

WEDNESDAY 12TH OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 195 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

GRUESOME DISCOVERY AT CREEKSIDE

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Local News



Skeletal remains of man discovered in Creekside

An investigation has commenced into the discovery of human skeletal remains on Tuesday afternoon in the Creekside area.

The discovery of what is

believed to be a skull, spinal cord and other bones was made by a man who police say was cleaning a plot of land. In a statement, STRATCOM, the communications

department of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda said the man came upon the scene after detecting a foul odour and contacted law enforcement officials.

The skeletal remains believed to be that of a man because of the clothing that was present at the scene, were removed to a funeral home as the Criminal Investigations Department seek to determine his identity and cause of death.

The police are appealing to anyone with information that can assist in their investigation to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or by calling Crimestoppers at 800-TIPS (8477).

Wed 12 Day		Wed 12 Night	
86°		79°	
23% E 12 mph		13% ENE 10 mph	
A few passing clouds, otherwise generally sunny. High 86F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.		A mostly clear sky. Low 79F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 73%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 80%	UV Index 0 of 10
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PM Browne willing to “sacrifice” his political career rather than enter another IMF agreement

“If we had to go into an IMF programme and I’m forced to let go people, I’d rather go home. I prefer to go home than a single public servant to lose his or her job.”

That unyielding declaration came from Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Sunday during an appearance on state media in which he addressed several issues relating to Antigua and Barbuda’s economy, social concerns and the imminent elections.

While addressing matters related to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which recently published its economic outlook for the twin island state following consultations in September, PM Browne took umbrage with some of the body’s expectations and requirements of countries that it enters into agreements with.

The prime minister, a former banker, suggested that some of the IMF’s demands are not ethically sound and often prove detrimental to public sector workers.

On this basis, Browne insisted that he would rather leave office than preside over an administration that would lay off even one employee to satisfy the IMF.

“I have always been opposed to any IMF relationship. Yes, you do get cheap money, but it also comes with significant implications. I have an antipathy to firing anybody, under any circumstances.

“This is where, philosophically, I have a difference with the IMF because they look at figures and they will force you, if you’re in an IMF programme, to let go people.

“I feel so strongly about this, that if we had to go into an IMF



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

programme and I’m forced to let go people, I’d rather go home. I prefer to go home than [for] a single public servant to lose his or her job”, the country’s leader said.

Antigua and Barbuda does have a history with the IMF. In 2010 – on the heels of “The Great Recession” – the country was left with little option but to enter a US multimillion dollar arrangement with the financial body in a bid to restore fiscal and debt sustainability.

The United Progressive Party (UPP) government of the day, under the leadership of former Prime Minister Baldwin Spencer, presided over that arrangement.

While global shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine have affected the country adversely, the domestic economic situation remains stable, and an IMF agreement is not required.

However, Prime Minister Browne

said that this may not always be the case.

“I will not go as far as saying never; they always say ‘never say never’ - and I’ll be mature enough to understand that we could find ourselves in yet another pandemic [for example] - but, as I said, it would be with extreme reluctance, and maybe it may even cause me to walk because of my own personal philosophy that I’d rather leave than to preside over firing or anyone losing their jobs involuntarily as a result of any IMF programme.”

In 2010, in its announcement of its arrangement with Antigua and Barbuda, the IMF noted that “the worst recession in decades” contributed to a sharp decline in government revenue and “aggravated an already unsustainable fiscal position resulting from long standing fiscal imbalances and accumulation of a large stock of arrears to domestic and external creditors”.

Local News

Investigation launched at St. John's Magistrates' Court

An investigation was opened last Tuesday by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Hildred Simpson, into the operations of the St. John's Magistrates' Court, and Chief Magistrate Joanne Walsh has found herself at the centre of the probe.

In correspondence dated 27th September, 2022 and addressed to Joanne Walsh, four areas that will be probed were outlined: allegations of verbal, physical, psychological, and emotional abuse by a receptionist against the chief magistrate.

Other claims that will be investigated involve missing funds, the improper use of funds generated from fines imposed for mobile phones ringing during hear-



St. John's Magistrates' Court

ings, and the unauthorised destruction of government receipts and voucher books that were being stored at the court's permanent location at High and Temple Streets.

