

SERIOUS CRIMES UNCHANGED

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne with Irish Ambassador Eamonn McKee. Ireland's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, with residence in Canada, paid courtesy calls on PM Browne and Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P. Chet Greene. *Story on page 7.*

Serious crimes hold steady

The Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney is reporting that the year just ended was an ‘active year’ for the men and women of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda with ‘petty crimes’ showing an increase but serious crimes

such as murder remain unchanged.

Addressing the nation through the post-Cabinet press briefing on Thursday, Commissioner Rodney said the force had to respond to an increased number of criminal activ-

ity as well as monitoring other events, including a general elections and a by-election.

According to the Commissioner much as it was a very busy year, the force responded in a professional manner and he commend-

ed the rank and file of the RPFAB for their efforts in this regard.

“In spite of the challenges, there was a slight increase in the number of criminal reports we had to respond to when compared with 2022. What we noticed is that a large number of cases were solved during the year, some of which were from previous years. This has resulted in an increase in the number of matters before the High Court and the Magistrate’s Court,” he reported.

There were a heightened number of police activities during the year; including more search warrants, stop-and-searches and more patrols. These, he added, have benefited the organization greatly.

“As a result, our seizure of firearms has increased significantly over the previous year. This shows the commitment of the officials as well as the cooperation we have received from members of the public,” he stated.

For the year under review, Larceny rose from 1,000 to 1,141; breaking and larceny declined from 886 to 779; while wounding rose from 228 to 278.

Importantly, in the case of murder, the number of cases remained the same with 10 recorded in 2023, the same amount recorded for 2022.

The full report from the police is attached.



Criminal Record Office
Divisional Headquarters
St. John’s Police Station
Newgate Street
St. John’s
Antigua
Tel: 462-5236

E- Mail: Antiguapolicero@hotmail.com

Royal Police Force of Antigua & Barbuda Annual Return of Crimes Reported for 2022 and 2023 (Comparison Chart) With Percentages

Sr. No.	Offences	Year 2022	Percentage	Year 2023	Percentage	Increase	Decrease
1.	Breaking	202	6.00%	163	5.00%		39
2.	Att. Breaking	108	3.00%	82	2.00%		26
3.	Burglary	73	2.00%	90	3.00%	17	
4.	Breaking & Larceny	866	27.00%	779	22.00%		87
5.	Larceny	1000	32.00%	1141	33.00%	141	
6.	Praedial Larceny	42	1.00%	30	1.00%		12
7.	Wounding	228	7.00%	298	9.00%	70	
8.	Wounding with intent	0	0	0	0		
9.	Assault	3	0.09%	14	0.40%	11	
10.	Agg. Assault	1	0.03%	2	0.06%	1	
11.	Murder	10	0.31%	10	0.29%	Stable	Stable
12.	Att. Murder	1	0.03%	0	0		0
13.	Att. Suicide	6	0.19%	8	0.23%	2	
14.	Suicide	2	0.06%	1	0.03%		1
15.	Malicious Damage	355	11.00%	426	12.00%	71	
16.	Rape	31	1.00%	40	1.00%	9	
17.	Att. Rape	0	0	0	0		
18.	Buggery	5	0.16%	1	0.03%		4
19.	Indecent Assault	24	1.00%	25	1.00%	1	
20.	Indecent Exposure	1	0.03%	1	0.03%	Stable	Stable
21.	Unlawful Sexual Intercourse	16	1.00%	21	1.00%	5	
22.	Serious Indecency	6	0.19%	18	1.00%	12	
23.	G.B.H	5	0.16%	10	0.29%		5
24.	Incest	0	0	2	0.06%	2	
25.	Arson	5	0.16%	12	0.35%	7	
26.	Att. Arson	8	0.25%	10	0.29%	2	
27.	Kidnapping	1	0.03%	1	0.03%	Stable	Stable
28.	Shooting	18	1.00%	24	1.00%	6	
29.	Shooting with intent	1	0.03%	0	0		0
30.	Forgery	0	0	5	0.14%	5	
31.	Fraud	24	1.00%	44	1.00%	20	
32.	Fraudulent Conversion	2	0.06%	12	0.35%	10	
33.	Embezzlement	0	0	0	0		
34.	False Pretense	1	0.03%	6	0.17%	5	
35.	Agg. Robbery	3	0.09%	9	0.26%	6	
36.	Robbery	87	3.00%	119	3.00%	32	
37.	Att. Robbery	8	0.25%	4	0.11%		4
38.	Assault With Intent to Rob	1	0.03%	3	0.08%	2	
39.	Actual Bodily Harm	0	0	0	0		
40.	Sacrilege	18	1.00%	12	0.35%		6
41.	Infanticide	0	0	0	0		
42.	Att. Larceny	0	0	0	0		
43.	Att. Burglary	3	0.09%	0	0		0
44.	Attempted Abduction	1	0.03%	0	0		0
45.	Attempted Kidnapping	0	0	1	0.03%	1	
46.	Bigamy	0	0	0	0		
47.	Unlawful Confinement	0	0	1	0.03%	1	
48.	Receiving	0	0	0	0		
	Total:	3166		3425		259	



More young people are the victims or perpetrators of crime

The police have revealed that more young people are either the victims of criminal activities or are themselves perpetrators of crime.

Those are the conclusions of a report made by the Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney, in his annual update on the state of criminal activities in Antigua and Barbuda.

He revealed that there is a growing number of young people under the age of 18 years who are being arrested for criminal activities.

“In terms of the numbers, there were twenty persons under the age of 18 who



Commissioner of Police Atlee Rodney

were arrested during the past year for various crimes. We also had a number of young persons who were victims of crime. Under the period of

review, the number of persons between the ages of 10 and 25 who were victims of crime totaled 139; 69 males and 70 females. The figure

for those arrested between the ages of 14 and 25 years totaled 246 young persons who were arrested,” he disclosed.

The Commission said the force is very concerned with what is happening with the nation’s youth and that it is committed to work with stakeholders to address the problem.

The issue of youth criminal activities, especially youth on youth violence has become a national concern raising to the level of the prime minister who has been voicing his concerns in the past weeks.

A note to our clients

Early Branch Closure

Our branch will close at 12:00pm on Thursday, 18 January, 2024, in order to facilitate a staff function.

We encourage you to use our Online Banking, Mobile App services and Instant Tellers™ to facilitate transfers, bill payments, check your account balance and other transactions.

Our branch will resume normal operating hours on Friday, 19 January, 2024.

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AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCELS</u>
CEDAR GROVE & CROSBIES	44 1997B	76 and 77

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on **Tuesday the 16th of January 2024 at 12:00pm** the above residential property at the intersection of Westcott Avenue and Neem Avenue, Crosbies.

