

GRAYS FARM TEEN SHOT IN BRAZEN DAYLIGHT ATTACK

Story on Page 4



Once dredging at the St. John's Harbour is completed, Antigua and Barbuda will be able to accommodate the world's largest Oasis Class ships, including Wonder of the Seas pictured here, left, alongside Freedom of the Seas. There are presently five Oasis-class ships, all owned by Royal Caribbean – Oasis of the Seas, Allure of the Seas, Harmony of the Seas, Symphony of the Seas and the largest, Wonder of the Seas. A sixth ship, Utopia of the Seas, is set to debut in Spring 2024. [Photo: Royal Caribbean] *Story on page 2*

Local News



Gov't announces completion date for St. John's Harbour expansion

The government has announced that the St. John's Harbour will be completed in the first quarter of 2023.

This delay occurred after the company engaged to dredge the St. John's Harbour encountered massive rocks on the ocean's floor which stalled the process.

Last week, it was announced that larger, specialised dredging equipment was being sourced from Panama to complete the job.

Speaking in the House of Representatives on Thursday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said he

anticipates that dredging at the harbour will now be completed by the end of the first quarter of 2023.

The expansion of the St. John's Harbour has been a high priority of the government, which gave the commitment that the seaport would soon be capable of accommodating the largest cruise ships on the high seas known as Oasis Class vessels.

It was projected that the work would have been completed in time for the first Oasis Class vessel to be welcomed by Antigua and Barbuda in December this year.



The trailing suction hopper dredger, Elbe, is one of the pieces of equipment that was used by Blue Ocean Marine Ltd. to conduct dredging work at the St. John's Harbour.

What was not anticipated is that stubborn, dense rocks would prove to be too much for the equipment being used by Blue Ocean Marine Ltd.

Attempts were made to remove the rock, but this resulted in damage to the equipment used.

The Panamanian company which will complete the removal of the rocks from the channel is expected to arrive in the country in October.

Browne provided the explanation as he responded to a question posed by the Parliamentary Representative for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, during the agenda item, Questions to the Prime Minister.

Walker also wanted to know how much the St. John's Harbour dredging project has cost taxpayers

to date and who the principals of Blue Ocean Marine Ltd are.

Prime Minister Browne said with US\$20 million allocated for the dredging project, so far, only US\$12 million had been spent.

He disclosed that the Panamanian company's fees to complete the job will cost approximately US\$3.5 million.

Once completed, the St. John's Harbour expansion project is expected to have cost the people of Antigua and Barbuda in the neighbourhood of US\$18 million.

Regarding the ownership of the company, PM Browne said the National Assets Management Company (NAMCO) owns 40 percent of Meridian, Blue Ocean Marine Ltd.'s parent company.

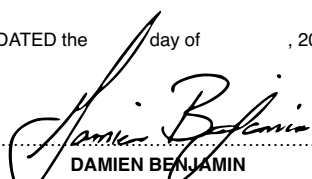
To: Her Worship
License Magistrate
Magistrates Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua

To: Her Worship
Magistrate for District "A"
Magistrates Court
High Street
St. John's
Antigua

To: The Commissioner of Police
Police Headquarters
American Road
St. John's
Antigua

I, **EDMUND RICARDO LAKE** of Redcliffe Street in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY** give **NOTICE** that is my intention to apply at the Next Special Sitting of the Liquor Licensing Court to be held at the Magistrates Court, Grays Farm, St. John's Antigua on the 6th day of **October**, 2022 next ensuing for a Tavern License in respect of my premises known as **"SIGNATURE SMOKES HOOKAH & CIGAR LOUNGE** situated in Redcliffe Street in the Parish of Saint John in the State of Antigua and Barbuda.

DATED the _____ day of _____, 2022


DAMIEN BENJAMIN
BENJAMIN LEGAL SERVICES
Solicitors for EDMUND RICARDO LAKE

Amendment to Barbuda Land Act sparks heated exchange in Parliament

A proposed amendment to the Barbuda Land Act sparked sharp exchanges between Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin and Barbuda's Parliamentary Representative Trevor Walker in the Lower House on Thursday.

The Attorney General moved the amendment in the absence of the Minister of Agriculture, Samantha Marshall who informed the Speaker that she would be late for the session.

Benjamin explained that the amendment sought to clarify the system of payment for land leased on Barbuda.

"This amendment seeks to remove any ambiguity relating to the payment for the lease of lands in Barbuda," he explained.

AG Benjamin said as it exists now, the Act indicates that all payments related to the lease of land in Barbuda should be paid to the Crown.

The recent Privy Council decision regarding the land in Barbuda, coupled with the fact that Barbudans will now become land owners themselves, means that the island's people may soon be privately leasing the lands they will soon hold title to to others.

As it presently stands, all payments for leased land in Barbuda are to be made to the Accountant General on behalf of the Barbuda Council.

The amendment, therefore, specifies that payments to the Accountant

General only relate to land leased from the Crown.

Benjamin said that he was taken aback by Walker's strong objections to what he considered a "a simple matter".

MP Walker accused the AG of failing to provide "a comprehensive explanation" for the "real reasons" for the amendment.

He claimed that the proposed amendment to the Barbuda Land Act runs counter to the provisions of the Barbuda Local Government Act.

The AG attempted to clarify Walker's concerns by rising on a Point of Information, however, the agitated Barbudan MP refused to yield and had to be calmed by Speaker of the House, Sir Gerald Watt.

After order was restored, Walker made the argument that it was an insult for money collected on the lease of lands in Barbuda not to be paid directly to the island's Council. He also accused the Antigua-based central government of treating Barbudans like inferiors and accused the government of "elbowing" Barbudans into their place.

The Antigua Barbuda Labour Party's MP St. John's City East, Melford Nicholas, weighed in on the spectacle that unfolded in his presentation.

Nicholas accused his Barbudan counterpart of the habitual use of divisive language whenever matters related

to the sister island are raised in the Parliament.

He said it was unfortunate that once again, an issue on which there should have been consensus across the floor, was used by Walker as a tool to sow seeds of division.

This point was supported by Minister of Works, Lennox Weston, who said Walker's tactic of opposing all development proposals for Barbuda had come full circle as the MP now stands to benefit from projects that he has vehemently rejected.

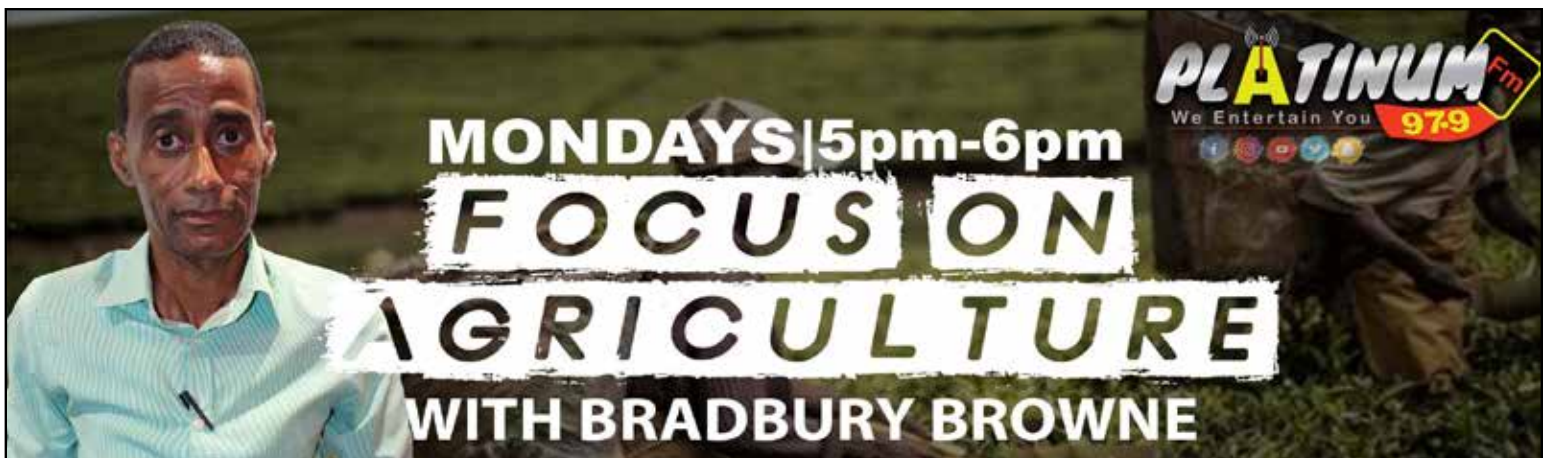
Weston encouraged Walker to abandon his obstructionist posture and work with the government for the benefit of Barbuda and its people.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said he had no interest in engaging in a divisive exchange with Walker. Instead he too offered clarification regarding the proposed amendment and what it seeks to achieve.

He continued that no other government administration has sought to bring progress to Barbuda and its people in the way his government has in a mere eight and a half years.

"What ordinarily would take 20 to 30 years, we have achieved in the time that we have been in office.

"This is the path we are on, and we will not be diverted," Prime Minister Browne declared.



Local News



Grays Farm teen shot while liming

A 19-year-old Grays Farm resident is hospitalised with non-life-threatening injuries after being shot around mid-morning on Thursday.

Police have withheld the man's name, but an investigation has commenced into the brazen attack.

A statement from STRATCOM, the Police Forces' communications department, detailed that the incident occurred on Christian Street.

According to police, the victim was sitting with two other people when someone opened fire at them.

The victim sustained injuries after bullets grazed his neck and leg.

He was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where his condition is listed as stable.

