" he emphasized.

One of the highlights of the evening was the presentation of the Prime Minister's Award to the top seller of holiday packages. The prize went to Alison Margaret Fox of the United States for selling packages above and beyond any other travel agent.

cont'd on pg 8

Local News



The ABAS at work – Debt initiative hailed for collection of diverse solutions to economic challenges facing SIDS

A pioneering initiative emerging from the groundbreaking Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS) is being positioned to revolutionise how vulnerable island nations confront one of their most critical economic challenges, the unsustainable debt burdens brought on by the unending cycle of worsening climate impacts.

The Global SIDS Debt Sustainability Service (DSSS), a prominent feature of the ABAS framework, formed the basis of discussions during a side event at the United Nations held last Saturday in preparation for

next year's 4th International Conference on Finance for Development, in Seville Spain. The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, through its expert team of officials at the Mission in New York, has been working assiduously over the past several days to ensure that key ambitions of the DSSS make it to the agenda of the conference, convened to address challenges in the international financial structure that make it difficult for many countries to achieve sustainable development.

The event was themed Empowering Resilient Futures: Reforming Financial

Systems and Expanding Investment Pathways for SIDS and Vulnerable Nations. It was co-sponsored by the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda and the Republic of the Maldives, drawing on a multi-sectoral approach in defining a new financial landscape for SIDS.

Besides the focused attention that was applied to the DSSS and how it is envisioned to solve the debt crisis in SIDS, the meeting also brought special scrutiny to the impact of credit rating systems on accessing funding for vulnerable island states.

"The Global SIDS Debt

Sustainability Support Service (DSSS) offers a comprehensive framework to address these challenges by focusing on debt sustainability, resilience investment, and advisory support," explained Antigua and Barbuda's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Tumasie Blair, the moderator of an engaging fireside chat where key points and ideas around the DSSS and the financial markets were ventilated.

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson, was joined by his counterpart from the Maldives, Ali Naseer Mohamed, at the discussion.

Ambassador Webson acknowledged the challenges and was adamant that cross sector collaboration that ensures SIDS engages with all players in the global financial system will be necessary in moving the ideals of the DSSS forward.

cont'd from pg 7

and Barbuda and the Dominican Republic. Key objectives include promoting knowledge exchange, strengthening the training of facilitators to boost their competencies, facilitating the exchange of interns and facilitators, and offering bilingual training in English and Spanish to enhance communication and technical capabilities.

The MOU will have a direct and positive impact on ABHTI, which will play a

central role in delivering the training programs. This agreement aligns with the Ministry's ongoing commitment to advancing the skills of the local workforce, ensuring that Antigua and Barbuda remain a competitive destination for tourists.

ABHTI is proud to be part of this initiative, which will not only enhance the capabilities of its students but also contribute to the growth of the broader hospitality community in Antigua and Barbuda.

The Politics of Division: The UPP Playbook

By Hon. E.P Chet Greene

Across the globe, National Heroes Days are celebrated to honor individuals whose leadership, vision and sacrifices have shaped their nations. These heroes are symbols of unity and progress, embodying values that transcend partisan politics and divisions. For Antigua and Barbuda, there is no figure more deserving of such a day than Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Sr., the nation's foremost citizen and its undeniable "Father of the Nation." However, the refusal by the United Progressive Party (UPP) to recognize a day in his honor reflects a politics of division that is churlish, myopic and fundamentally unproductive.

V.C. Bird's contributions to Antigua and Barbuda's socio-economic and political development eclipse all others. As the architect of the nation's modern identity, his leadership

during pivotal moments; such as the fight for workers' rights, universal suffrage and eventual independence; transformed Antigua and Barbuda from a colonial dependency into a proud and sovereign state.

His vision extended beyond politics, encompassing education, healthcare, infrastructure and economic reform, all of which laid the foundation for national development. Sir V.C. Bird is not just a historical figure; he is the embodiment of the Antiguan and Barbudan spirit; resilient, progressive and unyielding in the face of adversity. His legacy transcends political affiliations, making him a unifying figure whose contributions deserve national celebration.

A day in his honor is not just about reflecting on his achievements; it is about fostering national pride, unity and a collective understanding of the shared history that binds Antigua



and Barbuda together.

The UPP's refusal to acknowledge Sir V.C. Bird's rightful place in the national calendar is both narrow-minded and deeply disrespectful to the legacy of the nation's founding father. It is a glaring example of the party's commitment to the politics of division—a refusal to recognize achievements simply because they belong to an opposing political tradition.

Such a stance is unbecoming of a party that claims to serve the interests of the nation. To deny V.C. Bird his due recognition is to deny the history and progress of Antigua and Barbuda itself. It is a petty, partisan act that insults the intelligence and enlightenment of the Antiguan and Barbudan people.

The refusal is churlish because it diminishes the nation's ability to celebrate its shared history. It is myopic because it focuses on

short-term political gains at the expense of long-term national unity. And it is deserving of condemnation because it perpetuates a divisive narrative that has no place in a modern, progressive society.

The people of Antigua and Barbuda deserve better. They are far too enlightened to accept this dated construct of political tribalism. A society that has achieved so much cannot afford to be shackled by the narrow-mindedness of a few.

The UPP's failure to honor V.C. Bird Day is emblematic of a broader philosophy of division. Internally, this manifests in factionalism, infighting and an inability to present a cohesive vision. Externally, it alienates citizens and undermines the unity necessary for national progress.

This philosophy weakens the party's credibility and its ability to lead. A

cont'd on pg 10



Commentary

cont'd from pg 9

house divided against itself cannot stand and a party that prioritizes division over unity cannot inspire trust or respect among the electorate.

Antigua and Barbuda cannot afford to be held back by the politics of division. This nation's future depends on a collective commitment to unity, productivity and progress. Recognizing the contributions of Sir V.C. Bird is not a partisan act; it is a national imperative.

The Antiguan and Barbudan people must demand more from their leaders, even in opposition. They must reject the divisive tactics that seek to fracture the

nation and instead embrace a vision that celebrates their shared heritage and collective aspirations.

