

AUA STUDENT ROBBED AT KNIFE POINT

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne dedicated his afternoon on Tuesday to the children attending his annual summer camp at the Villa Primary School. Over 75 children are enjoying a week-long, fun, adventurous, educational and engaging summer programme sponsored by PM Browne and Team City West.

Local News



AUA student robbed while jogging

The American University of Antigua (AUA) has appealed to its students to do all they can to reduce the risks of being mugged.

It comes on the heels of the robbery of one of the medical school's students on Saturday morning.

The incident took place

around 7:20am when the female student was jogging on Jabberwock Road close to Jabberwock Villas.

According to the notification sent to the student population, the woman, whose name was not revealed, was forcibly relieved of her possessions

at knifepoint by two males in a black SUV.

It is believed that the vehicle was a Honda CRV.

"The police department has responded and will investigate this incident," the university's notice stated.

Anyone who may have information regarding the

incident is asked to contact the Coolidge Police Station or AUA Campus Safety and Security.

AUA officials expressed relief that the student was not injured during the ordeal.

"Despite this traumatic experience, our AUA student is in good spirits and her roommates have shown [themselves] to be very supportive", the notification detailed.

The medical school is now encouraging its students to exercise in a group in high-risk locations which can lower the chances of students being mugged.

Wed 17 Day		Wed 17 Night	
87°		80°	
9%	E 9 mph	24%	ENE 11 mph
Abundant sunshine. High 87F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.		A few clouds from time to time. Low near 80F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 68%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 76%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:51 am	Sunset 6:31 pm	Moonrise 10:44 pm	Moonset 10:57 am
		Waning Gibbous	

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SJCCU - Forty years and counting

The St. John's Cooperative Credit Union (SJCCU) is celebrating its 40th anniversary.

The celebration is accompanied by word that the organisation plans further expansion.

Formed on 16th August, 1982, with sixteen members, and having set up its operations in borrowed space, the SJCCU now operates from its own premises on Lower All Saints Road with a second branch on Friars Hill Road.

According to Consumer Credit Supervisor, Claudette Harris-Heath, SJCCU is now giving serious consideration to moving to more spacious premises.

"We have moved from borrowing a 'little space' to owning our own building as the credit union has expanded to where we now have nineteen thousand members and we have outgrown our building on Lower All Saints Road.

"We are now looking to move into a bigger space sometime in the future," she reported.

Harris-Heath said the SJCCU's membership has also positively impacted its complement of staff.

Currently, the credit union employs forty-three people.

"Looking ahead, I see our credit union growing exponentially as there is more room for growth given the current climate in the country.

"There are not too many



credit unions, and with the mergers taking place among the banks, they are now just a few.

"This means that there's room for us to grow, move into a bigger building, add more staff and improve our overall services to our members.

"We are just going to be dynamic in the financial space," she stated.

Marketing Officer, Joseph Apparicio, noted that in 1982 the SJCCU was the first 'open bonded' credit union as it offered membership to 'all and sundry' unlike other credit unions at the time which catered only to specific groups such as teachers and police.

"That has been the difference between ourselves and the other credit unions; at the time we opened the door to everybody.

"This philosophy remains the bedrock of what we do today," he said.

Anyone who makes an initial deposit of \$250.00

can become a member of the SJCCU, an investment which also makes members shareholders in the credit union.

This element of own-

ership in the organisation, Apparicio stressed, is the principal difference between credit unions and conducting business with a commercial bank.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7, Rule 15

The Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court In The High Court of Justice

Antigua & Barbuda

(Probate)

In the Estate of Bernard Matthew, late of All Saints Village, St. Paul's, Antigua, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **Malivai Matthew** of All Saints Village, St. Paul's, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 30th day of November, 2016. Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated the 10th, day of August, 2022

CUMBERBATCH & ASSOCIATES

Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

Local News

Nationals moving closer to employment aboard cruise lines

The process of narrowing down hundreds of Antiguan and Barbudans for employment aboard two cruise lines is moving closer to the final selection of candidates.

Following a recent employment fair, two hundred and sixty-nine people applied for jobs with MSC Cruise Line which is based in Italy.

Of that total, one hundred and fifty eight were interviewed and the local selection team made recommendations for one hundred and forty-four to be con-



[Photo: Kent Miller Studios]
 sidered for employment by MSC Cruise Line.

Policy and Project Spe-

cialist in the Ministry of Tourism, Simone Richards, reported that the names of suitable applicants were submitted to the cruise line on Monday with the expectation that officials of the company will travel to Antigua and Barbuda in September to conduct more detailed interviews ahead of final selections.

Richards also provided an update on the Royal Caribbean Cruise Line recruitment drive.

She said software glitches prevented those who received offers from updating their information on the company's systems.

Over the coming days, Richards and her team will be reaching out to these people to help them troubleshoot accessing the RCL system so that they can update their information.

"The offers of employment for these individuals

were conditional on them passing a physical examination, and these processes have to be completed as well," she noted.

During the screening process, Richards said her team had to advise some applicants of the need to update their resumé which are a vital employment screening tool. She also stressed the need for those who have applied for cruise industry jobs to always be mindful of the need to 'sell themselves' in a positive light.

Since the start of the year, forty-nine Antiguan and Barbudans have been offered temporary employment in the hospitality sector in Jersey in the United Kingdom. These employment contracts will conclude in October.

An estimated 300 - 400 people will find employment aboard Royal Caribbean and MSC Cruise Lines.



