

THURSDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 172 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

GOV'T CONDEMNS DISCRIMINATORY HAIR POLICY IN SCHOOLS

Story on Page 2



On Tuesday, Prime Minister Gaston Browne was paid a courtesy visit by Olympic and World 400m hurdles silver medalist, Rai Benjamin, son of ex-Windies all-rounder Winston Benjamin. On Monday, Rai, a former student of the Antigua Grammar School made a presentation to outstanding athletes at his alma mater, the first presentation of many to come. [Photo: Office of the Prime Minister]

Local News



Gov't condemns discriminatory hair policies in schools

Tens of thousands of children returned to school in Antigua and Barbuda on Monday this week when the new academic year began.

While some parents beamed proudly as their children returned to school to enter a new grade, many other parents had a different experience - joy and excitement mingled with melancholy - as they saw their lit-

tle ones off to preschool or grade school and entrusted their care to new people for the very first time.

For one family, however, this already stressful day was made even more traumatic when they were told by administrators at a school that they should cut their young daughter's hair off or keep her at home until they "sort something out".

The offending hairstyle that triggered the offensive conversation between the school and the child's parents that has now sparked public debate is dreadlocks.

Jordan Mason, a Rastafarian, in an emotional social media post, said while he had been "warned about the school" he decided that that institution would serve his family and daughter's

needs best.

Mason said it was clear during the registration process that his daughter had locs as her photograph was provided to the school during the registration process. He claims the private school made no mention of her hair at any point, or the fact that it would be an issue for her to attend school because of it. He therefore went ahead with enrollment and payment of school fees.

At the end of his daughter's first day however, it was made clear from his conversation with the school, according to Mason, that she would not be welcomed back until her hair was different.

Mason attached a photograph of his smiling daughter, who was neatly groomed and obviously excited for her first day of school, to his post which has now been circulated thousands of times.

Pointe Xpress reached out to the school on Wednesday, but was unable to get a comment.

We were also unable to reach Mr. Mason for an update on the situation.

Following the public outrage over the school's archaic policy on dreadlocks, a visible indicator of many who observe the Rastafarian faith, and one which the government of Antigua and Barbuda abandoned at least a half century ago, the Cabinet of Ministers has now

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cont'd from pg 2

made their position on the matter clear.

On Wednesday evening following the Cabinet's weekly meeting, a statement was issued strongly condemning all schools that continue to discriminate against Rastafarians or those with their hair in natural dreadlocks.

"The Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda protects freedom of religion, freedom of association, and the freedom to hold a belief system that differs from the majority's.

"The Cabinet noted that objection to natural hairstyles on the heads of students may be couched in language covering school deportment; however, the object, as the Cabinet sees it, is to enable discrimination against children from the Rastafarian community."

The Cabinet said while for now they will leave it to schools to end the discriminatory practice, they are prepared to go to Parliament and change the country's laws to ensure that this no longer takes place.

"That debate about exclusion of Rastafarians from schools ended in Antigua and Barbuda nearly 50 years

ago. Schools are not to discriminate against members of the Rastafarian community, or those who choose to wear their hair in the same manner as the Rastafarians practice. That is the policy as articulated by the Government.

"If it becomes necessary, the Parliament of Antigua and Barbuda will be induced to change policy into law."

The government of Antigua and Barbuda is the most recent in the region which has been forced to act after children were barred from attending private schools because of their hair.

Last week, the Ministry of Education in Belize made it clear that no child in the country is to be disallowed from attending school over hairstyles. This occurred after ten male students who all attend the same private Catholic school were locked outside the school gate because the school felt their hair was too long.

This week, education authorities in St. Lucia also issued a similar statement after reports flooded in from across the island that students were not being allowed to attend classes because of their hair or styles they were adorned with.



Antigua Cruise Port

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Maintenance and Engineering Manager

JOB SUMMARY

Maintenance and Engineering Manager shall perform duties related to the operational requirements of GPH (Antigua) Ltd./Antigua Cruise Port under general direction of the Director of Operations and Projects.

Essential Skills and Knowledge

1. Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering or a closely related field.
2. 5 years' experience as a Maintenance Manager or Engineering Manager.
3. Previous responsibilities for design, construction and maintenance of complex public facilities.
4. Knowledge and experience in planning and managing port-related projects
5. Knowledge of contract management.
6. Knowledge of public procurement processes.
7. Knowledge of building code regulations of Antigua and Barbuda.

Director of Operations and Projects

JOB SUMMARY

The Director of Operations and Projects is primarily responsible for the management of the entire operations team and for the smooth operation of the various processes that contribute to the services provided by Antigua Cruise Port. The role is very wide and encompasses many operational areas including Project Management.

Essential Skills and Knowledge

1. Bachelor's Degree in Port Management, Project Management Engineering or related field.
2. Proven ability to work and thrive within fast paced start-up environment.
3. Experience of reporting for government or grant funded projects with multiple partners.
4. Business process analysis, development, implementation re-engineering experience.
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Ministry of Education finalising document on hairstyles in schools

Two reports this week of students being turned away from schools have forced the Ministry of Education and Sports to state its position on the matter of hairstyles.

In a statement published late Wednesday afternoon, the Ministry of Education and Sports said it is aware of the debate in the public space regarding certain hairstyles in schools.

Education officials are reportedly finalising a draft document on the subject matter.

Contained in the draft

document are the following:

Section 49 of the Education Act, 2008 authorises public schools to “introduce rules to govern the attire, conduct and discipline of students” as long as these rules have been approved by the Director of Education. Section 17 (e) of the Act further stipulates that it is the student’s responsibility to “observe standards approved by the Director of Education or the principal as the case may be, with respect to –

1. cleanliness and tidiness of the person;

2. general deportment;
3. attire;”

The policy below aims to provide guidelines which define the scope of rules regarding hair that are approved by the Director of Education.

Policy:

School rules pertaining to hair should be made within the framework provided by the following guidelines:

1. Rules should not discriminate against students based on the natural texture, length or colour of their hair.

2. Hair should be
 - a. clean, that is, free of foul odour and/or contagions

- b. neat, well-groomed and orderly presented.

3. Hair should not
 - a. pose a health and/or safety risk to self or others
 - b. be a distraction to the general school population

The Ministry of Education and Sports said it condemns all forms of discrimination, especially when directed at students throughout Antigua and Barbuda.

Gun amnesty returns

The government is taking proactive measures to deal with gun-related crimes in the country.

To this end, the Cabinet has agreed to re-introduce a gun amnesty in the country that will run until the end of the year.

“The Cabinet has agreed to reintroduce a gun amnesty that will last until the end of the year 2022. Illegal firearms can be turned over to any police station in exchange for which a sum of money is to be offered.

The object is to take illegal guns off the streets and out of the hands of criminals,” the weekly Cabinet Notes have reported.

Although gun-related crimes in Antigua and Barbuda are not at the level of several other Caribbean territories, this move is seen as an attempt by the government to get



ahead of this issue before it reaches a level that would make it near impossible to control.

There is no indication yet how

much money will be given in exchange of a surrendered firearm.

Past gun amnesties have had varying degrees of success.

Teen attacked by student mob

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

A male student was violently attacked by over ten students from several secondary schools at the YMCA sporting complex at around 2:43pm on Wednesday.

A member of the Pointe Xpress' News and Current Affairs Department was in the vicinity of YMCA when the fight erupted and observed two Special Services Unit (SSU) police vehicles at the complex's gate.

Witnesses who were present, including a snackette vendor, confirmed to Pointe Xpress that a fight had taken place.