Police are appealing to anyone with information related to the incident to contact the Grays Farm Police Station on 462-0481, or Crimestoppers on 800-TIPS.



Fri 30 | Day

84°



51%

ESE 11 mph

Cloudy with showers. High 84F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 50%.



Humidity
77%



UV Index
9 of 10



Sunrise
5:57 am



Sunset
5:57 pm

Fri 30 | Night

78°



36%

SE 8 mph

Showers in the evening with some clearing overnight. Low 78F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 40%.



Humidity
85%



UV Index
0 of 10



Moonrise
10:15 am



Moonset
9:38 pm

Waxing Crescent



ANTIGUA

A whole new dining experience awaits you.

Call us at 562-5724 | Whatsapp 736-7165

National Parks Authority to manage Wallings Reservoir Park

Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel Hurst, has confirmed that management of the Wallings Reservoir Park will revert to the National Parks Authority until a new team can be assembled to attend to its daily operation.

At the end of August, Refica Attwood stated that she and her organisation, the Wallings Nature Reserve Incorporated, would no longer be a part of the community-based restoration of the Wallings Reservoir Park which sits atop 1,680 acres of the country's southern rainforest.

Attwood and a team she assembled had partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture, under which responsibility for Wallings falls. Recently however, the relationship soured after Attwood sought to secure permanency of her organisation's management of the reserve from the Ministry of Agriculture.

The ministry declined this request but attempted to negotiate with Attwood other arrangements that would be mutually agreeable.

These negotiations ultimately failed.

Since then, Wallings Nature Reserve Incorporated has been accused of removing signs along the park's hiking trails that were donated by corporate



sponsors.

The matter was addressed in Cabinet on Wednesday.

"The Cabinet received a report from the Minister of Agriculture regarding the Wallings Reservoir Park and the decision by its caretaker to surrender control of the National Parks site. The Minister reported that the signs that were contributed by corporate sponsors were taken and ought to be returned. The site was never leased, nor was ownership passed to anyone; it was a voluntary arrangement which has now come to an end," the Cabinet Notes said.

On Thursday, Ambassador Hurst said while the outcome is regrettable, new arrangements will be made for the park's management.

"We recognise that this Wallings Park has attracted in the recent past lots of tourists and lots of nationals, some of the trails have attracted hiking groups, and it is our intention to ensure that they continue.

"Mind you, she (Attwood) took with her some of the signs that were donated by corporate Antigua. We are hopeful that we can get them back, put them back in place and also put a good management team in place that will make the operation work," the ambassador said.

Hurst also addressed the contentious issue concerning the signs, which he says were not Attwood's to remove.

"I do know that, West Indies Oil, for example, contributed significantly

and so the signs also bore the insignia of the West Indies Oil Company, and there are others that provided help, like the Sandals hotel, those signs also bore the insignia of the Sandals Group.

"So, if your question is whether they were her signs or whether they were the signs that belong to the contributors, our conclusion is that the signs belong to the people who contributed them, and not to Ms. Attwood.

With many of the signs that provided a way for hikers to avoid becoming lost, and while it remains safe to enjoy the park, authorities are urging the public to avoid venturing into areas of the Wallings Rainforest that are unfamiliar to them as a precaution.

Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital a top priority of the government

With less than two weeks to go before the observance of World Mental Health Day on 10th October, the government has moved to improve the infrastructure and conditions at the Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital for its staff and patients.

This week, the government announced that it has moved to install new bathroom facilities.

It is also working with the hospital's administrators to examine ways in which the long-term treatment of patients can be improved, but the response to this positive news has not been welcomed by all.

On Monday, Minister of Works, Lennox Weston, noted that new metal toilets were being installed as the former ceramic bowls were frequently broken by the hospital's patients and were out of order.

The specialised metal toilets had to be imported to the country, so as a temporary measure, pit latrines were installed.

These pit latrines were seemingly hastily installed and unfortunately, new problems - an abundance of flies and malodour - were inadvertently created.

Last week, a local media organisation reported on this development, however they only made mention of the remedial actions being taken and the cause for the installation of the temporary toilets this week.

In the same media outlet this week, Minister Weston was quoted as saying: "I understand it was a cement latrine where it was difficult to retrieve and control the waste. If they had, maybe, done a cement water closet, then that would have been more effective."

He continued: "It is just for us to bring in the institutionally-appropriate metal toilets. We will continue to use



the traditional toilet until they arrive. They are expensive, they tell me, but that is required for those institutions."

In Cabinet on Wednesday, the Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital came up on the agenda and it was confirmed that the competition of improvements at the facility is a priority.

Ambassador Lionel Hurst also addressed the issue on Thursday during the Cabinet Press Briefing.

While he too admitted that there was a temporary problem created by the need to replace the damaged toilet facilities, he was also critical of the media house whose motives he questioned given the sensational nature of the report carried.

"One of the newspapers here took to placing on its front page a story about latrines and the disposal of human waste - right on the front page of their newspaper as though that ought to be a headline article - but we know the relations between the particular newspaper and one of the opposition political parties. So, we suspect it has more to do with attempting to score political points than actually getting to the issue of what is being done," Hurst said, chiding the media house.

"At the mental hospital, the toilets are being replaced with metal toilets because patients continuously break the ceramic toilets that have been provided, and so, for a brief period while they removed the ceramic toilets to replace them with the metal toilets, there was some exposure and the flies hatched, and that became a front-page article.

"It just seems so unreasonable, and of course, unnecessary," Ambassador Hurst said.

He also indicated that despite the unfortunate development, waste generated at the hospital is removed regularly.

Meanwhile, the chief of staff said that arrangements for the patients at the 130-bed facility are also being examined with a view to making other long overdue adjustments.

"The removal of human waste will continue as has been done in the past, and other kinds of improvements to the ward[s] on which the patients live.

"It looks as though when you become a patient there, you become a permanent resident there for the rest of your life. This is part of the challenge that the Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital faces."

First Antigua Open Lionfish Tournament and Festival comes this November

The inaugural Antigua Open Lionfish Tournament, presented by the The Lionfish Derby Project, under the umbrella of Elkhorn Marine Conservancy, will run this year from 18th -19th November 2022.

It will be followed by a Lionfish Festival on 20th November in Nelson's Dockyard from 1pm until 5 pm.

The tournament will include a lionfish hunting competition, lionfish cooking competition, marine conservation youth poster contest, and lionfish jewellery workshop.

A total of US\$12,650 in cash prizes will be awarded.

The Lionfish hunter teams who bring in the most fish will receive US\$3000; the largest lionfish US\$2000, and the smallest lionfish US\$1000.

Prizes will be awarded to second and third place positions.

The top chef in the cooking competition will receive US\$1000 while the youth poster contest winner will receive US\$500.

Over the course of the tournament, a series of short lectures on various marine conservation topics will be given by marine and environment experts.

The exhibitions and prize giving ceremony will take place on the day of the festival, Sunday, 20th November, at Nelson's Dock-

yard.

The aim of the tournament and festival is to raise awareness about the invasive lionfish species in the context of marine conservation.

Lionfish are a predatory reef fish. The danger they present arises from the fact that they eat native fish, which can reduce native populations and have negative effects on the overall reef habitat and health as they can eliminate species that serve important ecological roles such as fish that keep algae in check on the reefs.

With venomous spines, lionfish have few natural predators in their native habitat, and no native predators in the Atlantic and Caribbean region.

In 2019, the Mill Reef Club funded a visit by a team of American lionfish experts to assess the lionfish problem in Antigua and Barbuda.

A larger team of invasive lionfish experts will return to introduce control methods starting with the derby and festival this November. They will focus on commercial opportunities arising from hunting lionfish.

In other countries that have developed successful plans to address the issue, it is a fact that commercial efforts play a key role in complementing governments' efforts to control the problem.

People who wish to enter the tournament can register at <https://antigualionfish.com/lionfish-derby-sign-up/>. Individuals and teams of up to four are being invited to enter.

The cost is US\$30 USD per person.

Meanwhile, the jewellery making class on the day of the festival will teach participants how to produce wearable pieces using the fins and tails of invasive lionfish.

The fee for the class is EC\$40 which covers both instruction and a starter kit of jewellery making tools and materials. Registration

for the course can be completed by emailing Antigua.lionfish.jewelry@gmail.com.

The activities next month are being organised by local and international teams of experts including Dr. Steve Gittings, Chief Scientist for the event, Festival Administrator and Chief Scientist for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; Alex Fogg, Event Co-Director and marine biologist; Ruleo Camacho, Event Co-Director and marine biologist; Mehgan Heaney-Grier, Project Educator and Spokesperson and conservationist,

cont'd on pg 8



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

with

The Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority (ECCAA)

- the regulatory and safety oversight authority of Civil Aviation activities in the OECS and Associate Member States.

The ECCAA is inviting applications from suitably qualified professionals to fill the positions of:

☐ **Flight Operations Inspector – Rotorcraft**

☐ **Receptionist**

For more information on the employment opportunities and details for submission of applications, please visit the following websites www.eccaa.aero or www.oecs.int.

The deadline date for receipt of applications is 30th September 2022.

Local News

cont'd from pg 7

TV personality and lecturer; Jim Hart, Project Documentarian and professional screenwriter, producer of film and television and co-founder of Lionfish University 501c3; Martha Watkins Gilkes, Project Coordinator and Festival Administrator; Stacy Frank; Project Co-Coordinator, marine conservationist and co-founder of Lionfish University 501c3; Scott Gonnello, Website and Tech Expert and CEO of Lionfish Central, Inc; Dr. Holden Harris; Weigh-in Lead and post-doctoral fellow at the University of Florida; Phil Karp, Lionfish Jewellery Expert and independent Citizen Scientist; and Kaj Assales, Lionfish Jewellery Artist and founder and CEO of Kaj Expressions.