The property is under the ownership of **SALEM KHOULY and AIDA MANSOOR** with approximately 8,894 sq. ft. of residential building on a 0.75acre plot of land. The building is two-storey with the ground floor space consisting of living room, dining room, kitchen, playroom/bedroom with ensuite bathroom, guest bedroom with ensuite bathroom and a general bathroom. The upper floor is consisting of a master bedroom with ensuite bathroom, three other bedrooms with ensuite bathrooms and a kitchenette. The property has a two vehicle garage and a standalone one vehicle garage.

On the property is a 26,000 gallon Swimming Pool with Deck, a Pool House and a Basketball Court. The property has a lawn with date palm trees, decorative flowering plants, three fish ponds and a courtyard paved with cut stones.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction can be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: **562-7653 and 464-7653**

Dated this the 15th day of December 2023

Trevor Santos
Licensed Auctioneer

MOE forging closer ties between tertiary institutions

The Ministry of Education is forging closer ties and strategic alliances between the several tertiary institutions operating in the country, including the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

The ministry is putting in place an arrangement between the university and the Antigua State College to offer a course of study in pharmacology. This is in addition to another arrangement between the UWI FIC and the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) where they will jointly offer a course in Artificial Intelligence. Students will begin their studies at ABIIT and then ‘seamlessly’ to the university where they will conclude their studies ending with a BSc degree.

“We will see greater collaboration between these tertiary level institutions this year and continuing into next year as we build on our various strengths to improve the quality and breadth of education that is being offered throughout Antigua and Barbuda,” remarked Director of Education Clare Browne.

The Ministry is also exploring opportunities for collaboration between the UWI FIC and the newly opened Harrison Centre School of Continuing Education, which opened late last year, but which begins operations this month.

More than \$12 million were invested in the institution to offer a number of study programmes in a number of critical skills. Already, the

Harrison Centre will be offering studies in marine education, given the fact that Antigua and Barbuda’s territorial waters extend for hundreds of miles.

Already, the Centre is partnering with schools in the Netherlands and London in the UK as it explores opportunities to expand its course offerings.

Of note, is the Centre’s collaboration with the Department of the Environment to offer course dealing with Electric Vehicles and other areas of study concerned with issues of climate change.

Three of the courses of study where the ministry is focusing some attention are construction management, mathematics and architectural studies.



NOTICE

To: Her Worship
 The Licensing Magistrate
 St. Johns Magistrate Court
 Gray’s Farm
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

To: The Commissioner of Police
 Police Headquarters
 American Road
 St. Johns
 Antigua.

Dear Madame,

Re: Notice- Application for Liquor Licence

I, Kyla Gemilla Tasheba Martin of Jennings, with registered business situated at Martin Village St. John’s Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE** that it is my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate’s Court, Gray’s Farm, St. John’s, Antigua on Thursday 4th day of April, 2024 next ensuring for a Liquor License Pursuant to section (11) (5) of the Licensing (intoxication Liquor) Act Cap. 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as “**Kief Variety Enterprise**” situated at Martin Village in the parish of St. John, Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 8th day of January, 2024

 Kyla Gemilla Tasheba Martin
 770-7484/724-3470

Ambassador Sir Ronald Sanders to represent OAS at Inauguration of President Bernardo Arevalo in Guatemala

Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador, Sir Ronald Sanders, has been appointed as one of the five Ambassadors representing the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States (OAS) at the inauguration of Bernardo Arevalo as the President of Guatemala on January 14, 2024. President Arevalo's election took place on August 20, 2023, following a run-off contest with Sandra Torres.

Throughout the election process, challenges have arisen as the Public Ministry, led by the Attorney General and a Public Prosecutor, attempted to disqualify Arevalo and his Semilla Party, alleging fraudulent registration. Ambassador Sanders, who served as the Chairman of the OAS Permanent Council

until December 31, 2023, played a crucial role in monitoring events in Guatemala. Last month, he visited Guatemala alongside OAS Secretary-General Luis Almagro for high-level discussions with the country's outgoing President, Alejandro Giamattei, representatives of the Constitution Court, and Vice-President-elect Karin Herrera.

Ambassador Sanders, along with Ambassadors from Brazil, El Salvador, Mexico, and the United States, will engage in meetings with a cross-section of Guatemalan authorities, including political parties, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations, ahead of the inauguration of President Arevalo.

"This is a difficult time



Sir Ronald Sanders

for Guatemala," stated Ambassador Sanders. "The controversy initiated by the Public Ministry against Arevalo and his party is serving to destabilize the new government before it starts. The OAS upholds the will of the electorate as freely expressed at the ballot box. This is a basic tenet of the Organization, and it explains why we are taking such a keen interest in being present to observe the installation of the new executive."

Despite the upcoming inauguration, Ambassador Sanders expressed concern that the claims and actions of the Public Ministry might persist after the new government is installed, potentially leading to instability and tension in the country. "All of this," he said, "is why the OAS remains vigilant in Guatemala."

The OAS reaffirms its commitment to supporting democratic processes and ensuring the integrity of elections in member countries. Ambassador Sanders and the other members of the OAS Permanent Council team will closely monitor the situation in Guatemala, emphasizing the importance of upholding democratic principles and preserving the stability of the nation.

OAS Women Economic Empowerment Formalization Toolkit Launch

The Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority is pleased to announce the launch of the Organization of American States Women's Economic Empowerment Formalization Toolkit.

The Formalization Toolkit is an online guide which provides access to women entrepreneurs to online resources to assist in the business formalization process.

The Formalization Toolkit is an initiative of the Economically Empowered Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies Women's Economic Empowerment funded through the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Develop-

ment.

The Formalization Toolkit an online practical guide for women entrepreneurs on how to formalize their businesses and navigate the institutional systems required to complete the process.

The Toolkit outlines the step-by-step process of how to register a business name and provides information on the various Statutory requirements. The Toolkit is a component of the online Clearinghouse portal.

The Formalization Toolkit can be accessed at Business Formalization Toolkits: [https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1gQ8Izf8cJH-](https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1gQ8Izf8cJH-cRMd4_O8aqMOLmjiUOzAxw)

[cRMd4_O8aqMOLmjiUOzAxw](https://drive.google.com/drive/mobile/folders/1gQ8Izf8cJH-cRMd4_O8aqMOLmjiUOzAxw) and it is open to women entrepreneurs.

The Toolkit forms part of an ongoing project targeted to assist women-owned and women-led businesses in providing the necessary resources which address the distinctive concerns of women in business and those future businesswomen.

The Authority takes this opportunity to invite all women entrepreneurs in Antigua and Barbuda to actively engage in accessing the online Formalization Toolkit and exploring the opportunities presented for further and future development of women in business.

The Organization of American States Women Economic Empowerment Clearinghouse Launch

The Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority (ABIA) is pleased to announce the launch of the Organization of American States (OAS) Women's Economic Empowerment Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is an online portal which provides access to women entrepreneurs to online resources. The Clearinghouse is an initiative of the Economically Empowered

Women for Equitable and Resilient Societies Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE) funded through the OAS Executive Secretariat for Integral Development.