The identities of the witnesses, who include minors, have been withheld to protect their identities.

The vendor, and her daughter who was also present at the time of the attack, said "around 15 boys [went] after a young man who wasn't wearing any school uniform".

"The boys came from several schools including the Princess Margaret Secondary, Ottos Comprehensive, and Antigua Grammar School," she explained.



plained.

The police arrived at the location only moments before Pointe Xpress began investigating the incident.

Netballers from Antigua Girls' High School elaborated further.

"The boys were sitting on the north side of the complex's stands when they started chasing the young man with cutlasses and pieces of wood before

throwing stones at him after he outran them.

"When he started running, over ten boys broke blocks and began to stone him, so the young man then climbed up on top of the roof of the stands," the netballers explained, adding that the target of the attack was no more than 15-years-old.

One of the attackers climbed to the roof where the victim sought refuge and continued the attack, throwing stones at the child.

Using the stones thrown at him to defend himself, the victim struck his pursuer which allowed him the time he needed to escape, according to witnesses.

The teenager then jumped from the roof onto a tree, climbed down and fled the scene and his attackers.

The boys involved in the attack returned to YMCA about 20 minutes after the police departed. The parent of one of the players present contacted the police to notify them of the boys' return.

While it is known which school the boys involved in the attack attend, their identities, and that of their target are unknown. It was also unclear what triggered the savage onslaught.

BARBUDA EXPRESS
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

SUNDAY

AB 12:00 PM
BA 3:45 PM

MONDAY

AB 6:00 AM
BA 8:00 AM

TUESDAY TO FRIDAY

AB 7:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

SATURDAY

AB 8:00 AM
BA 3:45 PM

TYPHOON EXPRESS

MONDAY
ST. JOHN'S DEPARTURE

AB 3:45 PM
(OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA)

TUESDAY

BA 6:00 AM TO ST. JOHN'S

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)

AB 10:00AM
BA 3:00PM

UPDATED SCHEDULE



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Local News



Community Connect Initiative makes positive impact

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, has reported that the Community Connect Initiative, funded by the government of Indonesia, has been very successful and should be replicated in other communities.

During a courtesy call this week by Indonesia's new ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Tatang Razak, Greene informed the diplomat that the computers and supporting equipment have been successfully deployed in the Liberta Empowerment Centre.

"I wish to place on record my appreciation for the equipment donated to the Empowerment Centre in my community, in fact, it could be any community.

"I am now holding discussions with the Honorary Consul (Paul Ryan) with respect to replicating the programme in other communities across the country.

"The equipment, to include computers, desks, chairs, air condition units and a recording studio, have



The new Indonesian Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Tatang Razak (centre left), and his wife, paid a courtesy call on Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene (centre right) and Indonesia's Honorary Consul to Antigua and Barbuda, Paul Ryan (far right)

served the community well. I can assure you that the equipment has been put to good use," Greene reported.

He revealed that during the summer school break, students from the area availed themselves of the use of the computers at the centre to carry out a number of tasks.

"A number of our musically inclined residents of the community, as well as others from across Antigua and Barbuda, have been us-

ing the studios. So, the idea is to improve what we have [and] provide opportunities for communities where talents abound.

"So, Mr. Ryan, I want you to start the conversation now about equipping at least one other community as soon as possible," he urged.

Greene said he would recommend St. Mary's as the next site for a Community Connect Centre.

"We are looking at an

area from Jennings to Old Road that may benefit from such facilities being made available to residents," he disclosed.

The St. Paul MP noted these projects are not politically connected as there is no desire to embroil Indonesia, a friendly government, in Antigua and Barbuda's politics. Rather, Greene is urging Antiguan and Barbudans to accept the generous donations for the community strengthening purpose for which they were intended.

The Community Connect initiative in Liberta benefited from the donation of 23 laptop and desktop computers, four foldable computer desks, chairs, tables, office furniture, a number of air conditioning units and a recording studio.

| Thu 08 Day | | Thu 08 Night | |
|--|------------------|---|------------------|
| 88° | | 78° | |
| 24% | SSE 5 mph | 23% | SSE 3 mph |
| Considerable cloudiness. High 88F. Winds light and variable. | | Mostly cloudy. Low 78F. Winds light and variable. | |
| Humidity 71% | UV Index Extreme | Humidity 83% | UV Index 0 of 10 |
| Sunrise 5:54 am | Sunset 6:14 pm | Moonrise 5:17 pm | Moonset 3:56 am |
| | | ○ Waxing Gibbous | |



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Police Week 2022



Pre- Events

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

- **Saturday 3rd September 2022**

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

Queen Show, Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

Police Week

- **Sunday 4th September 2022**

Church Service – Swetes Wesleyan Holiness Church 9am

Brunch – Police Head Quarters

- **Monday 5th September 2022**

Opening Day – Police Head Quarters 10am to 2pm

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

- **Tuesday 6th September 2022**

Inter-force Shooting Competition – SWFGPA 9am

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

- **Wednesday 7th September 2022**

Sick and Shut In

Calypso – Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Thursday 8th September**

Veterans Cocktail – SWFGPA – 5pm

- **Friday 9th September 2022**

Sports day/ March Pass – Police Grounds 10am

- **Saturday 10th September 2022**

Full Bore Shooting Competition – Crabbs Shooting Range 10am

Variety Concert -Antigua Recreation Grounds 8pm

- **Sunday 11th September 2022**

Beach Bash – Ffyers Beach 10am



Local News



Rotary Club of Antigua extolls the value of volunteerism

By Shahein Fitzpatrick

The Rotary Club of Antigua, a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting humanitarianism, is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

Ilean Ramsey, the club's president, spoke to Pointe Xpress about the value of volunteering as the group busied itself with providing support to the residents of the Fiennes Institute on Tuesday.

"Residents of the home were given special lunches and personal care packages served by our junior cadets from Christ the King High School's Interact programme, which was held on the Fiennes facility," she said.

Ramsey explained that the juniors' programme was created to instil in students the importance of serving the

vulnerable while educating them about the purpose of the Rotary.

The Rotary's mission is to unite business and professional leaders for community service, integrity promotion, and the advancement of goodwill, peace, and understanding worldwide.

Enthusiased about charity work, Ramsey explained why the organisation serves.

"There is a feeling of satisfaction you get from giving back. When you volunteer, it helps you to recognise that you are not alone in this world."

She expressed that many people are vulnerable and in need of help.

"The most important thing is, you never know if ever in this world you will end up in that position, so always keep that in mind."

On Thursday, 8th September, as part of the club's anniversary celebrations, members will visit secondary schools around the island to talk to students about the benefits of volunteering and the difference it can make in their communities.

As part of the commemoration of the club's charter, a gala luncheon will be hosted at the Sandals Grande Resort and Spa on 10th September.

"Along with the Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, the Honourable Prime Minister, Gaston Browne, and other important guests, [as well as] our sponsoring Rotary Club, the Rotary Club of St. Kitts, will be there.

"Additionally, special gifts will be given to our devoted members," President Ramsey concluded.

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Technology



Regional consumers still feeling the pinch of roaming telecom charges

Consumers in Caribbean countries are yet to fully benefit from reduced telecommunication roaming charges despite an agreement being signed earlier this year with two of the telecommunication providers in the Caribbean, CARICOM Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett has said.