The Antigua Open Lionfish Tournament and Festival have received the endorsement and support of the Ministry of Tourism and Minister Charles Fernandez, the Mill Reef Club as a



platinum sponsor and Elite Island Resorts as a silver sponsor.

It has also received support from

the National Parks Authority, Fisheries, Coast Guard, media, dive shops and fishermen.

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

HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS KIT

PREPARE NOW
LEARN HOW

2022 HURRICANE SEASON

JUNE 1ST - NOVEMBER 30TH

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 f i t



ACB MORTGAGE & TRUST APPOINTS NEW CHAIRMAN

ACB MORTGAGE & TRUST COMPANY LIMITED is pleased to announce the appointment of **CASSANDRA P. SIMON** as **CHAIRMAN** of its **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**.

Director Simon has been a Member of the Board since February, 2020 and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and experience. She is an accountant by profession and has operated her own Firm, Accounting Solutions, since 2004. She was admitted to membership of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants, ACCA UK in 1997 and is a practicing member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of the Eastern Caribbean, ICAEC. She is also a Chartered Director and carries the designation C. Dir.

Her association with the **ACB CARIBBEAN GROUP**, dates back to March, 2017, when she was first elected to the **ACB Caribbean** Board of Directors. She currently acts as the Chairman of the Group's Credit Committee.

Director Simon succeeds former Chairman Peter L. Blanchard who recently retired from the Board.

By Order of Board

Rhodette Paige
Legal Counsel/Corporate Secretary



Opinion



Join the international fight for climate justice

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States of America and the Organization of American States. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto)

On September 23, at the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne, made a clear and unequivocal statement, concerning the impact of Climate Change.

He said: "Mr. President, the effects of global warming are universal; they reach every country.

But it is vital that we all understand that, in as much as global warming is universal, its damaging effects are not the same; the burden falls mostly on the poor in small developing nations, such as mine. That is why, as the representative of the people of Antigua and Barbuda, I must stand up for their rights; including their right to livelihoods and to life."

Prime Minister Browne continued: "My voice cannot be stilled while danger gathers in the skies above my small and vulnerable

country. I have no choice but to fight unrelentingly for climate justice".

The statement by the Antigua and Barbuda leader resonates with all leaders of small island states across the world who are frustrated with the failure of the world's worst polluting nations to honour their pledges to provide funds for adjustment and for building resilience to the extreme weather conditions, which their actions are causing.

More particularly, the leaders of small island states are demonstrating their readiness to fight back in the face of disregard for the persistent loss and damage they are experiencing without any effort to compensate them.

Thus, Vanuatu is seeking the approval of the UN General Assembly, during this current session, for an opinion by the International Court of Justice on the rights of present and future generations to be protected from the impacts of climate change.

Similarly, Antigua and Barbuda along with Tuvalu, Palau, and Niue have established the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS), which is registered with the UN.

The objective of the



Sir Ronald Sanders

Commission is to seek an advisory opinion directly from the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) on compensation for persistent loss and damage caused by Climate Change.

The Vanuatu initiative, and the Commission established by Antigua and Barbuda and three other small islands, reflect their joint frustration with the failures of the COP process to address the damage being done to small countries.

The efforts of these small countries are winning active support from international legal experts. A team of 17 highly regarded international lawyers has joined COSIS to provide legal advice on the approach to ITLOS.

There is also wider support from organizations such as the Commonwealth

Foundation and "The Stop Ecocide Foundation", a charitable fundraising and commissioning body, which was founded with the intention of getting Ecocide recognized as an international crime at the International Criminal Court (ICC). The Ecocide Foundation is partnering with "Stop Ecocide International" – a panel of expert lawyers who want to see ecocide outlawed internationally.

"Ecocide" is defined as "unlawful or wanton acts committed with knowledge that there is a substantial likelihood of severe and either widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts".

Given the wide body of evidence, gathered by international environmental experts, there can be no gov-

cont'd on pg 11

Opinion

cont'd from pg 10

ernment of any country that can claim, with any credibility, that they do not know that pollution is causing “widespread or long-term damage to the environment being caused by those acts”.

But there is still a long road ahead before the Ecocide definition could be adopted by the court. One of the court’s 123 member countries would need to submit the definition to the United Nations Secretary-General, triggering a formal process that could lead to an amendment of the Rome Statute, which sets the court’s rules.

There would, of course, be great opposition to this by the world’s greatest polluters. Consequently, enormous pressure would be put on small states not to pursue any of the legal initiatives now being contemplated by Vanuatu, by Antigua and Barbuda, Tuvalu, Palau and Niue, and by The Ecocide Foundation.

However, as I told a “Virtual Islands Summit 2022 Symposium”, organized by the Stop Ecocide Foundation on September 29: “Something has to give in this unlevel playing field in which small island states and low-lying coastal states are made to suffer.

“The peoples and governments of small island states cannot sit back while their countries are destroyed and they, themselves, are dislocated from their homelands”.

A global alliance of

small island states and states with low lying coastlands can be a powerful global force for the protection of each other, and of all life on Earth.

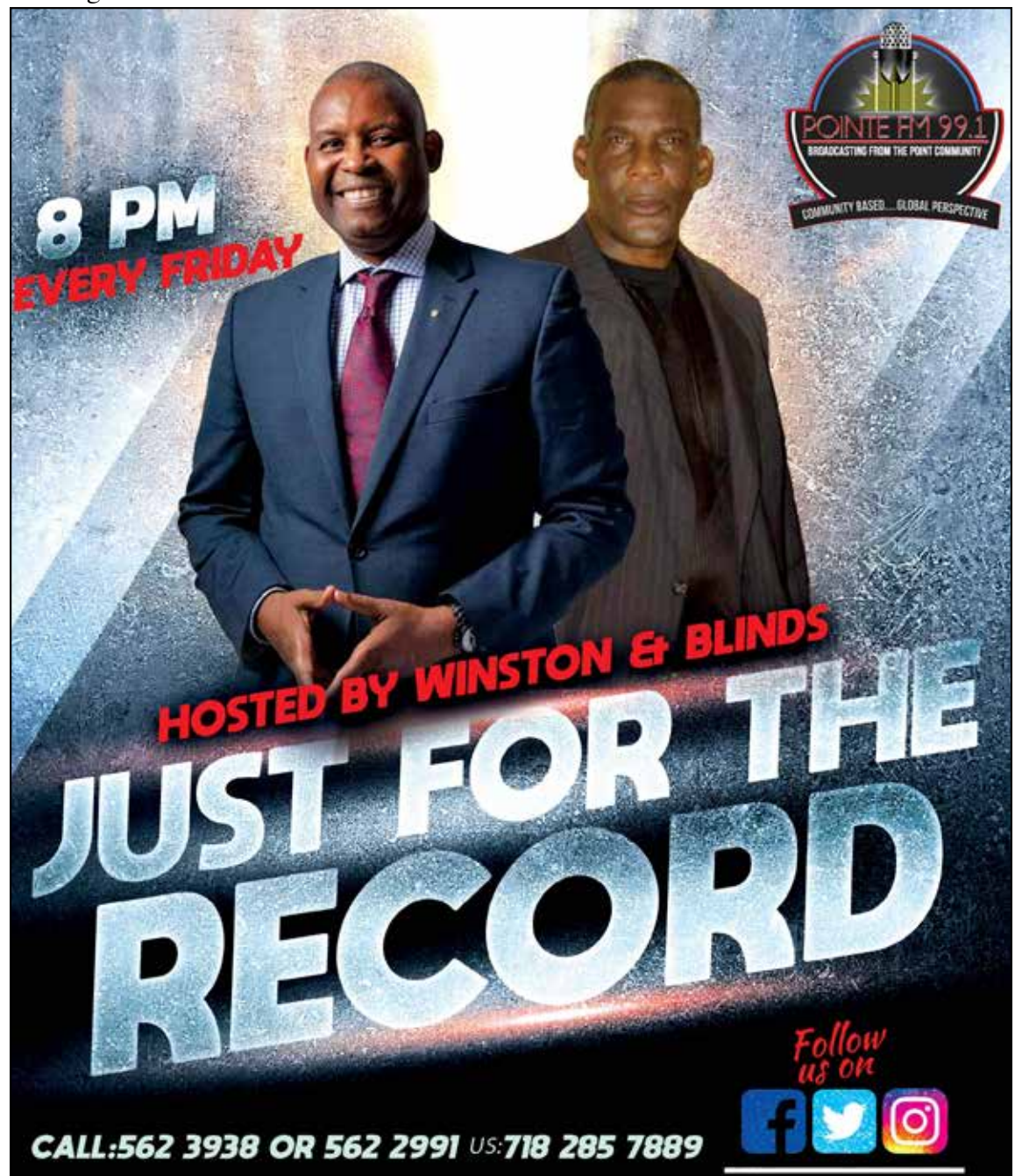
It calls for Caribbean countries, especially the most vulnerable such as The Bahamas, and the smaller islands of the Eastern Caribbean, to join the COSIS and Stop Ecocide initiatives. These countries have the most to lose; therefore, they must fight the hardest.

The destruction wreaked by Hurricane Fiona in the Eastern Provinces of Canada, and the decimation and loss of lives in Florida and South Carolina in the United States, over the last two weeks, should, at last, persuade the remaining doubters in governments and industry, in these two countries, that their present circumstances are bad, and their future will be worse unless they also take immediate action.