Leadership demands the ability to unite, inspire and elevate. A leader who thrives on division cannot build the trust and cooperation needed to lead a nation. The UPP's refusal to recognize Sir V.C. Bird's contributions reveals a lack of vision and an inability to rise above partisan politics.

Antigua and Barbuda needs leaders who can look beyond political differences, celebrate shared achievements and work toward a brighter future. Sir V.C. Bird's legacy is a testament to what true leader-



ship looks like. The nation must honor him, not just with words, but with actions that reflect unity, pride and progress.

The Antiguan and Barbudan people deserve a politics of inclusion, not

division—a politics that uplifts, inspires and unites. It is time to move beyond the outdated constructs of division and embrace a future built on shared values and a collective commitment to national excellence.



**BREATHTAKING VIEWS
ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES**

Adventure on a guided aerial tour or charter to your next destination in style. Proudly operating the state-of-the-art Airbus EC130, CalvinAir's flights combine safety, comfort and the highest calibre of service. So soar around Montserrat's volcano, have lunch in St. Barths, or a picnic in Barbuda. The sky is no longer the limit.

For tours or charters call 268.789.HELIX or visit calvinair.com.

CALVINAIR HELICOPTERS

ONE NATION
MUSIC FESTIVAL

VICE VERSA LIVE

ALL INCLUSIVE LOUNGE

ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS

\$400 | 8PM

11TH JAN 2025
NIGHT ONE

Antigua Barbuda
FESTIVAL'S COMMISSION

THE GOVERNMENT
OF ANTIGUA
& BARBUDA

ANTIGUA
AND BARBUDA
The beach is just the beginning...

Artwork Takumi Media 2024

available on
ticketing
TICKETS AVAILABLE

ONE PEOPLE. ONE LOVE

CIU
COUNCIL OF INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITIES

Brydens

Carib

REMY MARTIN
THE CHAMPAGNE COGNAC

Opinion



MoBay Dick and great white whale

By Tony Deyal

Over the years, the term 'head' has moved beyond the indispensable appendage containing the brain to its contents and even to its disposition. At the same time, Hydra-like, other applications of the word have popped up organically, transplanted so to speak, as part of the oral tradition.

From the simple headache for which the remedy was Phensic, we moved to terms like "badden the head" (alcohol abuse) and "building a head" (drug abuse). What I discovered was that "getting a head" and "getting ahead" were not simultaneously or synchronous activities. Sometimes, sticking to the conventional "head", I tell my children the joke about the little boy who was mercilessly teased about the

size of his head. He went home complaining to his mother about how the kids were teasing him.

His very sympathetic mother reassured him that his head wasn't that big and, in fact, was quite small, really. She then asked him to go to the store to buy ten pounds of potatoes, five pounds of rice, two pounds of sugar, and two pounds of flour. The little boy then asked her for a bag to put all the groceries in. She replied, "Bag? Don't bother about that. Use your cap."

Of course, the Americans moved ahead and virtually reinvented the term. The first time I heard this clever but adult pun on the Johnny Carson show many years ago, I was astonished and then cracked up. One of Carson's guests was talking



Tony Deyal

about a really posh restaurant. "They have a waiter for everything," he boasted. "First the water waiter came and gave me some water. Then the butter waiter came and gave me some butter. Then the Head Waiter came ..."

In Barbados, the term "head" is used in newspaper headlines to denote the person in charge of an organisation. It is not unusual to see "BUT HEAD SPEAKS" or "BAMC HEAD AT TALKS". In Trinidad, where the word "bam-see" as in the Calypso by Lord Funny is funny because the term is used to mean the human rear-end or butt, a headline like that would be provocative and an acronym like that even more so, unthinkable, in fact. It is one of those differences in how we use language in the Caribbean that helps to relieve the tedium of travel and LIAT (Long Intervals Awaiting Transport).

As my flight headed into the Sangster Airport in Mon-

tego Bay, familiarly called MoBay, my thoughts went to Captain Ahab and his fanatical pursuit of the white whale Moby Dick. Could he or his obsession be described as a Moby Dick "had"? Could Melville's masterwork be an allegory for tourism? I wondered whether in Montego Bay, the north coast tourist Mecca, there was such a phenomenon as a MoBay Dick head?

It did not take long before my questions were answered. As an "official" of the Caribbean Community, I am provided with a green-bound "laissez passer" which asks officials of all sorts in the region to make life easier for me on my travels. This particular official was out of sorts. He looked curiously at the CARICOM document and then demanded my national passport. I mentioned to him in passing (my Trinidad passport over) that no other immigration officer in any other country

cont'd on pg 13

NOTICE

TO: THE LICENSING MAGISTRATE
Magistrate's Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua

TO: COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
Police Headquarters
St. John's
Antigua

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A BOTTLE LICENCE FOR BUSINESS

REGISTERED AS

"CASIMIR ENTERPRISE"

I, Neva Casimir, DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE, that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the Liquor Licence Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court, High Street, St. John's Antigua on Thursday 2nd January 2025 next ensuing for a Bottle license in respect of premises known as "Casimir Enterprise" situated at Five Islands, in the Parish of St. John's, Antigua pursuant to Section (11) (3) of the Licensing (Intoxicating Liquor) Act Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, Revised Edition 1992.

Dated the 14th day of November, 2024

.....
Neva Casimir

Opinion

cont'd from pg 12

in the region had ever done that. He was not impressed. I pointed out to him that if we as Caribbean people don't respect our own institutions, we might even end up in them like Basdeo Panday.

I looked at the non-Caribbean people passing through without let, hindrance, and even passports. No response except the eventual plak-plakking and boof-boofing of the immigration stamp. In the meantime, during the long, silent wait, I thought about a stamp of my own that read, "Stamp out immigration", but that won't happen. When we have our CARICOM passports, it will just be more stamping to do rather than less. I have always felt that the stamp of authority, wielded with such gusto by our immigration officials, is a powerful Afro-and Cari-disiac, giving them a very special high.

