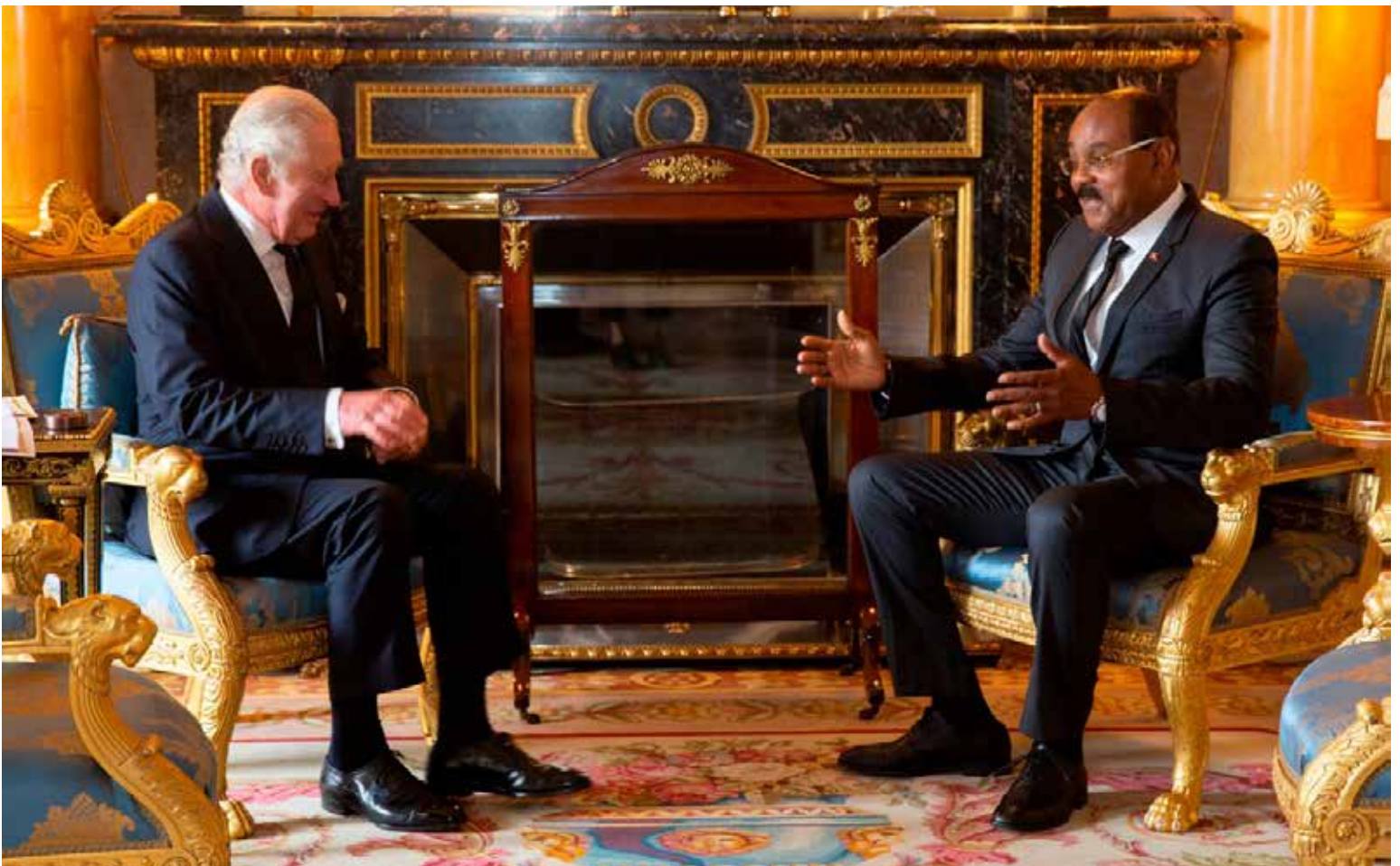


# KING CHARLES III, PM BROWNE DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE, REPUBLICANISM



*During his trip to the United Kingdom to attend the funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Westminster Abbey on Monday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne was received in a private audience by His Majesty King Charles III on Saturday. During the meeting, the prime minister offered condolences to the King on the death of his mother on behalf of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda. The new sovereign and the country's leader also discussed several issues, including growing concerns related to climate change and Antigua and Barbuda's desire to become a republic. **Story on page 2***

# Local News



## PM Browne meets King Charles III, offers condolences

On Sunday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne had a private audience with King Charles III at Buckingham Palace in the United Kingdom as hundreds of heads of state, dignitaries and foreign officials descended on London to pay final respects to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, ahead of her state funeral on Monday.

During the audience, Prime Minister Browne expressed his deep condolences to King Charles III on the passing of his mother and Queen, Her Majesty Elizabeth II.

“Your mother and Queen was a shining example to us as leaders as she represented true commitment to service and love of country. The United Kingdom and the world will miss her dearly,” PM Browne said.

During their meeting, King Charles III and Prime Minister Browne briefly discussed issues of climate change and the king’s in-



*Prime Minister Browne expressed his deep condolences to King Charles III on the passing of his mother and Queen, Her Majesty Elizabeth II during an audience at Buckingham Palace*

ternational involvement on the issue through The Prince’s Trust. His Majesty and Prime Minister Browne pledged to work closely on these and other issues in the future.

On Sunday, Prime Minister Browne told Pointe Xpress, “[I] had very good, positive and fruitful discussions with King Charles [on topics] including, climate change, Barbuda and republicanism.

“Antigua and Barbu-

da will write to the UK government to encourage the King some latitude, to continue his global advocacy on climate, which is the most significant threat affecting our planet.”

A day earlier, joined by Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, Prime Minister Browne signed the Book of Condolence at Lancaster House in London where he paid tribute to the late Queen on behalf of the

Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda.

Prior to his departure to the UK on Thursday, Prime Minister Browne reminisced on the Queen’s admirable qualities during a specially convened session of Parliament.

“Our country has lost the only Head of State known to the majority of our population. Elizabeth of the house of Windsor came to the throne of many realms, including Antigua and Barbuda, in 1952.

“In her 70 years of her reign, she met every head of government of our country, going back to our national hero Sir Vere Cornwall Bird Senior, even before we attained our political independence in 1981.

“Everyone of her Heads of Government in Antigua and Barbuda, including myself, can attest to the warmth of her personality and the humility with which she carried out

*cont’d on pg 3*



*Governor General of Antigua and Barbuda Sir Rodney Williams, left, and Lady Williams and Prime Minister Gaston Browne, right, signed the Book of Condolence at Westminster Hall in London where the late Queen Her Majesty Elizabeth II lay in state ahead of her State Funeral on Monday [Photos: Buckingham Palace]*



## “It was the right thing to do” Chief of Staff says about A&B recognising Queen Elizabeth II’s funeral

While the public was keen to air their grievances with the government’s decision to declare Monday 19th September a national holiday in observance of the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Chief of Staff in the Prime Minister’s Office Lionel “Max” Hurst is steadfast that “it was the right thing to do”.

In addition to the public holiday, Antigua and Barbuda held a Service of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine to honour the life and service of the Queen.

“It is clear that she is our Head of State, and if it were Sir Rodney Williams who had died, God forgive me, clearly, we would have had this kind of undertaking.

“So, that’s what we did today. It’s the right thing to do,” Hurst said on Monday.

Before the service, a parade involving the nation’s uniformed bodies was held through the streets of St. John’s City, the highlight of which was the eyes right and salute taken at Government House by the Governor General’s Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts.

Several other events were held to honour the Queen ahead of her funeral.

Special sittings of both the Parliament and the Senate were held last Thursday and flags were flown at half-mast since Queen Elizabeth’s death on 8th September.

A Book of Condolences was opened at Government House to allow government



Chief of Staff in the Prime Minister’s Office Lionel “Max” Hurst

officials, diplomats and the public to pay respect.

Antigua and Barbuda was not alone as other Caribbean nations also held events to honour the Queen, and while many supported these activities, there were those who, based on the Royal Family’s histo-

ry and connection with the Atlantic Slave Trade, were staunchly against lending their support to any activity associated with the region’s former “colonisers”.

Some people have expressed the view that the attention and resources dedicated by the government to these activities would have been better spent attending to the needs of the nation’s people.

Among them was the United Progressive Party’s Jamale Pringle who said in a recent media appearance that instead of declaring a holiday, the government should have made provisions for time off for those persons desirous of participating in the church service and parade.

