

THURSDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 177 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# SNRA HIT BY VANDALS

*Story on Page 2*



Members of the Senate, led by its President Alincia Williams-Grant, visited Government house this week to sign the Book of Condolences that was opened on Saturday to honour Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her death last Thursday. *Story on page 5*

# Local News



## SNRA struck by vandals

Classes at Sir Novelle Richards Academy (SNRA) were suspended yesterday following an overnight break-in and vandalism at its Tomlinson's Estate campus.

The incident is believed to have occurred sometime between 3pm and 11pm on Tuesday.

A security guard who arrived at the school's compound to begin her 11pm to 7am shift made the discovery.

According to reports, a large object was used to break a glass door through which the criminals gained access to the staff room



which was discovered ransacked.

On further inspection, two computer monitors were found destroyed.

At the time of publica-

tion, it was unclear whether any items had been stolen.

The perpetrators also vandalised the school using black spray paint to deface the northern, southern,

and eastern sections of the building.

Investigations are ongoing.

SNRA was the second school to fall victim to a break-in within 24-hours.

At Greenbay Primary School, thieves broke into the administrative block sometime between Monday evening and Tuesday morning. The culprits ransacked the room and carted off thousands of dollars' worth of food items and sports equipment which were being stored for a programme that is soon to be implemented at the school.

### COMMUNITY NOTICE

September 14, 2022

Antiguans and Barbudans living in the New York tristate area are kindly invited to a Town Hall Meeting on Friday September 23<sup>rd</sup> at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church at 781 Castle Hill Avenue in the Bronx.

In attendance to address you on important matters relative to the social and economic development of our nation will be Prime Minister the Hon. Gaston Browne along with Minister of Foreign Affairs the Hon. E.P. Chet Greene, both of whom will be in New York to participate in the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

The Town Hall Meeting begins at 7:00 pm and your attendance would be greatly appreciated.

For further information, please call 212-541-4117.



## Cases of Hand Foot and Mouth Disease increasing locally

The head of the Paediatric Department of Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) is alerting the public about the increase in cases of Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease (HFMD) in the country.

In a post on the hospital's social media page, Dr. Shivon Belle-Jarvis said this is the time of year when medical practitioners witness an increase in cases of the viral infection, particularly among young children.

There are reports that several children have become infected, requiring them to stay away from daycare centres, pre-schools and other facilities that provide care to toddlers.

At least one daycare centre was forced to close after several children were stricken with HFMD.

The paediatrician noted that children under the age of five are most susceptible to contracting the very contagious, but non-life-threatening illness whose symptoms last between 7 - 10 days.

The symptoms include fever, sores on the mouth, irritability, decreased appetite and rashes on the palms, knees and buttocks. Children can also experience sore throats.

Dr. Belle-Jarvis said warning signs that a child



under six months is infected with HFMD include dehydration, reduced levels of alertness, symptoms persisting more than ten days and fever exceeding three days.












She encourages frequent hand washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, cleaning high touch surfaces such as doorknobs and desks, and

keeping children at home when they are ill. being advised to use gloves when changing diapers to avoid spreading the virus.

Preschool teachers are avoid spreading the virus.

### NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that BILLIE CASSANDRA DOLCINE of Brownes Avenue, St John's, Antigua is applying to the Ministry for 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.

Thu 15   Day		Thu 15   Night	
<b>87°</b>		<b>79°</b>	
52% NE 14 mph		43% ENE 11 mph	
Cloudy with showers. High 87F. Winds NE at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 50%.		Considerable cloudiness with occasional rain showers. Low 79F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.	
 Humidity <b>77%</b>	 UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	 Humidity <b>86%</b>	 UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
 Sunrise <b>5:55 am</b>	 Sunset <b>6:09 pm</b>	 Moonrise <b>10:00 pm</b>	 Moonset <b>10:32 am</b>
		 Waning Gibbous	

# Local News

## Parliament convenes special sessions to honour Queen Elizabeth II

The Antigua and Barbuda parliament will convene separate sessions for the House of Representatives and the Senate today to allow members to pay their respect to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who passed away last Thursday.

Government sources say the House of Representatives will meet in the morning while the Senate will convene its session in the afternoon.

This is one of several activities being held to mark the passing of Queen Elizabeth, whose reign lasted just over seventy years. She was



the titular Head of State of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will lead members of the Lower House in paying tribute to the late monarch. It is expected that all parliamentary representa-

tives will also pay respect to the Queen.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet decided on Wednesday that Prime Minister Gaston Browne should attend the funeral of Her Majesty the Queen on 19th September.

The Cabinet further agreed that the day of the funeral should be declared a National Holiday.

The death of a serving Head of State of Antigua and Barbuda requires homage in the form of a National Holiday.

Since the funeral commences at 6:00am local time, all will be afforded the opportunity to view the funeral as it occurs.

On the day of the funeral, the country's security forces will hold a Service of Thanksgiving which will be followed by a March Past outside Government House.



**STATE INSURANCE**  
COMPANY LIMITED  
Live in a better State of mind



**HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT**



**PREPARE NOW**  
LEARN HOW

## 2022 HURRICANE SEASON

**JUNE 1<sup>ST</sup> - NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>**

PREPARING NOW CAN HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE  
START PLANNING NOW WITH **STATE**

ANTIGUA  
(268) 481-7800/04

BARBUDA  
(268) 727-7422

info@sicantigua.com

www.sicantigua.com

Facebook Instagram Twitter



## GG to attend Queen Elizabeth II's funeral

His Excellency Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, accompanied by Lady Williams, are in London for the state funeral of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

Government House confirmed that they traveled to London on Tuesday for the funeral on Monday 19th September.

This news follows the steady stream of local officials who have visited Government House since Saturday to sign the Book of Condolences that was opened following the Queen's death last Thursday.

Starting last Saturday with the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, Prime Minister Gaston Browne along with the head of the security forces, the signing exercises continued on Monday with the Leader of the Opposition, Jamal Pringle, in the morning followed by former Governors General and Deputy Governors General



*President of the Senate, Alincia Williams-Grant in the afternoon.*

On Tuesday, President of the Senate, Senator Alincia Williams-Grant led a group of government senators to Government House to sign the Book of Con-

dolences. Present were Leader of Government Business, Senator Mary-Clare Hurst and Senator Shenella Govia, the youngest member of the Upper House.

The Book of Condolences was taken from Government House to the Cabinet Room in the Office of the Prime Minister on Wednesday to allow members of the Cabinet to participate.

Following that exercise, the Book returned to Government House where members of the diplomatic corps were welcomed to append their signatures.