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Police Week 2022



Pre- Events

- Saturday 20th August 2022- Hike to Mount McNish 5:30am
- Wednesday 24th August 2022-Netball, YMCA 6pm
- Friday 26th August 2022- Fitness Jam, King George to Police Ground 4pm
- Sunday 28th August 2022 -Road Race All Saints Fire Station to Police Ground 5am

- **Saturday 3rd September 2022**

Police Cricket Team VS Parish League Team, Police Grounds 1pm

Queen Show, Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

Police Week

- **Sunday 4th September 2022**

Church Service – Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church 9am

Brunch – Police Head Quarters

- **Monday 5th September 2022**

Opening Day – Police Head Quarters 10am to 2pm

Malcolm Nicholas Cup Competition – Corner of Market and High Street 4pm

- **Tuesday 6th September 2022**

Inter-force Shooting Competition – SWFGPA 9am

Sports Final Matches- Football, Cricket – Police Grounds 3pm

- **Wednesday 7th September 2022**

Sick and Shut In

Calypso – Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Thursday 8th September**

Veterans Cocktail – SWFGPA – 5pm

- **Friday 9th September 2022**

Sports day/ March Pass – Police Grounds 10am

- **Saturday 10th September 2022**

Full Bore Shooting Competition – Crabbs Shooting Range 10am

Variety Concert -Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Sunday 11th September 2022**

Beach Bash – Ffyers Beach 10am





Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) employees are part of a premier organization dedicated to excellence in patient care and education. By working at SLBMC, you gain the opportunity and the responsibility to make a real difference in the world. Take a closer look at the vacancy below and submit your resume for consideration if you are interested in helping contribute to the legacy of great achievement and even greater promise at SLBMC.

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre is seeking to recruit an experienced and highly motivated Internal Auditor.

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QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

The ideal candidate must have:

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- A minimum of five years in external or internal auditing experience
- Knowledge of International Professional Practices Framework and International Financial Reporting Standards
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Microsoft Dynamics GP

CORE COMPETENCIES

- The position requires leadership qualities and extensive knowledge of auditing and accounting standards
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- Must be critical thinker with a keen interest in improving the organizations internal control structure
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Perform evaluations of the adequacy and effectiveness of the organizations system of internal controls and risk management framework
- Utilize appropriate audit techniques to determine whether the organization is compliant with applicable regulations
- Make sound recommendations of corrective actions for deficiencies and monitor the implementation or adherence to approved process changes
- Provide advice on risk management, operational efficiency and ease of business.
- Maintain technical competence through continuing education and training

Email your resume to: HRM@msimc.gov.ag indicating the position you are applying for by August 26, 2022. ONLY suitable candidates will be contacted.

CUB deepens relationship with Ministry of Agriculture

Caribbean Union Bank has pledged its long-term commitment to the local agricultural sector with the announcement of a new partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Although the details were not revealed in full, CUB's General Manager, Karen Richardson, speaking at the relaunch of the PiAngo Fest last weekend at Cades Bay, underscored the importance of the agriculture and agro-processing sectors in the country's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the financial institution's willingness to move beyond sponsorship to empower producers, thereby placing emphasis on food security.

"We are pleased to announce that we have entered into further partnership with the ministry of agriculture to design a tailor-made financial package for agricultural producers," Richardson revealed.

"Listen out in the next few weeks as we launch this new initiative, designed to support this critical industry," she added.

Richardson observed that what has emerged from the economic uncertainty of



Caribbean Union Bank's General Manager, Karen Richardson

the COVID-19 pandemic is a "harvest of entrepreneurship" and Caribbean Union Bank is pleased to be associated with organisations, including the Entrepreneurial Development Fund and the Eastern Caribbean Partial Credit Guarantee Corporation that support small and medium businesses by offering larger financing and other forms of support.

"We are excited about these initiatives, which we believe will overcome the challenges and pain points that small business owners have expressed in the past, and we look forward to working with our people in cultivating the next generation of successful, independent, local business owners, establishing niches and penetrating global markets," Richardson declared.



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Local News



India celebrates 75th anniversary of Independence

India's 75th anniversary of independence was celebrated on Monday morning with a Flag Hoisting ceremony led by Honorary Consul of India, Vijay Tewani.

Present to participate in the event were Ambassador Liverpool, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, the Ambassadors of China, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, the British High Commissioner and the Consul General of Venezuela.

Other members of the local diplomatic corps and the Indian diaspora were



also present.

The President of India, H. E. Smt. Droupadi Murmu's Independence Day message was read by the Honorary Consul of India.

India is celebrating its 75th Independence Anni-

versary, officially commemorated on 15th August, from March 2021 to August 2023 as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The Government of India has organised various events across the globe in

the run up to India@75 to celebrate this historic occasion.

The High Commission of India has also been organising various events since March 2021, to commemorate this important occasion.



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Bahamas Central Bank announces relaxed lending rules for domestic credit

The Central Bank of The Bahamas (CBB) says it is relaxing the guidelines for domestic banks and credit unions around the qualification criteria for the provision of credit to the private sector.

In a statement, it said this takes account of the domestic economy's increased capacity to sustainably absorb more credit expansion, given the potential for credit growth to stimulate greater imports and increase the net use of foreign exchange.

"The favourable outlook for the external reserves is expected to be maintained. In particular, impact on credit growth is expected to be very moderate, given



continued risks around the elevated average delinquency rate for private sector credit," the CBB said.

It said effective immediately, lending institutions may, on a case-by-case basis, approve applications for new personal loans, subject to the total debt service ra-

tio for the facility and any pre-existing obligations not exceeding 50 percent.

"That is unless stipulated regulatory requirements have been imposed by the Central Bank on specific banks or credit unions. This increases the total debt service ratio from the current range of 40 to 45 percent. The total debt service ratio is calculated as the sum of total monthly principal and interest payments divided by the total monthly income of the borrower or borrowers."

The CBB said except in the case of mortgages, lending institutions may also tailor the borrower equity or down payment requirement in accordance with their internal credit risk management frameworks.

"In particular, subject to the total debt service ratio, and other such risk management criteria, lending institutions may grant loans of up to 100 percent of the borrower's financing requirement. However, the mini-

mum equity requirement for loans secured by residential mortgages remains at 15 percent. When secured by mortgage indemnity insurance, the equity requirement may be reduced to five percent."

The CBB said financial institutions are expected to continue to manage lending risks on both a case-by-case and aggregate basis, to achieve further reductions in the average non-performing loans rate. In this regard, supervisory expectations and requirements around prudential lending standards will remain tailored for institutions that are subject to any specific oversight by the Central Bank.