He claimed that the additional holiday would put additional strain on struggling, local businessmen.

### cont’d from pg 2

her duties as Queen of several realms and head of Commonwealth of Nations.”

The prime minister also noted her sincere interest in Antigua and Barbuda.

“She had an abiding interest in the countries in which she was Queen, and ours was no exception. In the course of her reign, she was the sovereign of more than 30 countries.

“Recognising that she could not be physically present in all of them, with the frequency that she might have liked, she ensured that many members of the royal family visited each of them.

“While she herself came to Antigua and Barbuda several times, so too did her husband, the late Prince Phillip; her late

sister Princess Margaret; Prince Charles, now King Charles III, and even her grandsons, William and Harry.”

In Antigua and Barbuda, Monday 19th September, the day of the State Funeral for Her Majesty, was declared a public holiday and a National Day of Mourning. At 11am at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, Governor General’s Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts and Acting Prime Minister, Steadroy Benjamin participated in a Thanksgiving Service for the Life and Service of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The Thanksgiving Service was followed by a parade through the streets of St. John’s by the many agencies which form the country’s security forces.

# Local News



## Prime Minister Browne to address nationals at NY town hall meeting

Prime Minister Gaston Browne will host an open town hall meeting with Antiguan and Barbudans during his visit to New York to participate in the United Nations General Assembly.

The prime minister is leading a high-level delegation to the 77th Session of the UN General Assembly which includes Minister of Foreign Affairs E. P. Chet Greene, Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment Sir Molwyn Joseph and Minister of Education Daryll Matthew.

It is customary for the prime minister to engage with Antiguan and Barbu-



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne* dans who have made the United States their home while attending the gathering of world leaders.

The town hall meeting will take place on 23rd

September at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in the Bronx at 7:00pm.

Prime Minister Browne last had a face-to-face meeting with the Anti-

gua and Barbuda diaspora in the US in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic brought an end to large public gatherings for about two years. As a result, Browne expressed eagerness to again have the opportunity to connect with Antiguan and Barbudans, update them and field questions about the developments taking place in their home country.

The government successfully steered the country through the COVID-19 pandemic - one of the worst crises in recent human history - and it is expected that Prime Minister Browne will *cont'd on pg 5*



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## APUA: Electricity fully restored

The nation's sole utility provider, APUA, has reported that it has fully restored electricity to all areas on Antigua that lost power during the passage of Tropical Storm Fiona on Friday night into Saturday morning.

Transmission manager, Lyndon Francis, said most of the island had their power fully restored by Sunday night, while the remaining isolated areas had their power restored by Monday afternoon.

According to Francis, the power outages were caused by downed power lines and transformers that caught fire at the height of the storm. These issues resulted in approximately fifty percent of APUA's customers in Antigua losing electricity.

Francis said the north and east of the island were worst affected by the disruption.

The northern areas affected included Coolidge, Hodges Bay, Crosbies, Blue Waters, Cedar Grove, Mount Pleasant, while eastern communities including those from Parham to Willikies.

"A number of our poles caught fire, and we had transmission issues as well, but we were able to quickly mobilise our crews to begin the job of restoring electricity to the affected areas as soon as possible. Our main task was to replace those affected poles and transformers," Francis said.

Asked about contingencies to minimise downtime during future storms, Francis disclosed that he will convene a review of the systems and procedures in place this week to identify areas of weakness and address them.

"We have to take a look at preventative maintenance as well as improving our vegetation management," he stated.

Vegetation management involves pruning or removing trees whose branches are close to the transmission lines. Pruning overgrown trees is an activity the electricity department is regularly involved with, according to the transmission manager, as this is a main cause of electricity transmission line interruptions during

storms.

Meantime, while there were no unscheduled interruptions in service on Barbuda, APUA shut off power on the island at about 3:00am on Saturday "out an abundance of caution". Power was restored to the island's consumers by 7:00am.

Five years ago on 6th and 7th September, 2017, Barbuda was devastated by Hurricane Irma.

The island has since been fully rebuilt thanks to several initiatives spearheaded by the Gaston Browne-led Antigua Barbuda Labour Party government.



*Transmission manager, Lyndon Francis*

*cont'd from pg 4*

share strong indicators that point to Antigua and Barbuda's successful economic recovery. It is expected that the head of government will also express his gratitude to nationals in the US for their support of his government, their families, and friends at home during the period of crisis.

He will also discuss with them other ways in which they can play a larger role in the country's ongoing development.

## UTILITIES ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

### DISCONNECTION NOTICE

APUA would like to remind both residential and commercial customers to stay connected by Managing Your Account. Customers are reminded to settle Electricity and Water accounts that are overdue by 30 days or in arrears. Disconnections will be carried out during the period **September 19th to September 30th, 2022.**

**Please be advised that reconnections are carried out within 1-2 business days after payment.**



# Local News



## Fiona dumps significant rain on parts of Antigua

While Antigua and Barbuda escaped severe damage from the passage of Tropical Storm Fiona last Friday and Saturday, parts of Antigua recorded up to four inches of rain, according to the Antigua and Barbuda Meteorological Service.

The Met Office reported that their station at Diamond's Estate in the island's eastern quadrant, recorded 4 inches of rain, while Christian Valley in the south was close behind with 3.9 inches.

At the V. C. Bird International Airport, 2.9 inches of rain was recorded. The Botanical Gardens in St. John's registered 2.5 inches.

Barbuda also experienced rainfall but was spared major catastrophe.

Both the Met Office and the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) indicated that there were no reports of major flooding associated with the heavy downpour of rain.

Head of NODS, Sher-

rod James, said the storm produced gusts of up to 55 miles per hour, but the sustained winds were about 40 miles per hour.

"Because the sustained winds were not very strong, what we have are reports of light damage in a number of areas.

"For example, the roof of a shed was blown off at a school in Urlings and one of the pavilions at the Free-

town basketball court had its roof damaged as well," he said.

James noted that light flooding was reported in low lying areas including Bolans and Pigotts, however flood waters quickly receded as the rains ceased.

NODS activated 30 shelters across 25 communities, however, only six saw activity as only a few people, as a precautionary

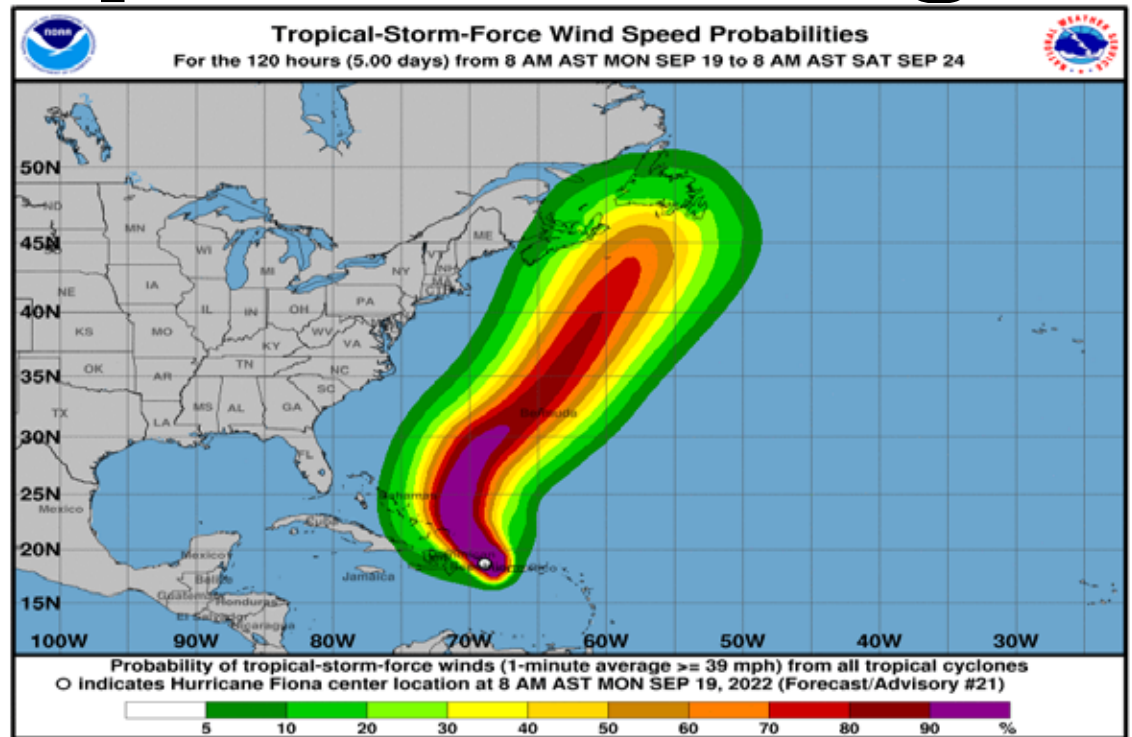
measure, used the shelters to wait out the storm.