The public will have their opportunity to participate in the exercise today when Government House opens its doors to those desirous of signing. Charities under the patronage of Their Excellences, the Governor General and his wife, will also be invited to participate.

The Book of Condolences will remain open to the public until Monday, the day of the Queen's funeral.



*His Excellency Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, right, signs the Book of Condolences.*

# Local News



## Service of Thanksgiving for the Life and Service of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

In recognition of the distinguished life and service of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and in her gracious memory, Antigua and Barbuda has joined other Commonwealth nations in mourning since her passing on September 8, 2022 and will continue to do so until the day of her funeral on Monday, September 19, 2022.

In addition to the public notification of her death, public expressions of condolences to the Royal Family, flying of the national flag at half mast, opening of the book of condolences and the proclamation of the new monarch of Antigua and Barbuda, His Majesty King Charles III, the nation's Security Forces will host a Service of Thanksgiving and Parade in recognition of the Life and Service of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.



*Queen Elizabeth II*

The Thanksgiving Service is scheduled to take place on Monday 19th September at the Cathedral of St. John The Divine at 8:30 am and will be officiated by The Very Reverend Dwane Cassius B.A, Dean of the Cathedral of the Anglican Diocese of the North East Caribbean and Aruba. The

parade of members of the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force and the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda will follow, ending with an "eye's right and salute" in front of Government House on Independence Drive.

His Excellency, The Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts KCN, KC and the Honourable Acting Prime Minister Steadroy Benjamin will preside in the absence of His Excellency The Governor General and The Honourable Prime Minister who will both be in attendance at the State Funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Members of the general public are invited to attend the Service of Thanksgiving. All attendees are to be seated in the church no later than 8:15 am.

**PLATINUM** 97.9 FM  
We Entertain You

**STEELPAN MELEE**

WITH **KHAN KC CORDICE**

**5PM-6PM**  
**TUESDAYS**



## September: Suicide Prevention Awareness Month

**By Shahein Fitzpatrick**

Every 40 seconds, someone dies by suicide globally and this year alone, Antigua and Barbuda has recorded at least three suspected suicides.

In September each year, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month is observed, with 10th September being Suicide Prevention Day. The goal of the observance is to raise public awareness about suicide and its prevention.

President of the Antigua & Barbuda Association of Mental Health Counsellors (ABAMHC), T'Mira Looby, a mental health professional, spoke to Pointe Xpress about the sensitive topic and provided insight into some of the factors which precede suicidal ideations and how at-risk people in Antigua and Barbuda can access mental health services.

"For someone dealing with particular personality and mood problems, such as bipolar and depression, suicidal thoughts is a potential outcome. At this time, the individual has probably entered a state of hopelessness and may believe that the only way to get emotional relief is to commit suicide," Looby explained.

This is one of the main arguments Looby makes for the importance of access to mental health care.

She contends, "Seeking treatment early on may help to avoid the issue from worsening and becoming so overwhelming that a person is now considering suicide."

Suicide is among the top causes of mortality globally, accounting for one death out of every 100. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it is preceded only by traffic accidents, tuberculosis, and interpersonal violence among young people between the ages of 15 and 29.

"For the management of emotional discomfort, early intervention is crucial. If required, people can use constructive coping mechanisms and obtain

specialised resources," said Looby.

Significant shifts in a person's thoughts, feelings, or behaviours indicate that they are lethally at risk - particularly those inconsistent with that person's personality - which interferes with their daily functioning.

The mental health practitioner listed a few warning signs to look out for in someone who may be at risk.

"For instance, if he/she is acting anxious and is easily irritated, isolating himself/herself from family and friends, experiencing frequent mood swings, talking about feeling stuck/trapped or being a burden, talking about death or

wanting to die, giving away personal items, and talking about feelings of hopelessness and having no purpose in life, then this person is definitely at risk."

Individuals can access private and public help from licensed mental health professionals who provide personalised and confidential therapy services. A list of local practitioners can be found on the Mental Health Talk Antigua website, [www.mentalhealthtalkantigua.com](http://www.mentalhealthtalkantigua.com).

Government agencies including The Directorate of Gender Affairs and the Family and Social Services Division, which both provide psychosocial help, can also be contacted at (268) 560-5207.



## Antigua & Barbuda, Montserrat maintain amicable border relations

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

Premier Easton Taylor-Farrell of Montserrat, says his relationship with Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda remains amicable and highly productive, particularly in relation to cross border relations.

On Monday during an appearance on Pointe FM's Pointe On De Streetz, Taylor-Farrell said, "The port is under statutory authority, and the prime minister and I both have a very strong working relationship. We communicate pretty regularly."

The premier continued, "I hope there will be [continued] cooperation between the Montserrat Port Authority and the Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority. As the port is being built, Mr. Telemaque, the port manager of Antigua and Barbuda, and Mr. Joseph, the seaport manager of Montserrat's, are both in negotiations."

According to Premier Taylor-Farrell, reliable ferry service between Antigua and Barbuda and Montserrat is a high priority for his administration as Antigua and Barbuda remains Montserrat's gateway to the world.

After the once dormant Soufrière Hills volcano in Montserrat became active in 1995, the island's limited international airlift was



The Little Bay Port is Montserrat's lone marine port of entry. [Photo: Montserrat Port Authority]

cut off for several years due to the destruction of the W.H. Bramble Airport, located near the former capital Plymouth.

Plymouth was among the areas worst affected by the eruptions that followed, and access to this part of the island remains restricted almost three decades later.

Twenty-four years after the start of Montserrat's volcanic disaster, the tiny British Overseas Territory was again forced into isolation with the coming of the COVID-19 pandemic which halted travel between the islands.

"We are examining the best ways to make it easier for travellers to go back between Montserrat and

Antigua by water. Since travel was at a stop due to restricted ports at the height of the pandemic, we did not extend the ferry contract between Antigua Barbuda and Montserrat," the Premier said, recognising the value of a ferry service to the regional tourism industry.

The premier stated that significant investments in leasing and contracting ferry services have been made over the last 25-years. Presently, however, he said that "the governments of both nations are in the negotiation phases to identify what type of arrangements should be developed with the ferry owners".

"We are considering a different course, hoping to

involve the private sector rather than merely have the government take complete control of operations."

Taylor-Farrell also addressed air travel to Montserrat via Antigua and Barbuda. He noted that "some minor maintenance would need to be carried out" at the new John A. Osborne Airport which was resurfaced in April 2021.

Montserrat's premier disclosed that he and Prime Minister Browne are now considering the introduction of as many as three LIAT operated flights to Montserrat out of the V. C. Bird International Airport. He believes that this is a vital step in restoring and expanding international access to his island.