Prime Minister Browne spoke for the peoples of all small states when he told the UN general assembly: “My voice cannot be stilled while danger gathers in the skies above my small and vulnerable country”.

There is a global train for climate justice that is now running on an international railroad; all small countries should board it.

Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com






8 PM EVERY FRIDAY

HOSTED BY WINSTON & BLINDS

JUST FOR THE RECORD

CALL: 562 3938 OR 562 2991 US: 718 285 7889

Follow us on   

POINTE FM 99.1
BROADCASTING FROM THE POINT COMMUNITY
COMMUNITY BASED... GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

'Gangsta's Paradise' rapper Coolio dies at age 59

By Jonathan Landrum Jr. and Andrew Dalton

Coolio, the rapper who was among hip-hop's biggest names of the 1990s with hits including "Gangsta's Paradise" and "Fantastic Voyage," died Wednesday at age 59, his manager said.

Coolio died at the Los Angeles home of a friend, longtime manager Jarez Posey told the media.

The cause was not immediately clear.

Coolio won a Grammy for best solo rap performance for "Gangsta's Paradise," the 1995 hit from the soundtrack of the Michelle Pfeiffer film "Dangerous Minds" that sampled Stevie Wonder's 1976 song "Pastime Paradise" and was played constantly on MTV.

The Grammy, and the height of his popularity, came in 1996, amid a fierce feud between the hip-hop communities of the two coasts, which would take the lives of Tupac Shakur and The Notorious B.I.G. soon after.

Coolio managed to stay mostly above the conflict.

"I'd like to claim this Grammy on behalf of the whole hip-hop nation, West Coast, East Coast, and worldwide, united we stand, divided we fall," he said from the stage as he accepted the award.

Born Artis Leon Ivey Jr., in Monessen, Pennsylvania south of Pittsburgh, Coolio moved to Compton, California. He spent some time as a teen in Northern California, where his mother sent him because she felt the city was too dangerous.

He said in interviews that he started rapping at 15 and knew by 18 it was what he wanted to do with his life, but would go to community college and work as

cont'd on pg 13



Coolio appears at the 2015 ASCAP Rhythm & Soul Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif., on June 25, 2015. (Photo by Chris Pizzello/Invision/AP, File)



MENTAL HEALTH PEER WORKSHOP FOR NON-CLINICIANS

October 19th-November 9th
Wednesdays 5:30pm-630pm
The National Public Library

Facilitators:

Founder and Holistic Psychotherapist, Cerene Prince, MSW, LCSW
Resident Psychologist, Tia Phillip, MSc

Mental Health Peer (MHP) Workshop is a psychoeducational workshop for persons who are not mental health professionals. The MHP Workshop's goal is to equip you with a mental health toolkit to help support your family and community.

FEES

\$300xcd/\$110usd=4 sessions

- Cash accepted at the Wadadli Wellness Expo Oct. 15th
- 15% discounted when you pay on or before Oct.15th
- Credit Card Payment-\$3usd fees apply.

778-8627/774-4538

info@orchardbluecounseling.com

Machel Montano receives Hummingbird Gold National Award

By Jovani Davis

The undisputed King of soca, Machel Montano was on Saturday awarded the Hummingbird Gold National Award as Trinidad and Tobago celebrated its 46th anniversary of becoming a republic.

Machel Montano who celebrates 40 years in soca music this year was delighted to be awarded during Republic Day celebrations.

In a statement on his social media channels, Montano expressed the hope that it will serve as motivation for all other entertainers to keep striving for success and working hard. The singer also expressed his gratitude to his family who has always been by his side throughout his journey.

"I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude on receiving the Hummingbird

Gold National Award of Trinidad and Tobago this weekend," he wrote on social media. "I am humbled and wish to dedicate this honour to my family, my parents Elizabeth and Winston Montano who set me on this path and without whom I would not stand proud here in this moment," he continued.

"Their love, guidance and support throughout the years have absolutely been my foundation. My brother Marcus for igniting my musical spark and always being there up to this day, someone I can call on anytime for any task. My wife, my children, in-laws, sister-in-law, nieces, aunts, cousins and loved ones who have all steered and cheered me on," he wrote.

The soca king also thanked his fans who played a vital role in his 40-year ca-



Machel Montano

reer. Machel who began his journey at the age of nine thanked everyone who contributed to all that he's done.

"Over my 40-year journey in music my family has grown into a Famalay... sprawling all over the globe,

all my musical friends; artists, writers, producers, musicians, managers, dancers, collaborators, creators, techs, teachers, assistants, dedicated staff, friends and FANS... everyone who has ever contributed to anything I've done, it's always been fun and I thank you all. I celebrate this award today with appreciation for how blessed I am to have people in my life that help me to realise my dreams."

Along with calypsonians Contender and the late Penguin, who were also honoured, Montano was among a group of artistes who also included Iwer George.

cont'd from pg 12

a volunteer firefighter and in airport security before devoting himself full-time to the hip-hop scene.

His career took off with the 1994 release of his debut album on Tommy Boy Records, "It Takes a Thief." Its opening track, "Fantastic Voyage," would reach No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100.

A year later, "Gangsta's Paradise" would become a No. 1 single, with its dark opening lyrics:

"As I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I take a look at my life and realise there's nothin', 'cause I've been blastin' and laughin' so long, that even my mama thinks that my mind is gone."

Social media lit up with reactions to the unexpected death.

"This is sad news," Ice Cube said on Twitter. "I witness first hand this man's grind to the top of the industry. Rest In Peace, @Coolio."

The Grammys are considering adding an Afrobeats category

By Harmeet Kaur

Afrobeats – the pulsating, fusion sound coming out of West Africa and the diaspora – has been on the rise globally for the better part of a decade. In recent years, the genre has gained a foothold in Western pop culture, and the Grammys are taking notice.

Recording Academy CEO Harvey Mason Jr. recently said that the Grammys were considering adding an award category for Afrobeats.

Speaking to reporters in Ghana over the weekend, Mason said he had been meeting with players in the genre to explore the possibility.

“We called in produc-

ers, songwriters, artists, executives and we had a virtual listening session where we heard from Afrobeats creators,” he said at a September 24 news conference. “[We] just talked about, ‘What are the different sub-genres? What are the needs? What are the desires?’”

It would likely take a while for such a change to be made, though. Throughout the year, the Recording Academy – the group of music industry professionals that presents the Grammy Awards – accepts proposals for new categories from its members.

Those proposals are then reviewed by a committee and voted on by the Recording Academy Board



Burna Boy is among the Afrobeats artists that have achieved mainstream success in the West.

of Trustees.

For example, at an April 2021 meeting, the Recording Academy approved the addition of two new categories in the global and Latin music fields, but the change didn't take effect at the 2022 Grammys.

This year, the Record-

ing Academy announced five additional categories, including songwriter of the year and best score soundtrack for video games and other interactive media, which will take effect at the 2023 Grammys.

“My goal is to make

cont'd on pg 15

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS



MOS
Medical Services

Dr. MONICA OSBORNE-STEVENS, MD
FAMILY MEDICINE PRACTITIONER DIABETES SPECIALIST



WITH VERNON A. SPRINGER
EVERY WEDNESDAY | 7:30 AM

POINTE ON DE STREETZ

Don't Ruin My World - Julian Marley amplifies his support for climate change

By Jovani Davis

Julian Marley, son of reggae legend Bob Marley has added to the number of voices in support of climate change. The Grammy nominated musician teamed up with Everland on the single "Don't Ruin My World" produced by Myish & Fams House Music, executive produced by Gerald Prolman (Everland).

Everland represents the world's largest portfolio of high-impact forest conservation (REDD+) projects. It brings together forest communities and corporations in a common cause to protect some of the world's most important and vulnerable forests.

Climate change is always a topic of discussion for many. Champions for climate change have often-times spoken about the irreversible effects that will continue to worsen in decades to come.

Following in his father's



Julian Marley

footsteps, the two-time Grammy-nominated artiste has centred much of his work on activism. Everland commissioned Julian Marley to create a song to help raise awareness around the need to end deforestation and conserve nature to safeguard life on Earth.

Everland was elated to work with Julian on this

project. "Enlisting Julian Marley to make this song was an absolute no brainer, with his continued humanitarian effort taking centre stage it felt like the perfect marriage."

Julian Marley agreed to create the song after learning about the pioneering conservation projects that Everland represents across

the globe which are focused on stopping deforestation. The song is an anthem to help amplify the voices of young people who are anxious about the climate crisis and are demanding that adults do what is right to safeguard their future.

"I was excited to learn from Everland that it's possible to stop deforestation in a way that brings meaningful investments into local forest communities. We're happy to use our voices to support those on the front-line battle to conserve forests and protect wildlife. It's our moral responsibility to do so."

Don't Ruin My World captures the natural beauty of the world and the vital roles it plays in our daily lives. In the song, Julian speaks about the medicine that can be found in leaves, the histories in trees and the foundation fruit of our life and appeals to persons not to take the Earth's light.

cont'd from pg 14

sure that we represent all genres of music, including Afrobeats, at the Grammys. But it has to be done properly," Mason said during the news conference. "I think the listening session last week was very important, very valuable, and a step towards that path."

Afrobeats artists have crossed

over into mainstream pop through collaborations with Beyoncé, Drake, Ed Sheeran and other stars.

But they've also achieved mainstream success on their own. Burna Boy, Wizkid and Tems have each notched Grammy nominations (though they've typically been relegated to the global music field), while Burna Boy garnered a win in 2021 for

his album "Twice as Tall." CKay's "Love Nwantiti" dominated on TikTok last year before eventually showing up on the Billboard charts.