"For example, the shelter at Bolans saw two families but they left early as soon as they felt safe to do so. Overall, we were spared any major incident," James declared.

Tropical Storm Fiona passed south of Antigua but passed directly over the northern section of neighbouring Guadeloupe.

At least one death was reported there with one person reported missing according to early reports.

Fiona has since become a hurricane which is producing devastating outcomes over Puerto Rico, which was battered by heavy rainfall of up to 10 inches in some areas, triggering mudslides and significant flooding.



Tue 20   Day		Tue 20   Night	
<b>87°</b>	23% ESE 14 mph	<b>79°</b>	35% ESE 11 mph
Partly cloudy. High 87F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.		Rain showers in the evening becoming more intermittent overnight. Low 79F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.	
Humidity <b>73%</b>	UV Index <b>Extreme</b>	Humidity <b>83%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>5:56 am</b>	Sunset <b>6:05 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>1:16 am</b>	Moonset <b>2:50 pm</b>
Waning Crescent			



## Two men found dead at separate locations Sunday

Police are carrying out investigations into the circumstances surrounding the deaths of two men in their sixties whose bodies were discovered at separate locations in St. John's on Sunday.

The first report came at mid-morning Sunday when the body of a man, who so far has only been identified as a Jamaican national of no fixed place of abode, was discovered at the Ottos Basketball Court around 8:30am.

A medical doctor pronounced him dead at about 11am. Foul play is not suspected at this stage of the investigation, according to a report from the police's communications division, STRATCOM.

Unconfirmed, but reliable reports suggest that the man is Winston Palmer, but the police are yet to confirm



this detail.

Meanwhile, police were called to Bishopgate Street on Sunday morning after the dead body of another man of unknown address was found.

Anderson "Bankers" Quinland, who is in his sixties, was discovered near Don's Barber Shop at about 11:55am.

The circumstances surrounding his death are also unclear, however, as the further information becomes available the public will be informed, a STRATCOM statement promised.

The police say they will conduct

postmortem examinations to determine both men's cause of death.

Meanwhile, yet another person was discovered dead over the holiday weekend.

On Monday, emergency medical services were summoned to Parham after a woman, believed to be in her 50s, was discovered dead in her yard.

While the details remain unclear, early reports suggest that a relative became concerned after the woman, who was hanging laundry, failed to return inside.

After checking to see what was delaying her, her lifeless body was discovered on the ground just after 1pm.

Further details concerning this latest incident were unavailable at press time.



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# Local News



## Opposition Leader extends condolences following Queen's death

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle has expressed sorrow over the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who was interred on Monday.

In expressing condolences to the new sovereign, King Charles III, Pringle noted that he has a significant role ahead of him given the legacy his mother, the Queen, has left behind.

"I extend condolences to his Majesty King Charles III, the Royal Family, the government and the people of the UK, the people of the British Commonwealth and also to our Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and



Last Monday, Opposition Leader Jamale Pringle signed the Book of Condolences at government house following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8th September, 2022.

the Government and people of Antigua and Barbuda on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II."

Pringle stated that the Queen's influence was felt throughout the seven decades

of her reign because she dutifully carried out her responsibilities and uplifted those around her.

He said evidence of her deep sense of responsibility to her realms was still evident

by those who encountered her in visits to Antigua and Barbuda in 1966, 1977 and 1985.

"Over the 70 years of her reign, the Queen was highly visible as the Monarch and Head of State. She treated her obligations seriously, but cheerfully, as demonstrated during her visit to Antigua in 1977," he said.

"We know that the new King has very big shoes to fill. We also wish him the support of the people of the United Kingdom and of the world's governments with whom he must work in these unsettled and unsettling times," Pringle ended.



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## Police officers take control of searches at HMP

Correctional officers and other employees at His Majesty's Prison must now subject themselves to searches carried out by the police before entering the penal institution.

The new security arrangement took effect last Wednesday and forms part of several measures that have been implemented to curb the increase of contraband items entering the prison.

In a communiqué issued on 13th September, 2022, Acting Superintendent of Prisons, Jermaine Anthony Jr. detailed that, "Designated members of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda have been authorised to conduct searches of all persons and property entering and exiting all parts of the prison."

In early August during a raid at 1735, several items including mobile phones, illicit drugs, cooking utensils and a television were discovered in the possession of inmates, raising serious questions about the porous security system at the Coronation Road facility.

This resulted in the authorities reviewing the arrangement there as a matter of urgency, especially as it suspected that correctional officers are involved in allowing the illegal items to make their way into the prison.

A proposal is also being considered for the installation of directional cell phone jammers which will prevent inmates who gain possession of mobile phones from making contact with people on the outside.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Lionel "Max" Hurst, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, has expressed confidence that the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda is capable of supporting security at His Majesty's Prison.

His response came during last



week's Cabinet Press Briefing when he was asked whether the police, who are already spread thin, would be able to support the new security measures at the prison over the long run.

"We have a police force of about 650, moving to about 800 people, and we believe that a sufficient number can be assigned to the prison to carry out these kinds of searches that will indeed bring to an end the intrusion of these devices into the prison cells for prisoners to use," Hurst said.

The ambassador was also adamant that bringing an end to contraband entering the prison is feasible once appropriate measures have been put in place.

"We can do it, we know, with vigilance and continued security apparatus being applied. One of the things we hope to utilise is the metal detectors; when visitors enter the prison, the metal detectors can, in fact, help the

police and the security personnel at the prisons to determine that someone is attempting to bring some kind of contraband into the prison.

He continued, "These are being set up, and the whole object is to ensure that we can prevent some of these items from being delivered to the prisoners."

Hurst also acknowledged that the prison's staff play a major role in the contraband problem, but said he remains confident that the new measures will be successful.

"We know that there are some not-so-scrupulous prison officers who engage in a kind of illegal trade by allowing all these items to be brought into the cells of prisoners," he acknowledged.

"We know what the problem is, we know what the solution is, and we intend to apply the solution to the problem."

# Opinion



## Catch as catch can

By Tony Deyal

After I got badly sunburnt in the sea last Saturday, my friends asked me to write an article on fishing. I took the bait because one thing I know is that good things come to those who bait and I am a master-baiter.

I have allure. I give away whatever I catch because I am not shellfish. And I am so happy in the water that I sing, "Nearer my cod to thee."

What both the fish and my friends don't know is that when dealing with fishermen like me, even though everything I write is reel, there is always a catch.

One thing about all fishing stories and tall tales is that the one that got away is always bigger than the one you "gotta" weigh.

Fortunately, fishes have their own

scales. Unfortunately, in balance, they don't like me.

Last week, when I wasn't getting the fish to bite, I thought it would be a good idea to try my well-sharpened communication skills. I dropped them a line but they refused to respond. I then switched on my radio and played something catchy.

I was caught long before the fish. I went to spend a weekend by my friend Trevor and his father decided to teach us how to fish.

First we had to dig for worms. I came up with a multi-coloured, many-legged creature and Trevor jumped back in alarm.

"Dat is not ah earthworm," he shouted. "True?" I asked.

"What planet it from?" I had to learn how to take a piece of string, put



Tony Deyal

a cork from a bottle on the string and then tie the end to a small safety pin. Then I was taught to break off a piece from one of the worms, leave enough wriggle room, thread it onto the sharp end of the pin and then immerse the pin and worm in the water.

Then I had to watch the cork bob until it got pulled down. When that happened, I had to whip the bamboo rod upwards to "hook" the fish and then take it off the hook. Simple? Basically, a jerk at one end of the line waiting for a jerk at the other end.

The first bite I got, I pulled so hard that the fish, a small Coscarob or what we called a "coskie" of the Cichlidae family, flew off the hook and ended up so high in the bamboo patch that we could not reach it because the hook, freed of the fish, had continued its journey and ended up stuck deeply into my back. Despite this initial setback, I was hooked for life.

It is not that I hadn't learnt the language. We were so poor that for years the only banks I knew were in the "rice land" where my father and other members of our extended family first built small clay or dirt walls, basically banks, to create little dams or water catchment areas.