**Louis Hardware Depot**



**Located:** Old Parham Road  
**Tel:(268)562-3650**

# End of COVID pandemic is 'in sight' - WHO chief

By Manas Mishra

The world has never been in a better position to end the COVID-19 pandemic, the head of the World Health Organization said on Wednesday, his most optimistic outlook yet on the years-long health crisis which has killed over six million people.

"We are not there yet. But the end is in sight," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters at a virtual press conference.

That was the most upbeat assessment from the UN agency since it declared an international emergency in January 2020 and started describing COVID-19 as a pandemic three months later.

The virus, which emerged in China in late 2019, has killed nearly 6.5 million people and infected 606 million, roiling global economies and overwhelming healthcare systems.

The rollout of vaccines and therapies have helped to stem deaths and hospitalisations, and the Omicron variant which emerged late last year causes less severe disease. Deaths from COVID-19 last week were the lowest since March 2020, the U.N. agency reported.



A woman walks past a mural depicting a frontline worker amid the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in Dublin, Ireland, January 12, 2022. REUTERS/Clodagh Kilcoyne

Still on Wednesday, he again urged nations to maintain their vigilance and likened the pandemic to a marathon race.

"Now is the time to run harder and make sure we cross the line and reap the rewards of all our hard work."

Countries need to take a hard look at their policies and strengthen them for COVID-19 and future viruses, Tedros said. He also urged nations to vaccinate 100% of their high-risk groups and keep testing for the virus.

The WHO said countries need to maintain adequate supplies of medical equipment and healthcare workers.

"We expect there to be future waves of infections, potentially at different time points throughout the world caused by different

subvariants of Omicron or even different variants of concern," said WHO's senior epidemiologist Maria Van Kerkhove.

With over 1 million deaths this year alone, the pandemic remains an emergency globally and within most countries.

"The COVID-19 summer wave, driven by Omicron BA.4 and BA.5, showed that the pandemic is not yet over as the virus continues to circulate in Europe and beyond," a European Commission spokesperson said.

WHO's next meeting of experts to decide whether the pandemic still represents a public health emergency of international concern is due in October, a WHO spokesperson said.

GLOBAL EMERGENCY

"It's probably fair to say

most of the world is moving beyond the emergency phase of the pandemic response," said Dr Michael Head, senior research fellow in global health at Southampton University.

Governments are now looking at how best to manage COVID as part of their routine healthcare and surveillance, he said.

Europe, the United Kingdom and the United States have approved vaccines that target the Omicron variant as well as the original virus as countries prepare to launch winter booster campaigns.

In the United States, COVID-19 was initially declared a public health emergency in January 2020, and that status has been renewed quarterly ever since.

The U.S. health department is set to renew it again in mid-October for what policy experts expect is the last time before it expires in January 2023.

U.S. health officials have said that the pandemic is not over, but that new bivalent vaccines mark an important shift in the fight against the virus. They predict that a single annual vaccine akin to the flu shot should provide a high degree of protection and return the country closer to normalcy.



## R. Kelly convicted on many counts, acquitted of trial fixing

**By Michael Tarm And Joey Cappelletti**

A federal jury on Wednesday convicted R. Kelly of several child pornography and sex abuse charges in his hometown of Chicago, delivering another legal blow to a singer who used to be one of the biggest R&B stars in the world.

Kelly, 55, was found guilty on three counts of child pornography and three counts of child enticement.

But the jury acquitted him on a fourth pornography count as well as a conspiracy to obstruct justice charge accusing him fixing his state child pornography trial in 2008. He was found not guilty on all three counts of conspiring to receive child pornography and for two further enticement charges.

His two co-defendants were found not guilty on all charges.

Jurors, who deliberated for 11 hours over two days, wrote several questions to the judge on Wednesday, at least one indicating the panellists were grappling with some of the case's legal complexities.

One asked if they had to find Kelly both enticed and coerced minors, or that he either enticed or coerced them. Over objections from Kelly's lawyer, the judge said they only need to find one.

At trial, prosecutors sought to paint a picture of Kelly as a master manipu-

lator who used his fame and wealth to reel in star-struck fans, some of them minors, to sexually abuse then discard them.

Kelly, born Robert Sylvester Kelly, was desperate to recover child pornographic videos he made and lugged around in a gym bag, witnesses said. They said he offered up to \$1 million to recover missing videos before his 2008 trial, knowing they would land him in legal peril. The conspiracy to hide his abuse ran from 2000 to 2020, prosecutors said.

Kelly associates Derrel McDavid and Milton Brown were co-defendants at the Chicago trial. Jurors acquitted McDavid, a longtime Kelly business manager, who was accused of conspiring with Kelly to rig the 2008 trial. Brown, a Kelly associate for years, was acquitted of receiving child pornography.

Kelly has already been convicted of racketeering and sex trafficking in New York and sentenced to 30 years in prison.

In Chicago, a conviction of just one count of child pornography carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 10 years, while receipt of child pornography carries a mandatory minimum of five years. Judges can order that defendants sentenced earlier in separate cases serve their new sentence simultaneously with or only after the first



term is fully served. Federal inmates must serve at least 85% of their sentences.

During closing arguments Tuesday, Kelly attorney Jennifer Bonjean likened the government's testimony and evidence to a cockroach and its case to a bowl of soup.

If a cockroach falls into soup, she said, "you don't just pull out the cockroach and eat the rest of the soup. You throw out the whole soup," said told jurors.

"There are just too many cockroaches," she said of the prosecution's case.

The three defendants called only a handful of witnesses over four days. Co-defendant McDavid, who was on the stand for three days, may have damaged Kelly's hopes for acquittal by saying that he now doubts Kelly was truthful when he denied abusing anyone after hearing the superstar's accusers testify.

In her closing rebuttal, prosecutor Jeannice Appenteng cited testimony that Kelly's inner circle increasingly focused on doing what Kelly

wanted as his fame boomed in the mid-1990s.

"And ladies and gentlemen, what R. Kelly wanted was to have sex with young girls," she said.

Four Kelly accusers testified, all referred to by pseudonyms or their first names: Jane, Nia, Pauline and Tracy. Some cried when describing the abuse but otherwise spoke calmly and with confidence. A fifth accuser, Brittany, did not testify.

Sitting nearby in a suit and face mask, Kelly often averted his eyes and looked down as his accusers spoke.

Some dozen die-hard Kelly fans regularly attended the trial. On at least one occasion during a break, several made hand signs of a heart at Kelly. He smiled back.

Jane, 37, was the government's star witness and pivotal to the fixing charge, which accused Kelly of using threats and payoffs to get her to lie to a grand jury before his 2008 trial and to ensure she and her parents wouldn't testify.