“We have the unfortunate reality that our telecommunications infrastructure

in the region which controls the internet services are legacy systems from the same European owners who are now dropping the charges among each other in Europe, but when we get around the table with the subsidiaries in the region it is really very difficult to negotiate to remove the charges,” Barnett told the audience attending the Owen S. Arthur Distinguished Lecture Series on



Monday night.

She described the situation “as an ongoing conversation” adding “there is a little bit of progress that was made...I am advised among themselves an agreement to reduce the charges not to eliminate totally was made.

“The objective is to eliminate totally, but as I say the owners of those telecommunication companies in each of our member states, they negotiate with each of our member states their arrangements differently with each of our member states.

“The solution to that is likely to be a single regulatory mechanism that would determine that across the region.

“That’s a complex situation yet to be negotiated,” Barnett added.

In February, the regional grouping moved one step closer towards the elimination of roaming charges within CARICOM by signing the St. George’s Declaration on Roaming with two of the telecommunication providers in the Caribbean.

CARICOM said then that the agreement signalled

the beginning of new opportunities for the region, following the signing with Digicel and Cable and Wireless.

The then Grenada prime minister, Dr. Keith Mitchell, who had lead responsibility for science and technology within the quasi-CARICOM Cabinet, said regional governments have long recognized the value of collaboration and cooperation as core principles of regional integration.

“It is in this spirit that regional leaders agreed in 2014 to establish a CARICOM Single Information Communication Technology (ICT) Space, having recognized the critical role that information and communication technology play in our social, cultural and economic development.”

He said the Single ICT Space represents the digital arm of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) that allows for the free movement of skills, goods, services, and labour across the 15-member regional integration grouping. (CMC)

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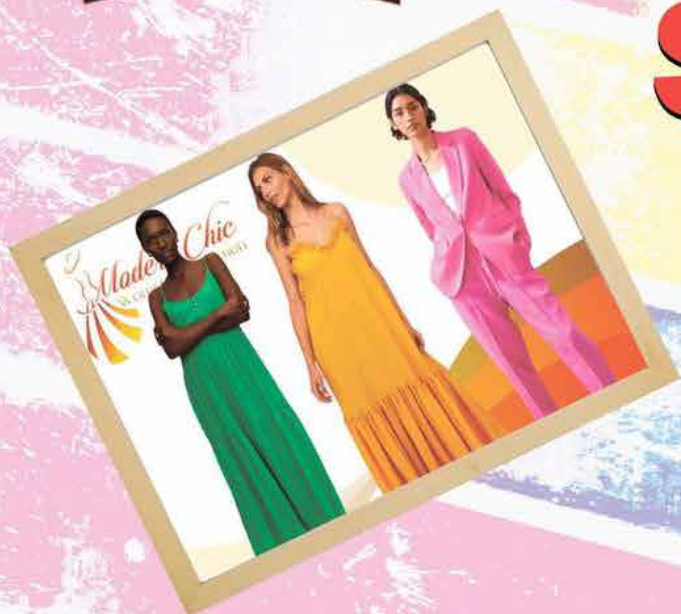
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Keep Fit Gym
Twist Fitness Gym



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STREETZ

WITH KEVIN MORGAN AND
VERNON A SPRINGER.



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8:30AM

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Video of child refugee in Libya sheds light on rampant abuse

By **Samy Magdy**

Cowering in a bare corner, the 15-year-old boy begs for mercy and holds up his arms, trying to fend off the rifle pointed at his face. “Where is the money? Where is the money?” the holder of the rifle barks, over and over.

The unseen man pulls the trigger. “Click-click-click!” The magazine is empty, it seems. The man wants to scare him, and it works. The boy flinches with each click.

“Where is the money? Where is the money?” the man keeps shouting, swatting the boy on the head with the rifle muzzle. “I swear, I don’t have,” the boy cries.

The boy, Mazen Adam, a refugee in Libya from Sudan’s conflict-torn Darfur region, was kidnapped last week by unknown gunmen demanding ransom. Hours after the video depicting this scene spread on social media, the boy’s father was taken by gunmen from his home in western Libya.

Their saga is all too common in the chaotic, war-torn Mediterranean country, where powerful militias and traffickers have for years taken advantage of the desperation of migrants fleeing wars and poverty and trying to reach Europe. But the abuse is rarely caught on-camera, and the story of the boy and his father



Migrants line up outside a facility operated by the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, in Tripoli, Libya on Sept. 6, 2022. It's one of the few safe places for migrants in the war-torn country. For years, powerful militias and traffickers have taken advantage of the desperation of migrants fleeing war and poverty and trying to reach Europe from Libya's shores. (AP Photo)

has raised concerns among regular Libyans and rights workers.

The video has underscored how abuses, torture, sexual violence and killings of migrants are rampant in Libya, where the European Union is using fragments of the broken-down state as an out-sourced policeman to block migrants from reaching its shores, trapping them there.

Libya has been in chaos since a NATO-backed uprising toppled and killed long-time dictator Moammar Gadhafi in 2011. The country has split into many factions, each supported by rogue militias and foreign governments.

Without a functioning government for most of the past decade, the country

became a hub for migrants, with thousands coming in every year from Arab nations or sub-Saharan Africa, aiming to cross the Mediterranean to Europe.

A lucrative trafficking business has flourished and militias, most of which are on the government payroll, are involved at every stage. They sometimes receive payments from the smugglers who arrange the migrants’ journeys. Militias often kidnap migrants and torture them to extort money from them.

Militias are part of the official state forces tasked with intercepting migrants at sea, including in the coast guard. They also run state detention centres, where abuses of migrants are common. As a result, mili-

tias — some of them led by warlords the U.N. has sanctioned for abuses — benefit from millions in funds the European Union gives to Libya to stop the migrant flow to Europe.

U.N.-commissioned investigators said last year such practices may amount to crimes against humanity. The U.N.’s refugee agency has warned that Libya “isn’t a country of asylum, nor a place of safety.”

Fleeing Sudan’s Darfur, Mohamed Adam arrived in Libya with his four children in December 2017. A few months earlier, his wife died when their house was set on fire during a bout of tribal violence in Darfur.

Adam settled in Tripoli, waiting for the opportunity to reach Europe. He and his children were registered with the U.N. refugee agency, UNHCR, as asylum-seekers, according to a registration document shared with The Associated Press. Adam found work as a day labourer.

The AP spoke to Adam by phone. A few hours later, he was abducted by armed men in uniform, according to his 20-year-old daughter, Rehab Adam.

He described how in January, despite their recognized asylum-seeker status, the whole family was rounded up in a crackdown

cont’d on pg 13

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on migrants by Libyan authorities. They were held for over three months in a detention centre in the town of Ain Zara, where guards abused them and burned their few belongings, he said.

They were released on April 25 after intervention by the UNHCR, he said. They then moved to Warshefana, a town on Tripoli's southwestern outskirts where living expenses were cheaper.

The town is also home to militias that have been implicated in human trafficking, said Tarik Lamloum, a Libyan activist working with the Be-laady Organization for Human Rights.

Mazen, the second oldest of the four siblings, worked also as a day labourer in farms and workshops to help the family survive. On Aug. 30, he left home in the morning for work as usual. But he did not return.

That afternoon, Adam received a call from another Sudanese woman in Libya, telling him that his son was likely kidnapped. The woman sent

him the video of Mazen being abused, which she had seen on a WhatsApp group of Sudanese migrants.

How the video made it there is unclear, but it's highly likely that Mazen's captors wanted it to reach his family to pressure them to send money. Migrants are regularly held for ransom inside Libya's formal and informal detention centres, although they are usually told to contact family in a phone call.