*cont'd on pg 11*

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## cont'd from pg 10

Later, in the rainy season, we slithered and slid through the mud, reaped the rice, beat the hell out of it, dried it on the road where I stood guard from the front step armed with some stones to throw at the birds and chickens which came for their share and finally, when they said "It ready", watched as Pundit Saddoo grind it in his mill.

The banks also kept in fish and I watched as, with little bamboo poles, small hooks, "fish" pots made with chicken wire and wood, and even flour or worms as bait, they caught fish with names like cascadoo (cascadura), wahbeen or guabine, some of which jumped out of the water, coscorub, catfish, mama-teta and cutlass fish.

What scared all of us were eels (jangie or zangie) which, I was warned, could "suck out youh toe".

Since we all went barefoot in the muddy water this was enough reason for me to stay on the bank "helping".

Then I went to the nearby Orange Valley Bay and saw one of my father's friends in a boat going round and round very slowly with a long piece of wire in one hand and the tiller of the boat engine in the other. "What he doing?" I asked my Uncle Jacket.

"He trolling." my Uncle said tersely. "What is that Uncle?" I pestered. "He trying to ketch fish," Uncle Jacket responded sharp-

ly. Since this was the only fish I really knew, I enquired, "Wahbeen?" Uncle Jacket laughed loudly, something I was not used to, and then said with a smirk, "Dey don't have wahbeen here."

He continued, "The man trying to ketch Kovali (Crevalle Jackfish)". I found out later why my Uncle had laughed so loudly.

First of all, the wahbeen is a freshwater fish and secondly, ladies of the night or prostitutes were also called "wahbeens". Lord Inventor had a calypso about "Dem wahbeen women they have so low/ If a razor-blade fall dey could pass below".

That was also the first time I saw a catfish (pronounced KYAT-FISH). It was huge and, apart from its large whiskers, had no resemblance to a cat at all.

When I declared loudly, "But that don't look like a kyat!", Uncle Jacket laughed even harder. "Cat" is also a Trini term for a woman's sexual organ.

In thinking about fishing and why I love it, I realise that for someone who worships the English language as much as I do, fish and fishing are more than a mere drop in the ocean of literature.

Consider being "like a fish out of water". When your boy-friend leaves you, "There is plenty of fish in the sea", or you can boast, "I've got bigger fish to fry".

Right now I am "fishing for compliments." A few times out in stormy weath-

er and lightning, I found myself between the devil and the deep blue sea, but at other times, when my friends were spear-fishing, everything went swimmingly. I've seen too many con-men up to "fishy business" and that is a mere drop in the ocean of Caribbean politics.

Many of us have met the lady who broke our hearts and left us gutted, or women who are warned "don't take the bait" and yet date someone who is considered a bottom feeder.

I have seen a whale blubber. I have often promised to leave the fishing business to the fish since they start on a small scale. Poor as I am, I have never borrowed money from a prawn broker or a loan shark.

When things are not

working out, I pray to Cod Almighty, grateful that fishing continues to be the only sport where a limp rod still comes in handy.

Last week as my son Zubin and I helped push the 27-foot pirogue (fishing-boat) out from the sheltered bay into the burning, blazing sun with our friend Peter, who knows all the "banks" and with whom we have trolled for kingfish, we could not think of any happier days, past or future.

Zubin was off to Oxford in two days. Despite the sunburn and the fact that as Trinis say "We ketch our nennen", this was, once more, the best present that we could give ourselves.

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen asking, "Why are they called 'sperm' whales?" Because they were discovered by seamen.*

## Weekend Puzzle Solution

**IN LABOR**

By Timothy E. Parker

1	B	R	A	I	D	6	A	S	P	E	N	11	L	S	D
14	M	O	I	R	E	15	C	A	S	T	E	16	E	A	R
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23	P	O	P	C	O	R	N	27	G	A	L	A	H	A	D
29	U	N	I	O	N	S	30	D	E	L	E	T	E		
31	L	I	E	N	S	32	D	I	C	E	S	33	R	C	A
36	S	O	C	K	37	W	O	R	K	S	38	G	W	E	N
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42	O	R	A	N	G	E	44	A	V	E	R	S	E		
45	U	N	F	O	L	D	S	47	B	L	A	N	K	E	R
48	T	O	W	E	D	49	S	U	I	T					
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58	C	U	R	59	I	N	U	I	T	60	R	O	D	E	O
61	A	S	K	62	N	E	E	D	S	63	S	T	A	R	R



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# Long live the King! But not the monarchy?

**By Patrick**

It would be disingenuous to say, Queen Elizabeth II, a woman most of us have known, heard of, or seen throughout our lives, was not a beloved woman. So, it is understandable her sudden death has been met with global sadness and mourning.

Throughout the British Commonwealth, including the Caribbean countries that were former, or still are, British colonies, flags are being flown at half-mast. Those still with governors general, representing the British monarch as head of state, will be represented by these men and women at the queen's funeral in London on September 19.

But the queen's death has revealed an interesting dichotomy in the Caribbean and other British Commonwealth nations. Although the people of these countries adored the queen, there is indication they see the British monarch as archaic, and no longer relevant.

It is quite apparent in the Caribbean, the adoration for Queen Elizabeth was the adhesive that prevented breaking with the antiquated monarchy. The beloved queen was really a fantasy some were reluctant to let go. People loved her sense of style, charm, grace, her gentle, girlish voice as she addressed them at Christ-



*King Charles III*

mas and other occasions. To them the queen was their story book Cinderella living happily forever in a gilded palace.

Now the queen's death is making people see through the fantasy that surrounded her. Already, there are renewed calls to break from the British monarchy. There is news that the government of Antigua and Barbuda is thinking of holding a referendum to decide whether to stay with, or break from, the monarchy. Jamaica previously indicated its intent to join Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago, in breaking with the monarchy. There are also now louder calls from the Caribbean for reparation for the atrocities of slavery, that despicable system which Britain, under several former monarchs, foisted upon the Caribbean, as they enriched themselves from the profits of sugar, produced on the backs of Black slaves.

When Queen Elizabeth

ascended the throne in 1952, slavery was long over, so she could not be directly blamed for the atrocious system. She was a very educated, and compassionate woman. Certainly, not only was she aware of the cruelty brought about by slavery, but also of the damning marginalization of Black people living in the colonies over which she ruled. But she seemed not to have advised any of the governments she headed over her long reign to apologize for slavery, or for keeping Black people in their marginalized state; much less compensating these former colonies for the pain they experienced from slavery. To be fair, it is unknown if she did, as her conversations with respective British prime ministers have been kept secret. But she visited the colonies often before and after their independence from Britain, and one cannot recall a public apology from her for slavery, or the slight-

est hint that she would look into the possibility of reparation.

Perhaps, looking back, the many former Caribbean colonies that gained political independence from 1962, missed the opportunity for an apology for slavery and reparation when they each negotiated the terms for independence. The desire for independence was so strong it overlooked the need for an apology, and/or terms for reparations.

But now, King Charles III has succeeded Queen Elizabeth. In his long apprenticeship to be monarch he surely is aware of the demands from the former colonies for an official apology from the monarchy for slavery, and that other atrocity – apartheid in South Africa, a system over which Elizabeth ruled.

Caribbean leaders must be aggressive in now pressuring the new monarch to give this official apology for slavery, demand reparation for this evil system, and be vigilant in breaking from the monarchy. This monarchy provides absolutely no benefit to Caribbean nations. The fantasy brought about by a charming, graceful Queen Elizabeth II has passed. The time has come to be truly independent nations; republics led by their own heads of state, whether elected or appointed.

## Cuba makes strides in developing vaccine against Dengue Fever

Cuban authorities say they have made strides toward developing a vaccine to fight the mosquito-borne dengue fever.

In making the announcement, the president of the BioCubaFarma Biotech Conglomerate Eduardo Martinez said a diagnostic system is also being developed to detect the disease as the first symptoms appear.

Cuban scientists have worked over the past ten years to find a vaccine against dengue and decided to develop one that induces a cellular response against the virus. They expect to have it soon.

Martinez also announced that Cuba already counts on a new fast diagnostic system that will help health protocols by detecting the disease as soon as the patient feels the first relevant symptoms and even if there is reinfection.

He said this will allow different treatments for patients to avoid the development of the disease and death.


Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne illness that occurs in tropical and subtropical areas of the world.

Mild dengue fever causes a high fever and flu-like symptoms, but the severe form of dengue fever, also called dengue haem-

orrhagic fever, can cause serious bleeding and death.