The UK's Official Charts Company launched an Afrobeats singles chart in 2020, while Billboard debuted a US-based Afrobeats chart this year, further nodding to the genre's growth outside of Africa and the diaspora.

Brazil election: A clash of titans as Bolsonaro faces Lula

By Diane Jeantet and Carla Bridi

Brazil's presidential election Sunday is being contested by 11 candidates but only two stand a chance of reaching a runoff: former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and incumbent Jair Bolsonaro.

Both are political titans, and eight of 10 Brazilians will vote for one of them, according to pollster Datafolha. That leaves little space for challengers and means that in lieu of fresh proposals and detailed programs, the two frontrunners have mostly harped on their experience and railed against each other.

"Both candidates are very well known, the vote is very crystallised," said Nara Pavão, who teaches political science at the Federal University of Pernambuco, adding that most voters made up their minds long ago.

Sunday's election could signal the return of the world's fourth-largest democracy to a leftist government after four years of far-right politics led by a president criticised for challenging democratic institutions, his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic that killed nearly 700,000 people and an economic recovery that has yet to be felt by the poor.

Polls show da Silva with a commanding lead that could possibly even give him a first-round victory without any need for a runoff.

But even if that doesn't happen, the vote itself marks an improbable political comeback for da Silva, a 76-year-old former metalworker who rose from poverty to the presidency — then just four years ago was jailed as part of a massive corruption investigation that targeted his Workers' Party and upended Brazilian politics.

Da Silva's conviction for corruption and money laundering sidelined him



from the 2018 race that polls showed him leading, and allowed Bolsonaro — then a fringe, far-right lawmaker — to cruise to victory.

A year later, however, the Supreme Court annulled da Silva's convictions amid accusations the judge and prosecutors manipulated the case against him, which has allowed him to run again now.

In many ways, Sunday's vote is the race that should have been in 2018. And many voters are acutely aware of that.

Among them is Antônio dos Santos, who voted for Bolsonaro in 2018 but will cast his ballot for da Silva this time.

"What I'm most upset about is when the pandemic started, (Bolsonaro) seemed to be taking it as a joke," said dos Santos, a 55-year-old hairdresser who lives in the working-class Rio neighbourhood of Rocinha. "Children dying, women losing their husbands. He's not the man I thought he was."

"What matters to me is to see Brazil doing well, everyone working, everyone eating," he said.

Throughout his campaign, da Sil-

va has sought to remind working class voters like dos Santos that his 2003-2010 presidency was marked by social advancement propelled by a massive social welfare program that helped lift tens of millions into the middle class.

That isn't what Bolsonaro, who frequently refers to da Silva as a "thief" and an "ex-jailbird," wants voters to remember.

A former army captain, he campaigned in 2018 on an anti-corruption platform while defending a show-no-mercy approach to crime fighting, traditional family values and national pride. His 2018 slogan — "Brazil above all, God above everyone" — is back this year.

But this time around Bolsonaro's campaign has met fresh headwinds, in part due to his COVID-19 policies that a Senate investigation said warranted criminal charges to hold him responsible for Brazil's 685,000 pandemic deaths.

Women in particular have turned their backs on him. Many were dis-

cont'd on pg 17

cont'd from pg 16

mayed by his apparent lack of empathy during the pandemic as he spurned vaccines and largely ignored their plight as the primary caretakers of children and the elderly while Brazil was ravaged by the virus.

“Bolsonaro was already rejected by women in 2018, but it got worse,” said Carolina Botelho, a researcher with the Institute of Social and Political Studies at the State University of Rio de Janeiro.

In that demographic, da Silva still enjoys a 20-point lead over Bolsonaro, who has sought to improve his standing among women and others by highlighting his administration’s generous pandemic welfare program.

But tough times remain. As elsewhere in the world, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine stoked inflation and food insecurity in Latin America’s largest nation. Bolsonaro has softened the blow by lowering taxes on fuel and supporting Congress’ push to extend and increase welfare payments for millions of struggling Brazilians.

Da Silva has denounced the latter measure as a temporary fix, given it ends in December. He promises to fight hunger and poverty the way he did during his presidency, through his globally acclaimed Zero Hunger strategy. His pick for running mate, Geraldo Alckmin, a centre-right former rival, was a nod to financial markets — more recently bolstered by an endorsement from a for-

mer central bank governor who highlighted sound macroeconomic policy in a previous da Silva administration.

Bolsonaro’s four years in office have also been marred by the Amazon rainforest’s worst deforestation in 15 years.

But no single Bolsonaro claim has driven moderates to rally around da Silva like the current president’s insistence that Brazil’s electronic voting system is prone to fraud. His claim, for which he has presented no evidence, has raised concerns that he could reject election results and attempt to cling to power.

Earlier this month, Bolsonaro said in an interview that if he doesn’t win Sunday’s first round, “something abnormal has happened within the electoral court.”

Bolsonaro has even accused top members of the electoral authority, who are also Supreme Court justices, of working against him. Such comments fuel a sense among Bolsonaro’s avid supporters that the race is rigged, reflected in comments online and with political violence increasingly spilling into real life.

“Bolsonaro is seen as a threat beyond political divergences, but also to democracy and institutions,” said Mário Braga, political analyst at Control Risks, adding that it helps explain why da Silva has garnered a bevy of endorsements.

Among the few demographics where Bolsonaro is


polling in front are evangelical Christians, who represent nearly a third of the population. Evangelicals helped carry him to power in 2018, and he proceeded to tap members of their churches for important ministries and for a Supreme Court nomination.

Bolsonaro has shored up their support this time around with a campaign to portray the nation as spiritually ill and arguing only he can safeguard the Christian faith. His targeting of da Silva includes linking him to the country’s

Afro-Brazilian faiths.

Bolsonaro and his supporters have argued this year’s polls underestimate the far-right leader’s popularity.

“The ideas of the right have always been ours: family, religion, education, sexual boundaries. ... We are conservative,” said Maria do Carmo, who will vote for Bolsonaro again on Sunday. Echoing many other Bolsonaro backers, do Carmo added that she mistrusted polls and the country’s electronic voting machines.



STATE INSURANCE
COMPANY LIMITED

**GET GYM
FIT WITH
STATE
INSURANCE**
Life | Medical

**OUR POLICY HOLDERS RECEIVE
PREFERRED GYM RATES**

Buff up Gym
Stay Fit Gym
National Fitness Centre
Iron Basics Gym
Keep Fit Gym
Twist Fitness Gym

200 environmental activists killed globally in 2021

Some 200 environmental and land defence activists were killed around the world in 2021, including some 54 in Mexico, which assumed the position of the deadliest country in the annual report by nongovernmental organisation Global Witness.

More than three-quarters of the killings took place in Latin America, where Colombia, Brazil and Nicaragua also logged double-digit death tolls.

It was the third consecutive year of increases for Mexico and a jump from 30 such activists killed in 2020.

“Most of these crimes happen in places that are far away from power and are inflicted on those with, in many ways, the least amount of power,” the report said.

Global Witness considers its report a baseline, noting “Our data on killings is likely to be an underestimate, given that many murders go unreported, particularly in rural areas and in particular countries.”

The victims died fighting resource exploitation and in land disputes. Conflicts over mining were tied to 27 deaths worldwide, the most for any sector.

Fifteen of those mining-related killings were in Mexico.

In the western Mexico state of Jalisco, José Santos Isaac Chávez was killed in April 2021. He was running for local office and had made opposition to a long-running mine a central part of his campaign. Days before the election, he was found dead in his car, which had been driven off a cliff and his body showed evidence of torture. Armed men had dragged him out of his home and driven him away in his own vehicle.

In April 2021, Sandra Liliana Peña



A Yaqui Indigenous wears a bandana over his mouth as he walks through dust past the cemetery where slain water-defence leader Tomás Rojo is buried in Potam, Mexico, Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022. Rojo was a descendent of Tetabiate, a Yaqui leader killed in a 1901 battle with the government, which deported the surviving Yaquis to work in slave-like conditions on henequen plantations in far-away Yucatan. (AP Photo/Fernando Llano)

Chocué, an Indigenous governor in southwest Colombia, who had fought for the eradication of coca crops in Caldon, Cauca was killed near her home by armed men. Her murder was condemned by the United Nations, nongovernmental organizations and foreign governments.

Overall, killings of environmental activists in Colombia dropped in 2021 to 33 from 65 the year before. The Philippines saw fewer such killings in 2021 too, 19 compared to 30 in 2020.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, all eight recorded victims were killed inside Virunga National Park.

In November, conservation park ranger Chief Brigadier Etienne Mutazimiza Kanyaruchinya, 48, was killed when 100 heavily armed men, presumed to be former members of the M23 rebel group, attacked a patrol post near the village of Bukima in

Congo's North Kivu Province.

Virunga Park is home to some of the world's last mountain gorillas, but armed groups such as the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, known by its French acronym FDLR, the Mai-Mai and the M23 regularly vie for control of eastern Congo's natural resources.

Global Witness called on governments to enforce laws that protect activists and require informed consent from Indigenous groups, while also requiring companies to be accountable throughout their global operations and have zero tolerance for attacks on land defenders.

“Activists and communities play a crucial role as a first line of defence against ecological collapse, as well as being frontrunners in the campaign to prevent it,” Global Witness CEO Mike Davis said in the report.

Suriname's Finance Minister says missing \$59 million recovered

CMC - Suriname's outgoing Finance and Planning Minister, Armand Achaibersing, says the SRD59 million (One SRD=US\$0.03 cents) reportedly missing from the ministry has been recovered saying it was not about a scandal but "a common theft".