The Clearinghouse is an online platform with a variety of resources, tools, best practices, and spaces for engagement for women-owned and women-led MSMEs. The portal provides an avenue by

which women via the use of technology engage the necessary resources to participate in the digital economy thereby directly impacting their lives and by extension their respective economies. The portal allows for online learning at a self-pace and has a community which is specifically developed to support women in all stages of the business journey.

The Clearinghouse can be accessed at OAS WEE MSME Clearinghouse: <https://wee-msme-clearinghouse.com/> and it is open women entrepreneurs. The portal allows for women entrepreneurs to openly engage in a safe space with specific

resources that enables the building of a network for women that prioritizes the concerns which are distinctive to women and affects their participation in business. The portal provides knowledge of and access to tools that are not readily or easily available.

The Authority takes this opportunity to invite all women entrepreneurs in Antigua and Barbuda to actively engage in accessing the portal and exploring the opportunities presented for their further and future development in business.

For further information please contact the Investment Authority at 481-1001

NATURALIZATION NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Miguel Torres Spencer of Gray Hill, St. John's Antigua and Barbuda is applying to the Minister of Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



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Irish diplomat pays courtesy calls on PM Browne and FA Minister Greene

Ireland's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Eamonn McKee, with residence in Canada, paid courtesy calls on Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister of Foreign Affairs E.P. Chet Greene.

During the calls, both Prime Minister Browne and Minister Greene pressed upon Ambassador McKee, the importance of Ireland's voice in advocating to the EU Commission, their need to engage Antigua and Barbuda on the issue of blacklisting "as we continue to work assiduously to curb illicit funds in the financial sector". Minister Greene went on to state "if we are partners engage us instead of reprimanding us.... we do not intend to impede on any sanctions or other existing programmes."

Minister Greene thanked Ambassador McKee and by extension the Government of Ireland for their continued cooperation and engagement with Antigua and Barbuda, and for the hosting of the inaugural Latin America and the Caribbean Business Forum entitled 'Ireland and LAC – Expand-

ing Opportunity' where he met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, His Excellency Micheál Martin, to discuss and build upon existing trade and investment links.

Ambassador McKee responded by stating that Ireland empathizes and understands the importance of having a comparative advantage in a competing world as they too, have an economy strongly based on Foreign Direct Investment. Moreover, he pledged to assist with this engagement noting that "Ireland can be a key partner to Antigua and Barbuda post-Brexit..."

Prime Minister Browne and Minister Greene both thanked the Government of Ireland for their support for the upcoming 4th International Conference on SIDS, and expressed their appreciation for the advocacy of Ireland on the challenges that affect SIDS. Ambassador McKee remarked that policies to address issues on climate change and those that affect SIDS can only be shaped by listening to their needs, which Ireland has made



FA Minister E.P. Chet Greene exchanges gifts with Irish Ambassador Eamonn McKee

an effort to listen. The Government of Ireland has pledged approximately 1 million Euros to the 4th SIDS Conference.

PM Browne and Minister Greene both conveyed their desires to deepen sporting relations, cultural relations and greater people-to-people exchanges. Recently, there have been three Antiguan and Barbudans on the Ireland Fellowship programme.

Though formal notes were exchanged years ago through both countries' respective missions at the United Nations, this is the first time an Ambassador of Ireland is presenting credentials to be formally accredited to Antigua and Barbuda, signally the beginning of deeper engagements between both countries.

In the 1600's, a sizable portion of the Caucasian population in Antigua and Barbuda were Irish, arriving in Antigua as indentured servants, merchants, planters and slave owners. This can be witnessed in surnames such as O'Reilly, Sweeny, Turner etc.



PM Gaston Browne engaged Irish Ambassador Eamonn McKee on several topics of interest to Antigua and Barbuda.

Action on criminal gangs and guns is urgent

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Ecuador, once celebrated for its tranquillity, now finds itself at the epicentre of a distressing surge in gang violence, its streets marred by the ominous shadow of armed groups fuelled by the trafficking of illicit drugs.

On January 7, President Daniel Noboa deployed the nation's armed forces to clean up prisons from which gang leaders were directing their criminal activities.

This desperate response came after days of unrest, during which two formidable gang leaders escaped from jail, prison guards were held hostage, and explosive devices wreaked havoc in cities across the country.

These events starkly illustrate a broader crisis, one that extends its menacing grip across Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ecuador, nestled between the world's two largest cocaine producers, Colombia and Peru, faces the dire consequences of its geographic vulnerability. The United Nations Global Report on Cocaine 2023 reveals a record surge in cocaine production, with Ecuador serving as a tragic victim of its easily accessible coastal routes.

However, Ecuador's plight is not a solitary narrative; it is a haunting prelude to a region-wide symphony

of chaos.

The issue of gangs, guns, and violence cannot be confined within borders. Governments are now awakening to the problem, but it has already spiralled out of control in some nations, while others are teetering on the brink.

The Caribbean, in particular, stands as a sobering example, with four of the five most murderous countries and territories in the region in 2022 being the Turks and Caicos Islands, Jamaica, Venezuela, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines. Disturbingly, there were no reliable figures for Haiti, leaving a void in understanding the full extent of the crisis which, in any event, is known to be completely unmanageable.

Statistics for the region reveal a grim reality; eight out of ten countries with the highest homicide rates in the world are located in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The average homicide rates, according to 2021 data, stood at 9.3 per 100,000 for South America, 16.9 per 100,000 for Central America, and 12.7 per 100,000 for the Caribbean.

The Caribbean also grapples with a dual challenge: an influx of illicit firearms, primarily sourced from the United States, and a decrease in funding for crucial security initiatives.



Sir Ronald Sanders

The United States, despite being a major source of the region's illicit firearm woes, paradoxically reduced its budget for the Caribbean Basin Security Initiative by 11.8% in fiscal year 2022. This initiative provides vital aid for border and port security, a lifeline desperately needed to combat the influx of weapons.

The alarming prevalence of American-made guns in the hands of Caribbean gangs has spurred heads of government to call for stronger U.S. efforts in curbing arms trafficking.

In June 2023, Bahamas' Prime Minister, Philip Davis, emphasised to U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris, the urgency of reducing the flow of illegal guns entering his nation from the United States. However, the U.S. account of the meeting made no mention of this se-

rious concern, not because the Biden government is not troubled by gun crimes, but because it is a domestic political issue in the U.S. Hence, not enough is being done to stop the flow of illegal weapons into the Caribbean.

Even as these nations grapple with the inflow of illegal firearms, their capacity to intercept and prevent such activities remains a significant challenge. Ports of entry often lack the necessary interdiction capacity, and limited enforcement resources hinder their ability to curb the tide of arms.