In the video, Mazen's captor demands 5,000 Libyan dinars, around \$1,000, and tells the boy to call friends or family to get it.

"Is he still alive or dead?" his father, Adam said, speaking hours after the video emerged. "I don't have the money to free him."

In response to a request for comment, UNHCR said it was aware of the "distressing video ... and is following up on it and in direct contact with the family."

Lamloum, the activist, says the U.N. agency should have been able to

do more to protect the family, whether providing them shelter or hurrying their resettlement abroad, arguing that Libyan authorities in practice don't recognize the agency's papers for asylum seekers.

The video was shared on social media by activists in Sudan and by other Libyans worried for the boy's safety. A day after it appeared, three vehicles pulled in front of Adam's house in Warshefana. Rehab said armed men got out and took her father away.

No group claimed responsibility for the child's abduction nor his father's detention. A spokesman for the Tripoli-based government did not answer phone calls or a message seeking comment.

Now Rehab and her younger sister and brother, 11-year-old Manasek and 9-year-old Mustafa, are at a U.N. refugee agency facility in Tripoli, waiting for news.

"We don't know where our father and brother are," she said. "God willing, we will reunite soon," she said.



We're Backkkkk

The Police Drama Group is back with a play called

School call Eeeeeen

Written and directed
By Owen Jackson

Antigua Recreation Ground

\$20.00 **8:pm** **\$20.00**

Saturday 10th September 2022

Energy

Trinidad and Tobago gets US\$1.1 billion investment commitment from major methanol producer

The Trinidad and Tobago government today said the Swiss based energy company, Proman, has reiterated a commitment to invest an estimated US\$1.1 billion over the next 10 years for major plant maintenance turnarounds in the Caribbean country.

Proman describes itself as one of the world's largest methanol producers, and a leading fertiliser producer globally, with operations and assets all over the world.

A statement issued by the Office of the Prime Minister said that the assurance was given during talks held in Zurich between Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley and Proman's chief executive officer, David Cassidy, and his executive.

Rowley is being accompanied by his Energy and Energy Industries Minister, Stuart Young.

The statement said that Trinidad and Tobago is a key centre of Proman's operations, with 14 petrochemical plants owned and operated there and 1,100 employees accounting for 67 per cent of its global headcount.

"During the meeting, the energy company reiterated



its commitment to Trinidad and Tobago highlighting its planned investment of US\$1.1 billion over the next 10 years for major plant maintenance turnarounds at Point Lisas," the statement said.

"This investment will fund work on safety, reliability and greenhouse gas reduction initiatives. The company will also work with the government to pursue other energy transition initiatives and opportunities."

It said that the discus-

sions also focused on Proman's upstream company – DeNovo – its operations and opportunities for expansion of its acquisitions.

"The meeting featured talks on Proman's promotion of methanol as a maritime fuel and the reduction of shipping emissions. The meeting explored opportunities for Trinidad and Tobago as one of the largest global methanol producers, which also boasts a safe harbour, to position itself as a major shipping refuelling destination.

"The role of carbon capture in the new economic model for energy transition also formed part of the discussions today," the statement said, adding that two Trinidadian nationals, who are also part of Proman's executive leadership team, "gave detailed presentations on the ways in which Trinidad and Tobago fit into the company's global thrust".

Rowley and Young will visit Proman's operations in Germany on Tuesday, the statement added. (CMC)

Shark attack kills US cruise passenger in Bahamas

BBC – A US cruise ship passenger was killed by a shark while snorkelling near the Bahamas on Tuesday, according to local authorities.

The 58-year-old woman from Pennsylvania was on an excursion near Green Cay near Nassau when the incident took place.

Police later said that the family identified the shark as a bull shark. A similar incident in the area took the life of a 21-year-old American in 2019.

Despite gripping public attention, shark attacks are exceedingly rare.

Bahamian police spokeswoman Chrislyn Skippings told reporters that the woman was on an excursion with a local tour company, which took her to the popular snorkelling area.

Family members and tour company staff saw her



being attacked and managed to pull her from the water. A local news outlet, Eyewitness News, quoted Ms Skippings as saying that the victim suffered wounds to her "upper extremities".

The victim was declared dead by authorities after being taken to shore.

Her cruise ship, the *Harmony of the Seas*, was docked in Nassau at the time of the attack. It had just begun its seven day cruise of the western Caribbean from Port Canaveral in Florida on 4 September.

Cruise operator Royal Caribbean International said in a statement that they are "providing support and assistance to the guest's loved ones during this difficult time."

The incident is the first fatal shark attack in the Bahamas since 2019, when a 21-year-old woman from California was attacked by sharks near Rose Island, about half a mile (0.8km) away from Tuesday's attack.

In another recent incident, an eight-year-old British boy was injured after be-

ing attacked by three sharks in another part of the Bahamas. His father later told *The Sun* that the attack "was like a scene out of *Jaws*".

In total, statistics from the Florida-based International Shark Attack File show that only about 32 shark attacks have been reported in the Bahamas since 1749, the highest number in the region.

Michael Heithaus, a marine biologist at Florida International University in Miami, told the Associated Press that the relatively high number of shark attacks in the area is likely due to the high number of people in the waters, which are home to a vibrant marine ecosystem.

Globally, there were 73 confirmed unprovoked shark attacks in 2021, including nine which resulted in death.

Free movement of Caribbean nationals still a problem

CMC – Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretary General, Dr. Carla Barnett, says while the current arrangements allow for Caribbean people to "pick up and move from one CARICOM state to another" there are still problems associated with the free movement of people under the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

In 1989, CARICOM leaders

agreed on the need to establish the CSME as a means of deepening the regional integration movement to better respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by globalisation.

Regional leaders had expected that the initiative, which allows for the free movement of goods, skills, labour, and services, would have been fully implemented in 2008.

But as she engaged in a ques-

tion-and-answer session following her delivery of the Owen S. Arthur Distinguished Lecture Series on Monday night, Barnett said while the initiative allows for a Caribbean national to be granted an automatic six-month stay in another regional country "that does not give you the authority to work.

"That gives you the authority to spend a holiday..., visit your family that kind of thing," she said, noting

cont'd on pg 16

Regional News



Cubans ordered to leave Belize

CMC – Chief Magistrate of Belize, Sharon Fraser has issued removal orders for 16 Cuban nationals, who illegally entered the country last Thursday.

The Cubans, who were without passports, claimed they were seeking asylum in the Cayman Islands but accidentally ended up in Belize when their boat ran out of gas and drifted ashore after experiencing bad weather.

But the chief magistrate questioned how these Cubans could travel from their homes to another country without any passports.

Attorney Orson “OJ” Eltrington, who represented nine of the Cubans, asked the magistrate to use her discretion and not impose a prison term against them, arguing that there was not enough evidence to prove that they came to Belize intentionally.

Two men among them pleaded guilty, while the remaining seven said they were not sure how to plea. One Cuban informed Magistrate Frazer that while they did not come to Belize



with any passports they also did not want to come to Belize.

However, one of the Cubans, a woman, changed her story and claimed they were seeking asylum in Belize, while two others claimed that their documents were left in the Cayman Islands after they were denied asylum.

The second set of Cubans was unrepresented. After the Immigration

Department told the court they were not seeking a fine against the Cubans, Chief Magistrate Fraser used her discretion and did not fine them.

She, however, ordered that they be sent back home. One defendant asked the chief magistrate if he could pay a fine and continue his journey, but she told them that a removal order means they must return to their country of origin.