"The Central Bank will continue to monitor the impact of credit trends on the outlook for the external reserves and domestic financial stability. The bank will adjust its monetary and prudential policies as necessary to ensure continued stability and sustainability in the outlook," it added. (CMC)



FINANCIAL SERVICES REGULATORY COMMISSION

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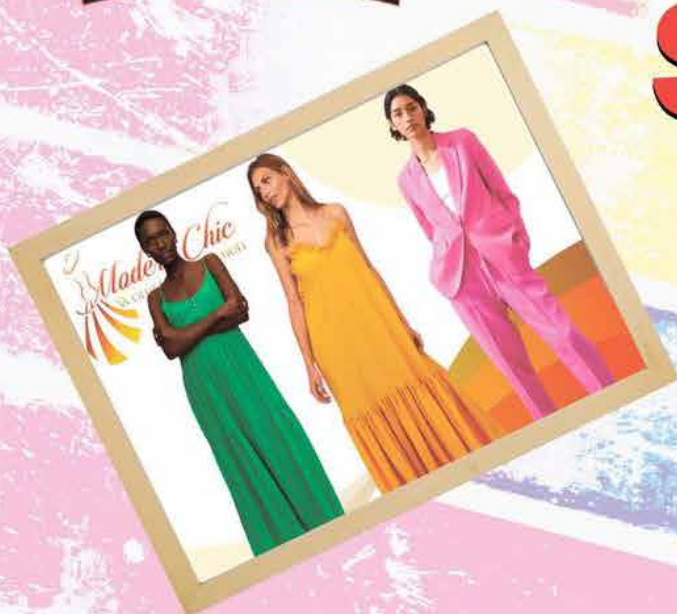
August 3, 2022: In accordance with Section 161(4) of the International Banking Act 2016, No 6 of 2016, as amended, the Financial Services Regulatory Commission hereby advise that the following account holders at Global Bank of Commerce Ltd have not operated their account for a period of at least 10 years. The account holders are required to contact the Director of International Banks and Non Banks, Financial Services Regulatory Commission, Royal Palm Place, Friars Hill Road, P.O. Box 2674, St. John's Antigua.

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Opinion

Why English football needs the knee

By James Yékú

Racism remains rampant in the sport despite players kneeling in protest. Should they stop? Absolutely not.

The Premier League kicked off earlier this month. With the top tier of English football announcing that players will now only take the knee before select matches, and not every game this season, it is worth revisiting a question that is central to the debate over the powerful protest act: what did it achieve?

Players began to kneel for a few seconds before the opening whistle when games resumed after a pandemic-forced break in June 2020, inspired by Black Lives Matter protests in the United States following the killing of George Floyd by a Minneapolis police officer. The act of taking a knee soon became a common sight in stadiums across England, drawing cheers and boos alike.

Equally mixed are the views within the football community. When does the performance of an anti-racist ritual in sports amplify its activist politics – and when does it turn counterproductive and serve to neutralise the effect?

On the one hand are players like England-born Ivory Coast international Wilfred Zaha, who stopped taking the knee last year in the Premier League, where he plays for Crystal Pal-



Premier League players, seen here taking the knee earlier this month, will limit the symbolic protest against racism to select games this season. [Getty Images]

ace. Zaha's argument boiled down to a criticism that in the absence of meaningful changes in social conduct and values, the once-powerful gesture had been turned into a meaningless pre-match ritual. After all, while the Premier League has said it remains "resolutely committed to eradicate racial prejudice and to bring about an inclusive society", it has done little to address deeper shortcomings. The league has no Black referee at the moment and only one Black manager: former French national Patrick Viera.

But on the other hand, many players, like Birmingham City captain Troy Deeney, believe that the practice of taking the knee must continue, even as they recognise that a symbolic act alone cannot undo racial injustice. In his recent autobiography, which I have been reading,

Deeney referred to the view that the lack of concrete action to end racism is "evidence that taking the knee is not working and therefore we should abandon it". Deeney counters that argument by pointing out that the Premier League – in which he played between 2015 and 2020 for Watford – offers players a major platform to direct the world's attention to the problems of racial injustice. "Keep taking the knee until something changes," he writes in his book, *Redemption: My Story*.

While I understand Zaha's perspective, I agree with Deeney and am glad the Premier League is continuing with the practice of kneeling, even if only occasionally.

To be sure, the movement to take the knee has not transformed English football in the way many had

hoped for, although it indicated how far the authorities were willing to go in their commitment to stand with players. The pre-game ritual has not changed the ugly reality of racism that frequently tarnishes the beautiful game. In 2021, Arsenal forward Eddie Nketiah was subjected to racist abuse on social media, prompting Gunners chief executive Vinai Venkatesham to describe online racism as football's "biggest problem". After missing a decisive kick in the Euro 2020 final penalty shoot-out against Italy, 19-year-old Bukayo Saka was scapegoated by irate fans on social media who flooded his Twitter timeline, and those of fellow Black players Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho, with racist language and symbols.

But kneeling in protest
cont'd on pg 13

Caribbean Carnival Week activities begin September 1

The New York-based West Indian American Day Carnival Association (WIADCA) has released the roster for Caribbean Carnival Week, starting Thursday, September 1.

WIADCA, which is the organiser of the annual Carnival Parade on Brooklyn's Eastern Parkway, says the activities will begin with the 'Vibes w/Voicey Concert.'

"Carnival Monday, we 'hit di road. Costumes, val-

id registrations, and permits according to all rules and regs (regulations) are a must to participate, with safety and COVID 'mask-up' measures as a priority."

WIADCA said, this year, its cultural partner and presenters are "working tirelessly to bring the pageantry of authentic Caribbean Carnival back to the road."

It said participating 2022 carnival bands and cultural leaders are present-

ing an array of costumed masterpieces.

Except for the Labor Day Carnival Parade, all events will take place on the Brooklyn Museum grounds.

"This year our return to the parkway (Eastern Parkway) inspires us to continue the cultural work on behalf of our community, city, state, and partners," said Michelle Gibbs-Francis, WIADCA Guyana-born chair.