*cont'd on pg 12*

## ECCB to utilise services of RICS

The St. Kitts and Nevis-based Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) says the London-based Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) will now be one of the qualifications to be used by ECCB member banks to engage appraisers in the loan approval process.

In a statement Monday, the ECCB said to build trust in the valuation and appraisal process across the eight ECCB member countries, RICS, the global professional body for high standards in land and the environment, is working with the respective ECCU banking associations and valuation and appraisal organisations to train, qualify and regulate local practitioners in the region.

“At a time when the global economic and property markets show uncertainty, we are committed to ensuring that our region’s professionals are providing trusted and robust assessments through international-

ly recognized best practices and ethical standards,” said ECCB Governor, Timothy N.J. Antoine.

“Working with RICS, a globally recognized leader in valuation, appraisal and advisory services for the built environment, is a major step in ensuring professional confidence and financial stability,” he added.

The ECCB, which was established in 1983, serves as the monetary authority for Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts – Nevis, St. Lucia and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The ECCB said the board of directors of all licensed financial institutions under its jurisdiction are responsible for adopting and reviewing policies and procedures that establish effective real estate valuation policies.

“At least once per year, member banks must review real estate valuation policies and procedures to ensure that



they are adequately aligned with international best practices. Additionally, licensed financial institutions are required to monitor the performance of appraisers, and qualification with RICS will now be a key accepted qualification for these professionals.”

It said RICS will help ensure that practitioners are unbiased, possess the appropriate appraisal or collateral valuation education, expertise, and experience for the types of properties being valued and continually update

their knowledge through a process of continuing education, among other requirements.

“We are proud to work with the ECCB, which provides crucial oversight for banking professionals across a region that is important to the global economic market,” said Neil Shah, director of Strategic Partnerships at RICS.

“RICS will help ensure public trust in valuation professionals by providing continuing high standards for the ECCB,” he added.

### *cont'd from pg 11*

A single video, which state prosecutors said was Kelly abusing a girl of around 14, was the focal point of that trial.

On the witness stand for two days at the end of August, Jane paused, tugged at a necklace and dabbed her eyes with a tissue when she said publicly for the first time that the girl in the video was her aged 14 and that the man was Kelly, who would have been around 30.

Some jurors in the 2008 trial said they had to acquit Kelly because the girl in the video didn’t testify. At the federal trial in Chicago, Jane said she lied to a

state grand jury in 2002 when she said it was not her in the video, saying part of her reason for lying was that she cared for Kelly and didn’t want to get him into trouble.

Jane told jurors she was 15 when they first had intercourse. Asked how many times they had sex before she turned 18, she answered quietly: “Uncountable times. ... Hundreds.”

Jane, who belonged to a teenage singing group, first met Kelly in the late 1990s when she was in junior high school. She had visited Kelly’s Chicago recording studio with her aunt, a professional singer. Soon after that meeting,

Jane told her parents Kelly was going to be her godfather.

Jane testified that when her parents confronted Kelly in the early 2000s he dropped to his knees and begged them for forgiveness. She said she implored her parents not to take action against Kelly because she loved him.

Defence attorneys suggested a desire for money and fame drove some government witnesses to accuse Kelly, and they accused several people of trying to blackmail him. They also suggested that at least one of his accusers was 17 — the age of consent in Illinois — when Kelly began pursuing her for sex.

*cont'd on pg 13*



## Bird flu detected at poultry farm in northwest Belize

CMC - The Belize Agricultural Health Authority (BAHA) has placed a poultry farm in Blue Creek Village, northwest of the country, under quarantine after detecting the Avian Influenza in its animals.

Avian flu or Bird flu is an infectious type of influenza that spreads among birds. In rare cases, it can affect humans.

BAHA said that the farm currently houses over 25,000 chickens and containment measures are being put in place to restrict poultry products exiting the Blue Creek Community.

A BAHA statement said that this is being done to ensure that the poultry industry is being protected against further introductions of the disease. Other measures being carried out include the implementation of movement control of live birds, eggs, and litter.

"At this point in time



[iStock]

we have identified only one infected farm with Avian Influenza in Blue Creek. The subtype is H5. When we diagnose either H5 or H7 we implement immediate control measures to control and eradicate the disease, given influenza is a viral disease, a very infectious, contagious virus that could have high mortality," said Miguel Depaz, BAHA director of Animal Health Department.

"There is some degree of mortality, yes, but we must understand that the pathogenesis of the virus can

be either low or high. But, whether it is low or high it requires immediate action by BAHA to control the disease, because whether low or high it can create a negative impact on the industry.

"We do not want to allow live poultry to move out of the area. We are uncertain what the situation is at the moment, so live poultry have the highest risk of spreading the virus and other products, processed products, less risk, but we still want to put some restrictions," he added.

Depaz said before a bird goes to the slaughterhouse it has to test negative for Avian Influenza.

"So, we are putting measures that reduce the risk of spread. With eggs, we have to ensure we test the layers so eggs would not be contaminated. Litter tends to be moved for fertilising purposes. So, we want to prohibit movement of poultry".

Depaz said Avian flu is a poultry disease but it is known to transmit to other species including transmission to humans.

"It has that potential. H5H7 is more a poultry disease but I must say it can be transmitted to humans, but the transmission is not through consumption, I must reiterate that and emphasise that point.

"You cannot get Avian Influenza by consuming poultry or consuming eggs. That is not the nature of how the virus spreads."

### cont'd from pg 12

Bonjean implored jurors not to accept the prosecution's portrayal of her client as "a monster," saying Kelly was forced to rely on others because of intellectual challenges, and that he was sometimes led astray.

"Mr. Kelly can also be a victim," she said in her opening statement.

Prosecutors played jurors excerpts from three videos that Jane said featured her. Court officials set up opaque screens around the jurors so journalists

and spectators couldn't see the videos or the jurors' reactions.

But the sound was audible. In one video, the girl is heard repeatedly calling the man "daddy." At one point she asks: "Daddy, do you still love me?" The man gives her sexually explicit instructions.

Prosecutors have said Kelly shot the video that was also evidence in the 2008 trial in a log cabin-themed room at his North Side Chicago home around 1998.

Another accuser, Pauline, said Jane introduced her to Kelly when they were

14-year-old middle school classmates in 1998. At Kelly's Chicago home later that year, Pauline described her shock when she said she first walked in on Kelly and a naked Jane. She said Kelly told her that everyone has secrets. "This is our secret," she testified.

Pauline told jurors she still cares for Kelly. But, as a 37-year-old mom, she said she now has a different perspective.