Dr. Carla Barnett

cont'd from pg 15

that there is also an agreement on the movement of various categories of workers “and this is where I sometimes describe what we have done as not free movement although what we say is the objective is”.

She told the audience it is a “really regulated movement” and that more and more that is being understood as a system that is not “necessarily efficient and I would like to think that there are likely to be conversations on removing some of those real barriers.”

She said the movement of skilled nationals requires an infrastructure being put in place in each member state “and so there is a lot of work to be done...”

“To have people move freely would be for me, an opening to wider

community building because people moving from place to place and getting to know one another is one part of the community building process that we need to have in place.”

But she said another impediment is the issue of transportation, recalling that in the old days when “we were all colonies of Her Majesty’s empire we could just get on a boat and move from one place to another, there was no issue at all.

“But one of the realities of being invested as sovereign states is that we put in place regulations to manage the flow of persons from one place to another and that’s the reality we live with.

“So, we have to work through that to make it as smooth as possible,” she added.

Britain blocks Bermuda's cannabis legislation

CMC – Bermuda's governor Rena Lalgie Tuesday announced that the United Kingdom has blocked the Bermuda government's controversial bid to legalise the use and production of cannabis in the British Overseas Territory.

"I previously announced that I had reserved the Cannabis Licensing Bill 2022 for the signification of Her Majesty's pleasure under Section 35 (2) of the Bermuda Constitution. I have now received an instruction, issued to me on Her Majesty's behalf, not to assent to the bill as drafted.

"The Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs concluded that the bill, as currently drafted, is not consistent with obligations held by the UK and Bermuda under the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs and the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

"I have informed the premier and relayed the UK's continued desire to work with Bermuda on reforms within the scope of our existing international obligations," the Governor added.

There was no immediate reaction from the David Burt government.

But last year, Premier Burt said if royal assent was not given to the bill, it would destroy relations between Bermuda and Britain.

In March, Parliament

again passed controversial legislation making it legal to grow and sell cannabis in Bermuda.

The bill was approved by 18 votes to six, with all opposition One Bermuda Alliance (OBA) MPs voting against it.

Twelve months ago, the legislation was blocked in the Senate, but the Upper House cannot do so again.

The Cannabis Licensing Act 2022 was intended to create a regulated framework for the growth and sale of the drug.

The government had said a series of licenc-



Governor Rena Lalgie

es would have been made available through a licensing authority, allowing people to not only possess more of the drug, but also to grow,

harvest, sell, and export it.

At present, it is illegal to be in possession of more than seven grams of the drug.



THE HULK SHOW
HOSTED BY: MAN HUNTE
Time : 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM
Mondays

Ukraine says grain coming to Somalia, but Russia sceptical

AP – Ukraine’s president says tons of grain from his country will arrive in the coming weeks in Somalia, where famine approaches and the global crises of food security and climate change put millions at risk.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s comment came as Russian President Vladimir Putin accuses the West of sending most of the grain from Ukraine’s reopened ports to Europe instead of poorer and hungrier parts of the world.

Speaking at an economic forum in Vladivostok on Wednesday, Putin suggested that Russia may talk with Turkey about revising the deal that lifted Russia’s blockade on Ukrainian ports and allowed ships safe passage. Russia has alleged this before, but this is the first time Putin has echoed it.

“With the exclusion of Turkey as a mediator, practically all the grain exported from Ukraine was sent to the (European Union) nations instead of the poorest countries,” Putin said, adding: “Maybe it’s worth thinking about restricting the exports of grain and other products on that route? I will certainly discuss the issue with the president of Turkey.”

The Russian president said of 87 ships loaded with grain from Ukraine, just two have carried grain for the U.N. World Food Program — 60,000 tons out of the total of about 2 million tons.

The first of those ships docked at the port of Djibouti last week with grain that WFP said would go to drought-affected Somalia and Ethiopia. It carried 23,000 metric tons of grain, which WFP called enough to feed 1.5 million people on full rations for a month.

Somalia especially needs help. The country had sourced 90% of its



Maritime workers stand by grain onboard the Brave Commander bulk carrier ship after it arrived in the port of Djibouti city, Djibouti Tuesday, Aug. 30, 2022. The first ship carrying grain from Ukraine for people in the hungriest parts of the world has docked at the Horn of Africa port of Djibouti as areas of East Africa are badly affected by deadly drought and conflict. (Hugh Rutherford/WFP via AP)

wheat from Ukraine and Russia before this year. It now suffers from a shortage of food and humanitarian aid as thousands of people die and the world largely focuses on Ukraine. On Monday, the U.N. cited “concrete indications” that famine will occur in part of the country, with over 850,000 people affected.

The Ukrainian president in a tweet Tuesday night said 28,600 tons of wheat will arrive in Somalia in the coming weeks and blamed the coming famine in that country on Russia’s actions this year.

“Ukraine continues to save the world with its grain,” Zelenskyy asserted.

African nations were at the centre of Western efforts to reopen Ukraine’s ports as the United States and allies accused Russia of starving the world by denying exports from Ukraine, one

of the world’s largest grain exporters. African leaders also visited Russia to meet with Putin over the issue.

But now, Russia is trying to turn the food security issue question against the West. “They cheated the public and partners in Africa and other regions who acutely need food,” Putin said. “They were claiming that they were acting in the interests of developing countries, but acted entirely in their own interests.”

The Joint Coordination Center (JCC), run by the U.N., Turkey, Russia and Ukraine said 100 outbound ships, almost all of them commercial vessels, have left Ukrainian ports so far carrying more than 2.3 million metric tons.

The JCC said the cargo from Ukraine breaks down as 57% corn, 22% wheat, 11% sunflower products, 7% barley and rapeseed, 1 % soya beans, and 4% “other.”

Canada stabbings suspect dies after car chase

The suspect in a stabbing that left 10 dead and 18 others injured has died of self-inflicted wounds as he was captured by police, officials say.

Police said earlier that Myles Sanderson, 32, was taken into custody in the province of Saskatchewan on Wednesday afternoon.

Footage from the scene showed a white SUV run off the road and surrounded by police cruisers near Rosthern town.

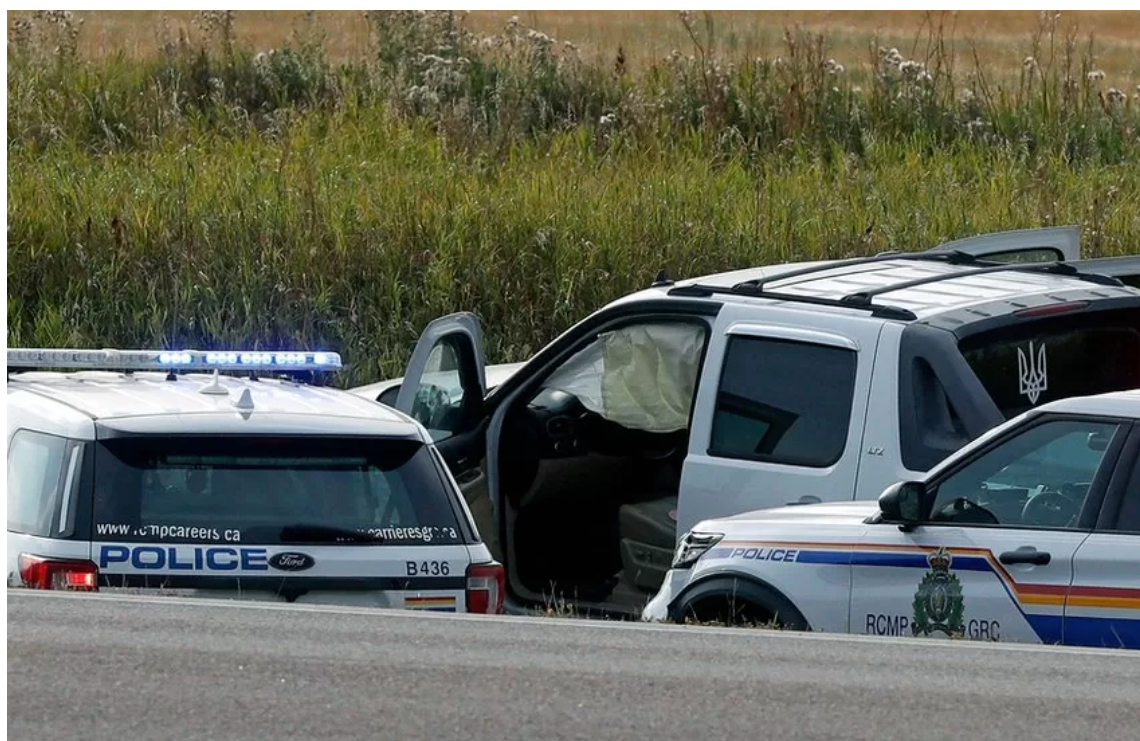
Ten victims remain in hospital, three of them in a critical condition.

Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore told a news conference on Wednesday night that police had received a report earlier in the day of Sanderson stealing a vehicle from outside a property. The householder was not injured during the theft.

Police gave pursuit as Sanderson fled at speeds of 150km/h (93mph). They rammed his vehicle into a ditch and police found a knife in the SUV as they arrested him, said the police chief.

Shortly after his arrest, Sanderson went into “medical distress” and was taken to a hospital in Saskatoon, where he died, she added.

News of his capture came soon after an alert was sent to Canadian mobile phone users warning peo-



The scene of Myles Sanderson's capture

ple near the town of Wakaw to “seek immediate shelter/shelter in place” because a man armed with a knife had been seen driving in the area. Rosthern is 44km (27 miles) west of Wakaw.

Police had been facing charges of first-degree murder, attempted murder and breaking and entering.

Unverified videos on social media showed a suspect being arrested by police on the side of a rural highway. The vehicle in the footage bears a resemblance to a white Chevrolet Avalanche, the same model that police described in their since-cancelled alert.

The main suspect's brother, Damien Sanderson, was also accused of playing a role in the attacks on Sunday in the remote area. On

Monday, police found his body and are now investigating whether his brother killed him during the manhunt.

Earlier on Wednesday, the parents of the brothers had appealed for their surviving son to turn himself in.

“I want to apologise for my son, my sons,” his mother said in an interview with CBC News.

“We don't know the whole story, but I want to apologise to everybody that was hurt and affected by this terrible situation.”

Police have not yet revealed any suspected motive for the knife rampage, which encompassed 13 separate crime scenes. Saskatchewan Premier Scott Moe thanked police “who

have worked day and night to track down and arrest this dangerous criminal”, adding: “We owe you all a great debt of gratitude.”

Canada's parole board said on Tuesday that it would review why Myles Sanderson was released early from prison while serving a four-year sentence for several violent crimes.

In February, the board said he would “not present an undue risk” and that his release would “contribute to the protection of society” by facilitating his rehabilitation.

Saskatoon police earlier confirmed they had been searching for Myles Sanderson since May, when he stopped meeting his assigned caseworker and was

cont'd on pg 20

Typhoon Hinnamnor: Seven drown in flooded South Korean car park

BBC – Seven people in South Korea have died after they were trapped in an underground car park during floods caused by Typhoon Hinnamnor.

They had gone down to move their cars but got caught by the incoming torrents.

Crew said they rescued two people, who reportedly survived by clinging to ceiling pipes for more than 12 hours.

Typhoon Hinnamnor, the strongest cyclonic storm this year so far, hit South Korea earlier this week.

Rescuers had to wade through metres of brown water to enter the almost completely submerged basement on Tuesday night.

According to news site Yonhap, all nine people were residents of an apartment building who had earlier on Tuesday morning been told by the management office to move their cars from the car park.

The survivors – a man in his 30s and a woman in her 50s – were reported to be in stable condition.

President Yoon Suk-yeol expressed his grief over the drownings, calling it a "disaster".

"I couldn't sleep last night because of this tragedy," he said.

He added that he had designated the city a special disaster zone, and would travel to the region later on



Crew said they rescued two people, who reportedly survived by clinging to ceiling pipes for over 12 hours

Wednesday.

Pohang, the city where the tragedy occurred, has suffered the worst damage across the country. In one area, a beachside hotel collapsed on its foundations during the storm. The resort operators told the BBC no guests had been injured.

At least 10 people have now died in South Korea as a result of Typhoon Hinnamnor, which swept the country's southern and eastern coasts on Monday and Tuesday, driving huge surf, gale-force winds and heavy rain.

Several other cities across the south – including Busan and Ulsan – are also dealing with wreckage caused by the storm, which ripped up roads,

smashed building windows and flattened trees.

South Korea – like many countries in East Asia – has over the past few months endured extreme rains as well as record temperatures.

In early August, it recorded massive downpours which flooded cities, including the capital Seoul. The floods killed at least eight people, including three who were living in basement apartments.

The deaths prompted Korea's president to announce that these units, known as banjiha, which were popularised in the Oscar-winning film, *Parasite*, will be phased out and eventually outlawed.

cont'd from pg 19

classified as "unlawfully at large".

Parole documents show he had a decades-long criminal record, including 59 criminal convictions since he was 18, including assault, threats and robbery.

According to court papers, Sanderson had knifed

two of the victims killed in Sunday's rampage – his in-laws, Earl Burns and Joyce Burns – seven years ago. He previously pleaded guilty to assault and threatening Mr Burns' life for the 2015 attack.

"I want to know the reasons behind the [parole] decision," Public Safety Min-

ister Marco Mendicino told reporters. "I'm extremely concerned by what occurred here."

At an emotional news conference on Wednesday, relatives of the victims spoke of their "horror".

"We are broken, but we're not defeated," said Mark Arcand, chief of the

Saskatoon Tribal Council and brother of Bonnie Goodvoice-Burns. Bonnie, 48, and her son Gregory Burns, 28, were both killed.

Bonnie "took care of everybody" and was "a true matriarch", her brother said, adding that Gregory loved his family and had two children with a third on the way.

Tuchel fired by Chelsea in ruthless call by US ownership

AP – Chelsea's new American owners are proving to be just as ruthless as the man they replaced.

Thomas Tuchel was fired by the Premier League club on Wednesday, only one month into the season and just days after Chelsea's recently installed ownership — fronted by Los Angeles Dodgers part-owner Todd Boehly — concluded a Europe-high spending spree of nearly \$300 million in the transfer window.

Chelsea was renowned for regularly changing managers in the 19-year tenure of Roman Abramovich, the Russian oligarch who had to sell the London club after being sanctioned by the British government for what it called his enabling of Russian President Vladimir Putin's "brutal and barbaric invasion" of Ukraine.

Boehly was the face of the consortium that bought Chelsea for 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion) in May and, despite having little soccer experience, quickly made himself chairman as well as interim sporting director in charge of transfers.

Not only has he overseen a record splurge on new players, Boehly has now decided Tuchel — the coach who led Chelsea to the Champions League title last year — is no longer the right person to lead the team in the new era.