The traffickers exploit the short distances between Caribbean islands, utilizing go-fast boats and yachts to move weapons seamlessly across the extensive coastlines.

Efforts to control and combat this phenomenon

cont'd on pg 9

cont'd from pg 8

have been ongoing since the late 1990s. Despite these efforts, gangs continue to proliferate, fuelled by drug traffickers who arm their criminal enterprises.

Recognizing the urgency and gravity of the situation, during my term as President of the Organization of American States (OAS), I placed the topic of "Guns, gangs, and violence" on the agenda of the Permanent Council.

An expert panel, convened to address the growing crisis, proposed approaches to tackle the root causes and consequences of criminal gang violence, particularly gun-related violence.

The resulting Resolution, adopted on December 12, emphasized the necessity for greater collaboration between governmental agencies. It acknowledged that no single state possesses the capacity to match the formidable resources available to organized criminals operating across borders.

The resolution underscored the

links between transnational organized crime, criminal gangs, and the vital importance of a cross-border, collaborative approach.

We strongly proposed that the matter be addressed at the upcoming OAS general assembly in June, with the objective of establishing practical systems of collaboration between Latin American nations and Caribbean states.

The criminals are organized; if governments and their law enforcement agencies fail to follow suit, the consequences will be more disastrous than they already are.

But this alone, while a start, is not enough. Much more needs to be done. At the regional level, collaboration is paramount, as no single state can confront the vast resources of transnational organized crime independently.

At the national level, robust legislation, effective implementation machinery to punish drug traffickers, and prison reforms to prevent them from

becoming recruitment centres are imperative. Equally important is raising awareness among communities about the dangers, consequences, and sanctions associated with membership in criminal gangs and the possession and illegal use of firearms.

As the Caribbean confronts this multifaceted crisis, the imperative is clear: collective, resolute action is not just an option but an absolute necessity. The path forward demands a commitment to national, regional and hemispheric action.

Gangs, guns and lawlessness now threaten every person – the examples are too many to ignore.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the US and the OAS. He is also the current President of the OAS Permanent Council. The views expressed are entirely his own. For comments and previous commentaries, see: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

AUCTION NOTICE

<u>REGISTRATION SECTION</u>	<u>BLOCK</u>	<u>PARCEL</u>
SOUTH CENTRAL	15 1987B	227

Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 16th day of January 2024 at 11:00am the above residential property at Buckley's Heights.

The property is under the ownership of **LOREAN DENISE ROBERTS (aka DENISE LOREAN ROBERTS)**. The land is a 10,890 sq. ft. (0.25 acre) plot with an approximate 3,841 sq. ft., 2-storey with a partial basement reinforced concrete building with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms.

The property is in a quiet residential area with a commanding view of the surrounding area.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 464-7653 and 562-7653.

Dated this the 15th day of December 2023

Trevor Santos
Licensed Auctioneer



Profile

Foreign Affairs Minister Praises Ambassador Dario Item as a game changer

Dr. Dario Item, the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to Spain, the Principality of Monaco, the Principality of Liechtenstein, and the UNWTO, has been actively engaged in more than just diplomatic meetings and formalities.

Since taking on the role in 2016, Dr. Item has worked tirelessly to attract significant investments to his country and positively impact ordinary citizens' lives.

He has gone beyond just signing deals and shaking hands and has even gotten his hands and feet wet occasionally in pursuit of these goals.

His efforts have brought tangible benefits to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, and he remains committed to continuing his work.

Foreign Affairs Minister E.P Chet Greene has hailed Dr. Item's work in Antigua and Barbuda as unparalleled.

Antigua and Barbuda's Prime Minister Gaston Browne also praised Dr. Item for his hard work and dedication towards boosting the country's economic wealth.

According to the Prime Minister, "Dr. Item is a committed ambassador who not only talks the talk but also walks the walk."

"It is clear that Dr. Item's contributions have been instrumental in driving the country's economic growth and development," PM Browne said

He has made significant investments in the country's tourism sector, which has received a much-needed boost.

It is through Dr. Item's connections and tireless efforts that the country's tourism sector has flourished, ultimately leading to great results, according to Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez.

"He is truly one of those ambassadors who understands his role. He is always hard at work; It amazes me

the kind of attention that Dr Item has given to Antigua and Barbuda over the years...Truly remarkable," Fernandez said

What Has He Done for Antigua and Barbuda?

Dr Item is an exceptional individual who has made a significant impact through his tireless efforts.

His achievements are impressive and inspiring, and he has significantly contributed to Antigua and Barbuda.

One of his notable accomplishments is the establishment of the Antigua and Barbuda Embassy in Madrid, which has facilitated important diplomatic relationships with Spain, Monaco, Liechtenstein, and Switzerland.

Through his relentless promotion of Antigua and Barbuda in Europe, he has successfully attracted investors, tourists, and donors to the country.

In addition to this, Dr Item has made significant contributions to the embassy's digital presence.

He created the multilingual embassy.ag website, which provides comprehensive information about Antigua and Barbuda.

He also acquired the domain antiaguabarbuda.com and turned it into the embassy's official business hub, providing detailed information about all Antigua and Barbuda business opportunities, citizenship and residency programs, and new Digital Asset Business licenses.

Furthermore, he established the website Antiguabarbuda.digital, which showcases beautiful photos and videos of the country to promote tourism.

His promotional activities have yielded impressive results, including the collection of hundreds of applications for the Citizenship by Investment Program and Nomad Residence.

He has also attracted investors who



Dr. Dario Item

have invested over \$100 million in real estate projects, set up many companies on the island, rented office space, and generated employment opportunities for locals.

Dr Item is a passionate advocate for sustainable tourism and has been instrumental in Antigua and Barbuda's commitment to the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

He played a crucial role in securing Antigua and Barbuda's membership in the U.N. World Tourism Organization, which is of great importance for a country that relies heavily on tourism.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Dr Item has also made significant contributions to the community.

He has donated \$15k to the Rotary Club Antigua to support the staging of its Colour Fete, and he has provided funding for the population's needs,

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

including \$30k to a local school and assistance with annual Christmas parties that have brought joy to many residents.

Furthermore, he has actively collaborated on creating a new digital animation studio program at UWI and found a sponsor for the initiative.

Dr Item's dedication and commitment to Antigua and Barbuda are admirable, and his contributions have made a significant impact in various areas, including diplomacy, business, tourism, and community development.

Google Street View Project e Film production in Antigua

Thanks to his invaluable contributions, Antigua and Barbuda is now part of the Google Street View project.

The twin-islands nation is collaborating with World Travel in 360 to digitally transform its breathtaking landscapes on Google Maps, introducing Google Street View navigation.

It's a revolutionary initiative that Dr Item negotiated for which is Scheduled to commence in February 2024. The initiative promises enhanced accessibility for residents and a boost in global tourism.

Dr Item's success in building relationships with world-renowned actors and directors is well-known.