Millions of cases of dengue infection occur worldwide each year. Dengue fever is most common in Southeast Asia, the western Pacific islands, Latin America, and Africa. But the disease has been spreading to new areas, including local outbreaks in Europe and southern parts of the United States. (CMC)










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## Hurricane Fiona slams Dominican Republic after leaving Puerto Rico mostly without power

Reuters – Hurricane Fiona made landfall in the Dominican Republic on Monday and Puerto Rico braced for another day of heavy rainfall and life-threatening flooding, a U.S. government agency said, one day after the island was hit by a widespread power outage.

The Dominican Republic is being battered with "extremely heavy rainfall" and winds as strong as 90 miles per hour, Eric Blake of the U.S. National Hurricane Center said, as storm conditions in Puerto Rico begin to subside.

Hurricane Fiona made landfall in Puerto Rico on Sunday afternoon, five



*A view of destroyed buildings in the aftermath of Hurricane Fiona in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic, September 19, 2022. REUTERS/Ricardo Rojas*

years after the U.S. Caribbean territory was ravaged by Hurricane Maria.

"Tomorrow will be dryer than today, but it will be a long day today," said Blake,

acting branch chief of the NHC's hurricane specialist unit, referring to Puerto Rico. "The strongest winds are already dying down and it's already over the Domin-

ican Republic."

Puerto Rico's power grid remains fragile despite emergency repairs after Hurricane Maria in September 2017 caused the largest blackout in U.S. history, according to the Puerto Rican think tank Center for a New Economy.

In that Category 5 storm, which killed more than 3,000 people, 1.5 million customers lost electricity with 80% of power lines knocked out. Thousands of Puerto Ricans still live under makeshift tarpaulin roofs.

The eye of Fiona made landfall in the Dominican

*cont'd on pg 16*

## Cayman Islands House Speaker McKeever Bush accused of sexual harassment

CMC – Cayman Islands Speaker of the House McKeever Bush has been asked to step down from that position following allegations that he sexually harassed at least two women at a recent cocktail party hosted by the Tourism Ministry during a Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) conference.

Bush was said to be intoxicated when the incidents occurred.

In a statement issued late Saturday, Premier Wayne Panton, who was in London for the Queen's funeral, said he asked Bush to resign but he intended to deal with the matter later this week at the end of the official period of mourning.

"Prior to departing for London on Thursday afternoon, 15 September, I issued a strongly worded letter to the speaker suggesting that he resign on, or before, Friday, 23 September 2022.

Whilst a formal written resignation has not been given, I can confirm that I received several messages from Mr. Bush on Friday morning stating multiple times his intention to resign as speaker," the premier said.

Panton said he was forced to address the issue following claims made by Agriculture Minister Jay Ebanks.

In an online article, the agriculture minister was credited as the person who revealed information concerning the behaviour of the speaker of the house.

Panton noted that he had planned to wait until after Bush had submitted his written resignation to the clerk of Parliament before issuing any further statement on this matter, given that he is in London for the Queen's funeral.

"As we conclude the final days of the Official Period of National Mourning, I



*Cayman Islands Speaker of the House of Parliament, McKeever Bush*

encourage all residents to show respect and exercise restraint," the premier said.

This is not the first time that Bush has been faced with such accusations, in December 2020 he received a two-month suspended jail sentence for assaulting a woman in February that year.

# Regional News



## President of Haiti's senate says new government to be formed by today

CMC – President of Haiti's Senate, Joseph Lambert, has told the nation that a new governance structure will be in place within the next 48 hours.

In a message to the nation late Saturday, Lambert said the new structure will include a High Council for the 20-month transition; a new government; a transition control body and a strengthening of the judiciary which will have to complete the Court of Cassation in order to allow the formation of a new Provisional Electoral Council and pave the way for the next election.

Lambert said a reference document is being drawn up "by the actors concerned, who have a maximum of 48 hours to reach a consensus document to avoid the worst in the country.

According to the leg-

islator, he is counting on dialogue and self-transcendence to resolve the crisis "as did many personalities, groups and groupings before him who thought they had the right formula to put Haiti back on track and whose proposals remained only words...."

He added that this time around, he sees a certain will among those involved to find a solution to the crisis.

Haiti's Prime Minister Dr. Ariel Henry in recent weeks has condemned persons whom he said want to acquire political power in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country without first seeking a mandate from the population.

In a nationwide radio and television broadcast last week, Henry, who has been acting as president since July last year, gave a



*President of Haiti's Senate, Joseph Lambert*

commitment that the country will be in election mode before the end of 2022.

Thousands of people took to the streets in the capital and other major cities demanding safer streets, more affordable goods, and the resignation of Prime Minister Henry.

"Ariel, you have to go! Go, Ariel! Go, Ariel!" they shouted.

Haiti's general election, which had been scheduled for November 7, last year, had been postponed after Prime Minister Henry dismissed the council that organises elections.

The prime minister promised then to appoint a new electoral council that he said would be non-partisan and would set a new date for elections.

### *cont'd from pg 15*

Republic near Boca Yuma at 3:30 a.m. local time, the NHC said. It is the first hurricane to score a direct hit on the country since Jeanne left severe damage in the east of the country in September 2018. The Dominican Republic shares the Caribbean island of Hispaniola with Haiti. Fiona brought down trees, power lines and advertisements in the towns of Punta Cana, La Romana and El Seibo in the eastern part of the Dominican Republic during the early hours of Monday. Relief groups said there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Juan Salas, director of the coun-

try's Office of Civil Defense, indicated that about 800 people were evacuated from high-risk areas and near rivers and ravines in rural communities in the east.

Juan Manuel Méndez, director of the Dominican Emergency Operations Center, warned that rains may persist for two days, even as the eye of the hurricane moves away from Dominican territory later Monday.

Nearly 90% of Puerto Rico remained without power on Monday, according to Poweroutage.us. Officials said it would take days to reconnect the whole island of 3.3 million people.

Rainbands could follow the storm

system on the east side of Puerto Rico for hundreds of miles, NHC's Blake said. The National Weather Service lifted its hurricane warning for the U.S. territory on Monday morning.

Even so, authorities advised residents, particularly in the southern and western parts of the island, to seek higher ground as some areas could experience as much as 10 inches of rainfall.

U.S. President Joe Biden approved an emergency declaration for Puerto Rico on Sunday, authorising the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate disaster relief and provide emergency protective measures.



## Farewell to the queen: Crowds line streets of London and Windsor

AP — Britain and the world said a final goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II at a state funeral Monday that drew presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers — and crowds who thronged the streets of London to honour a monarch whose 70-year reign defined an age.

In a country known for pomp and pageantry, the first state funeral since Winston Churchill's was filled with spectacle: Ahead of the service, a bell tolled 96 times — once a minute for each year of Elizabeth's life. Then, 142 Royal Navy sailors used ropes to draw the gun carriage carrying her flag-draped coffin to Westminster Abbey before pallbearers bore it inside the church, where around 2,000 people ranging from world leaders to health care workers gathered to mourn her.

The trappings of state and monarchy abounded: The coffin was draped with the Royal Standard and atop it sat the Imperial State Crown, sparkling with almost 3,000 diamonds, and the sovereign's orb and sceptre.

But the personal was also present: The coffin was followed into the church by generations of Elizabeth's descendants, including King Charles III, heir to the throne Prince William and 9-year-old George, who is



second in line. On a wreath atop the coffin, a handwritten note read, "In loving and devoted memory," and was signed Charles R — for Rex, or king.

"Here, where Queen Elizabeth was married and crowned, we gather from across the nation, from the Commonwealth, and from the nations of the world, to mourn our loss, to remember her long life of selfless service, and in sure confidence to commit her to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer," the dean of the mediaeval abbey, David Hoyle, told the mourners, as the funeral opened.

The service drew to a close with two minutes of silence observed across the United Kingdom, after which the attendees sang the national anthem, now titled "God Save the King."

The day began early when the doors of Parliament's 900-year-old Westminster Hall were closed to

mourners after hundreds of thousands had filed in front of her coffin.

Monday was declared a public holiday in honour of Elizabeth, who died Sept. 8 — and hundreds of thousands of people descended on central London to partake in the historic moment.

They jammed the sidewalks to watch the coffin wend its way through the streets of the capital after the service.

As the procession passed Buckingham Palace, the queen's official residence in the city, staff stood outside, some bowing and curtseying.

Mark Elliott, a 53-year-old who travelled to London from the Lake District in northern England with his wife and two children to watch the procession, got up at 1:30 a.m. to stake out a good viewing location near the palace.