The decision to fire Tuchel, who was manager for 20 months, came a day after Chelsea surprisingly lost to Dinamo Zagreb 1-0 in its first group match of the Champions League. Chelsea has also lost two of its first six games — to Leeds and Southampton — in an underwhelming start to the Premier League that has seen the team's new signings fail to gel.

Tuchel has been a frustrated and



Chelsea's head coach Thomas Tuchel leaves after the Champions League group E soccer match between Dinamo Zagreb and Chelsea at the Maksimir stadium in Zagreb, Croatia, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022. Thomas Tuchel has been fired by Chelsea only one month into the season. The decision by Chelsea's new ownership comes a day after the team lost to Dinamo Zagreb 1-0 in its first group match in the Champions League. Chelsea has lost two of its first six games in the Premier League. (AP Photo/Darko Bandic)

prickly figure after matches this season. In interviews after the loss to Dinamo, he said "everything is missing" when asked to sum up Chelsea's performance and complained that his players "lacked hunger."

In a feisty Premier League game against Tottenham, Tuchel was sent off — along with rival manager Antonio Conte — and later fined after they went head-to-head in a post-match scuffle because Tuchel failed to let go of his grip in the traditional handshake.

"As the new ownership group reaches 100 days since taking over the club, and as it continues its hard work to take the club forward, the new owners believe it is the right time to make this transition," Chelsea

said in a statement, which also said Tuchel "will rightly have a place" in the club's history.

British media has already linked Graham Potter, currently manager of in-form Premier League club Brighton, and Mauricio Pochettino, with the vacancy.

Potter has no real experience of handling a squad of star players but is highly regarded for his tactical astuteness and entertaining style of play. Pochettino has experience of overseeing a locker room of egos — he was recently coach of a Paris Saint-Germain team containing Kylian Mbappé, Lionel Messi and Neymar — and has been out of work since parting ways with the French champions in July.

Sports News



Khachanov stops Kyrgios in five sets; faces Ruud in semifinals

AP — Karen Khachanov stood on court, arms raised, basking in a rowdy crowd's cheers after reaching his first Grand Slam semifinal at the U.S. Open. Not far away, Nick Kyrgios took out some of his frustration at the so-close-yet-so-far result on a pair of rackets.

First, shortly after the last point of his 7-5, 4-6, 7-5, 6-7 (3), 6-4 loss to Khachanov, Kyrgios cracked his piece of equipment against the ground — once, twice, three, four times. Then, for good measure, Kyrgios grabbed yet another racket out of his bag, reared back and hit that one on the sideline, too.

Kyrgios could not quite follow up his victory over defending champion Daniil Medvedev at Flushing Meadows, bowing out in a high-quality, topsy-turvy quarterfinal that began Tuesday night and concluded more than 3 1/2 hours later at about 1 a.m. Wednesday in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"It's just devastating. Like, it's heartbreaking," said Kyrgios, a 27-year-old from Australia who was the runner-up at Wimbledon in July. "Pretty much every other tournament during the year is a waste of time, really. You should just run



Nick Kyrgios, of Australia, tosses his racket as he plays Karen Khachanov, of Russia, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2022, in New York. (AP Photo/Charles Krupa)

up and show up at a Grand Slam. That's what you're remembered by."

Asked about Kyrgios' display of disappointment, Khachanov said he saw "rackets were flying," and added: "I feel the pain for him."

Early in the match, two spectators were kicked out after one gave the other a haircut in the stands. By the end, the late-staying spectators were pulling for Kyrgios loudly. At one point in the fourth set, chair umpire James Keothavong pleaded: "Once again, ladies and gentlemen: Respect both the players."

"I was prepared. I was

expecting that the crowd would be more for him, that he was the favourite in their eyes," said the No. 27-seeded Khachanov had been 0-2 in major quarterfinals before this one against No. 23 Kyrgios.

Khachanov will face No. 5 Casper Ruud on Friday for a berth in the championship match.

"I'm really proud of myself," Khachanov said. "I was really focused from the beginning to the end."

Both he and Kyrgios are equipped with booming serves, and they combined for 61 aces (31 by Kyrgios). They combined for 138 total winners (75 by Kyrgios).

Two stats that were real difference-makers: Kyrgios made 58 unforced errors, Khachanov 31. And Khachanov saved 7 of 9 break points he faced.

The breakthrough at Wimbledon, and two recent victories over No. 1 Medvedev — including in the fourth round, ending his title defence — made Kyrgios a popular pick to claim his first Grand Slam title at Flushing Meadows.

Khachanov was not allowed to play at Wimbledon this year after the All England Club banned all players from his country, Russia, and Belarus because of the invasion of Ukraine.

FIFA promises free concerts for fans at World Cup in Qatar

AP – FIFA promised Wednesday to stage free concerts with international stars for visitors to the official Fan Festival in Qatar during the World Cup.

FIFA said the Al Bidda Park in central Doha will host “concerts starring top global and local music acts and live works by internationally acclaimed performance artists” during the 29 days of World Cup games. The tournament starts on

Nov. 20.

The festival site next to the Corniche waterfront and close to the West Bay neighbourhood will be the official viewing area for fans to watch the 64 games on giant screens. A policy on alcohol consumption was confirmed Saturday that will allow sponsor Budweiser to serve beer after 6:30 p.m.

FIFA said it also plans to hold soccer games at the venue featuring former

World Cup stars who are part of its Legends program.

More than 1 million visitors are expected at the first World Cup hosted in the Middle East.

FIFA said official fan festivals are also planned in other cities worldwide during the tournament.

No music acts have yet been confirmed for the Doha venue.

Since the 2006 World Cup in Germany, FIFA has

run fan zone viewing areas with local organisers in host nations. The first edition included a pre-tournament show in Berlin featuring Nelly Furtado and Simple Minds.

At the 2012 European Championship co-hosted by Poland and Ukraine, Elton John gave a free concert at the official Kyiv fan zone one day before the final. The concert was also an AIDS charity benefit.



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LIVE

Gomes hints at ABFA plans to host more competitions with overseas teams

The recent hosting of two youth football competitions involving overseas teams, by the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association (ABFA) is likely to become part of the fixtures on the calendar of the national governing body for the sport in Antigua and Barbuda.

The ABFA hosted the Jewel of the Caribbean Under-15 Girls Championship at its technical centre at Paynters from the 13th to 21st August and the Pride of the Caribbean Under-15 Boys Competition at the same venue from 23rd to 27th August.

The Under-15 Girls tournament featured teams from host country Antigua and Barbuda, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St. Lucia, Grenada and Dominica.

National teams from St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Grenada joined Antigua and Barbuda in competing in the Under-17 Boys tournament.

Technical Director of the ABFA Sowerby Gomes is giving a hint that the national football association is planning to host similar competitions in the future.

“We didn’t select these teams by accident, we did some research into it. The Jewels of the Caribbean, which is our females, and the Pride of the Caribbean, which is our males, was done with a purpose. It was intentional because we are out to make this last,” Gomes stated.

Apart from providing competition and preparation for the Antigua and Barbuda Under-15 Girls and Under-17 Boys teams, the recent tournaments also provided opportunities for other officials such as referees and match commissioners to utilize their knowledge and skills that they would have developed after being exposed to

training workshops conducted by the Caribbean Football Union in conjunction with the Confederation of North, Central America and the Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF).

The four-team round robin competition, which was won by St. Lucia, was hosted by the ABFA to help prepare the young Benna Boys for a Concacaf Under-17 Men’s Qualifying Tournament in Nicaragua from 31st August to 5th September.