Recently, he convinced the popular Italian producer Andrea Iervolino (104 films produced, including Ferrari, Lamborghini and the Mer-

chant of Venice) to become a citizen of the nation through citizenship.

This was a significant achievement as it paved the way for Iervolino's upcoming visit to Antigua, along with Jean-Claude Van Damme, the legendary action hero.

Van Damme has been cast for the sequel of Kill 'Em All, which has generated a lot of buzz among movie enthusiasts.

Iervolino and Van Damme's visit to Antigua is eagerly anticipated and is expected to be a major event in the entertainment industry.

Iervolino announced his intention to shoot more than one film in Antigua by establishing a base of operations on the island.

Let's Get Personal

Dr. Item comes from a noble Swiss family originally hailed from Malans and

Bonaduz in the Canton of Graubünden.

In 1800, the family was transplanted to Naples, the capital of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

Throughout history, Dr. Item's ancestors have held high positions in Swiss regiments that served the Bourbon-Two Sicilies royal house, to which the Item family has always been particularly devoted.

One of his great-great-grandfathers, Vincenzo Item, was a decorated soldier, with a double gold medal received for his bravery in the Battle of Gaeta (1860-1861).

Another great-grandfather, Aurelio Item, was responsible for discovering the Villa of the Mysteries in Pompeii, originally called Villa Item.

Dr. Dario Item attended both compulsory and high

school in Lugano, Switzerland before pursuing his education at the University of Geneva in Switzerland and the Universities of Parma, Ferrara, Teramo, and Genoa in Italy.

He holds several degrees, including a law degree (1996) and a degree in political science (2004).

Additionally, Dr. Item holds a Master's degree in Trust Law (2005) and in Legal Psychology and Psychopathology of Criminal Conducts (2006), a PhD in Criminal Law (2009), and an LL.M in International Financial Crimes (2012).

In 1998, he passed the bar examination at the Court of Appeal of the Canton of Ticino (Switzerland) and in 1999, he passed the public notary examination. Finally, in 2001, Dr. Item passed the exam that qualified him to practice law in Italy.



Call for submissions: Naming and Logo Design for Antigua CPL Franchise.

The Worldwide Sports Management Group is thrilled to announce Antigua and Barbuda will be returning to the CPL (Caribbean Premier League), and wants YOU to be a part of its identity.

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To include YOU the fans in the formative process, we are pleased to invite you to submit both a proposed name and a logo design for the new franchise.

Submissions should be sent to antigua.cpl@gmail.com and jcmiller712@gmail.com on or before the deadline of January 15, 2024.

The fan who submits the winning name and logo will be awarded with USD1000.00 and two (2) season tickets to the home matches of the upcoming CPLT20 2024.

Technology



Our fingerprints may not be unique, claims AI

By Zoe Kleinman

There is a belief that each fingerprint on one person's hand is completely unique but that is now being challenged by research from Columbia University.

A team at the US university trained an AI tool to examine 60,000 fingerprints to see if it could work out which ones belonged to the same individual.

The researchers claim the technology could identify, with 75-90% accuracy, whether prints from different fingers came from one person.

But they are not sure how it works.

"We don't know for sure how the AI does it," admitted Prof Hod Lipson, a roboticist at Columbia University who supervised the study.

The researchers think the AI tool was analysing the fingerprints in a different way to traditional methods - focusing on the orientation of the ridges in the centre of a finger rather than the way in which the individual ridges end and fork which is known as minutiae.

"It is clear that it isn't using traditional markers that forensics have been using for decades," said Prof Lipson. "It seems like it is using something like the curvature and the angle of the swirls in the centre."



Prof Lipson said both he and Gabe Guo, an undergraduate student, were both surprised by the outcome.

"We were very sceptical... we had to check and double check," he said.

That may not be news to others in the field.

Graham Williams, professor of forensic science at Hull University, said the idea of unique fingerprints had never been set in stone.

"We don't actually know that fingerprints are unique," he said. "All we can say is that as far as we are aware, no two people have yet to demonstrate the same fingerprints."

The results of Columbia University's study could have the potential to impact both biometrics - using one particular finger to unlock a device or provide identification - and forensic science.

If, for example, an unidentified thumb print is found at crime scene A, and an unidentified index finger print at crime scene B, the two could not currently be forensically connected to the same person - but the AI tool could be able to identify this.

The Columbia University team, none of whom have forensic backgrounds, admitted that more research was needed.

AI tools are typically trained on vast amounts of data and many more fingerprints would be required to develop this technology further.

Additionally, all the fingerprints used to develop the model were complete prints and of good quality, whereas often in the real world partial or poor prints are more likely to be found.

"Our tool is not good enough for deciding evidence in court cases but it is good for generating leads in forensics investigations," claimed Mr Guo.

But Dr Sarah Fieldhouse, associate professor of forensic science at Staffordshire University, said she did not think the study would have "significant impact" on criminal casework at this stage.

She said there were questions around whether the markers the AI tool was focusing on remained the same depending on how the skin twisted as it came into contact with the print surface, and also whether they remained the same over the course of a lifetime, like traditional markers do.

But this could be tricky to answer as the researchers

cont'd on pg 14

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1

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- After touching pets or animals
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2

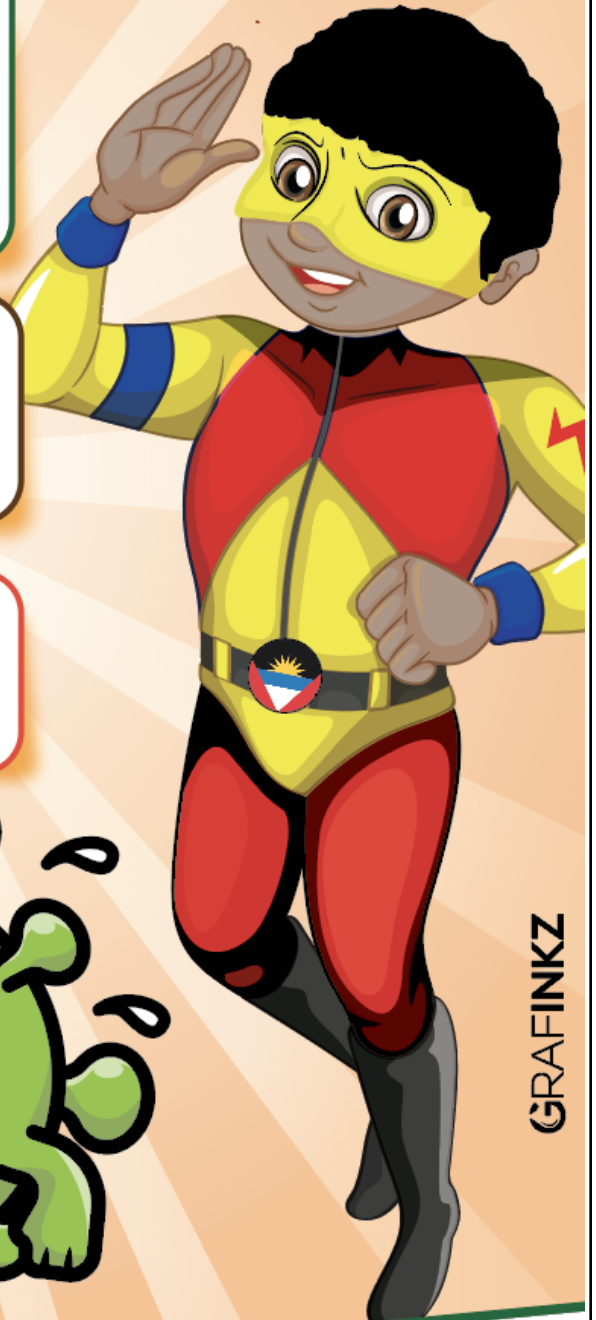
CATCH YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE IN A CLEAN TISSUE, AND TOSS IN THE BIN