"I know we don't know

the queen, but she's been our head of state for 70 years, you feel as though you know her, you feel as though she's part of the family. It is kind of moving," he said.

More people lined the route the hearse took from the capital to Windsor Castle, and many threw flowers at the convoy as it passed, some of which rested on top of the vehicle. Millions more people tuned into the funeral live on television, and crowds flocked to parks and public spaces across the U.K. to watch it on screens. Even the Google doodle turned a respectful black for the day.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby said in his sermon at the funeral that "few leaders receive the outpouring of love we have seen" for Elizabeth.

Later, during the committal ceremony in St. George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle, the Imperial State Crown and the sovereign's orb and sceptre were removed from the coffin and placed on the altar — separating the queen from her crown for the last time. Her coffin was then lowered into the royal vault through an opening in the chapel's floor.

She will later be laid to rest with her husband, Prince Philip, at a private family service.

## In world beset by turbulence, nations' leaders gather at UN

AP – Facing a complex set of challenges that try humanity as never before, world leaders convene at the United Nations this week under the shadow of Europe's first major war since World War II — a conflict that has unleashed a global food crisis and divided major powers in a way not seen since the Cold War.

The many facets of the Ukraine war are expected to dominate the annual meeting, which convenes as many countries and peoples confront growing inequality, an escalating climate crisis, the threat of multiple famines and an internet-fuelled tide of misinformation and hate speech — all atop a coronavirus pandemic that is halfway through its third year.

For the first time since the United Nations was founded atop the ashes of World War II, European nations are witnessing war in their midst waged by nuclear-armed neighbouring Russia. Its Feb. 24 invasion not only threatens Ukraine's survival as an independent democratic nation but has leaders in many countries worrying about trying to preserve regional and international peace and prevent a wider war.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the strategic divides — with the



A mural by Brazilian artist Eduardo Kobra, focusing attention on climate change and stewardship of the planet is displayed outside the United Nations headquarters ahead of the General Assembly, Friday, Sept. 16, 2022. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

West on one side and Russia and increasingly China on the other — are “paralysing the global response to the dramatic challenges we face.”

He pointed not only to the devastation in Ukraine from nearly seven months of fighting but the war's impact on the global economy.

Escalating food and energy prices are hitting the world's poorest people hardest, and nations are “being devoured by the acids of nationalism and self-interest” instead of working together and resolving disputes peacefully, two principles that lie at the heart of the U.N. Charter and underpin everything the United Nations tries to

do.

“The General Assembly is meeting at a time of great peril,” the U.N. chief said last week.

For the first time in three years, leaders will be delivering their speeches in person in the vast General Assembly hall. There will be no more COVID-caused pre-recorded addresses or hybrid meetings, with one exception: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Over objections from Russia and a few allies, the 193-member assembly voted overwhelmingly Friday to allow the Ukrainian leader to pre-record his speech because of reasons beyond his control — the “ongoing foreign invasion” and mili-

tary hostilities that require him to carry out his “national defense and security duties.”

The death of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and her funeral in London on Monday, which many world leaders plan to attend, have created last-minute headaches for the high-level meeting. Diplomats and U.N. staff are scrambling to deal with changes in travel plans, the timing of some events and the logistically intricate speaking schedule for world leaders.

Guterres skipped the funeral to preside over Monday's “Transforming Education Summit” that he called to create action on a

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Court orders charges against ex Pakistani PM Khan dropped

AP — A Pakistani judge Monday ordered police to drop terrorism charges against former prime minister Imran Khan for verbally threatening police officers and a female judge at a political rally last month.

The charges followed a speech Khan gave in the capital Islamabad last month in which he vowed to sue the city of Islamabad police chief and a judge for allowing police to question Shahbaz Gill, who is chief of staff at Khan's Tehreek-e-Insaf political party.

Khan made the controversial remarks after being told that Gill had been allegedly tortured by police following his arrest on charges of inciting troops to mutiny.

Fawad Chaudhry, a leader at Khan's party, hailed the court order by Athar Minallah, the chief justice at the court in Islamabad.

Khan, a former cricket star turned politician who came to power in 2018, is currently on bail, which shields him from arrest in several cases.

Before the latest court order, Khan faced several years in prison under Pakistan's 1997 anti-terrorism law, which granted police wider powers



Pakistani opposition leader and former prime minister Imran Khan addresses his party supporters during a rally in Peshawar, Pakistan, Sept. 6, 2022. A judge Monday, Sept. 19, 2022, ordered police to drop terrorism charges against Khan for verbally threatening police officers and a female judge at a political rally last month. (AP Photo/Mohammad Sajjad, File)

amid sectarian violence in the country.

Khan was removed from power in April through a no-confidence vote in parliament. Since then, he has

been holding rallies across the country to pressure Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif to agree to snap elections. Sharif has rejected the demand.

*cont'd from pg 18*

U.N. goal to ensure quality education for all children by 2030 that lost significant ground during the pandemic.

The actual gathering of world leaders, known as the General Debate, begins Tuesday morning with the U.N. chief's state of the world speech to the 77th session of the General Assembly which began on Sept. 12. Brazil has spoken first for over seven decades

because at the early General Assembly sessions it volunteered to speak first when no other country did.

The U.S. president, representing the host country for the United Nations, is traditionally the second speaker. But President Joe Biden is attending the queen's funeral, and his speech has been delayed until Wednesday morning. Senegalese President Macky Sall is expected to take Biden's slot.

Nearly 150 presidents, prime ministers and monarchs are on the latest speakers list, a very high number reflecting the importance of the meeting not only for presenting every country's view of the world but for private one-on-one and group meetings where diplomats say a lot of the world's business is carried out.

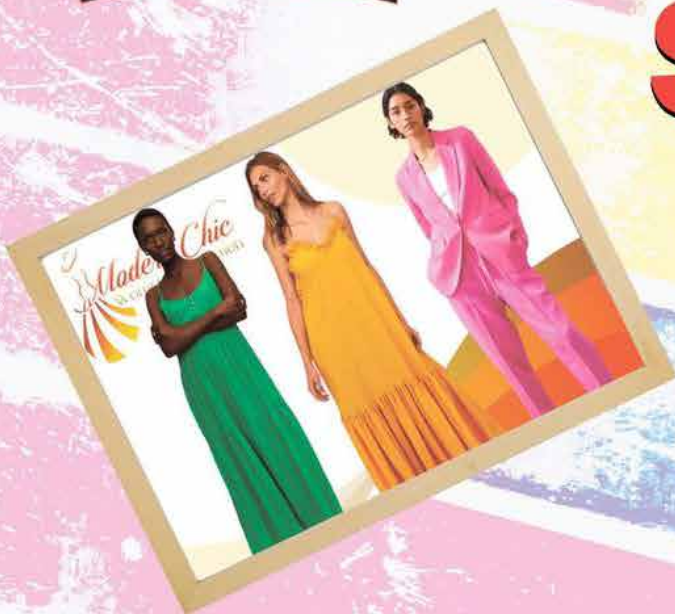
In addition to Zelenskyy, Biden and Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro,

other heads of state coming to the U.N. include the presidents of Turkey, Iran, France, Colombia, South Korea, South Africa, Egypt and Venezuela. Heads of government on the list include Britain's new Prime Minister Liz Truss, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz also making a first appearance, and the prime ministers of Japan, Israel, Iraq and Pakistan. Russia and China are sending their foreign ministers.



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## Qatari ambassador faces LGBT-rights appeal before World Cup

AP – Qatar’s ambassador to Germany was urged Monday to abolish his country’s death penalty for homosexuality at a human rights congress hosted by the German soccer federation two months before the Middle East country hosts the World Cup.

Fan representative Dario Minden switched to English to directly address the Qatari ambassador, Abdullah bin Mohammed bin Saud Al Thani, at the congress in Frankfurt.

“I’m a man and I love men,” Minden said. “I do — please don’t be shocked — have sex with other men. This is normal. So please get used to it, or stay out of football. Because the most important rule in football is football is for everyone. It doesn’t matter if you’re les-

bian, if you’re gay. It’s for everyone. For the boys. For the girls. And for everyone in between.”

Minden continued: “So abolish the death penalty. Abolish all of the penalties regarding sexual and gender identity. The rule that football is for everyone is so important. We cannot allow you to break it, no matter how rich you are. You are more than welcome to join the international football community and also, of course, to host a big tournament. But in sports, it is how it is. You have to accept the rules.”