At the hotel, I was given a choice of a "Jamaican" breakfast complete with calaloo, saltfish, boiled yam and bananas, a strip of fried plantain, a dumpling and a Johnny Cake or an "American" breakfast of ham, eggs, bacon, toast, etc. I never got beyond that point since I inevitably settled for the "Jamaican". However, one day, having enough of fried bakes and oily food, I asked the waiter if I could get some toast with my Jamaican breakfast. He was quite firm.

The Jamaican breakfast did not come with toast, only the American. If I wanted the toast I had to order the Amer-

ican. MoBay Dick Head too or two. Three came on my departure. I ordered a taxi to the airport for 4:45 a.m. and arrived at reception to see a taxi, but it was loading the luggage of a foreign couple. When I asked about my taxi, I was told that I had to wait until the same taxi came back from the airport for me. What actually happened, according to the taxi driver,

was that he came on time for me but the desk clerk at the hotel ordered him to take the foreign guests first and then come back for me although I was standing there waiting while all this was going on.

I should be angry, but I am not. You don't have to be in MoBay to experience a MoBay Dick head. It is part of a painful process that is familiar to all of us who

travel the Caribbean. It is called "growing up". It is the only way we could get ahead instead of merely getting a head.

Tony Deyal was last seen talking about the man who complained to his travel agent that every year he went to Montego Bay, his wife got pregnant. "This year," he said, "I'm taking her with me."



THE GOVERNMENT OF ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA FESTIVALS COMMISSION
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA
 The beach is just the beginning.

11TH JAN 2025
 NIGHT ONE

ONE NATION
 MUSIC FESTIVAL

FEATURING:
TIAN WINTER

ANTIGUA RECREATION GROUNDS

GEN \$100 | VICE VERSA LOVE ALL INCLUSIVE LOUNGE \$400 | TIME: 8PM

ONE PEOPLE. ONE LOVE

available on ticketing

CIU Bajan Carib

Technology

Google unveils 'mind-boggling' quantum computing chip

By Chris Vallance

Google has unveiled a new chip which it claims takes five minutes to solve a problem that would currently take the world's fastest super computers ten septillion – or 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 years – to complete.

The chip is the latest development in a field known as quantum computing - which is attempting to use the principles of particle physics to create a new type of mind-bogglingly powerful computer.

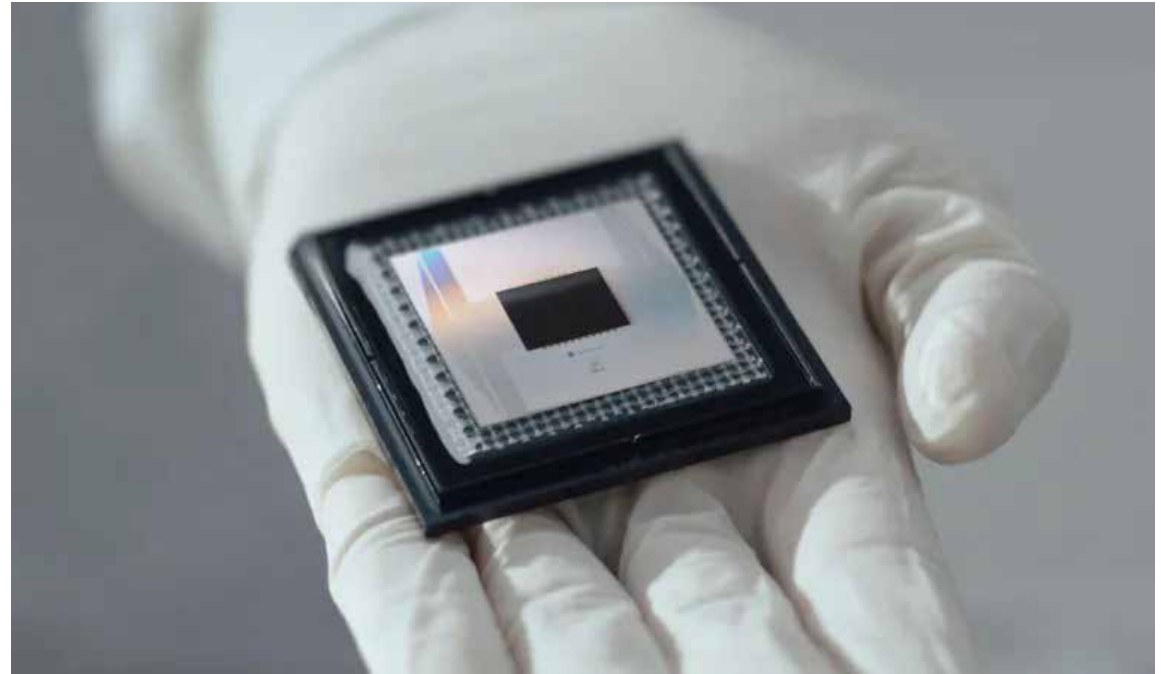
Google says its new quantum chip, dubbed "Willow", incorporates key "breakthroughs" and "paves the way to a useful, large-scale quantum computer."

However experts say Willow is, for now, a largely experimental device, meaning a quantum computer powerful enough to solve a wide range of real-world problems is still years - and billions of dollars - away.

Quantum computers work in a fundamentally different way to the computer in your phone or laptop.

They harness quantum mechanics - the strange behaviour of ultra-tiny particles - to crack problems far faster than traditional computers.

It's hoped quantum computers might eventually be able to use that ability to vastly speed up complex



The new Willow chip.

processes, such as creating new medicines.

There are also fears it could be used for ill - for example to break some types of encryption used to protect sensitive data.

In February Apple announced that the encryption that protects iMessage chats is being made «quantum proof» to stop them being read by powerful future quantum computers.

Hartmut Neven leads Google's Quantum AI lab that created Willow and describes himself as the project's "chief optimist."

He told the BBC that Willow would be used in some practical applications - but declined, for now, to provide more detail.

But a chip able to perform commercial applications would not appear be-

fore the end of the decade, he said.