- Then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer

3

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- Germs spread this way



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Guyana: Girl, 5, to undergo surgery for bullet lodged in throat

Police in Guyana are investigating an alleged incident involving a five-year-old child from Wismar Linden who was discovered to have a bullet stuck in her throat. The incident occurred on Wednesday night.

According to a police report, around 1 pm on Thursday, medical personnel from the Linden Hospital complex reported that a child was at the medical institution with a 'warhead lodged in her throat'

Detectives immediately visited the five-year-old child who was receiving medical attention in the Emergency Room at the Linden Hospital.

The child's mother told police that she had put her daughter to bed and while she was trying to put her eight-month-old baby to sleep, she heard the child screaming.

The mother went to the 5 year-old and enquired what was wrong and the



child said that she had hit her throat. The woman applied 'Petroleum jelly' to the child's throat and put her back to sleep. The woman said that around 8 o'clock this morning, she saw her five-year-old daughter crying, so she examined her throat and saw that it was swollen. She then took her child to the Mackenzie Hospital, where she learnt that a bullet was lodged in the victim's neck. There was a

small 'entry' wound on the neck.

The victim was admitted and is due to undergo surgery to remove the bullet (warhead).

Investigations revealed that the victim resides in an apartment, which is on the northern/eastern bottom flat of a two-storey concrete structure.

The apartment has one bedroom, a kitchen and a small living room. There is a wooden wall to the west-

ern side, which separates the victim's apartment from the front apartment, which is occupied by a male.

A small circular hole was seen on the said wall, suspected to be a bullet hole. The entire scene was processed and photographed. The area was searched, but no spent shell was found. No one was present in the front apartment when the Police checked.

Persons in the area were questioned and one neighbour claimed that sometime around 10 pm she heard a loud explosion, but she could not say from which direction the sound had emerged. However, just after hearing the explosion, she heard the voice of a little child crying.

Checks are currently being made to locate the suspect as investigations continue.

cont'd from pg 12

are uncertain about exactly what the AI is doing, as is the case with many AI-driven tools. The Columbia University study has been peer-reviewed and will be published in the journal Science Advances on Friday.

But a pair of twins in Cheshire might be ahead of everyone. Their grandmother Carol told the BBC her two grandchildren can open each other's iPhones using their own fingers.

"They showed me on Christmas day," she said. "We were told they were identi-

cal when they were born but I can tell the difference between them as they've got older."

She claimed that her grandchildren can also bypass the handsets' facial recognition feature.

Fingerprints are formed before birth. Research published last year suggested the genetic process behind them may be similar to the way animals like zebras and leopards get their markings: a theory first proposed by codebreaker Alan Turing in the 1950s.

Suriname: Former President Bouterse summoned to serve his prison sentence

CMC - Former President Desi Bouterse, whose conviction for involvement in the killing of 15 people more than four decades ago was upheld in December, has been ordered to jail to serve his sentence.

This was announced on Wednesday by the public prosecutor.

The former president and army leader had until Monday to request a pardon but did not do so. He is to appear at a jail in the country alongside four co-defendants on Friday.

In December, a three-judge panel affirmed the convictions of Bouterse and four others in the execution of 15 government critics, including lawyers, journalists, union leaders, soldiers and university professors in December 1982.

Bouterse was sentenced to 20 years in prison and Iwan Dijksteel, Benny Brondenstein, and Ernst Gefferie were each sentenced to 15 years.

The five convicts were summoned by bailiffs' writ on Wednesday to report to the location where they will be locked up. Dendoe, Dijksteel, Brondenstein and Gefferie were ordered to report to the Central Penitentiary Institution in Santo Boma and the Penitentiary Institution Duisburglaan.

Bouterse was not at home

and according to the Public Prosecution Service his roommate, on two occasions, refused to accept the summons.

In response, the Public Prosecution Service emphasized that once served, Bouterse will be locked up in a cell on the grounds of the Military Hospital in Paramaribo due to medical issues and because he is a former president.

Bouterse, 78, dominated politics in the former Dutch colony for decades and left office in 2020. In the past, he said the murdered men were connected to an invasion plot involving the Netherlands and the United States.

Bouterse led the country through the 1980s as head of a military government, then assumed office again in 2010, securing re-election five years later.



Former Suriname President, Desi Bouterse.



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Ecuador president defies gangs to take on the army

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Ecuadorean President Daniel Noboa has challenged armed gangs to take on the military rather than civilians as soldiers were deployed to combat the criminal groups.

Mr Noboa declared a state of emergency on Monday after a wave of gang violence swept through the Andean country.

In the most dramatic incident, armed men stormed a TV station and threatened the staff during a live broadcast.

More than 300 suspects have been arrested under the state of emergency.

Mr Noboa struck a defiant tone in a radio interview on Wednesday.

The 36-year-old president, who has only been in power for two months, challenged the gangs. "Be brave, fight the soldiers," he told them, referring to the fact that most of those who have been targeted by the gangs have been civilians or unarmed prison guards.

At least 14 people have been killed in recent days as gang members set off explosive devices, burned vehicles and kidnapped police officers on duty.

One hundred and fifty-eight prison guards and 20 employees working for the prison system have also been taken hostage by inmates, officials said. An



Soldiers were guarding the presidential palace in Quito on Wednesday.

armed forces commander said on Wednesday that so far none of the hostages been killed.

President Noboa said Ecuador was living through "a very tough moment" but insisted that his government would be tough on the gangs and "any judges or prosecutors who back these gangs".

The current surge in attacks appears to have been kicked off by an attempt to transfer the notorious gang leader known as "Fito" from the jail which he largely controlled to a prison which is considered more secure.

But when police entered his cell in the Regional jail on Sunday, they found it abandoned.

News of his escape triggered riots in other jails, during which Fabricio Colón Pico, who is one of the leaders of the Los Lobos gang, also absconded.