"If somebody did something to my kids," she said, "I'm killing 'em. Period."

## Grenada Government to discontinue discount on non-fuel tax to consumers

CMC – The Grenada government says it has decided to discontinue the 25 percent nonfuel charge associated with electricity supply by the island's lone power company, noting that the company had been losing "significant revenue" as a result of the measure.

Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dickon Mitchell, speaking at the weekly end of Cabinet news conference, told reporters that the state-owned Grenada Electricity Company (GRENLEC), had as of September 12, had accumulated EC\$16 million in losses due to the initiative that had been put in place by the previous administration to cushion the impact of increased global energy prices.

"That has had a very negative impact on the cash flow of GRENLEC and on its ability to meet its commitments as they fall due. In the circumstances this particular aspect of the stimulus package, as difficult as the decision is, is not sustainable," said Mitchell.

He told reporters that his administration cannot risk jeopardising the financial stability of the electricity company by continuing with this part of the stimulus package.

"So the discount will be discontinued (and) based on GRENLEC's billing cycle ...the impact, if any, will probably be felt around November of this year.

"We, however, are going to look at alternative measures to cushion the impact, particularly for customers who consume less than or up to 100-kilo-watt hours per month."

Mitchell said the statistics provided by GRENLEC suggest there are



*Prime Minister of Grenada, Dickon Mitchell*

15,000 households and small businesses to be affected "and so we will look to see what measures can be taken from the government's perspective to cushion the impact..."

"We are hopeful that if the fuel prices for electricity continue to trend downwards that eventually, we will also see a downward trend in the cost of electricity," he said, adding that his administration is mindful of the cries from consumers about the high cost of the product.

"But we also have to be honest with the population (and) to a large extent the cost of electricity is determined by the price of fuel, and we all know that worldwide the price of fuel has gone

up significantly partly because of the Russian –Ukraine war..."

Mitchell said the power outages that have been occurring on the island in recent times have been due, according to GRENLEC "mainly because one of its main engines has in the last months or so experiencing some technical glitches".

He said the engine is still under warranty and an official from the company is on the island assisting in finding a solution to the problem.

But he acknowledged that the state-owned company will need "significant investment" in the coming months if it is to continue to meet the demands for the growing consumer base.



## Barbados Minister draws linkages between illegal dumping and sargassum

CMC – Environment and National Beautification Minister, Adrian Forde, is drawing a parallel between illegal dumping at sea and the heavy use of pesticides in fields across Barbados.

Forde, addressing the launch of the Barbados International Coastal Clean-up, hosted by the Caribbean Youth Environment Network, drew linkages between the influx of sargassum seaweed on the island's south and east coasts, and illegal dumping and the use of chemicals.

He told the audience that sargassum seaweed should be regarded as the “perennial grinch” that came every year, not only as a result of increased temperatures because of climate change, but because of the “anthropogenic behaviours of our people.”

“That is the bottom line. When we are having our oceans being loaded with nutrients, nitrates, and phosphates and all the other harmful chemicals because of illegal dumping, and because of indiscriminate disposal of garbage, which is strewn across our beaches, our gullies, and our land space or the lithosphere....

“When this happens, it ends up at the beach; it



*Environment and National Beautification Minister, Adrian Forde*

ends up in the sea; it causes the sea to be overloaded with nutrients; it causes a wide oasis for sargassum to proliferate, and when it proliferates in the ocean, it comes to our beaches in numbers and it becomes a perennial problem,” Adrian Forde added.

He said studies have shown that sargassum had higher than accepted levels of arsenic, mercury, cadmium, and other heavy metals which are harmful to consumers.

Forde said sargassum had the ability to sequester carbon dioxide and reduce ocean acidity, thereby removing harmful chemicals from the sea.

“The writing was on the wall” he warned, noting that these harmful chemicals made their way into the ocean because of pollution.

“That is why...it is a call on Barbadians to put brakes on this whole unfortunate trend of illegal dumping. Apply hand brakes imme-

diately because it redounds to the destruction of your life...our marine life, our life on land, our life in the air. We have to do better as a country...,” he said.

The environment minister said the government is on the “cusp” of the start of the first ever Debt for Nature Swap, which will allow Barbados, through the Nature Conservancy and international agencies, to put money into preserving its maritime environment through spatial planning.

## Depositors hold up two Lebanese banks to grab their own money

Reuters – Two seemingly armed and desperate Lebanese depositors held up banks on Wednesday to force access to their own money, which has been blocked during a national financial meltdown.

One woman with a gun and some associates briefly held hostages at a branch of BLOM Bank in the capital Beirut, before leaving with more than \$13,000 in cash from her account, a source from a depositors' advocacy group said.

Shortly afterwards, in the mountain city of Aley, an armed man entered a Bankmed branch and retrieved some of his trapped savings, before handing himself into authorities, the Depositors Outcry and a security source said.

Lebanon's banks have locked most depositors out of their savings since an economic crisis took hold three years ago, leaving much of the population unable to pay for basics.

In a phenomenon illustrating the plight, Wednesday's holdups came after a man last month held up another Beirut bank to withdraw funds to treat his sick father.

BLOM Bank said a customer and accomplices arrived with a gun, threatened to set people on fire, and forced the branch manager and treasurer to bring



Members of the Lebanese army stand guard outside a Blom Bank branch in Beirut, Lebanon September 14, 2022. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir

money from a safe.

Before going into hiding, the woman, Sali Hafiz, told local news channel Al Jadeed TV the gun was a toy and that she needed the money for her sister's cancer treatment.

"I have nothing more to lose, I got to the end of the road," she said, saying a visit to the bank manager two days previously had not provided an adequate solution.

"I got to a point where I was going to sell my kidney so that my sister could receive treatment."

BLOM confirmed the customer had been in to

seek her money for her sister's treatment, saying she was offered total cooperation and requested to provide documentation.

"All we have is this money in the bank.

"My daughter was forced to take this money - it's her right, it's in her account - to treat her sister," her mother Hiam Hafiz told local TV.

Authorities did not immediately comment on the incidents.

Bankmed did not comment on its branch holdup.

Following last month's holdup, which also involved hostages, the ac-

cused perpetrator was arrested but then released without charge after the bank dropped its lawsuit.

One senior Lebanese banker, speaking on condition of anonymity, told Reuters it was a worrying precedent,

"I think this is an invitation for other people to do the same.

"As long as people get away with it, they will continue. What a failed state," the banker said.

Banks say they make exceptions for humanitarian cases including hospital care, but depositors say that rarely happens.