"Without them, the mas' and pan groups especially, we would not be here today. Our losses were tough, but we stood stronger together to overcome by providing for others and producing several impactful community programs for youth, adults, and seniors.

"As for our COVID protocols, we have several guidelines in place to verify vaccination and temperature checks," she added. (CMC)

cont'd from pg 12

is one significant way of addressing the tenacity of racism in football through an equally relentless performance of bodily resistance in the public view, provoking more conversations and, hopefully, eventual change.

You can have a powerful reminder against injustice in the form of a gesture while concurrently implementing the pragmatic demands of that act. As Viera, Zaha's manager at Crystal Palace, said on the day of his team's season opener against Arsenal, players need to continue to take the knee – even if only before some games – because the fight against racism is a long one. By doing that, they would ensure that the spotlight remains on a problem that is deeply ingrained in football and society.

It is the right thing to do. It is the smart thing to do.



AUGUST 20TH 2022

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Regional News



PM Drew to review policy regarding promotion in the police service

CMC - Newly elected Prime Minister Dr Terrance Drew Tuesday said that he would investigate a report that police officers were denied promotion because they had failed to take a vaccine against the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"Let me tell you my position. I'm a doctor and I have no problem with vaccination. You all know that; but you know I was also in the fight to protect people's rights," Drew told a meeting attended by the rank and file members of the Royal St Christopher and Nevis Police Force.

"If that was a policy position of a previous government, the (Permanent Secretary) or whoever might have been following direction; so I would like to see that policy position if you were told that by a high-ranking police officer.

"This cannot be a position by word of mouth. This can really be a borderline human rights violation and those have to be taken very seriously. So those have to be put into firm policy so that you can be satisfied that this is the direction even if you agree or disagree," said Drew.

During the meeting one police officer said that his mental health has been affected since he was denied promotion based on the



Prime Minister of St. Kitts and Nevis, Dr. Terrance Drew

policy of the previous administration.

"Sir, I have a situation that is very disturbing to me. It is even now affecting my mental [health]. Late last year, a notice was sent out for persons to apply for promotion for the rank of corporal of police. I applied and went through the interview process.

"From reliable sources, (I) know that seven of us passed the interview process and only four were promoted, leaving three of us.

"The three of us who were not promoted did better than some of those who were promoted," said the

police officer.

He said that when he questioned why he and the others were not promoted, "I was told it had something to do with vaccination.

"I was against taking the vaccine all along and they told me that my name was on the list to be promoted but I have to be vaccinated.

"Sir, this is very, very demoralising for us and the Police Force," said the officer, pleading with Prime Minister Drew, who came to office following the August 5 general election, to look into his matter.

Permanent Secretary

in the Ministry of National Security, Osmond Petty, who was at the meeting, said that there was no official written policy barring the officers from being promoted, but that the decision was handed down from the Minister in charge at that time.

"There is or was no policy about vaccination. The procedure for approvals for promotion is that the final approval comes from the Prime Minister- the Minister of National Security and it was the decision of the then Prime Minister that persons for promotion should be vaccinated.

"So there is no written policy and there is none. It was simply a decision of the Prime Minister of the day.

"So, I would have passed on that information to the Commissioner of Police and it's not just for Corporals, it was for anybody who was to be promoted and not vaccinated, and they did not get approval. So, Prime Minister [Drew] there is no policy in place," Petty added.

During the meeting Drew thanked the police for their continued hard work and dedication in service to the twin island Federation, pledging support and to provide the necessary changes and improvements that may so benefit and motivate all officers.

Trinidad PM blasts trade unionist over perceived racial remarks

CMC - Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley has brushed aside statements made by a prominent trade unionist which he said were intended to bring race into the wage and salary dispute involving public servants.

Last Friday, thousands of people took to the streets in Trinidad protesting against the government's offer of a four percent salary increase as an "insult" and vowing to step up their actions in the coming days.

The workers grouped under the umbrella Joint Trade Union Movement (JTUM) said they were disrespected by the government's four percent offer as articulated by the chief personnel officer (CPO) as the final offer.

The unions, including the PSA, the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service Association, said that the CPO, Dr. Daryl Dindial had during the latest round of



Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley

negotiations earlier this month offered a salary increase of four percent, representing a zero, zero and two percent and a zero, zero and two percent for the period of 2014 and 2019.

Last month, Prime Minister Rowley told a news conference that it would cost the government an estimated TT\$2.5 billion (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) in back pay alone

to cover the four percent wage increase.

The unions had originally rejected an initial two percent offer over an eight-year period – 2014-2021.

Addressing the workers, the general secretary of the National Trade Union Centre (NATUC), Michael Anisette, "Black (Afro-Trinidadians)

cont'd on pg 16

Jamaican Police officer offered bail following death of child left in car

CMC - A police sergeant will return to the St. Elizabeth Parish Court on October 25, after he was offered J\$750,000 (One Jamaica dollar=US\$0.008 cents) bail on a charge of manslaughter after his 12-month-old died after being locked in his car in January.

Detective Sergeant Sheldon Dobson appeared in the St Elizabeth Parish Court in Santa Cruz, after being charged for the January 17 incident where he left his daughter inside his car while he was at work.

Dobson is assigned to the Black River police station. The child's mother is a police sergeant in the same St Elizabeth Division.

The child, Shaleah Dobson, died two days after being forgotten in the back of her father's car for several hours.

In January, a relative told the Jamaica Observer newspaper "normally the grandmother would keep the child, but she had flu symptoms and [an] arrangement was made for [the child] to go to the daycare, so the



Shaleah Dobson died after being forgotten for eight hours in her father, Sheldon Dobson's car.

mother took the child to the father, who would, in turn, take the child to the daycare and he forgot".

Regional News



Caribbean leaders meet to discuss climate change issues

Dominica's Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit says the two-day United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Caribbean Heads of Governments meeting, opening in The Bahamas on Tuesday, should allow for a Caribbean Community (CARICOM) position ahead of the UNFCCC COP 27 to be held in Egypt November 7-18.