Initially these applications would be the simulation of systems where quantum effects are important

"For example, relevant when it comes to the design of nuclear fusion reactors to understand the functioning of drugs and pharmaceutical development, it would be relevant for developing better car batteries and another long list of such tasks".

Mr Neven told the BBC Willow's performance meant it was the "best quantum processor built to date".

But Professor Alan Woodward, a computing expert at Surrey University, says quantum computers will be better at a range of tasks than current "classical" computers, but they will not replace them.

He warns against overstating the importance of Willow's achievement in a single test.

"One has to be careful not to compare apples and oranges" he told the BBC.

Google had chosen a problem to use as a benchmark of performance that was, "tailor-made for a quantum computer" and this didn't demonstrate "a universal speeding up when compared to classical computers".

Nonetheless, he said Willow represented significant progress, in particular in what's known as error correction.

In very simple terms the more useful a quantum computer is, the more qubits it has.

However a major prob-

cont'd on pg 15

Dominica makes a compelling case for climate justice at the ICJ

Dominica was among several states that put its case forward at the International Court of Justice for climate justice.

Dominica was represented by Attorney General Levi Peter and Vanica Sobers – Joseph, senior state attorney in the office of the Attorney General.

In his opening statement, Peter underscored the critical threat climate change poses particularly to Dominica and other small island developing states, highlighting the devastating impacts of the increasing frequency and intensity of storms and rising sea levels.

He urged the court to affirm the legal obligations of states to protect the climate system and stressed the principle of fairness, calling for greater accountability from those contributing to global warming.

Dominica's delegation also includ-



ed Annika Bellot, an attorney at law and attaché at Dominica's Permanent Mission to the United Nations.

"Dominica's participation in the ICJ Advisory Opinion on Climate Change underscores our commitment to clarifying states' responsibilities and obligations under internation-

al law, particularly to Small Island Developing States (SIDS)," Bellot told Loop Caribbean.

"Drawing from our lived experience with devastating hurricanes, Dominica's submissions are grounded in sound legal reasoning and the realities of climate vulnerability. We are hopeful that the judges will recognize the merit of these arguments as we fight for justice, accountability, and a sustainable future for generations to come," she added.

The hearings which began on Monday, December 2 brought together small island developing states, other nations, and international organizations, to underscore the pressing need for legal clarity and accountability in the face of the global climate crisis.

The hearings are scheduled to continue until December 13 at the Peace Palace in the Hague, Holland.

cont'd from pg 14

lem with the technology is that it is prone to errors - a tendency that has previously increased the more qubits a chip has.

But Google researchers say they have reversed this and managed to engineer and program the new chip so the error rate fell across the whole system as the number of qubits increased.

It was a major "breakthrough" that cracked a key challenge that the field had pursued "for almost 30 years", Mr Neven believes.

He told the BBC it was comparable to "if you had an airplane with just one engine - that will work, but two engines are safer, four

engines is yet safer".

Errors are a significant obstacle in creating more powerful quantum computers and the development was "encouraging for everyone striving to build a practical quantum computer" Prof Woodward said.

But Google itself notes that to develop practically useful quantum computers the error rate will still need to go much lower than that displayed by Willow.

Willow was made in Google's new, purpose-built manufacturing plant in California.

Countries around the world are investing in quantum computing.

The UK recent-

ly launched the National Quantum Computing Centre (NQCC).

Its director, Michael Cuthbert, told the BBC he was wary of language that fuelled the "hype cycle" and thought Willow was more a "milestone rather than a breakthrough".

Nevertheless, it was "clearly a highly impressive piece of work".

Eventually quantum computers would help with a range of tasks including "logistics problems such as cargo freight distribution on aircraft or routing of telecoms signals or stored energy throughout the national grid", he said.

And there were already

50 quantum businesses in the UK, attracting £800m in funding and employing 1300 people.

On Friday, researchers from Oxford University and Osaka University in Japan published a paper showcasing the very low error rate in a trapped-ion qubit.

Theirs is a different approach to making a quantum computer that's capable of working at room temperature - whereas Google's chip has to be stored at ultra low temperatures to be effective.

Scientific findings from Google's development of Willow have been published in the journal Nature.

Regional News



St Kitts PM: Collaborative action needed to address natural disasters

By Rosemary Forde

St Kitts and Nevis Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew, has emphasized the need for greater collaboration in addressing natural disasters that frequently impact Caribbean nations.

The Prime Minister was speaking at the opening ceremony of the 13th Caribbean Conference on Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM13), held under the theme “Road to Resilience – Checkpoint 2024: Levelling Up for a Dynamic Future.”

Dr Drew highlighted the region’s vulnerability to threats such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and rising sea levels, while urging Caribbean nations to strengthen their collective efforts to build resilience and effectively respond to these growing challenges.

He stated: “Even as the Caribbean was most susceptible to such calamities, this does not mean that the governments here were helpless. With a collective determination, we can meet these challenges and convert our weaknesses into strengths.”

Reflecting on past hurricanes such as Georges, Irma, and Maria, which brought significant challenges to Caribbean nations, Prime Minister Drew commended the solidarity displayed by neighbouring islands, including Dominica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines,



Prime Minister Terrance Drew. Photo: St Kitts and Nevis Information Service

during those difficult times.

Emphasizing the close coordination between the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and its Nevis counterpart, the Nevis Disaster Management Department (NDMD), in preparing for and responding to natural disasters, Dr Drew also highlighted the government’s national disaster plan, which has been expanded to address emerging threats such as fires, cybersecurity risks, and pandemics.

The Prime Minister praised the Early Warning System (EWS) for its use of advanced technologies,

including Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and real-time data analysis, to enhance disaster forecasting and preparedness.

Dr Drew noted that investments in flood defences, energy-efficient buildings, and disaster-resistant structures are equipping the nation to meet current needs while building resilience against future natural disasters.

The Prime Minister further emphasized the importance of increased regional cooperation among Caribbean nations to address these challenges posed by natural disasters. He commended

organizations such as the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) for their vital role in disaster response, while noting the value of information-sharing and public awareness campaigns to enhance disaster preparedness and efficiency.