In July, the Dutch-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country was rocked by a major fraud scandal in which millions of dollars had been withdrawn from the bank account of the Ministry of Finance and Planning through forged documents and receipts.

The authorities said the funds had been withdrawn from the account in April and June with the perpetrators presenting false documents to the Central Bank of Suriname (CVBS) for cashing.

"This came to light on June 28 and the order was immediately blocked. The Central Bank subsequently indicated that two other falsified payment orders had previously been presented for the same person.

"These transfers had been carried out," the ministry said in a statement, noting that the withdrawals were SRD\$14 million on April 25 and SRD\$26.9 million on June 14

The Suriname government had confirmed the withdrawal after opposition



Finance and Planning Minister, Armand Achaibersing

legislator, Melvin Bouva of the National Democratic Party (NDP) headed by former president, Desi Bouterse, raised the issue in Parliament.

Bouva told Parliament that between SRD\$500 million and SRD\$900 million had been stolen, but the government has denied the figures put out by the opposition legislator.

Achaibersing, who has stepped down from office, told a news conference that he was leaving with his head held high and his pride intact because he can look everyone straight in the eye,

"I was born empty-handed and will go away empty-handed," Achaibersing told reporters when asked if he will leave with "a golden handshake."

"Maybe it sounds arrogant. But I want to see the day when someone stands in front of me and says "Achai-

bersing you ever asked or gave me something to get something done."

"If you can produce that person for me, I'll dig a hole.

"I go in and never come out. May come across as arrogant but I say it with the wide side of my mouth."

President Chandrikapersad Santokhi had defended his finance and planning minister amid calls for his resignation as a result of the financial scandal and Achaibersing said he regrets that at least two persons linked to the theft have been able to leave the country.

No one has been named to replace Armand Achaibersing, but Foreign Affairs Minister Albert Ramdin and Planning and Environment Minister, Silvano Tjong-Ahin, will temporarily act in the post.

ABPSA 2022

Caribbean Public Service Day Week of Activities

2 OCT	Sunset Cruise (3:00pm) Wadali Cats Cruise
3 OCT	Church Service (10:30am) St. John's S.D.A Church
4 OCT	Glow Walk (6:00pm) Rising Sun. Free to all! Water & Glow sticks included.
5 OCT	Meet and Greet (5:00pm) Younger Workers - Botanical Gardens
6 & 7 OCT	Media Blitz Details to be given at a later date.
8 OCT	Karaoke Night (7:30pm) Dredgers Playing Field

Dominica court to hear constitutional challenge of anti-gay laws

CMC – The Minority Rights Dominica (MiRiDom) and the HIV Legal Network say they remain hopeful that the country's High Court of Justice will follow Antigua and Barbuda and St. Kitts and Nevis in repealing laws that criminalize lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender, LGBT people in the Caribbean.

The High Court is hearing a constitutional challenge from a homosexual man, who is seeking to have two sections of the Sexual Offences Act (SOA) that criminalize consensual same-sex activities ruled unconstitutional.

The case to end the criminalization of LGBT people in Dominica is supported by MiRiDom and the HIV Legal Network, working alongside the claimant.

The groups said in a statement that under Sections 14 and 16 of the SOA, sexual activity between consenting partners of the same sex is prohibited, offences that were first enacted in 1873 when Dominica was under British colonial rule.

"The case being heard today was launched by a

man who has faced discrimination, hostility, and horrific violence in Dominica because he is gay," they said.

They added that Dominica's 1978 Constitution guarantees the rights to privacy, protection from discrimination, liberty, security of the person, freedom from inhumane or degrading punishment, freedom of expression, and freedom of assembly and association.

The statement also quoted the claimant saying that he has endured discrimination, threats, harassment, and violence because of his sexual orientation.

"The perpetrators of such acts find a sense of comfort and safety in the laws that criminalise bug-gery and gross indecency.

"These laws are not only discriminatory themselves, but they incite and encourage hateful and violent conduct towards LGBT individuals," they said.

"The laws also condone police inaction and discrimination and are harmful to public health by worsening the HIV epidemic. These laws must be repealed," they added.



The MiRiDom and the HIV Legal Network say the continued criminalization of consensual sex by LGBT groups, through Sections 14 and 16 of the SOA, and the broader abuses against LGBT Dominicans have damaged too many lives.

"These are the lives not only of LGBT Dominicans, but also of their family members and friends who have lost loved ones to homophobic violence, or when those facing persecution have been forced to seek asylum elsewhere."

"In the words of the claimant, who brought forward this challenge, "I hope to make a change that will allow the generations after me to live a better life as a gay person than what I

have experienced."

"We hope the court will see fit to make this critical change in support of human rights for all," they added.

Earlier this month, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), in welcoming the ruling of the High Court in St Kitts and Nevis, found that the sections of the colonial-era Offences against the Person Act violated the country's constitution.

The IACHR also noted that the transformative impact of judicial decision-making in the Caribbean has allowed for increased protection of the human rights of LGBT persons in that region and is in line with inter-American standards.

Brazilian elected as new PAHO director

Brazilian, Dr Jarbas Barbosa Da Silva has been elected as the new director of the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO), succeeding Dominican Dr Carissa Etienne, who demits office in February next year after two five-year terms.

The Brazilian was among five persons vying for the post, including Dr Florence Duperval Guillaume, who had been nominated by Haiti. The other candidates came from Panama, Mexico and Uruguay.

Da Silva Jr. is currently the Assistant Director at PAHO where he has led the Organisation's efforts to increase equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines and to enhance regional capacities to produce medicines and other health technologies.

He joined PAHO in 2007 as Area Manager for Health Surveillance and Disease Management, responsible for coordinating regional activities related to the surveillance, prevention, and control of communicable and non-communicable diseases; veterinary public health; and health analysis and statistics.

His election formed part of the highlight of the ongoing 30th Pan American Sanitary Conference, where a resolution was adopted by delegates appointing Etienne as Director Emeritus "for her service to the Pan American Health Organisation and the World Health



Dr Jarbas Barbosa Da Silva

Organisation" as of the date of her retirement.

WHO Director General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus thanked Etienne for her "outstanding leadership over the past 10 years," informing the incoming director that he has "big shoes to fill".

He said that Da Silva had gained the confidence of member states of the Americas in a keenly contested election.

"This is a great privilege and very great responsibility and all the support comes with serious expectation from you. The health of the region's one billion people is in your hands," he said, adding that the region is extremely diverse with a huge range of cultures, languages, and income levels.

"From the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the North Pacific to the South Atlantic, from megacities to urban slums...you will be faced

with a huge range of health challenges....you will assume this position at a critical time as we seek to end the pandemic," The WHO Director-General said.

In her remarks, Etienne said the Brazilian now has the privilege to lead "the oldest, most prestigious public health organisation in the world" and that he will work closely with member states to meet the needs of the "last person of this region".

She thanked the delegates "for bestowing upon me from the first of February (next year) the title of Director Emeritus," saying "I will bear it very proudly and I will continue to identify with this organisation.

"I will keep a far distance from the management...but I will be proud to advocate on behalf of this organisation as we move forward," she said.



Walk for the Cure 2022

15 October, 2022

Save the Date

Hope & Resilience!
CIBC FirstCaribbean Antigua

The CIBC logo is a trademark of Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, used by FirstCaribbean International Bank under license.

CIBC FirstCaribbean International Bank

Many trapped in Florida as Ian heads toward South Carolina

AP – Rescue crews piloted boats and waded through flooded streets Thursday to save thousands of Florida residents trapped after Hurricane Ian destroyed a cross-section of the state and left millions in the dark.

The destruction began to come into focus a day after Ian made landfall in Florida as one of the strongest hurricanes ever to hit the U.S. The storm flooded homes on both of the state's coasts, cut off the only bridge to a barrier island, destroyed a historic waterfront pier and knocked out electricity to 2.67 million Florida homes and businesses, nearly a quarter of utility customers. At least one man was confirmed dead.

cont'd on pg 23



Residents are rescued from floodwaters in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian in Orlando, Fla., on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2022. (AP Photo/John Raoux)

Russian annexation of Ukraine regions would be 'dangerous escalation,' UN chief says

Reuters – If Russia moves ahead with its plans to annex four Ukrainian regions, it would mark a "dangerous escalation" that would jeopardise the prospects for peace in the region, the United Nations Secretary-General said on Thursday.

"Any decision to proceed with the annexation of Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine would have no legal value and deserves to be condemned," Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters.

Russian President Vladimir Putin will sign documents on Friday proclaiming Russia's annexation of



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres addresses the 77th Session of the United Nations General Assembly at U.N. Headquarters in New York City, U.S., September 20, 2022. REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

four Ukrainian regions, as Moscow rushes to lock in territorial claims that the Ukrainian army is threatening to reverse on the battlefield.

The move, one of the legal steps Russia says will lead to formal annexation of 15% of Ukraine's territory, confirms that Putin is pressing ahead with his war

against Ukraine despite suffering a major military reversal this month.

The annexation, after what Kyiv and Western countries say were phoney referendums staged at gunpoint on Russian-held Ukrainian territory, has been rejected in the West as an illegal seizure of land captured in war.

"Any decision by Russia to go forwards will further jeopardise the prospects for peace," Guterres said.

"It will prolong the dramatic impacts on the global economy, especially in developing countries, and hinder our ability to deliver life-saving aid across Ukraine and beyond."

EU takes Malta to court over golden passport programme

Reuters – The European Commission said on Thursday it would file a legal challenge against Malta for its so-called golden passport programme that allows wealthy foreigners to buy citizenship in exchange for an investment of around 1 million euros (\$970,000).