"My message at this conference will be very clear that the kicking of the can down the road where action on climate change needs to be taken must stop," Skerrit said as he departed for Nassau.

"Our countries in the Caribbean are facing an existential threat because of climate change and there have been promises of monies to help us build resilience, to help us build adaptation in our countries but we have not been receiving that money," he added.

Skerrit said at every

COP meeting "there are some promises and there are some new promises and coming from the Paris agreement, nothing has happened really.

"So there is this pool of funds and if these funds are going to be accessed by way of loans how are we going to pay it," said Skerrit, who wants Dominica to become the first climate resilient country in the world.

In July, Bahamas Prime Minister Phillip Davis addressing the annual summit of CARICOM leaders in Suriname said the meeting in Nassau will allow for discussions on matters pertaining to climate financing and adaptation ahead of COP 27.

"The Caribbean as a region will need more than US\$40 billion to finance adaptation efforts and disaster recovery. Over the last few years, many of our countries have not fared well. Small ocean economies gain in negotiating strength and influence when we work effec-



Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosevelt Skerrit

tively as one.

"It is no exaggeration to say that, if we do not stand together, we, each one of us, are in danger of falling apart. The deadline to attain the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda is a mere eight years away. Many of us are lagging in critical areas. There is no time to waste."

Davis said too many times, Caribbean countries have acquiesced to the pressures of larger, more developed states. He said their

approach of divide and conquer has hurt every country adding "might we be deriving greater value from our tourism industries if we had continued to negotiate in concert with some of the large multinational corporations?"

Skerrit, who is expected to be among a number of regional leaders attending the two-day meeting, reiterated that "the developed world has the opportunity, the ability to address the issues and they are not doing it.

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people we strong. The (ruling) People's National Movement (PNM) will pay the price. We not taking four percent. We go back to the ancestors...to Africa...for spiritual guidance."

Annisette accused Prime Minister Rowley of being disrespectful and not caring about women and children.

"This protest is not just about not taking four percent," he said.

But in a statement posted on his Facebook page, Prime Minister Row-

ley said "the African ancestors to whom you appeal, are also my ancestors and there is no four percent offered to Black and African people.

"That offer applies to all the public officers for whom the CPO is their employer, of all races, classes and creeds," Rowley said, telling Annisette "I am available for a public discussion on caring and respect for women. Would you be interested?"

But Annisette told local media that he was not prepared to "step down to

the level of the prime minister."

In his Facebook page, Prime Minister Rowley reminded the trade unionist that "I am a public official who, unlike you, had to swear an oath of office, to do my job "without fear or favour, malice or ill will"!

"This means that a commitment was extracted from me, under the Constitution, to always put the national interest first and not to be unduly influenced by sectoral interest, whatever that might be," Rowley wrote.

Kenya's Odinga says he will challenge close election loss

AP - Opposition figure Raila Odinga said Tuesday that he would challenge the results of Kenya's close presidential election with "all constitutional and legal options" after Deputy President William Ruto was declared the winner, bringing new uncertainty to East Africa's most stable democracy.

Now the country faces weeks of disputes and the possibility that the Supreme Court will order another election. Religious and other leaders have pleaded for calm to continue in a nation with a history of deadly post-election violence.

"Let no one take the law into their own hands," Odinga said to his often-passionate supporters. In Kisumu, a city in his western Kenya stronghold, some residents said they were tired of going into the street and being tear-gassed.

It was Odinga's first appearance since Kenya's electoral commission chairman declared Ruto the winner Monday with almost 50.5% of the votes. Four of the seven commissioners abruptly announced that they couldn't support the results, and Odinga supporters scuffled with the remaining commissioners at the venue where the announcement was made.

Shortly before Odinga spoke, the four commissioners asserted to journalists that the chairman's final math added up to 100.01% and that the excess votes would have made a "significant difference." They also said he didn't give them a chance to discuss the results before making his declaration.

"What we saw yesterday was a travesty and blatant disregard of the constitution," Odinga said, calling the election results "null and void."



Kenyan presidential candidate Raila Odinga, centre, departs after delivering an address to the nation at his campaign headquarters in downtown Nairobi, Kenya, Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022. Kenya is calm a day after Deputy President William Ruto was declared the winner of the narrow presidential election over longtime opposition figure Raila Odinga. (AP Photo/Ben Curtis)

The president-elect has called the commissioners' allegations a "side-show" and said they had no effect on the declaration's legality. A U.S. Embassy statement on Monday called the declaration "an important milestone in the electoral process."

The 77-year-old Odinga has pursued the presidency for a quarter-century. His campaign has seven days after Monday's declaration to file a petition with the Supreme Court, which would then have 14 days to make a ruling.

Odinga is renowned as a fighter and was detained for years in the 1980s over his push for multiparty democracy. He was also a supporter of Kenya's groundbreaking 2010 constitution.

His claim that the deeply troubled 2007 election was stolen from him led to violence that left more than 1,000 dead. Though he boycotted the 2017 vote, his court challenge led to elec-

tion reforms.

The electoral commission was widely seen as improving its transparency in this election, practically inviting Kenyans to do the tallying themselves by posting online the more than 46,000 results forms from around the country.

On Tuesday, the local Elections Observation Group announced that its highly regarded parallel voting tally corroborated the official results in an important check on the process, but Odinga asserted that the chairman improperly withheld the election results from the rest of the commission until he declared the winner.

"The law does not vest in the chairperson the powers of a dictator," he said, and insisted that the commission's decisions must be made by consensus.

There was no immediate statement
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Russia says 'sabotage' behind arms depot blasts in Crimea

AlJazeera - Russia's Defence Ministry has blamed saboteurs for explosions at a military warehouse in northern Crimea that forced the evacuation of more than 3,000 people, Russian state media has reported.

The explosions on Tuesday rocked an ammunition storage facility near the village of Mayskoye and disrupted train services and power supplies although nobody was seriously injured in the blasts, the ministry said.