Al Thani was to be given a chance to respond later, though his comments were to remain off-the-record. Only the opening 90 minutes of the federation’s congress was broadcast

to the public and no journalists were invited to the event.

Federation spokesman Steffen Simon said it was not the organisation’s decision to hold the majority of the congress off camera, but “we received a clear request from some participants that they would like to discuss these matters internally with us. They did not want to discuss it in public. We respected that.”

Qatar’s laws and society have come under increased scrutiny in the past decade.

Major General Abdulaziz Abdullah Al Ansari, a senior leader overseeing security for the tournament, previously told The Associated Press that rainbow flags could be taken from fans at the World Cup in Qatar to protect them from being attacked for promoting gay rights.

Al Ansari insisted that LGBTQ couples would still be welcomed and accepted in Qatar for the World Cup despite same-sex relations remaining criminalized in the conservative Gulf nation.



Peru fans cheer before the World Cup 2022 qualifying play-off soccer match between Australia and Peru in Al Rayyan, Qatar, Monday, June 13, 2022. Qatar’s ambassador to Germany was personally urged to abolish his country’s death penalty for homosexuality at a congress hosted by the German soccer federation on human rights in the World Cup host country. (AP Photo/Hussein Sayed, file)



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# Sports News



## By dancing, Rodrygo and Vinícius make stance against racism

AP – With a goal and a dance, Real Madrid's young Brazilian forwards made a statement against racism in soccer this weekend.

With their samba-like moves after a goal in the derby against Atlético Madrid on Sunday, Rodrygo and Vinícius Júnior made it clear they are not backing down from the racist language from their critics or by the racist chants from the opposing fans.

"Dance wherever you want," Vinícius wrote on Twitter in a message directed at Rodrygo after Madrid's 2-1 win at Atlético in the Spanish league.

"White and BLACK dance," Rodrygo posted not long afterward, along with the photo of the young Brazilians celebrating together.

Rodrygo had just scored Madrid's first goal in a derby whose build up had been surrounded by controversy over Vinícius' recent goal celebrations.

Vinícius, who is Black, was upset when a guest on a television sports talk show used racist language to criticise his dances. The 22-year-old Brazilian, who is set to make it to his first World Cup in November, said his actions on the field were "being criminalised," and that his success as a Black Brazilian man in Europe was "annoying" to some.

The controversy con-



Real Madrid's Rodrygo, left, celebrates after scoring with his teammate Real Madrid's Vinícius Junior the opening goal during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atlético Madrid and Real Madrid at the Wanda Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, Sept. 18, 2022. With a goal and a dance, Real Madrid's young Brazilian forwards made a strong statement against racism in soccer this weekend. With their samba-like moves after a goal in the derby against Atlético on Sunday, Rodrygo and Vinícius Junior made it clear they are not backing down. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

tinued just before Sunday's match as online videos showed some Atlético fans outside the Metropolitano Stadium chanting "Vinícius is a monkey."

"This (derby) was even more special because of everything that happened during the week, and we answered on the field," Rodrygo said.

Some Atlético fans threw objects toward Rodrygo and Vinícius as they celebrated the goal near one of the corner flags.

The talk show where Vinícius was criticised for "acting like a monkey" had apologised by saying the expression was "unfortunate"

but not racist, because it said those words are normally used in Spain to talk about someone doing "silly" things.

Madrid had issued a statement supporting Vinícius and condemning racism, and coach Carlo Ancelotti also defended Vinícius, although he also contradicted the Brazilian by saying he didn't think there was that type of racism in Spain.

It wasn't the first time Vinícius was subjected to racist taunts, though. It happened last year during a "clásico" against Barcelona at the Camp Nou.

There were also cases against other players, including Athletic Bilbao's Iñaki

Williams.

Among those who came out to publicly support Vinícius was Pelé and current Brazil forward Neymar, who told Vinícius to "keep dancing."

The duo's celebration on Sunday was widely shared online and was praised by many in Brazil and Latin America. Some players in Europe also showed their appreciation.

There will certainly be more of the same going forward.

"I repeat it to you racist: I will not stop dancing," Vinícius said. "Whether at the Sambódromo, at the Bernabéu or wherever."



## Mbappé in image rights fight with France ahead of World Cup

AP – A dispute between Kylian Mbappé and the French soccer federation over the use of image rights resurfaced Monday as the team prepared for Nations League matches.

The months-long disagreement and an ongoing extortion scandal involving Paul Pogba are threatening to disrupt France's preparations for the World Cup in Qatar.

French media quoting an Mbappé statement to France's national news agency reported that the Paris Saint-Germain star will refuse to participate in a photo session Tuesday with his teammates because the federation has not amended the collective agreement governing rights for the



PSG's Kylian Mbappe reacts after missing a goal opportunity during the French League One soccer match between Lyon and Paris Saint Germain at Groupama stadium in Decines, outside Lyon, central France, Sunday, Sept. 18, 2022. (AP Photo/Laurent Cipriani)

French team ahead of the World Cup.

Mbappé's lawyer could not be reached for comment.

The current agreement that dates back to 2010 requires players to participate in marketing operations with the team's sponsors. In return, players receive 25,000 euros (\$25,000) for

every international match they play.

But Mbappé and his advisers argue that the deal is unfair because images of

some high-profile players are used more often than others. They also want the right to review the brands with which players are associated. Mbappé boycotted a marketing event for the federation in March.

France plays Austria on Thursday and travels to Copenhagen three days later to take on Denmark. Les Bleus face relegation to the second tier of the Nations League. The defending champions are in last place in Group 1 with two points from four games. Denmark leads with nine.

## Tropical Storm Fiona disrupts ABFA's Knockout Cup

The passage of Tropical Storm Fiona forced the postponement of all of last weekend's matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup competition.

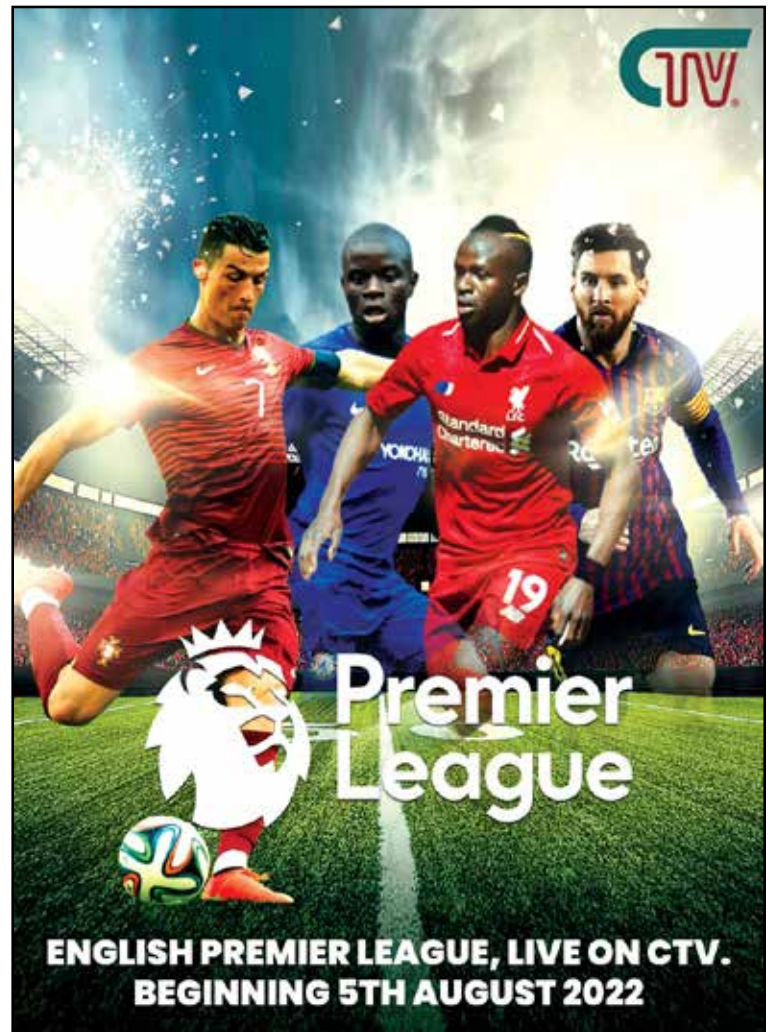
Matches in the second or round of 16 were due to commence at the ABFA's Technical Centre on Friday, 16th September.

But the passage of Tropical Storm Fiona, which

produced heavy showers across Antigua and Barbuda, forced the organizers to postpone all matches that were scheduled to take place last weekend.