He advocated for a unified Caribbean effort to demand greater access to climate financing. He also stressed the need for nations responsible for climate change to provide financial support to those bearing the brunt of its impacts, ensuring a fairer response to the global crisis.

Travel ban on S Korea president after martial law attempt

By Koh Ewe

South Korean authorities have imposed a travel ban on President Yoon Suk Yeol, who is under investigation for his short-lived martial law declaration last Tuesday.

Yoon narrowly survived an impeachment motion against him over the weekend, after MPs from his ruling People Power Party (PPP) boycotted the vote.

PPP members said they had decided not to support the motion after Yoon agreed to shorten his term and not get involved in foreign and domestic affairs.

However, the opposition Democratic Party, which commands a majority in the parliament have criticised the deal, with floor leader Park Chan-dae calling it “an illegal, unconstitutional second insurrection and a second coup”.

Tens of thousands of people have come out in protest since Yoon’s short-lived martial law order, calling for him to resign or be impeached.

Since then, despite the failed impeachment motion, several key figures involved in the martial law order have also seen action taken against them.

Former Defence Minister Kim Yong-hyun, who reportedly proposed the martial law declaration to Yoon, was arrested on Sunday. He had earlier resigned on Wednesday after apologising and saying he would take “full responsibility”.

Travel bans have been placed on Kim, Lee, Defence Counterintelligence Commander Yeo In-hyung, and Army Chief of Staff Park An-su.

Many others have stepped down from their posts.

These include former Interior



Minister Lee Sang-min who resigned on Sunday, saying he would take responsibility for “failing to serve the public and the president well”.

And on Wednesday, senior aides of Yoon’s office, including his chief of staff, tendered mass resignations hours after the martial law declaration was lifted.

In a public address on Sunday, PPP leader Han Dong-hoon said Yoon will no longer be involved in foreign and domestic affairs until his early resignation - adding that Prime Minister Han Duck-soo would manage government affairs in the meantime.

“The President will not be involved in any state affairs including diplomacy before his exit,” said party leader Han.

However, Democratic Party floor leader Park Chan-dae described the proposed plan as “an illegal, unconstitutional second insurrection and a second coup”.

Representative Kim Min-seok of the Democratic Party similarly criticised the plan, saying “nobody gave” PPP leader Han the power to make such decisions.

“The prime minister and the ruling party’s announcement that they would jointly exercise the powers of the president, which no one has given them, is clearly unconstitutional,” he said, according to a report on The Korea Herald.

The Ministry of National Defence confirmed at a briefing on Monday that the president retains command of the armed forces. That means in the event of any foreign policy incidents, including any possible threat from North Korea, Yoon is still, in theory, able to make executive decisions.

“The president can take the lead again any time he changes his mind,” political science professor Shin Yul of Myongji University told The Korea Herald.

“No one will be able to stop him, if Yoon insists.”

On Saturday Yoon apologised to the nation in what was his first appearance since the martial law declaration. He pledged not to impose another martial law order, and apologised for the “anxiety and inconvenience” he had caused.

However, the opposition has insisted that they “will not give up” on impeaching Yoon and has vowed to hold impeachment votes against Yoon every Saturday.

“We will definitely return this country to normal by Christmas and the end of the year and give it to you as a Christmas and end-of-year gift,” Democratic Party leader Lee Jae-myung told a disappointed crowd after Saturday’s failed impeachment attempt.

He again urged Yoon to resign on Monday, telling a press conference that Yoon’s actions were “destroying” South Korea and its economy.

Shaken by Assad's sudden fall, Syria faces seismic turning point

By **Jeremy Bowen**

In the end the Assad regime was so hollow, corrupt and decayed that it collapsed in less than a fortnight.

No one I have spoken to has been anything other than astonished by the speed with which the regime turned to dust.

In the spring of 2011, the year of the Arab uprisings, it was different, when Syrians tried to grab some of the revolutionary magic that had swept away the presidents of Tunisia and Egypt and was threatening the veteran strongmen of Libya and Yemen.

By 2011, the regime created by Hafez al-Assad and passed to his son Bashar on his death in 2000 was already corrupt and decadent.

But the system that Hafez built still had much of the brutal, ruthless strength that he believed was necessary to control Syria. Assad senior had seized power in a country that was prone to coups and delivered it to his son and heir without a significant challenge.

Bashar al-Assad went back to his father's playbook in 2011.

It is hard to imagine now, but back then he had more legitimacy among some of Syria's population than the old dictators swept away by crowds chanting the slogan of that year - "The people want the fall of the regime".

Bashar al-Assad was a vocal supporter of the Palestinians and of Hezbollah during its successful fight against Israel in the 2006 Lebanon war. He was younger than the ex and soon to be former Arab leaders.

Since his father's death he had been promising reform. Some Syrians still wanted to believe him in 2011, hoping demonstrations were the spur he needed for the change that he had promised, until he ordered his men to shoot peace-



Syrians may be celebrating the fall of Assad, but the country's future is uncertain. out of Idlib, it was widely reported that the US, Israel and the United Arab Emirates were trying to detach Assad's Syria from Iran.

A British ambassador in Syria once told me that the way to understand the Assad regime was to watch Mafia films like *The Godfather*. The obedient could be rewarded.

Anyone who went against the head of the family or his closest lieutenants would be eliminated. In Syria's case that could mean the gallows, or a firing squad, or indefinite incarceration in some underground cell.

We're seeing them now, emaciated and pale, blinking into the light, filmed on the mobiles of the rebel fighters who have freed thousands of them from years behind bars.

The weakness of the regime, to the point that it collapsed like a soggy paper bag, was disguised by the fearsome and repressive gulag it still maintained.

The international consensus was that Bashar al-Assad was weak, dependent on Russia and Iran, and presiding over a country he had fractured to preserve his family's rule – but still strong enough to be regarded as a fact of Middle Eastern life, who could even be useful.