Russia's Kommersant newspaper also reported on Tuesday on another possible act of sabotage in Crimea, quoting witnesses as saying that plumes of smoke could be seen over a Russian military airbase on the peninsula in Gvardeyskoye.

The incidents follow a series of explosions last week at a Russian-operated air base in Crimea which Ukrainian officials had hinted were part of some kind of special operation but which Moscow said at the time was an accident.

State-owned news agency TASS cited the Russian Defence ministry as saying that civilian infrastructure had been damaged as a result of the "sab-



Smoke rises following an explosion in the village of Mayskoye in the Dzhankoi district of Crimea on August 16, 2022 [Reuters]

otage" – a rare admission that armed groups loyal to Ukraine are inflicting losses on military logistics and supply lines inside Russian-annexed Crimea.

Moscow's senior representative in the region, Sergei Aksyonov, confirmed that two people were wounded in the explosions at the ammunition depot, railway traffic halted, and thousands of people evacuated from nearby villages.

Aksyonov did not provide a cause for the latest blasts in Crimea, a region that Moscow uses as a supply line for its war in Ukraine.

Last week, blasts at a military air-

base on Crimea's western coast caused extensive damage and destroyed several Russian war planes. Moscow called that an accident, though simultaneous blasts left craters visible from space.

In the latest explosions, an electricity substation also caught fire near the town of Dzhankoi, according to footage on Russian state TV. It showed large explosions on the horizon which authorities said came from the ammunition detonations.

Russia's RIA news agency said seven passenger trains had been delayed and that rail traffic on part of the line in northern Crimea had been suspended.

Disruptions to the rail line could disrupt Moscow's ability to support troops in Ukraine with military hardware.

The district where the blasts happened, Dzhankoi, is in the north of the peninsula, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the Russian-controlled region of Kherson in southern Ukraine. Kyiv has recently mounted a series of attacks on various sites in the region, hitting supply routes for the Russian military there and ammunition depots.

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from the electoral commission or its chairman.

A screen at its tallying centre that had been showing cumulative presidential election results stopped being updated Saturday and was later turned off.

Odinga's campaign had expected victory after outgoing President Uhuru Kenyatta, in a political twist, backed his former rival Odinga instead of his

own deputy president, with whom he fell out years ago.

Some Kenyans have noted that Kenyatta appointed the four dissenting commissioners last year.

The 55-year-old president-elect, Ruto, appealed to Kenyans by making the election about economic differences and not the ethnic ones that have long marked the country's politics with sometimes deadly results.

He portrayed himself as an outsider from humble beginnings defying the political dynasties of Kenyatta and Odinga, whose fathers were Kenya's first president and vice president.

Still, the turnout in last Tuesday's vote dipped to 65% as Kenyans across the country of 56 million expressed frustration and lack of confidence that the candidates would address the problems of rising prices,

high unemployment and widespread corruption.

The now-wealthy Ruto himself has denied multiple allegations of land grabs and other graft.

Ruto's past also includes an indictment by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity over his role in the 2007 election violence, though the case was dropped amid allegations of witness intimidation.

China sets sanctions on Taiwan figures to punish US, island

AP - China imposed visa bans and other sanctions Tuesday on Taiwanese political figures as it raises pressure on the self-governing island and the U.S. in response to successive congressional visits.

The sanctions come a day after China announced more military exercises in the seas and skies surrounding Taiwan because of what it called “collusion and provocation between the U.S. and Taiwan.” There’s been no word on the timing and scale of the Chinese exercises.

They were announced the same day a U.S. congressional delegation met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, and after a similar visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, the highest-level member of the U.S. government to visit Taiwan in 25 years.

The Chinese government objects to Taiwan having any official contact with foreign governments because it considers Taiwan its own territory, and its recent sabre rattling has emphasised its threat to take the island by military force.

Pelosi’s visit was followed by nearly two weeks of threatening Chinese military exercises that included the firing of missiles over the island and incursions by navy ships and warplanes across the midline of the



In this photo released by the Taiwan Legislative Yuan, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, left, speaks during a meeting with Legislative Yuan Deputy Speaker Tsai Chi-chang in Taipei, Taiwan, Wednesday, Aug. 3, 2022. China announced Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2022, is imposing visa bans and other sanctions on a number of Taiwanese political figures including Tsai over their promotion of the self-governing island democracy's independence from Beijing. (Taiwan Presidential Office via AP, File)

Taiwan Strait that has long been a buffer between the sides.

In Washington, U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price told reporters that China had overreacted with its “provocative and totally unnecessary response to the congressional delegation that visited Taiwan earlier this month.”

The targets of China’s latest sanctions include Taiwan’s de facto ambassador to the U.S., Bi-khim Hsiao, and legislators Ker Chien-ming, Koo Li-hsiung, Tsai Chi-chang, Chen Jiau-hua and Wang Ting-yu, along with activist Lin Fei-fan.

They will be barred from travelling to mainland Chi-

na, Hong Kong and Macao, and from having any financial or personal connections with people and entities on the mainland, according to the ruling Communist Party’s Taiwan Work Office.

The measures were designed to “resolutely punish” those considered “die-hard elements” supporting Taiwan’s independence, China’s official Xinhua News Agency said.

Premier Su Tseng-chang, leader of the legislature You Si-kun and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu were already on China’s sanctions list and will face more restrictions, Xinhua said.

China exercises no legal authority over Taiwan and it’s unclear what effect the

sanctions would have. China has refused all contact with Taiwan’s government since shortly after the 2016 election of Tsai, who was overwhelmingly reelected in 2020.

China accuses the U.S. of encouraging the island’s independence through the sale of weapons and engagement between U.S. politicians and the island’s government.

Washington says it does not support independence, has no formal diplomatic ties with the island and maintains that the two sides should settle their dispute peacefully — but it is legally bound to ensure the island can defend itself against any attack.

Sports News



Full women's squads for WCPL & 6IXTY confirmed

The squads for the Massy Women's Caribbean Premier League (WCPL) and the Women's SKY-EXCH 6IXTY have been confirmed.