## Russian council faces dissolution after call for Putin's removal

Reuters – A group of St Petersburg local politicians who called for President Vladimir Putin to be sacked over the war in Ukraine faces the likely dissolution of their district council following a judge's ruling on Tuesday, one of the deputies said.

Nikita Yuferev said the judge decided that a series of past council meetings had been invalid, paving the way for it to be broken up by the regional governor.

Another council member, Dmitry Palyuga, said the same court then fined him 47,000 roubles (\$780) for "discrediting" the authorities by calling for Putin's removal. Court officials could not be reached by telephone for comment.

Four more members of the Smolninskoye local council are due to appear in court in the next two days.

Last week, a group of deputies from the council appealed to the State Duma to bring charges of state treason against Putin and strip him of power, citing a series of reasons including Russia's military losses in Ukraine and the damage to its economy from Western sanctions.

Another local deputy said 65 municipal representatives from St Petersburg, Moscow and several other regions had signed a



*Member of the Smolninskoye municipality council Dmitry Palyuga, who was fined for public activity aimed at discrediting the Russian authorities amid Russia-Ukraine conflict, reacts inside a court building after a hearing in Saint Petersburg, Russia September 13, 2022. REUTERS/REUTERS PHOTOGRAPHER*

petition she published on Monday calling for Putin's resignation.

While posing no current threat to Putin's grip on power, the moves mark rare expressions of dissent by elected representatives at a time when Russians risk heavy prison sentences for "discrediting" the armed forces or spreading "deliberately false information" about them.

Palyuga told Reuters before Tuesday's hearing that the group's appeals were aimed not only at liberal Russians but also at "people loyal to the au-

thorities who are starting to have doubts when they see the lack of success of the Russian army".

He said he expected the numbers of such people to increase after last week's lightning counter-offensive in which Ukraine drove Russian forces out of dozens of towns and recaptured a large swathe of territory in its northeast Kharkiv region.

"Of course, what is happening now has successfully coincided with our agenda. Many people who liked Putin are starting to feel betrayed. I think

the more successfully the Ukrainian army operates, the more such people will become," he said.

Russian political analyst Tatiana Stanovaya said the greater risk to the Kremlin lay not in the councillors' protest itself but in the danger of responding too harshly to it.

"The reaction, or over-reaction, may cause more political damage to the regime than this petition. But I have no doubts that all those who signed the petition will (come) under political pressure," said Stanovaya, founder of the independent analysis project R.Politik.

Thousands of legal cases have been launched against people accused of discrediting the army, usually leading to fines for first-time offences, but a Moscow district councillor was jailed for seven years in July after being convicted of spreading false information. Several other journalists and opposition figures have been charged and face potential prison terms.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Tuesday that critical points of view were tolerated, within the limits of the law. "As long as they remain within the law, this is pluralism, but the line is very, very thin, one must be very careful here," he said.

## Swedish right prepares for power as PM accepts election defeat

Reuters – The head of Sweden's Moderate Party, Ulf Kristersson, said on Wednesday he would begin the work of forming a new government after Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson conceded her Social Democrats had lost the weekend's general election.

The Moderates, Sweden Democrats, Christian Democrats and Liberals appear set to get 176 seats in the 349-seat parliament to the centre-left's 173 seats, according to the latest figures from the election authority.

A handful of votes remain to be counted, but the result is unlikely to change significantly.

"I will now start the work of forming a new government that can get things done," Kristersson said in a video on his Instagram account.

The election marks a watershed in Swedish politics with the anti-immigration Sweden Democrats, a party with roots in the white supremacist fringe, on the threshold of gaining influence over government policy.

The success of the party, which took over from Kristersson's Moderates as the country's second biggest, has raised fears that Sweden's tolerant and inclusive politics are a thing of the past.

However, their mantra



Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson gives a news conference in Stockholm, Sweden September 14, 2022. Jessica Gow/TT News Agency via REUTERS

that Sweden's ills - particularly gang crime - are a result of decades of overgenerous immigration policies have hit home with many voters.

Kristersson said he would build a government "for all of Sweden and all citizens".

"There is a big frustration in society, a fear of the violence, concern about the economy, the world is very uncertain and the political polarisation has become far too big also in Sweden," he said. "Therefore my message is that I want to unite, not divide."

Though Kristersson's party is smaller, Sweden Democrat leader Jimmie Akesson cannot get the broad backing from the

right needed to oust the Social Democrats.

Kristersson is likely to try and form a government with the Christian Democrats and rely on support in parliament from the Sweden Democrats and Liberals.

Prime Minister Andersson accepted defeat, but warned that many Swedes were worried about the Sweden Democrats' election success.

"I see your concern and I share it", she said.

The Sweden Democrats aim to make Sweden the European Union's toughest on immigration policy including legislation making it possible to deny people seeking asylum based on religious or LGBTQ grounds.

The party wants to slash economic benefits for immigrants and give more powers to police, including zones in troubled areas allowing searches without concrete suspicion of a crime.

The Sweden Democrats look set to win 20.6% of the vote, against 19.1% for the Moderates. The Social Democrats will be at 30.4%.

Commanding only a thin majority, Kristersson faces a number of challenges, not least the fact of his party's junior status.

Forming an administration and agreeing a budget will not be easy as the Liberals and Sweden Democrats refuse to serve together - or separately - in government and differ on many policies.



## Real Madrid punishes wasteful Leipzig to stay perfect

AP – As Leipzig wasted chance after chance, Real Madrid stayed calm.

It was just a matter of time before the defending European champions punished Leipzig.

Madrid fended off Leipzig's good start and scored late goals with Federico Valverde and Marco Asensio to extend its perfect start to the season with a hard-fought 2-0 win in the group stage of the Champions League on Wednesday.

Valverde found the net from inside the area in the 80th minute and Asensio added to the lead in stoppage time to salvage Madrid's eighth victory in a row in all competitions.

In its first home game in the competition since winning a record 14th European title, Madrid had struggled from the start and failed to pose much of a threat against a tough Leipzig squad until Valverde opened the scoring.

The visitors created most of the scoring opportunities early on in the Group F match at the Santiago Bernabéu Stadium, with Christopher Nkunku and Timo Werner failing to capitalise on their chances for Leipzig.

"We are brutally disappointed," Leipzig defender David Raum said. "We



*Real Madrid's Federico Valverde celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the Champions League group F soccer match between Real Madrid and Leipzig at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022. Valverde scored once in Real Madrid's 2-0 victory. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)*

were able to make it an even game. If you take the lead, take it into the break, maybe something is possible for us. Them scoring with the first and second shot on goal is brutal, but that's Real Madrid."

Valverde got on the board with a curling left-footed shot after a pass across the area by Vinícius Júnior, and substitute Asensio sealed the victory with a low shot from the edge of the box after a free-kick pass by Toni Kroos.