In the last days before rebels burst

out of Idlib, it was widely reported that the US, Israel and the United Arab Emirates were trying to detach Assad's Syria from Iran.

Israel had been launching increasingly heavy airstrikes against targets inside Syria it said were part of the supply chain Iran used to get weapons to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Israel's offensive in Lebanon had dealt severe blows to Hezbollah, but the idea was to stop it regenerating. At the same time the UAE and the US were trying to find incentives for him to break the alliance with Tehran, relaxing sanctions and allowing Assad to continue his international rehabilitation.

Both Benjamin Netanyahu and Joe Biden have claimed credit for the fall of the Assad regime. There is something in that.

The damage Israel inflicted on Hezbollah and Iran with US weapons and constant support, and Biden's supply of arms for Ukraine, made it impossible, even undesirable, for Assad's closest allies to save him.

But the fact that they saw Assad as part of their strategy to contain and

cont'd on pg 19

cont'd from pg 18

damage Iran until days before his fall indicates clearly that they did not for a moment believe him to be days away from a midnight flit to Russia.

They did contribute to his end, more by accident than design.

The fall of the regime might have ended Iran's supply chain, if Syria's new rulers decide their deals with others are more useful than the Iranian alliance.

All sides are thinking hard and thinking again about what comes next, and it is too soon to draw definite conclusions. Syrians, their neighbours, and the wider world are now confronted by another geopolitical earthquake, the biggest of the series that has followed the Hamas attacks on Israel in October last year. It might not be the last.

Iran is seeing the final collapse of the main planks of the network it called the axis of resistance. Its most important components have been transformed; Hezbollah badly damaged and the Assad regime gone.

Iran's rulers might want to follow up on hints of talks on a deal with Donald Trump once he takes office. Or its new strategic nakedness might push it into a fateful decision to turn its highly enriched uranium into a nuclear weapon.

Syrians have every reason to rejoice. In the years after 2011, for all the repression and brutality of the regime, Assad and his acolytes could still find men who would fight. Many of the troops I met on front lines told me that Assad was a better option than the jihadist extremists of Islamic State group.

In 2024, faced by a well-organised rebel force that insisted it was nationalist, Islamist but no longer jihadist, the army's reluctant conscripts refused to fight, stripped off their uniforms and went home.

The best scenario is that Syrians, helped by the big players in the region,



The change of regime in Syria has seen many released from the country's prisons.

will find a way to create a postwar mood of national reconciliation, not a wave of looting and revenge that will drag the country into a new war. Abu Mohammad al Joulani, the leader of victorious HTS, has called for his men and all of Syria's sects to respect each other.

His men have removed the regime, and he is the closest Syria has to a de facto leader.

Syria, though, has dozens of armed groups that do not necessarily agree with him and will want to grab power in their own areas. In southern Syria, tribal militias did not recognise the writ of the Assads. They will not follow orders they don't like from the new set up in Damascus.

In the eastern desert, the US saw a big enough threat from remnants of the Islamic State group to launch waves of air strikes. The Israelis, alarmed by the prospect of an Islamist state on their border, are pounding the military infrastructure of Syria's armed forces.

It might be better to find a way to make a reformed Syrian Arab Army part of the solution in a country without much law or order. The reckless decision by the US in 2003 to dissolve the Iraqi armed forces had disastrous consequences.

In Turkey, President Erdogan must be satisfied by what he sees.

Erdogan's Turkey did more than any other power to preserve the autonomy of Idlib province, where HTS was transforming itself into a fighting force when Syria seemed to be in the deep freeze.

Erdogan might see his influence lapping Israel's borders, at a time when Israel-Turkey relations have been poisoned by the war in Gaza.

The worst scenario for Syrians is that their country will follow the example of two Arab dictatorships that spun into violent chaos after the fall of their regimes.

Colonel Gaddafi of Libya and Saddam Hussein of Iraq were removed without a ready-made replacement waiting in the wings. Ill-considered foreign intervention did much to create two catastrophes.

The vacuum left by the dictators was filled by waves of looting, revenge, power grabs and civil war.

Syrians have not been in charge of their own destiny for generations. Individuals were robbed of it by the two Assad presidents and their followers. The country lost it after war left it so weakened that bigger foreign powers used it to increase and preserve their own power. Syrians still do not have agency over their lives. They might have a chance of creating a new and better country if they did.

Sports News



Rangers continue to dominate ABFA First Division League

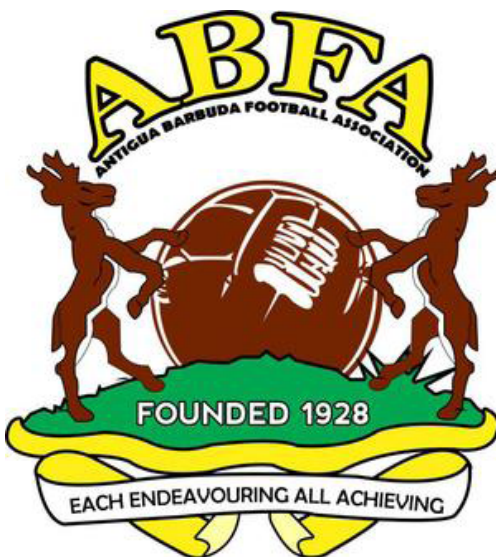
Unbeaten leaders Ottos Rangers continued their dominance of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) First Division with victory against Lion Hill FC in the latest round of matches.

The Ottos Rangers claimed their sixth win in seven matches with a 2-0 victory against Lion Hill FC at the Golden Grove playing field on Thursday.

Josue Arias had a 42nd-minute conversion, and George Lake scored the other goal in the 85th minute.

The result allows the Ottos Rangers to remain unbeaten leaders of the First Division by advancing to 19 points from seven matches, and Lion Hill will remain on four points after suffering their third loss in five encounters.

The Freeman's Village Scorpions claimed their fourth win in seven matches with a 3-0 victory against Police at the St. Johnstone's Village Stadium.



dium.