The three teams will be captained by Hayley Matthews (Barbados Royals), Stafanie Taylor (Guyana Amazon Warriors) and Deandra Dottin (Trinbago Knight Riders) and each squad will have three overseas spots with players from South Africa, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, New Zealand and the USA joining the Caribbean ladies.



bean ladies.

The Royals will feature Pakistani-bowling all-rounder, Fatima Sana.

Sana has played 40 times for her country in-

cluding at the recent Commonwealth Games tournament in Birmingham.

The final overseas player for the Royals is USA under-19 player Snigdha Paul. The all-rounder recently impressed in the series against the West Indies U19 side, claiming four wickets with an economy rate of 2.92.

The Guyana Amazon Warriors will be joined by Sri Lankan captain, Chamari Athapaththu, who has played in almost 200 internationals. Athapaththu is an opening batter and she has made six international hundreds with an ODI high score of 178 runs.

Also with the Amazon Warriors is South African seam bowler, Ayabonga Khaka. With a T20 International bowling average of just 24.02 and an economy rate of 6.43, Khaka will bring wickets and control to the Warriors team.

The final Amazon Warriors overseas player is 16-year-old Isani Vaghela,

who has already represented the USA national team.

The Trinbago Knight Riders will feature New Zealand seam bowler Hayley Jensen who has 75 international caps. She played for both Melbourne Renegades and Hobart Hurricanes in the Big Bash in Australia.

Joining Jensen at the Knight Riders will be South African captain Sune Luus who has made major contributions at the highest level as a spin bowling all-rounder.

The last overseas spot for the Knight Riders goes to USA international medium pacer Geetika Kodali, who was impressive at the recent Fairbreak T20 tournament in the UAE.

Pete Russell, Hero CPL's CEO, said: "We are really pleased with the quality of international signings for the inaugural Massy WCPL and SKYEXCH 6IXTY tournaments and we look forward to welcoming these players in St Kitts for these two exciting competitions."

Both the WCPL and Women's SKYEXCH 6IXTY will take place at Warner Park in St Kitts.

The SKYEXCH 6IXTY will take place from August 24 to 28 while the Massy WCPL runs from 31 August to 4 September.



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Osaka loses to Zhang, Gauff quits with injury at Cincinnati

AP - Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka was eliminated by Shuai Zhang, 6-4, 7-5, in the first round of the Western & Southern Open on Tuesday.

The tournament outside Cincinnati lost another big name, Coco Gauff, when she retired from her match against qualifier Marie Bouzkova with a left ankle injury. Gauff had her ankle taped after the first set and dropped out after the first game of the second set.

The marquee match scheduled for Tuesday night at this hard-court U.S. Open tuneup was Serena Williams against Emma Radu-



Serena Williams plays a return during a practice session ahead of the Western & Southern Open tennis tournament, Monday, Aug. 15, 2022, in Mason, Ohio. (AP Photo/Aaron Doster)

canu, last year's champion at Flushing Meadows. Williams announced last week that she is transitioning away from tennis, although

she has not said explicitly that the U.S. Open will be her last tournament.

Karolina Pliskova advanced with a 7-5, 6-1 win

over Williams' older sister, Venus.

Belinda Bencic, who beat Serena Williams last week in Canada, fell to Sorana Cirstea, 6-2, 6-7 (3), 6-4.

Rafael Nadal, sidelined since withdrawing from Wimbledon with an abdominal tear, practised before a large crowd. The 22-time Grand Slam champion is scheduled to play a second-round match on Wednesday.

In a men's first-round match, Wimbledon finalist Nick Kyrgios beat Alejandro Davidovich Fokina 7-5, 6-4.

FIFA agrees to cancel Brazil-Argentina World Cup qualifier

AP - The suspended World Cup qualifying game between Brazil and Argentina will not be played, the two countries' governing soccer bodies said Tuesday after reaching a deal with FIFA to cancel the match.

Both teams agreed to pay a fine for not playing the qualifier, which was stopped shortly after kickoff last September when Brazilian health officials entered the field saying four Argentina players had broken COVID-19 protocols.

FIFA had wanted the match to be played next month, even though it had

been rendered essentially meaningless after both Brazil and Argentina qualified for the World Cup in Qatar despite playing a game less than other South American countries.

FIFA initially fined the soccer bodies of both countries and demanded the match be played. Brazil's confederation and Argentina's federation took the case to the Court for Arbitration of Sport, where all three parties agreed to the deal to cancel the game.

Brazil coach Tite and his Argentina counterpart Lionel Scaloni had argued that



the risks of injuries and suspensions were too high for the game to be played ahead of the tournament in Qatar.

The decision leaves both teams free to schedule September friendlies against

different opponents instead.

In Qatar, Brazil is in Group G with Serbia, Switzerland and Cameroon. Argentina is in Group C with Mexico, Poland and Saudi Arabia.

Sports News



Victory for West Ham as play resumes in Over-40 League

West Ham FC recorded an emphatic 7-1 victory over Extraordinary Men in the only match that was played when the Antigua Over-40 Premier League resumed last Sunday.

Playing at the Radio Range playing field due to the unavailability of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Centre, a hat-trick by Stephan Hughes and a brace by Egan Samuel propelled West Ham to their ninth victory in 13 matches.

Samuel opened the scoring with a 12th minute conversion to give West Ham a 1-0 lead. An own goal by Rolston "Triss" Phillip in the 15th minute extended their lead.

A Keithroy "Ifu" Bramble 18th minute strike made it 3-0 and Hughes scored his first goal of the match with a 22nd minute conversion to give West Ham a 4-0 halftime advantage.

Shortly after the interval, striker Kevin Warner reduced the deficit when he scored what turned out to

be a consolation goal in the 32nd minute.

But Samuel continued the onslaught when he scored his second and West Ham's fifth goal of the match in the 40th minute. Hughes completed his hat-trick by scoring in the 50th and 58th minute to seal West Ham's victory.

The win ensured that West Ham stayed in second place as they advanced to 33 points, with one game remaining. The result left Extraordinary Men on 16 points, but they slipped from fifth to sixth place in the standings.