Holding a Maltese passport allows them to live and work in any EU country.

In recent months, Malta suspended the programme for Russian and Belarusian nationals following the start of the war in Ukraine, but it continues to operate the scheme for all other nationalities and "has not expressed any intention to end it", the Commission said in a statement.

Brussels believes the scheme is in breach of EU law because citizenship is granted without any real obligation for the beneficiaries to live in the country.

Malta disputes that view, insisting again on Thursday



European Union flags fly outside the European Commission headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, April 10, 2019. REUTERS/Yves Herman/File Photo

that it was correct in its interpretation of EU treaties.

"The government of Malta believes that it is not in breach of the principle of sincere cooperation as stipulated in Article 4 (3) of the Treaty of the European Union," the Malta Home Affairs Ministry said in a statement.

The referral of the case to the EU Court of Justice comes after years of wrangling with Malta about

tweaks to the scheme. An infringement procedure about the programme was initiated by the EU Commission in October 2020, but led to no tangible changes, the Commission said.

Pressure from Brussels has led to the suspension or abolition of golden passport schemes in other EU countries, with Cyprus and Bulgaria being the latest to halt their programmes.

That leaves Malta alone

in the EU, although many other countries operate programmes to sell visas.

The sale of passports generated more than 800 million euro (\$780 million) for Malta between 2014 and 2020 and was celebrated by the Labour government for helping it fund workers' salaries at the height of the COVID-19 crisis.

Most of the investors came from the Gulf, the Far East and Russia.

cont'd from pg 22

"We've never seen a storm surge of this magnitude," Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis told a news conference. "The amount of water that's been rising, and will likely continue to rise today even as the storm is passing, is basically a 500-year flooding event."

Though downgraded to a tropical storm by Thursday morning, the National Hurricane Center said storm surge and flooding rains remained a threat as Ian crept across the Florida

peninsula and emerged in the Atlantic Ocean north of Cape Canaveral. Forecasters predicted Ian would regain some strength while turning northward. A hurricane warning was issued for the South Carolina coast, where the storm was expected to again make landfall, having already hit Cuba and Florida.

Sheriffs in southwest Florida said 911 centres were inundated by thousands of stranded callers, some with life-threatening emergencies. The

U.S. Coast Guard began rescue efforts hours before daybreak on barrier islands near where Ian struck, DeSantis said. More than 800 members of federal urban search and rescue teams were also in the area.

Authorities confirmed at least one Florida death — a 72-year-old man in Deltona who fell into a canal while using a hose to drain his pool in the heavy rain, the Volusia County Sheriff's Office said. Two other storm deaths were reported in Cuba.



Louis Hardware Depot



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

Top Australian players return for West Indies T20 series

AP - Veteran opener Dave Warner and three other top players will return to the Australian Twenty20 squad for a two-match series against the West Indies as the hosts continue to prepare for their defence of the T20 World Cup title.

Warner will be joined by allrounders Mitchell Marsh and Marcus Stoinis and fast bowler Mitchell Starc in the 16-man squad after missing the three-match T20 series in India which India won 2-1.

Warner was rested from that series to manage his preparation for the World Cup in Australia starting next month, while Marsh (ankle), Stoinis (side strain) and Starc (knee) have overcome injuries.

Allrounder Cameron Green, who opened the batting with captain Aaron Finch in India, has been retained in the squad despite not being included in Australia's line up for the World Cup which is being played from Oct. 16 to Nov. 13.

Cricket Australia said in a statement on Wednesday that pace bowler Kane Richardson and spin-bowling all-rounder Ashton Agar won't take part in the West Indies series on the Gold Coast on Oct. 5 and at the Gabba in Brisbane two days later to ensure they are in peak shape for the World Cup.



Australia's Cameron Green plays a shot during the third T20 cricket match between India and Australia, in Hyderabad, India, Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022. (AP Photo/Mahesh Kumar A)

Australia plays its first World Cup match against New Zealand at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Oct. 22.

"We have and are taking a cautious approach with the World Cup on the near horizon," national selection panel chair George Bailey said. "To have four key players return gives us the ability to take a conservative path with any minor issues and resolve those well in time for the World Cup."

Bailey said he expects Agar and Richardson to return for the following series against England. That three-match T20 series will be held in Perth and Canberra from Oct. 9-14.

Australia T20 squad: Aaron Finch (captain), Sean Abbott, Pat Cummins, Tim David, Cameron Green, Josh Hazlewood, Josh Inglis, Mitchell Marsh, Glenn Maxwell, Daniel Sams,

Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Wade, David Warner, Adam Marcus Stoinis, Matthew Zampa.



**CPL 2022
LIVE ONLY ON**



**31st August -
30th September**

Sports News



Former El Salvador soccer boss sentenced in US bribery case

AP – The former president of El Salvador's soccer federation was sentenced on Thursday to 16 months in prison in the long-running FIFA corruption scandal.

Reynaldo Vasquez, 66, told a judge in federal court in Brooklyn that he felt "great shame" over his role in a bribery scheme that involved media and marketing rights for games played by the Salvadoran national soccer team. At



Former president of El Salvador's soccer federation Reynaldo Vasquez is presented to the media after his arrest in San Salvador, El Salvador December 16, 2015. REUTERS/Jose Cabezas

the same time, Vasquez minor participant.

sought to cast himself as a U.S. District Judge Pa-

mela Chen responded by saying Vasquez deserved prison time for his efforts "to line his and his co-defendants pockets."

The judge also left open the door for the sentence to be vastly reduced once it's determined how much credit he should get for time he spent behind bars in El Salvador before he was extradited to the United States last year.

Salvadoran authorities

cont'd on pg 27

Matthews moves to top ODI all-rounder in the world

West Indies captain Hayley Matthews has risen to the top spot among all-rounders in the One-Day International format for the first time in her career. The talismanic right-handed batter and off-spinner scored 88 runs and grabbed five wickets in the recent CG United ODI Series against New Zealand to secure the Number 1 position in the ICC rankings announced on Tuesday. Matthews, who has been a top ranked all-rounder in T20Is in the past, has also moved up three slots to 18th among batters and two places to sixth among bowlers.

Speaking on the eve of the T20I Series against New Zealand Matthews said:

"It's pretty exciting and I'm very grateful for the opportunity that I have been given this year to bat at the top of the order at the World Cup to help myself and the team. I'm excited to now be able to bring my form into this series against New Zealand and move



up those couple spots to number one."

She added, "I'm happy to also move up in the bowlers' rankings but as a player I'm always looking forward to performing for the team and I'm just grateful to be having a decent year so far."

The West Indies Women saw three players into the Top 50 in the bowlers' rankings: Shakera Selman moved up two places to 28th along with Afy Fletcher, four places to 41st and Chinelle Henry two places to 45th. Sta-

fanie Taylor, one of the greatest players of all time, moved up two places in the batting rankings to 14th spot.

West Indies Women will switch gears from Wednesday when they take on New Zealand Women in a five-match T20 International series. First ball at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium is 1pm (12 noon Jamaica Time). Both teams will be using this series as vital preparations in the lead-up to the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in South Africa from 9 to 26 February 2023.

Buccaneers, Chiefs will play in Tampa as scheduled

AP – Sunday night's game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Kansas City Chiefs will be played at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa as scheduled.

The Bucs spent most of this week in the Miami area preparing for the highly-anticipated prime-time matchup featuring quarterbacks Tom Brady and Patrick Mahomes to avoid direct contact with Hurricane Ian.

Tampa Bay practised at the Miami Dolphins' train-

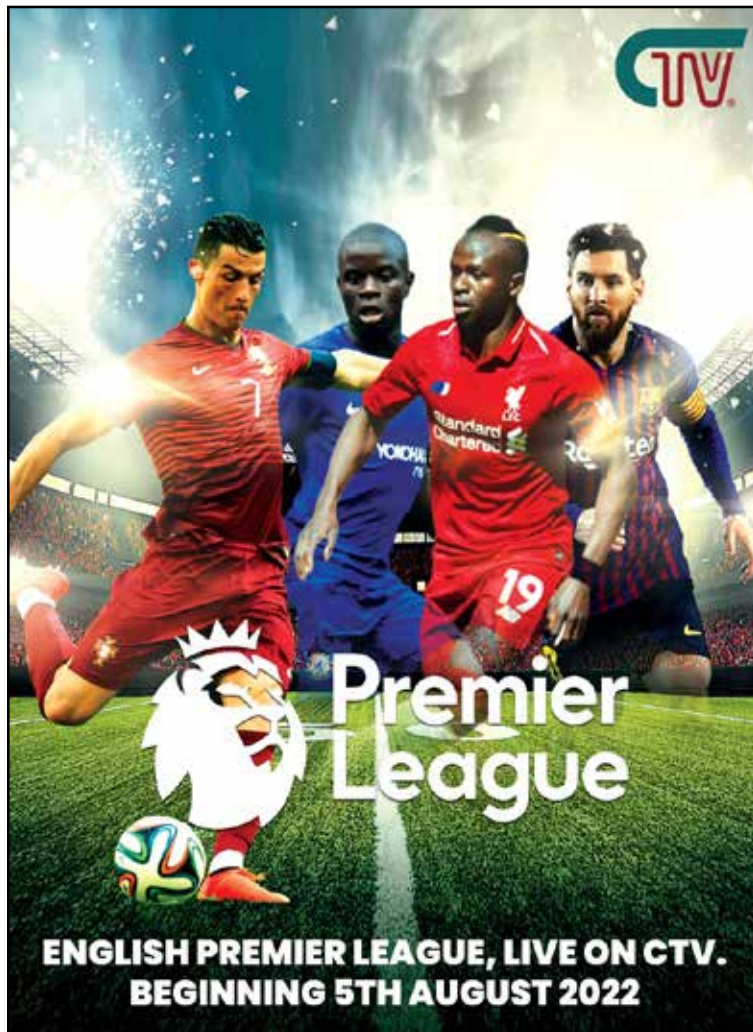
ing facility Wednesday and Thursday, when the teams announced the game will be played in its home stadium after assessing damage caused by the storm.