Neither Fito, whose real

name is Adolfo Macías Villareal, nor Colón Pico have so far been tracked down. The Ecuadorean government has offered a reward for information leading to their capture. They are also offering rewards for 17 other gang leaders.

Ecuador, which until recently was a relatively safe country compared to the rest of the region, saw its murder rate more than quadruple between 2018 and 2022 as criminal gangs linked to drug trafficking became more powerful.

President Noboa declared 22 of these groups "terrorist gangs" on Tuesday and decreed that his country was involved in an "internal armed conflict".

Ecuador's Congress has unanimously approved the measure, which allows soldiers to be deployed to patrol the streets and to search homes for weapons and sus-

pects.

The BBC's Will Grant who is in Guayaquil, the port city worst hit by the recent violence, says its residents are still struggling to make sense of the gang rampage.

One of the journalists who lived through the storming of the TC television studios in Guayaquil told Ecuadorean news site Primicias how the gunmen threatened her and her colleagues.

She described how the armed men demanded that the presenter make an announcement live on air.

"They wanted my colleague to say: 'The mafia is in power, the president can't beat us.'" But she added that the gunmen did not have any clear demands beyond that.

The gang was eventually overpowered by the police, which arrested 18 of them.

Swedish alarm after defence chiefs' war warning

By Paul Kirby

A warning to Swedes from two top defence officials to prepare for war has prompted concern and accusations of alarmism.

Civil Defence Minister Carl-Oskar Bohlin told a defence conference "there could be war in Sweden".

His message was then backed up by military commander-in-chief Gen Micael Byden, who said all Swedes should prepare mentally for the possibility.

However, opposition politicians have objected to the tone of the warnings.

Ex-prime minister Magdalena Andersson told Swedish TV that while the security situation was serious, "it is not as if war is just outside the door."

Children's rights organisation Bris said that its national helpline did not usually receive calls about the possibility of war. But this week, it had seen an increase in worried calls from youngsters who had seen news reports or posts on TikTok talking about it.

"This was well prepared, it wasn't something blurted out," Bris spokeswoman Maja Dahl told the BBC. "They should have provided information meant for kids when they come out with this kind of information for grown-ups."

Despite the starkness of the messaging, the remarks from the civil defence minister and military chief are being seen as a wake-up call.

After more than two centuries of peace, Sweden is a few steps from joining the Nato defensive alliance, waiting for a green light from Turkey's parliament and then from Hungary.

The commander-in-chief said his remarks were nothing new.

He visited Ukraine's eastern front a month ago and Sweden is one of a group of countries training Ukrainian pilots.

Stockholm is also said to be considering sending advanced Gripen fighter jets to Ukraine.

"My ambition with this is not to worry people; my ambition is to get more people to think about their own situation and their own responsibilities," Gen Byden later told Aftonbladet newspaper.

Finland has already joined Nato, and Russian officials have suggested it will be "the first to suffer" if tensions with Nato escalate.

Sweden's civil defence minister said his aim was not for people to lose sleep, but to gain awareness of what was really going on. He appealed to local authorities, emergency planners and individuals to respond.

"If there is one thing that keeps me awake at night, it is the feeling that things are moving too slowly," Mr Bohlin told the Society and Defence conference on Sunday.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called on Sweden during the conference to work with his country and others to manufacture weapons and "get stronger together".

Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson added that in 2024, Sweden would meet Nato's target of spending 2% of economic output (GDP) on military defence, doubling its spending since 2020.

Defence specialist Oscar Jonsson said the tone of the warnings from defence chiefs was something of a storm in a teacup and that 90% of what had been said arose from frustration that too little was being done to build civil and military defence.

"Time is limited and it was aimed at being a wake-up call for agencies, individuals and departments," he told the BBC.

"The Swedish armed forces are in-



Gen Micael Byden said Swedes on an individual level had to prepare themselves mentally.

credibly competent, but the scale is nowhere near. The latest defence bill says we should set up 3.5 brigades, whereas Ukraine had 28 when the war started."

Gen Byden's warning to prepare mentally for war comes hard on the heels of a warning a month ago from the head of Poland's National Security Bureau (BBN), Jacek Siewiera, who said that "to avoid war with Russia, countries on Nato's eastern flank should adopt a three-year time horizon to prepare for confrontation".

He said a German Council on Foreign Relations report suggesting Germany and Nato should prepare their armed forces to be able to fend off a Russian attack in six years was "too optimistic".

Oscar Jonsson, a specialist from the Swedish Defence University, said that while war was a possibility, it would require several factors to fall into place: Russia's war in Ukraine coming to an end, its military having the time to rebuild and rearm its fighting force and for Europe to lose US military support.

All of which were within the realms of possibility, he added.

Grenades and Old Road seek to remain leaders in Premier League

Front-runners Sandals, Inet Jennings Grenades, and Old Road will be seeking to stay ahead of the chasing pack when the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) top domestic league resumes this weekend.

Only goal differences currently separate both teams at the top of the 15-team round-robin contest going into this weekend's seventh round of Premier League matches at the ABFA Technical Center.

Both sides will be seeking to maintain their perfect start in the league after winning all six previous matches to lead the competition with 18 points apiece, although defending champions Grenades occupy the top position by virtue of a superior goal difference to Old Road's.

Jennings Grenades will look to continue their unbeaten run when they face John Hughes in the second match of a triple-header on Saturday at 6 pm.

John Hughes, one of three newcomers to the Premier League, is expected to put up a fight against the Grenades. John Hughes will go into the match on seven points, having already secured two wins from their previous six matches.

Old Road will be favourites to extend their perfect run against Swetes in the third and final match on Sat-



Players of the Sandals Inet Jennings Grenades team. (File photo) urday at 8 pm.

Swetes have yet to register a win in the league and have managed to claim two points from drawing two of their previous six matches, losing the other four.

Former Champions Empire and Parham will both go in search of their first win when they clash in the opening match at 4 pm.

Empire, who are languishing in the cellar without a point after losing all five previous matches, will be desperate for a change of fortunes against a Parham team that have lost four of their previous five games before picking up their only point in a 4-4 draw with

Willikies in their last outing.

Willikies and Pigotts Bullets, two teams that have only won once in their previous five encounters, will clash in the opening game of another triple header on Sunday at 4 pm.

Willikies will enter the match on five points, one more than their opponents from Pigotts.

Garden Stars, another of the promoted sides, appeared to have settled into the Premier League by grabbing three consecutive wins after losing their first two matches to sit in sixth place with nine points.

Garden Stars will be aiming to continue their

winning form against SAP in the second game on Sunday at 6 pm.

Villa Lions, currently in third place on 14 points, will face Greenbay Hoppers, who have 12 points, in Sunday's feature match at 8 pm.