The goals were scored by Ranique James in the fifth minute, Malik Charles in the 15th minute, and Johnathon Johnson in the 88th minute.

The result allows the Freeman's Village Scorpions to advance to 13 points from seven matches, while Police will remain on six points after suffering their third defeat in five encounters.

Bolans recorded their third win in five matches by snatching a 2-1 victory against Tryum FC in Cashew Hill.

Alex Joseph scored in the fifth minute, and Taeim Tonge had a 63rd-minute conversion for Bolans, who will advance to nine points from five matches.

Francois Joseph scored in the 74th minute for Tryum FC, which will remain on three points after suffering their fifth defeat in six matches.

Jennings United maintained their unbeaten run by recording their third win in five matches with a 1-0 victory against FC Master Ballerz at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Gayon Wright scored the only goal of the match in the 17th minute for Jennings United, which will advance to 11 points from five matches.

The result ensures that FC Master Ballerz will remain on seven points after suffering their second loss in five matches.

Blue Jays soar past Golden Grove in Second Division League

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays have notched up an impressive victory against the Golden Grove FC in the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division League.

Following a goalless first half, the Blue Jays scored three goals in the second half to soar to a 3-0 victory against Golden Grove at the Cedar Grove playing field.

The goals for the Blue

Jays were scored by Ja-Rohn Thomas in the 52nd minute, Maleke Francis in the 80th minute, and Rodrique Barnes in the 83rd minute.

The Cedar Grove Blue Jays will advance to 13 points after securing their fourth win in six matches. The result ensured that Golden Grove will remain on 12 points after suffering their second loss in six encounters.

Klyster Rowe scored

twice as Sea View Farm FC also notched up their fourth win in six matches by snatching a 3-2 victory against Bethesda SC at the Sea View Farm playing field.

Rowe scored in the 34th and 67th minutes, and Markland Wright converted a penalty kick in the 16th minute for Sea View Farm, which will advance to 13 points from six matches.

O'Shale Simon scored both goals for Bethesda with

conversions in the 17th and 39th minutes. After playing unbeaten in their first three matches, it was the third consecutive loss suffered by Bethesda, which will remain on seven points from six encounters.

National Parks English Harbour consolidated their position at the top of the Second Division after being awarded victory by default against Herberts FC, which failed to show up for their

cont'd on pg 21

Grenades extend unbeaten run in Premier League

The Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades continued their successful run in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Saturday.

The Grenades extended their unbeaten run, securing their sixth win in seven matches, with a 6-0 victory against the Willikies Warriors in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

The Grenades scored four goals in the first half to effectively secure their latest win. Luis Cuidad Labrada opened the scoring with a conversion in the first minute.

Eugene Kirwan scored in the 13th minute, Juniah Thomas converted an own goal in the 17th minute, and Malcolm Stewart made it 4-0 with a 23rd-minute conversion.

Second-half goals by D'jarie Sheppard in the 57th minute and Carl Osbourne in the third minute of added time (93rd minute) wrapped up the victory for the Grenades.

The result allows the



Players of the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades team

Jennings Grenades to remain at the top of the standings by advancing to 19 points from seven matches.

The Willikies Warriors will remain in seventh place with nine points after suffering their fifth defeat in eight matches.

Old Road notched up their sixth win in seven

matches with a 3-1 victory against Green City in the second game on Saturday.

The goals for Old Road were scored by Joylan Sinclair in the 25th minute, Shackwon Simon in the 42nd minute, and Johnathon Shoy in the 58th minute.

Ranje Williams scored a consolation goal for Green

City, which will remain on four points after suffering their fifth defeat in seven matches. The result allows Old Road FC to advance to 18 points from seven matches.

But Saturday's opening encounter between the Aston Villa Lions and John Hughes ended in a goalless draw.

The Villa Lions will advance to 17 points after securing their second draw in eight matches.

John Hughes advanced to five points after claiming their second draw in eight matches.

cont'd from pg 20

encounter at the Pigotts playing field.

It was the fifth win for English Harbour, which will advance to 16 points from seven encounters. Herberts FC will remain on one point after losing for the fifth time in six matches.

However, the match at Old Road be-

tween hosts Young Lions and Guydadli FC was postponed.

Guydadli FC, which has notched up three wins in six matches, will remain on nine points. The Young Lions, which suffered back-to-back losses in their previous two matches, will remain on 10 points from six encounters.

Sports News



Players of the All Saints United Starting XI

All Saints United beat Bullets to go joint-top of Premier League

Cup-holders Special Security Services and Bitar Pizza All Saints United stopped the surging Terminix Pigotts Bullets to go joint-top of the standings in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League on Sunday.

D'Andre Bishop scored twice as All Saints United extended their unbeaten run with a 3-2 victory against the Pigotts Bullets in the last game of a triple header at the ABFA Technical Center.

Bishop scored in the 10th and 35th minutes, and the other goal for All Saints United was scored by Dorien Cole in the sixth minute.

Shafecq Joseph scored in the 75th minute, and Akeem Isaac had a conversion in the fourth minute of added time (94th minute) for the Pigotts Bullets, who lost after winning their previous four matches.

All Saints United joined the Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades and the Garden Stars at the top of the Premier Division on 19 points after securing their

sixth win in seven matches.

The result ensured the Pigotts Bullets slipped from joint third to sixth place by remaining on 15 points after suffering their third defeat in eight matches.

After their unbeaten start to the Premier League was ended by All Saints United in their previous outing, the Garden Stars returned to winning form in the second game of Sunday's triple header.

The Garden Stars notched up their sixth win in eight matches with a 3-1 victory against the struggling Greenbay Hoppers in a game in which both teams had one of their players expelled after receiving a second caution (yellow card).

Javorn Stevens of the Greenbay Hoppers was sent off in the 59th minute, and Courtney Clarke of the Garden Stars was expelled in the 62nd minute.

Stevens' expulsion came after he converted a penalty kick in the sixth minute of added time in the first half to allow the Greenbay Hoppers to equalize after Sedique Adams gave the Garden Stars the lead with a 12th-minute con-

version.