The other 13th round matches were decided without the games being played.

Dun Bar Crew won by default after Legacy FC were unable to field a team for their encounter. The result lifted Dun Bar Crew to 33 points and also ensured they remained leaders of the competition with one game left.

Legacy FC remain on second from bottom of the competition on 11 points. Turf Masters also claimed victory after Up & Over FC failed to show up for their encounter.

The result lifted Turf Master to 22 points, the same as Up and Over FC as both teams are now in joint third place with one match to play.

Tun and Bang FC also got all three points by default after Golden Grove Masters failed to show up on time for their encounter, which was slated to take place at Radio Range on Monday afternoon.

The result lifted Tun and Bang into fifth place as they advanced to 18 points with one game remaining, while Golden Grove Masters remained firmly rooted in the cellar position without a point.

The organisers of the Antigua Over-40 Premier League have resorted to using Radio Range as an alternate venue to complete the inaugural football competition after the ABFA's Technical Centre became unavailable. The competition was played at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters since it started on Sunday, 1st May, until it went on a short break following the completion of the 12th round of matches on Sunday, 17th July.

The competition went on a break in recognition of the return of the 2022 national Carnival celebrations in late July to early August.

According to chief organizer Shirville Jarvis, the re-start of the competition, which was set to resume at the ABFA's Technical Centre on Sunday, 7th August, with the staging of the 13th

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Antigua & Barbuda record first win in Under-15 girls' tournament

Forward Gabrielle De Souza scored a brace to inspire host Antigua and Barbuda to their first win in the Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls' Invitational Tournament on Monday night.

Playing in the feature game of a double-header on match day 2 of the competition at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Center, the host nation had to come from behind to pull off a 3-1 victory against St. Lucia.

A 20th minute strike by Clorie Williams had given St. Lucia a 1-0 lead, but Antigua and Barbuda drew level in the 28th minute when K'niece Browne scored the equalizer for the home side.

De Souza then added a brace by converting in the 35th and 51st minute, giving her 5 goals thus far in the tournament to secure the victory for the young Benna Girls.

De Souza had scored a hat-trick in Antigua and Barbuda's 3-3 draw with

Grenada in their opening match on the first day of the five-team round robin tournament on Saturday, 13th August.

Grenada also claimed their first win of the tournament by recording a 2-1 victory against Dominica in the first game of Monday's double header.

Striker Abigail Williams scored in the 7th minute and Emma Francis had a 35th minute conversion for the Grenadian girls. Kenisha Jno-Lewis scored for Dominica in the 55th minute.

It was the second successive defeat for the Dominicans who had lost 4-0 against St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their opening game on Saturday.

The Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls' Invitational Tournament will continue with another double header at the ABFA's Technical Centre today (Wednesday).

St. Lucia will meet Grenada at 5pm and St. Vincent and the Grenadines will clash with An-



Captain and left winger K'Niece Browne scored once in Antigua and Barbuda's 3-1 win over St. Lucia in the Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls' Invitational Tournament at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Monday, 15th August, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABFA)

tigua and Barbuda at 7pm.

On Friday, 19th August, Dominica will tackle St. Lucia at 5 pm and St. Vincent and the Grena-

dines will challenge Grenada at 7pm.

In Sunday's final round of matches, St. Vincent and the Grenadines will oppose St. Lucia at 5pm, while Dominica will face Antigua and Barbuda at 7pm.

The tournament is being sponsored by Joma Caribbean, Cool & Smooth, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and Paradiso Water.

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round of matches, did not materialize after he was informed that the venue is unavailable due to repair works being done at the facility.

The ABFA has been sprucing up the technical centre with work being carried out on areas such as the main seating stand and the players' dugouts to facilitate Antigua and Barbuda's current hosting of the

Jewels of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls' Invitational Tournament from Saturday, 13th to Sunday, 21st August.

Following the completion of the Under-15 Invitational tournament, the ABFA will utilize the technical centre to host first round matches in its Joma Caribbean Cool & Smooth Knockout competition from Friday, 26th August until Sunday, 4th September.

George and Hunte team up to win golf scramble contest

Marquise George and Lexi Hunte are the latest winners in the Striving for Excellence Golf Junior Programme Summer Series at Cedar Valley.

It may have been a rainy and cloudy day in Antigua last Sunday, but George and Hunte, two of the country's premier junior golfers, were seeing the flag sticks clearly as they romped to an emphatic victory in the inaugural Eye-Mobile and Pointe-FM Junior Golf Scramble Tournament.

The hard hitting George and the ever solid Hunte were in tremendous form on Sunday, 14th August, as they teamed up to shoot six under par 64, to claim the top prizes in the event at the Cedar Valley Golf Course and Country Club.

At one point during the championship, the 12-year-old George and 14-year-old Hunte were so dominant that they actually surged to five under par through the first seven holes.

The runner-up spot was grabbed by the team of Akevia Warner and Siyolo Joseph.

The duo, who were the best dressed players during the event, recorded a score of 66 to claim second place. Ethan Henry and Meleah George shot an even par 70 to secure third place.

Meanwhile, birthday boy Zamariah Zachariah, captured the under-12 class with a score of 88, while the runner-up prize was clinched by Jaedon Charles with Isaiah Forde claiming third place.

Charles shot 92 and Forde came home in 96 strokes. Fourteen teams participated in the scramble exercise,



Marquise George, right, and Lexi Hunte captured the title in the inaugural Eye-Mobile and Pointe-FM Junior Golf Scramble Tournament in the Striving for Excellence Golf Junior Programme Summer Series at Cedar Valley on Sunday, 14 August, 2022. (Photo courtesy Marlon George)

while nine individuals took part in the under-12 competition.

While all the action was carrying on, former Boston Celtics guard Kemba Walker was also swinging his way around the course.

The next competition on the calendar of the Striving for Excellence Golf Junior Programme Summer Series at Cedar Valley will be the Kelton Dalso sponsored Laykabake Junior Invitational Tournament later this month.