"Our thoughts and prayers remain with the many thousands in the Southwest Florida region who have been severely impacted by Hurricane Ian," the team said in a statement.

"We are also very thankful that the Tampa Bay area was spared the most damaging conse-



Honey bees are swept from an upright at the beginning of the NFL football game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and the Green Bay Packers on Sunday, Sept. 25, 2022, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla. (Douglas R. Clifford/Tampa Bay Times via AP)



quences of this powerful storm," the statement added.

"We have informed the NFL, after consulting with local and state agencies, that we are ready to play Sunday night's game ... at Raymond James Stadium as originally scheduled."

If the Bucs and Chiefs had not been able to play in Tampa, the NFL had said the game would have been switched to the Minnesota Vikings' stadium in

Minneapolis.

"We would like to thank all of the local government agencies and the thousands of emergency personnel who worked tirelessly over the past few days to ensure that our area would be ready to respond if needed," the Bucs said.

"We would also like to acknowledge the Miami Dolphins organisation for their assistance and hospitality in allowing us to use their practice facilities."

cont'd from pg 26

arrested Vasquez at the end of 2015 as part of an international roundup of top officials of FIFA, soccer's governing body.

In a guilty plea last year, he said that in 2012, he and other soccer of-

ficials received approximately \$350,000 in bribes for the media and marketing rights to World Cup qualifying matches.

Vasquez led the Salvadoran soccer federation from June 2009 to July 2011.

Sports News



Schools' knockout competition continues today

The Ministry of Sports Inter-Schools' Knockout Competition will continue with three matches today, Friday, 30th September.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy will take on St. Mary's Secondary School in a boys' division affair at the Police Recreation Grounds at 3pm.

Antigua Girls' High School will challenge Clare Hall Secondary School in a girls' division encounter in the first game of a double header at the Princess Margaret School playing field at 2:30 pm.

Pares Secondary School and Antigua Grammar School will clash in a boys' division affair at the same venue at 3:50 pm.

In the previous round of matches, Ottos Comprehensive School recorded wins over Jennings Secondary School in both boys' and girls' divisions at the Princess Margaret



National Under-20 player Joylan Sinclair scored one of the goals for Ottos Comprehensive School in their 3-2 victory over Jennings Secondary in the boys' division of the inter-schools' knockout competition at the PMS playing field on Tuesday, 27th September, 2022. (Photo courtesy the ABFA)

School playing field on both teams were dead-locked 1-1 at the end of regulation.

The girls of Ottos Comprehensive, who are defending champions, prevailed 2-1 over Jennings Secondary School after

Samuel and Abisha Henry then scored for Ottos in the penalty shootout, while Dequania Henry converted the only penalty kick for Jennings.

Ottos Comprehensive also recorded a 3-2 victory over Jennings Secondary in the boys' division knockout competition.

Joylan Sinclair, Johnathan Shoy and Jahkwanda George scored for Ottos Comprehensive, while Marius Andrew converted both goals for Jennings Secondary.

National Under-20 midfielder Wilden Cornwall Jr. and Jevaughn Jarvis each scored a brace to propel All Saints Secondary School to a 4-1 victory against St. Joseph's Academy in another boys' division encounter at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Dewan Lewis scored a consolation goal for St. Joseph's Academy.

Fearless Crew clinches two-point win in Business League

Health First Pharmacy snatched a narrow two-point victory over Sledge O'Ballers to record only their second win in eight games in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Wednesday evening.

Javor Matthew and Cairon Marcell each scored 10 points to lead Fearless Crew to their 66-64 victory over Sledge O'Ballers in the feature game of Wednesday's triple-header.

Sharife Sargeant shot a game-high 24 points and Michael Jeffers contributed 17 points for Sledge O'Ballers who have now lost their

last three games after winning their first two encounters.

Pointe FM notched up their second consecutive win with an emphatic 90-36 victory over winless Galley Bay Resort in the second game of Wednesday's triple header.

Josue Hernandez scored 17

cont'd on pg 29

ABCF hosts Subway Three-Stage Race this weekend

After staging its last domestic contest well over a month ago, the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) will resume its racing calendar with the hosting of the Subway Three-Stage Race this weekend.

The cyclists will be contesting a 4.1-mile Time Trial on the LIAT Road to the Jabber Grabber and back tomorrow, Saturday, 1st October.

Later that day, they will compete in a 36.5-mile Criterium race on the Pan Am Base circuit at 3 pm.

They will then participate in a 43.6-mile road race from the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium to St. James' Club and back, starting at 9 am on Sunday, 2nd October.

There will be one registration and participants will be required to pay a fee of EC\$20 for members and US\$20 for non-members.

The cyclists must participate in all three stag-



Cyclists compete during one of the previous ABCF's road races in Antigua and Barbuda in 2021. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

es to win the event, which is sponsored by Subway Restaurant, APUA Inet, Anjo Wholesale, local agents for Gatorade sports drink and Paradiso Water Bottling Company.

The road race on Sunday is expected to be the most grueling of the three-stage event.

President of the ABCF, St. Clair Williams said the Elite cyclists will be required to complete three laps of the route from the Sir

Vivian Richards Stadium to St. James' Club in Mamora Bay in St. Paul's and back to the starting point at North Sound.

"On the Sunday morning, we will have a road race from the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium over to the St. James' Club and back. The maximum for the different categories will be three laps for the Elite, two laps for the Masters and Elite Females and one lap for the Cadets," Williams said.

The ABCF will be hoping for a greater participation this weekend after a number of the top local cyclists, especially the Elite Men and Sports Class, did not take part in its last event, which was the Robert Peters 2-Stage race, on Sunday, 21st August.

Patrick Peters won the overall title of the Robert Peters 2-Stage Race after capturing the Masters' Class ahead of his only opponent, Richard Lam.

cont'd from pg 28

points, Jack Manuel sank 14, Danny Perez produced 13, Sandy Diaz and Daniel Perez each contributed 12 points and Jesus Emanuel chipped in with 11 points for Pointe FM who have now won four of their seven encounters.

Alister Nibbs shot a game-high 18 points for Galley Bay who slipped to their sixth loss in as many appearances.

Fitzroy Rewinding won for the third time in seven outings by surging to a 59-35 victory over the Board of Education in Wednesday's opening encounter.

Lindsay McDonald and Eric Joseph each scored 14 points for Fitzroy Rewinding while Kareem Blair had 10 points for the Board of Education who lost for only the second time in six encounters.

There are no games scheduled

for today (Friday), but the business basketball league will resume with another triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex tomorrow evening (Saturday).

Anjo Wholesale will take on Pointe FM in the opening encounter at 6:30 pm, Fitzroy Rewinding will oppose Vendors at 7:30 pm and Sledge O'Ballers will tackle defending champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 8:30 pm

Battle for ABFA's knockout cup heats up this weekend

The battle for supremacy is expected to intensify when the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup competition resumes with the round of 16 matches at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters this weekend.

Many of the teams would have warmed-up for this stage of the competition by recording relatively easy victories over opponents from the first and second divisions in the second round to advance to the round of 16 phase.

However, with 15 teams from the premier division and only one first division side comprising the round of 16 slate, the battle to secure a berth into the quarter-finals stage is expected to be tougher.

The round of 16 will kick-off with a double header today, Friday, 30th September.

FC Aston Villa will take on Pigotts Bullets FC in the opening game at 5:30 pm and Parham FC will face Willikies FC in an eastside derby at 7:30 pm.

The competition will continue with triple-head-



Empire FC will be one of 15 premier division teams that will contest the round of 16 stage in the ABFA's Knockout Cup competition at its Technical Training Centre at Paynters this weekend. (Photo courtesy Empire FC)

ers tomorrow (Saturday) and Sunday.

Ottos Rangers FC, one of two premier league teams to record 11-0 victories over their respective second round opponents, is expected to face a much sterner challenge when they meet Old Road FC in the opening game tomorrow at 4pm.

Garden Stars, the only first division team to reach the round of 16 when they knocked out reigning premier division league champions Liberta Black Hawks, will seek to continue their giant killing form when they face Swetes FC in tomorrow's second encounter

at 6pm.

Empire FC, the nation's most successful premier division league winners, will face Tryum FC in tomorrow's final game at 8pm. The Tryum defense could face a torrid time in trying to keep Empire's striker Rakeem Joseph quiet.

Joseph is entering tomorrow's round of 16 clash against Tryum as one of the competition's chief marksmen on the back of scoring a double hat trick to propel Empire to a 7-1 drubbing of Bendals FC in their second-round match last Sunday.

Five Islands FC will tackle Cedar Grove Blue Jays in the first game of

Sunday's triple-header at 4pm.

Longtime premier league rivals, former champions Greenbay Hoppers and SAP FC, will clash in Sunday's second encounter at 6pm.

All Saints United FC, the other team to record an 11-0 victory over their opponents in the second round, will take on Grenades FC in the final round of 16 encounter at 8pm.

All winners of the round of 16 encounters will advance to the quarter-finals of the knockout competition in which the eventual champion will receive a cash prize of EC\$50,000.