Jahred Williams restored Garden Stars' lead by converting a penalty kick in the 53rd minute, and Wilton Rhodes wrapped up the match by scoring the team's third goal in the 80th minute.

The result allows the Garden Stars to return to joint-top of the Premier Division with 19 points from eight matches.

It also allows the Greenbay Hoppers to stay second from the bottom of the standings on goal difference by remaining on three points after suffering their sixth loss in seven matches.

The Attacking Saints recorded their second win in eight matches with a 2-0 against Parham in Sunday's opening game. Alexander Moody-Stuart scored both goals with conversions in the 10th and 19th minutes.

The result allows the Attacking Saints to advance to eight points from eight matches. Parham will remain in the cellar on goal difference with three points after suffering their seventh defeat in eight matches.

APUA Inet fails in bid to retain Business Volleyball League title

A new winner will be crowned in this year's Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Championship after the defending back-to-back champions, APUA Inet, were knocked out in the semi-finals on Saturday.

ICONS ousted APUA Inet 2-0 in the first semi-final at the indoor stadium at the YMCA Sports Complex. The ICONS prevailed 25-20, 25-17, to book their place in the finals against the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB).

The ECAB, which captured the runners-up position for the past two competitions, advanced to their third consecutive final by snatching a 2-1 victory against Nate's Photography in the second semi-final.

After Nate's Photography won the first set 25-21, ECAB rebounded to level the match by taking the second set 25-15 and went on to win the encounter by claiming the third and decisive set 15-11.

The semi-finals, which featured the top two teams in each of two groups, took



The ICONS volleyball team

place following the completion of the preliminary stage of the competition.

ICONS finished as unbeaten winners of Group B in the preliminary rounds, claiming their sixth win in as many games with a 2-0 victory against newcomers EZ Flyers in their last round-robin encounter.

The ICONS prevailed 25-18, 25-19 against the

Flyers, which finished their debut campaign second from the bottom of Group B after suffering their fifth defeat in six matches.

Sandals finished in fourth place in the Group A preliminary round after claiming their second win in five matches with a 2-0 victory against 77 Bus in their last encounter.

Sandals prevailed 25-23,

25-19 against the 77 Bus, which finished in the cellar of Group A after suffering defeats in all five matches in the preliminaries.

The ICONS and second-place finishers, the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), qualified for the semi-finals from Group B.

Winners Nate's Photography and APUA Inet, which finished second, qualified for the semi-finals from Group A.

The ICONS and ECAB will clash in Game 1 of the best-of-three finals at the YMCA Sports Complex on Tuesday evening (today).

cont'd from pg 24

When captain Shai Hope was dismissed by Mehidy for an 88-ball 86, which included four sixes, the West Indies were 193 for four after 37.1 overs.

But Rutherford and Justin Greaves, who struck 41 not out off 31 balls, were

up to the task. Five Bangladesh bowlers shared the wickets.

The second game of the three-match ODI series will take place on Tuesday (today), and the potentially decisive third encounter will be held at the same venue on Thursday.

Windies win first ODI against Bangladesh

BASSETTERRE, Saint Kitts and Nevis (AP) — Sherfane Rutherford smashed his maiden century to propel the West Indies to a five-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first One-Day International at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday.

Rutherford hammered 113 off 80 balls, including eight sixes and seven fours, before he was caught by Nahid Rana off Soumya Sarkar in the 47th over with only seven more runs needed.

West Indies finished on 295 for five to secure victory with 14 balls remaining.

Bangladesh had won the toss and chose to bat first, posting a respectable 294 for six in 50 overs with captain Mehidy Hasan Miraz top-scoring with 74 runs in 101 balls.

Opener Tanzid Hasan hit a run-a-ball 60, which featured three sixes and six fours.

Mahmudullah struck 50 not out off 44 deliveries, and Jaker Ali hit a 40-ball 48, with both players hitting three sixes apiece.

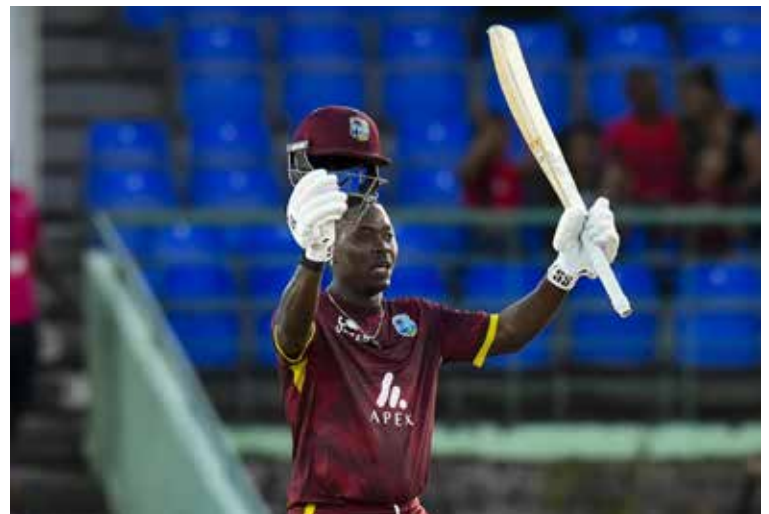


West Indies players Roston Chase, left, and Justin Greaves, center, celebrate after fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, right, captured a wicket against Bangladesh in the first One-Day International at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday, December 8, 2024.

Ali was out to fast-medium pacer Romario Shepherd, who claimed three for 51 in 10 overs, off the penultimate ball of the innings. Fast bowler Alzarri Joseph captured two for 67.

In reply, the West Indies were reduced to 100 for three after 23 overs. Openers Brandon King and Evin Lewis fell for nine and 16, respectively, and Keacy Carty was dismissed for 21.

cont'd on pg 23



West Indies batsman Sherfane Rutherford celebrates after reaching his century against Bangladesh in the first One-Day International at Warner Park in St. Kitts on Sunday, December 8, 2024. (Getty Images)