The ABFA now plans to stage those matches at the same venue during this week.

The ABFA is hoping to complete the knockout cup competition before the commencement of its domestic league programme in early October.



# Sports News

## Benjamin unhappy with delayed start of Schools' football programme

Coordinator of the Schools' Football Programme, former national senior team head coach Rohan "Porridge" Benjamin, is disappointed with having to postpone the start of this year's competitions by one week.

The start of the 2022/2023 Ministry of Sports Inter-schools' Football Programme was slated to commence on Thursday, 15th September, with the opening round of matches in the knockout competition.

But the start of the football programme for secondary schools has been delayed by a week and will now commence on Thursday, 22nd September.

Benjamin said the decision to delay the start of the knockout was made following a meeting on Tuesday, 13th September, with the coaches in which they had asked for more time to prepare for the start of the competition that will only involve the secondary schools.

Although the request was granted, Benjamin said he is disappointed that a number of the coaches were not prepared for the start of this year's schools' football programme.

"I must say it is very disappointing for me because we had planned this thing, in terms of the date and so on, over a year ago. What we had expected to happen

was the last four weeks in the summer vacation, the coaches would have started their preparations," Benjamin said.

He said while a small number of coaches, such as coach at the All Saints Secondary School, Curtis Charles, did what was expected, the vast majority of the coaches failed to adhere to the instructions outlined to get the teams ready for the start of the new inter-schools' league.

"I have been pushing for this to happen for years, but I am getting a bit of push back. Whereas someone like (coach) Curtis Charles, who would have gotten into the All Saints Secondary School and started before the school closed for this year's summer vacation, that made it very easy for him," Benjamin stated.

"He (Curtis Charles) took a break, he took his vacation and then came back at the start of the new school year, so he is right into business. There are a couple of other coaches who would have started and then stopped.

"But I don't think the majority of the coaches went into the schools and gathered the information in terms of the telephone numbers to contact the students, their parents and all these things so that they could have a start with at least 12 to 16 players. Those things



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

help."

Benjamin said it is imperative that the coaches employed by the Ministry of Sports start preparing the teams during the summer vacation, since they do not have enough time to train with the players when the new school year begins.

"When schools reopen, we don't have a lot of time to do the work, so if you would have started in the last four weeks in the summer, then you would have the four weeks in September, that would give you eight weeks of work in preparation before the first league match would have started," Benjamin stated.

min stated.

"So I am a bit disappointed with that. It is a work in progress and I will put that as part of my report at the end of the season. We are hoping we could continue and get this done.

"We cannot wait until two to three weeks before the league to start to prepare teams. We have to prepare them in the summer.

It is unlike the other schools' sports such as basketball and netball. They are preparing at this time for the start of their competitions next year, so they have a lot of time. But in terms

*cont'd on pg 25*



## Joseph commends CWI for live streaming domestic matches

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has come in for high praise for providing live online video and audio coverage, free of charge, of all its 2022 domestic competitions thus far this year.

Following a two-year absence due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, CWI marked the return of first-class cricket in the region on 9th February with the opening round of matches in the 2022 four-day championship, which was eventually won by defending champions Barbados Pride ahead of runners-up Leeward Islands Hurricanes.

CWI then staged the Women's T20 Blaze and CG United Women's Super50 Cup in Guyana from 7th to 26th June and the CWI Under-19 Women's T20 Championship in Trinidad and Tobago from 5th to 14th July.

The CWI Rising Stars Under-17 Boys Championship was hosted in Trinidad and Tobago from 19th to 28th July and the CWI Rising Stars Under-19 Boys Championship was held in St. Vincent and the Grenadines from 10th to 27th August.

The CWI Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship was staged in Grenada from the 19th to 27th August.

Sylvester "Bouncing" Joseph, who performed duties as head coach of both the Leeward Islands Under-17 and Under-15 teams at this year's CWI Rising Stars youth tournaments, said the regional governing body must be commended for live streaming all of its domestic matches for viewers to



*Leeward Islands Under-17 and Under-15 boys' coach, Sylvester 'Bouncing' Joseph. (File photo)*

watch the games at their convenience.

"The other thing that I think was very compelling was the fact that Cricket West Indies were live streaming all of the youth cricket matches. So the players were able to go on Youtube after their matches and look back at themselves and see what the coaches have been talking about," Joseph stated.

"So I think that only gives strength to their development and I hope they will continue with that. We gave Cricket West Indies a lot of licks over the years, but we should also give them credit when they are doing good.

"I think this is a very good initiative to have all of the cricket that is being played in the West Indies, you can go online and watch them and that

is awesome. I wished I had that in my time when I was playing."

Joseph, a former Leeward Islands captain and West Indies player, said he is happy to see CWI also bridging the gap between the youth and senior teams with the creation of the emerging players' development squad, which will allow the young players to make a much easier transition from youth to senior level cricket.

"To be honest, even in the past years, I think the youth system in the Caribbean has always been excellent. The problem is when the players leave the Under-19s. There is a big gap between the Under-19s and when the players come to manhood and have to take more responsibilities," Joseph said.

"But I now see that Cricket West Indies is now making a conscious effort to address that game by creating the squad of emerging players for men and I think they will also have one for the female players as well. So Cricket West Indies is trying to bridge that gap.

"But if you look at the ICC youth world cups over the years you would see more often than not that the West Indies players have been able to hold their own and we were able to win it in 2016.

"So I don't have any qualms about the West Indies youth programme because we have some talent there, especially the Under-17s. I think in this year's Under-17s, we saw a lot of talent and I was privileged to be there.

"Most of these guys went on to play with the Under-19s. But we did not get to see many of them the way we also wanted at the Under-17 tournament in Trinidad because that competition was greatly affected by rain."

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of football, as the new school year opens, we have to start.

"So I really have to work extremely hard with the football coaches for them to buy in to utilizing the

last four weeks of the summer vacation to get out there and start preparing the school teams for the start of the league competitions that will take place during the opening term of the new school year."

## Antigua Vision Care maintains unbeaten run in Business Basketball League

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care kept their unbeaten run intact in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League competition at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

They crushed Health Pharmacy Fearless Crew 73-42 to record their third win in as many matches. Tequan Brodie led Eye Mobile with 14 points, Darryl Goodwin contributed 11 and Tsean Lewis chipped in with 10 points.

Hanson Richards scored nine points and Joel Christian sank eight points for Fearless Crew who have now lost all four matches they have played so far in the competition.

Vendors suffered their first loss of the competition as they went under 47-58 to the Board of Education.

Kirwan Peterson shot a game-high 23 points and Reginald Barnes scored 18 points for the winners. Kwame Huntley led Vendors with 11 points.

Fitzroy Rewinding also achieved success on Sunday romping to an emphatic 73-42 victory against Galley Bay Resort.

Bram Sanderson and Amare Browne each produced 19 points and Akeem Davis converted 10 points for Fitzroy Rewinding. Joseph Proper scored 12 points and Arrianne Whyte chipped in with eight points for Galley Bay.

No matches were scheduled to be played last Friday and Saturday's games were postponed due to the passage of Tropical Storm Fiona.

However, in Thursday's matches, Anjo's wholesale defeated the Sir Les-



*The Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care team that is contesting the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's Cool and Smooth Business League competition at the JSC Sports Complex. (Photo by Elwin Francis)*

ter Bird Medical Center 67-42.

Humroy Wright sank 15 points, while Cohen Desouza and Adrian Carnegie each scored 12 points for the winners. Daniel Thomas scored 12 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Center.

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care trounced Galley Bay Resort 57-24 with Dante Trimmingham, Tehran Zachariah and Bernard Andrew each scoring eight points each for the victors. Molefi Joseph scored 11 points for Galley Bay Resort.

Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew succumbed to their third loss in as many matches, losing 38-40 to Board of Education in a keenly contested affair.

Erol Henry shot a game-high 18 points and Earl Lavishere produced 10

points for Board of Education, while Ciaron Marcelle and Joel Christian each contributed eight points for Fearless Crew.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Tuesday).

Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew will face Vendors at 6:30pm, Mill Reef will challenge Galley Bay Resort at 7:30 and Sledge O'Ballers will challenge Sir Lester Bird Medical Center at 8:30pm.

In tomorrow's (Wednesday) triple-header, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will face the Board of Education at 6:30 pm, Fitzroy Rewinding will take on Pointe FM at 7:30 pm and Graphic Impact Shooters will meet Sandals Antigua at 8:30 pm.