Gomes said with very little or no regional tournaments being staged these days in the Caribbean as in the past, competitions such as the recent Under-17 boys and Under-15 girls’ tournament are vital and necessary to help teams in the OECS and CFU to prepare for other major competitions being put on by CONCACAF and football’s world governing body, FIFA.

“We recognized that in our environment we have to get our players prepared to play against the North Americans, the Central Americans such as the Costa Ricans and those other teams from Central America.

These teams in the Americas are playing quite a number of games while we in the OECS (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States) territories, are not playing enough games,” Gomes stated.

“The only time we are playing is when we are meeting these Central American teams in a CONCACAF or FIFA competitions and it is not enough for our coaches to gain the pedigree of where they want to take the players.

“Yes they might have them train against an older group of players from your country, but nothing is more important than when you have the same age groups competing against each



Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Technical Director Sowerby Gomes. (File photo)

other, because it makes a difference.

For example, in a competition, an Under-17 player from St. Lucia is not going to take an Under-17 player from Antigua and Barbuda lightly on the

cont'd on pg 25

ABCF to continue mission of recruiting young cyclists

The Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) will continue its quest to produce the next generation of cyclists by staging a meet later this month that will involve students from schools across the twin-island state.

President of the ABCF St. Clair Williams said his organization will be seeking to unearth new talent during a recruitment drive within some of the nation's schools ahead of a meet at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on 18th September.

"On the 18th of September we are going to be having the Schools Invitational. School is back out in early September and we will be going around to the different schools to engage them and to recruit those that are interested in cycling to come on out and participate in this event on the 18th of September," Williams stated.

"What we are doing is to continue to recruit the next generation of cyclists in Antigua and Barbuda so this is one of the ways we are going to do it by going into the schools and bringing out the



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation St. Clair Williams. (File photo) youngsters."

Williams said the Schools Invitational will consist of two types of races in two different age groups.

"So we will be having two different types of races at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on the 18th of September. We are going to have different categories or different age groups.

"So we are going to have the 10 to 13 age group and then the 14 to 18 age group so boys and girls that fall in those categories will have races for them," Williams said.

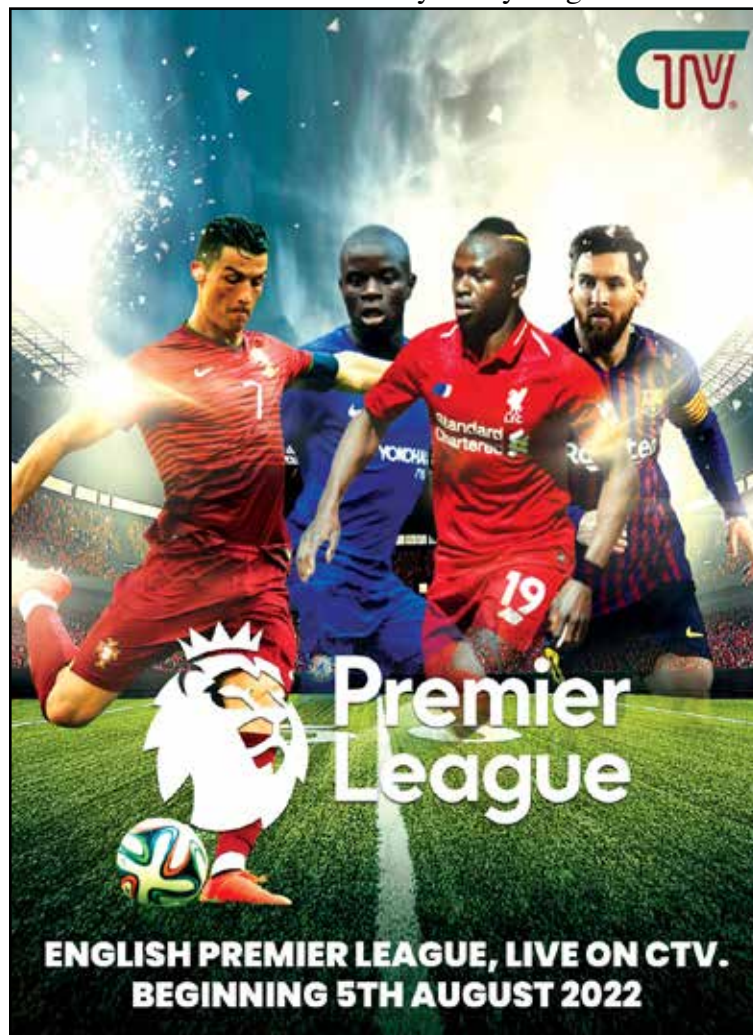
"It is going to be a Last Man Standing and a Three-Lap Race. For the Last Man Standing race, it will involve all the participants starting

will be removed from the race until the last two cyclists are left. Then the last two remaining cyclists will have a sprint finish to decide the winner.

"Then we will have another race, which will be three laps as fast as you can and may the best boy or girl win. So we are going to have some excitement at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium coming up on the 18th of September, which will be the Schools Invitational, and that is going to be the next official event being put on by the cycling federation."

together and go around the designated course.

"The last person that crosses the finish line at the end of the designated course



cont'd from pg 24

field of play.

"Each player is going to work hard, fight for the ball and would try to execute their coach's instructions. So this certainly contributes to the player's development and that is what we want to see happening with our players in this part of the world."

Joseph wants LI Under-15s to work on their development

Head coach Sylvester “Bouncing” Joseph said he wants the players of the Leeward Islands team that participated in the recent Cricket West Indies (CWI) Rising Stars Under-15 Boys Championship in Grenada to keep working on their development.

While expressing his satisfaction with the team’s overall performance at the 19th to 27th August Under-15 Boys Championship, which was won by Barbados, Joseph wants to see the Leeward Islands players work on improving their fitness levels.

“Well I have already told them that when they get back home, they will have to continue to work on their development. One aspect that need some improvement is their fitness and they have been told to work on that because they certainly need to get a lot fitter,” Joseph stated.

“An improvement in their fitness levels will certainly help the players to think more on their feet, to move around a lot more quickly in the field and execute their skills, batting, bowling and fielding, a lot better.”

The Leewards missed

out on lifting the CWI Rising Stars Under-15 Boys title after losing to Barbados in the final round of matches at the Grenada National Stadium on Friday, 26th August.

The Bajans won the 15-over-per-side match against the Leewards by 16 runs to top the table with 18.4 points. They played unbeaten throughout the tournament, which was changed from a 50-over aside event to a T20 format for the last three rounds of matches after rain forced the first two rounds to be abandoned.

However, Joseph said he and the other coaches, in conjunction with each of the cricket boards in the various Leeward Island territories, must support the young players in their continued development.

“Overall, we had a very good tournament this year and I see a bright future ahead for the players in the Leewards. It is for us as coaches and the various boards in the Leeward Islands to lend these guys the support that they need because the talent is there,” Joseph stated.

“When they our players from the Leewards match



Head coach Sylvester ‘Bouncing’ Joseph, left, wants the players on this year’s Leeward Islands Under-15 Boys team to continue to work on their development. (File photo)

up with the players from the other regional territories, you can see that the talent is there.

“It’s just for us to put things in place to maximize their abilities and to execute their talents when they go on the field to compete.

“But one of the main things is that we need to provide more competitions for these guys. I think if they were playing in a lot more competitions they would have pulled off winning the West Indies Under-15 competition.”