"Leipzig is a good team," said Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, whose handful of good

saves kept Madrid with a clean sheet. "We didn't create much in attack but we converted the chances we had."

Madrid had only failed to score in one of its last 40 home matches in the group stage of the Champions League. It has kept seven clean sheets in its last nine Champions League group-stage matches.

Leipzig had not failed to score in its previous seven Champions League matches. It had kept only one clean sheet in its last 14 games in the European competition.

Madrid had won sev-

en straight in all competitions, including the UEFA Super Cup final against Eintracht Frankfurt to start the season. Five of its victories came by two or more goals, including the opening 3-0 victory at Celtic in the group stage of the Champions League last week.

It was the second Leipzig match for Rose, who replaced Domenico Tedesco after the team's opening 4-1 loss to Shakhtar Donetsk at home. Leipzig defeated Borussia Dortmund in Rose's debut in the Bundesliga at the weekend.

# Sports News



## Evin Lewis recalled for West Indies for T20 World Cup

AP - Opening batter Evin Lewis has been recalled for the first time since the 2021 Twenty20 World Cup and two uncapped players have been selected in the West Indies squad for this year's edition in Australia.

Team officials said Wednesday that right-arm leg-spinner allrounder Yannic Cariah and left-arm batting allrounder Raymon Reifer were the two new players on the side.

The West Indies are the only team to have won the T20 World Cup twice, in Sri Lanka in 2012 and in India in 2016. Australia is the defending champion after beating New Zealand by eight wickets in the final at Dubai last November.

West Indies must qualify for the Super 12 main phase of the tournament. The Caribbean side begins play on Oct. 17 when it takes on Scotland in the first of three Group B qualifying



West Indies' captain Nicholas Pooran hits a six against New Zealand during the third ODI at Kensington Oval in Bridgetown, Barbados, Sunday, Aug. 21, 2022. (AP Photo/Ramon Espinosa)

matches at Bellerive Oval in Hobart, Tasmania.

They will face Zimbabwe on Oct. 19 and Ireland on Oct. 21 with the top two teams from Group B joining the Super 12s, along with the top two

teams from Group A which features Sri Lanka, the United Arab Emirates, Netherlands and Namibia.

Nicholas Pooran leads the West Indies in his first World Cup as cap-  
*cont'd on pg 21*

## Alcaraz to miss Spain's Davis Cup Finals opener

AP - Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz will skip the opening round of the Davis Cup Finals on Wednesday, which is taking place only three days after the Spanish teenager won the U.S. Open.

Alcaraz arrived in Valencia a day before Spain was scheduled to face Serbia in the group stage.

Sunday's victory over Casper Ruud in Sunday's U.S. Open final saw the 19-year-old Alcaraz become the youngest man to lead the ATP computerised rankings since they began in 1973.

Albert Ramos Viñolas and Roberto Bautista Agut



Carlos Alcaraz, of Spain, poses with the championship trophy after defeating Casper Ruud, of Norway, in the men's singles final of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/John Minichillo)

will line up for Spain in the singles matches on Wednesday, with Marcel Granollers and Pedro Martínez in the doubles. Granollers and Bautista

Agut were part of Spain's victorious Davis Cup team in 2019.

After facing Serbia, which is without Novak Djokovic, Spain will take on Canada on Friday and South Korea on Sunday in Group B.

The top two teams in each of the four groups will advance to the quarterfinals, which will be played in November in the southern Spanish city of Málaga.

Three other venues — Bologna, Italy; Hamburg, Germany; and Glasgow, Scotland — are also hosting group matches.



## Champions League: Copenhagen and Sevilla draw, stay winless

AP – Copenhagen and Sevilla stayed winless in the Champions League after a 0-0 draw on Wednesday.

Both teams are in the bottom half of Group G with a point each. Manchester City leads the group with six points after a 2-1 win over Borussia Dortmund, which has three points.

Sevilla had most of the attempts on goal against Copenhagen but failed to capitalise on its chances.

“We had many chances, especially in the first half, and in the Champions League, in football generally, it’s difficult if you lack that finishing touch,” Sevilla coach Julen Lopetegui said. “On the positive side, we’ve got our first clean sheet of the season. It’s a tough stadium with a powerful atmosphere.”

Sevilla lost to City 4-0 at home, while Copenhagen fell 3-0 at Dortmund, in the group openers.

“The team did a good job and now we have a double-header against Dortmund,” Lopetegui said. “There are 12 points to play for. The Dortmund games then the return (match against) Copenhagen and the other game against City. Evidently the double-header against Dortmund is going to be very important.”

Copenhagen, making its first group-stage appearance since the 2016-17 season, is tough to score



FC Copenhagen players defend a free kick during a Champions League group G soccer match between FC Copenhagen and Sevilla FC in Copenhagen, Denmark, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2022. (Liselotte Sabroe/Ritzau Scanpix via AP)

against at home.

It has not conceded in its last four home games in the competition’s group stage.

It lost only once in its last 13 home matches in the group stage of the Champions League, winning six and drawing six. The loss was against Real Madrid, while Manchester United, Barcelona and Juventus were among the visitors that couldn’t earn a win.

It was a special night for Sevilla midfielder Thomas Delaney, a fan favourite at Copenhagen before leaving to join Werder Bremen in Germany in 2017. The Denmark international was

applauded by the home crowd when he was substituted in the second half.

Sevilla, which picked up its first win of the season at the weekend against Espanyol, has failed to score in its last five European games on the road, and is without a win in its last seven away matches in Europe, failing to score in the last five. It has won only one of its last 10 Champions League matches.

Last season, Sevilla won only once in the group stage, at home against Wolfsburg. It has won only two of its last 16 away games in all competitions this year.

*cont’d from pg 20*

tain, with Rovman Powell as vice-captain.

“We have selected a mixture of youth and experience to represent the West Indies,” lead selector Desmond Haynes said in a statement. “In the selection

process, we have been cognizant of the ongoing CPL (Caribbean Premier League) and we have been looking at the players who have been playing very well. I said at the beginning of my tenure that I would be interested in giving players the opportu-

nity and I think I have been consistent in doing that.”

West Indies will play Australia in a two-match warm-up series on Oct. 5 on the Gold Coast and Oct. 7 at the Gabba in Brisbane.

West Indies squad: Nicholas Pooran (captain),

Rovman Powell, Yannic Cariah, Johnson Charles, Sheldon Cottrell, Shimron Hetmyer, Jason Holder, Akeal Hosein, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Kyle Mayers, Obed McCoy, Raymon Reifer, Odean Smith.