The Villa Lions are yet to lose a game this season, while Hopper will be hoping to end a two-match losing streak after winning their first four encounters.

All Saints United, who are in fourth place on 13 points, will tackle the Ottos Rangers, who have eight points, in the last seventh-round match next Monday at 6 pm.



The Liberta Black Hawks celebrate after winning the ABCA Two-Day title last year. (File photo)

ABCA begin 2024 domestic season with two-day contest

Action in the 2024 Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) domestic season will commence in the two-day competition this weekend.

Ten teams will once again be contesting this season's competition, and they will all be in action during the opening round of two-day matches across five venues in Antigua on Saturday.

Reigning champions PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks will begin their title defense away to the Bethesda Golden Eagles at the Bethesda playing field.

Liberta had won last year's title after beating Empire Nation on first innings of the final, which ended in

a draw at the King George V Recreational Grounds.

Bethesda will be hoping for an improved showing in this year's competition after failing to reach the knockout or semi-final phase of last year's contest.

Last season's losing finalist, Empire Nation, will launch their two-day campaign against the Jennings Tigers at the Rising Sun playing field.

Pigotts Crushers, who lost on first innings against the Liberta Black Hawks in last season's semi-finals, will begin their campaign at home in Pigotts against Combined Schools, which finished in the cellar last year.

The other two opening round matches will feature the New Winthor-

pes Lions against the Bolans Blasters in New Winthorpes and the All Saints Pythons against the WES Rising Sun at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

The Pythons reached last season's semi-finals, in which they lost on first innings against Empire Nation in a drawn encounter.

Bernard Joseph and James Trotman will be the umpires at Bethesda. Donald Scheckle and Candis Butler will officiate at Rising Sun. Keller Joseph and Felix Auguste will umpire at Pigotts. Avoy Knight and Hayden-Ann Palmer will be the umpires at New Winthorpes, and Melissa Lawrie and Julian Roberts will officiate the match in All Saints.



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Earthquakes trounce Young Warriors in Second Division league

Joumol Semper and Shumba Thomas each scored twice as Earthquakes romped to an emphatic 11-1 victory against the Young Warriors in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division at the Fort Road playing field on Wednesday.

Semper scored a penalty kick in the 15th minute and also had a 25th-minute conversion, while Thomas scored in the 47th minute and converted a penalty kick in the 90th minute.

Tariq Punter scored a consolation goal in the 28th minute for the Young Warriors, who would remain in the cellar after crashing to their fifth loss in as many games. It was the fourth win in six matches for the Earthquakes to advance to 12 points.



Players of the Earthquakes football team. (File photo)

Bethesda Golden Eagles ended the unbeaten run of leaders Freemans Village. Chunsae Martin's lone conversion gave Bethesda a one-nil victory over Freemans Village at the Bethesda playing field.

It was the first defeat in

six matches for Freemans Village, who remain at the top of the standings with 15 points.

Bethesda moved into third place on goal difference after securing their fourth win in five matches to join second-placed Bel-

mont FC on 13 points.

Real Blizzard and CPT-SA Wings also recorded wins. Real Blizzard beat West Ham four-nil at the New Winthorpes playing field.

Real Blizzard advanced to 10 points after claiming their third win in five games, while West Ham would remain on three points after losing for the fifth time in six matches.

Goals by Jahquan Looby in the 36th minute and Joshua Lake in the 41st minute allowed Wings to prevail two-nil over TAMO FC at the ABFA Technical Center.

It was the second win in five matches for Wings, who advanced to eight points, while TAMO FC would remain on nine points after losing for the second time in five games.

cont'd from pg 22

and Sherfane Rutherford, who have both been given the opportunity to take up T20 franchise contracts during this period, along with Shimron Hetmyer and Yannic Cariah, who also both missed out on selection.

In the T20I format, Antigua fast bowler Alzarri Joseph, who was rested for the final two T20I's against England, comes back into the team to replace Matthew Forde.

The white ball series will follow the upcoming Test series between Australia and the West Indies, which begins on January 17 and concludes on January 29.

Both teams will battle for crucial ICC World Test Championship



Hayden Walsh Jr

points. The West Indies have started their Test preparations with a training camp in Adelaide and a three-day

practice match against a Cricket Australia XI, which started on January 10.

West Indies ODI Squad: Shai Hope (captain), Alzarri Joseph (vice-captain), Alick Athanaze, Teddy Bishop, Keacy Carty, Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Justin Greaves, Kavem Hodge, Tevin Imlach, Gudakesh Motie, Kjorn Ottley, Romario Shepherd, Oshane Thomas, and Hayden Walsh Jr.

West Indies T20I Squad: Rovman Powell (captain), Shai Hope (vice-captain), Johnson Charles, Roston Chase, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Nicholas Pooran, Andre Russell, Sherfane Rutherford, Romario Shepherd, and Oshane Thomas.

Walsh Jr. returns to West Indies ODI squad

Leeward Islands Hurricanes and Antiguan all-rounder Hayden Walsh Jr. has earned a recall to the West Indies One-Day International (ODI) squad.

Walsh, who had a successful campaign for second-place finishers the Leeward Islands Hurricanes in the 2023 regional CG United Super50 Cup limited-overs competition, was named in the West Indies 15-member squad for a three-match ODI series in Australia next month.

The Cricket West Indies (CWI) Senior Selection Panel has named both 15-man squads to play against Australia in three ODIs and three T20 Internationals (T20Is) from February 2 to 13, 2024.

Walsh Jr. last played in the ODI format in July 2022, when the West Indies played India in the Caribbean.

He returns to the West Indies ODI squad after claiming 20 wickets in eight matches to finish as the leading wicket-taker in the 2023 Super50 Cup. He also finished with the 13th highest batting aggregate, scor-



Hayden Walsh Jr. bowls during the 2023 regional CG United Super50 Cup limited overs tournament in Trinidad. (File photos) **ing 222 runs at an average of 44.40.**

Also returning to the ODI squad are fellow Leeward Islands teammate Justin Greaves and Kavem Hodge of the Windward Islands.

Greaves, who recently returned from a hamstring injury sustained in the CG United Super 50 Cup in November, gets a recall to the ODI team.

Greaves was particularly impressive at the top of the order in that tournament,

amassing a total of 403 runs in his seven innings at an average of 80.59 for the Leeward Islands Hurricanes.

Hodge made his debut in June 2023 when he played in all three matches against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in Daren Sammy's first series as head coach.

The ODI squad features two debutants: Grenadian top-order batsman Teddy Bishop and Guyanese wicketkeeper batsman, Tevin Imlach.

Bishop has impressed with the bat on assignments for the West Indies Academy during the recent CG United Super 50 Cup and Academy series against Emerging Ireland. Imlach, who is currently in Australia with the West Indies Test team, averages 30.1, having played 26 List A matches.

Missing from the last ODI squad that won the series against England in December are Brandon King

cont'd on pg 21