## Start of schools' football programme delayed

The start of the 2022/2023 Ministry of Sports Inter-schools' Football Programme has been pushed back by a week.

Coordinator of the programme, former national senior team head coach Rohan "Porridge" Benjamin, said the start of the season, which was due to kick off with a knockout competition today, 15th September, will now commence on Thursday, 22nd September.

Benjamin said the decision to delay the start of the knockout was made following Tuesday's meeting with the coaches in which they had asked for some more time to prepare for the start of the competition, which will involve only secondary schools.

"We should have been starting with the knockout competition on the 15th of September, but the coaches

have asked for some more time to prepare for the start of the competition. So we have now pushed back the start until Thursday, 22nd September," Benjamin said.

"As you know, we have been out since 2020, so we would have lost two seasons. It is a lot of work for the coaches out there, but they are putting in the work.

"So persons can still look forward to the pre-season knockout which is just to see where the boys and girls are and this will be limited to only one team per school.

"Each school would be able to utilize the players from the various age groups and play as one team, so the best boys and girls teams will represent each school."

Benjamin said playing a knockout competition in each division would be too taxing on the human and financial resources of the Min-



Coordinator of the Ministry of Sports Inter-schools' Football Programme, Rohan 'Porridge' Benjamin. (File photo)

istry of Sports, hence the decision to utilize the one team per school format this time around.

"Only the girls would have played in a knockout in 2019 and 2020 and they would have combined their Under-16s and Under-20 players into one team at each participating school.

"If we try to play a knockout in the other age group categories, it would be too taxing on the system and on the players, especially for this year when we would have been out of football for some time," Benjamin said.

The schools' football coordinator is expecting a combined total of at least 15 teams to participate in the knockout competition.

"I will say at least 10

teams will participate in the boys and at least five teams in the girl's divisions at this moment, but I expect that number to grow by Friday (23rd September)," Benjamin stated.

"By Friday, it will be confirmed exactly how many teams will be taking part in the schools' knockout competition, but I am confident it will be over 10 teams in the male category.

"Normally, we usually have a maximum of nine girls team taking part and so I am expecting about seven teams to participate this year."

Defending girl's knockout champions Ottos Comprehensive School is one of the teams that has already confirmed its participation.





## Transport Board claims second win in Business League

Cupholders Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board continued on their path in making a successful defense of their title by notching up their second win in as many matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League Competition on Tuesday night.

Playing in the first game of a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex, Transport Board crushed Mill Reef 75-28 in a lopsided affair.

Russell Daley led the

team with 17 points, Kareem Edwards and Shawn Williams each scored 16 points and Darnell Azille contributed 13 points for the winners.

June Paige and Elliot Hector scored seven and six points respectively for Mill Reef.

Graphic Impact Shooters also pulled off a commanding 77-38 victory against Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew in the second encounter on Tuesday night.

Tavarus Benta shot a game high 26 points, in-

cluding six three pointers for the victors. He was supported by Sean Nicholas with 12 points and Yannick Samuel with 11 points.

Jahmanda Richards scored nine points for the Fearless Crew.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex today (Thursday).

The Board of Education will face Sandals at 6:30 pm, Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care will take on Galley Bay Resort at

7:30 pm and Anjo Wholesale will clash with Sir Lester Bird Medical Center at 8:30 pm.

No matches are scheduled for tomorrow (Friday), but the competition will resume with a double-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday evening.

Pointe FM will tackle Sledge O'Ballers at 7:30 and the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre will challenge defending champions the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 8:30pm.

*cont'd from pg 24*  
competition.

"So we have had to make some re-adjustments to the teams taking part and also to the schedule. We would have invited Old Road FC and Attacking Saints FC to take part but those two clubs have matches on either the Friday or Saturday in the ABFA knockout competition."

The Warriors Cup competition will kick off with a double-header at the Mack Pond Playing field today. Empire FC will face Young Warriors in the opening game at 5:30 pm and John Hughes will clash with Young Lions at 7:30 pm.

In tomorrow's (Friday) double-header, All Saints United will tackle Young Lions at 5:30 pm and Bath

United of Nevis will oppose Empire FC at 7:30 pm.

In the last two preliminary group matches on Saturday, Young Warriors will challenge Bath United at 5:30 pm and John Hughes will meet All Saints United at 7:30 pm.

On Sunday, the two teams that finished in the cellar position in both groups will clash in a fifth-place playoff at 3:30 pm. It will be followed by a third-place playoff between the two teams that finished second in either group at 5 pm.

The winners of the two preliminary groups will clash in Sunday's final for the title at 7pm. The Warriors Cup will then close off with a presentation ceremony at 9 pm.



## Warriors Cup teams confirmed

Six teams will be participating in this year's Warriors Cup Football Tournament set to kick-off today (Thursday, 15th September) at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints Village following a three-year absence, mainly due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The six teams are divided into two zones for the 15th to 18th September tournament, which was last contested in 2018 with John Hughes being crowned the winners.

Contesting Group A are defending champions John Hughes, All Saints United and Young Lions of Old Road. Overseas guest team Bath United FC of Nevis, Empire FC and host Young Warriors will compete in Group B.

Chief organizer and President of the Young Warriors Football Club Colin "Tin Tin" James said a number of teams have shown great interest in being part of this year's Warriors Cup, but due to the short period of time for the tournament, they can only accommodate a maximum of six teams.

James said some adjustments were made to the teams that could participate, due their involvement in the second-round matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup competition at the ABFA's Training Center at Paynters this weekend.

"In April, Young Warriors made a tour to St. Kitts/Nevis and over the Easter Weekend we were hosted by Bath United Football Club. Even be-



*President of the Young Warriors Football Club, Colin 'Tin Tin' James. (File photo)*

fore we would have left Nevis, they indicated that they would like to come to Antigua around the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis Independence anniversary celebrations from Friday, 16th to Monday, 19th September, which is Independence Day in the Federation of St Kitts/Nevis," James said.

"So we were always looking forward to hosting them, we just wanted to know that they had everything in place for coming up to Antigua. They have organized a charter flight with Air Anguilla to leave Nevis and arrive in Antigua in about 20 minutes on Friday morning.

"So we have been making plans and I must say the interest among the clubs in Antigua and Barbuda has been tremendous. Quite a number of clubs have reached out to us and we would have reached out to some clubs as well.

"But because of the nature and structure of the tournament, we can't go beyond three days or maybe four days. We also are aware that the ABFA knockout cup is being played this weekend, but we didn't factor in that a few of the local teams are also scheduled to play this weekend in the second round of the ABFA knockout

*cont'd on pg 23*