A three-member investigative team led by Dr. Adelle Blaire, Sustainable Tourism Officer is expected to conclude their work on 3rd November, 2023.

The other members of

the team are Deputy Permanent Secretary Joseph Henry and Principal Assistant Secretary Rita Phillip-Harris.

Senior employees of the St. John's Magistrates' Court, including magistrates Conliffe Clarke and Dexter Wason, will be interviewed by the team.

The investigation, which is now underway, will not

affect the operations of the court.

Sources within the St. John's Magistrates' Court have indicated that employment conditions require improvement but attempts to correct the problem have not found favour with some members of staff.

There are also allegations that serious administrative errors are being made which can negatively affect orders of the court that impact the public, particularly in relation to financial support.

Other problems related to employee reprimands and the unwillingness to adopt changes that will improve the court's operations have all been blamed for the creation of a tense work environment.

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Former Jolly Beach workers' severance delayed

There has been a minor delay in the commencement of severance payments to former employees of the Jolly Beach Resort.

Payments were to have begun this week however, it is now expected that disbursements will begin next week.

The sale of Jolly Beach Resort to the government of Antigua and Barbuda was expected to be finalised last Friday, but the unavailability of one signatory to complete the arrangement has resulted in the setback for approximately 500 ex-line



The Jolly Beach Resort will reopen this December under the management of Elite Island Resorts staff.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne explained the situation over the weekend.

“The transaction should have been closed on Friday, then we were told that one

vendor was not available to sign. So, I believe the contract should be executed within the next 48 hours (Tuesday), and then some system has to be put in place for the payment of the

workers,” PM Browne said on Sunday.

“I don’t know how long that process will take, but what I do know is that the funds are now in escrow, *cont’d on pg 6*



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Foreign Affairs Minister Greene chairs EU-CARIFORUM meeting

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, is chairing a meeting of European Union and CARIFORUM, the grouping of English, Spanish and French speaking Caribbean nations.

The meeting marks the launch of the EU-Caribbean Partnerships through which the EU funds development projects in the region.

In opening exercises held overnight, Greene noted that the EU has been, and remains, a reliable Caribbean development partner whose support is important in the region's efforts towards sustainable and inclusive growth and development.

"I speak on behalf of all sixteen states when I say how deeply appreciative the governments and peoples of the region have been to be beneficiaries of successive multi-annual aid programmes from the EU.

"For the new funding cycle 2021-2027 under the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument (NDICI-Global Europe), there

have been significant changes, some not so palatable, which we will have an opportunity to discuss during our high-level dialogue this week," Greene stated.

He noted that as a true partner, the EU has earmarked €800 million for the Caribbean. A dedicated window stipulated at €208 million will address regional priority projects and programmes.

"The EU Cooperation with the Caribbean over the next few years will seek to reinforce the Caribbean-EU partnership in three priority areas: (i) green deal (ii) economic resilience and trade and (iii) governance, security and human development," Greene explained.

According to the foreign affairs minister, the first partnership reflects the convergence of priorities of the two regions on Green Deal issues such as climate change, disaster management and green transition.

He explained that CARIFORUM states are extremely susceptible to external shocks



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene

which have the effect of exacerbating existing human and social vulnerabilities.

CARIFORUM countries are particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as hurricanes which can erode the domestic capital stock, increase the costs of capital through high replacement rates, and ultimately force

governments to resort to additional borrowing to aid recovery.

The projected impacts of global climate change on CARIFORUM's member nations are expected to be devastating. These impacts will inevitably be exacerbated due to their limited adaptive capacity.

cont'd from pg 5

and we have the proceeds to pay and within the matter of a short period of time. I can't see it taking more than another week for them to start to make payments to these workers."

It was revealed last week that the government was successful in acquiring the US\$ 30 million necessary to purchase the property that closed

in 2020. The sale of the Jolly Beach Resort now allows for the workers to be paid severance of approximately US\$5 million.

Once reopened, the Jolly Beach Resort will be managed by Elite Island Resorts which also manages The Verandah Resort & Spa, Pineapple Beach Club and St. James' Club and Villas.

"We don't have the skills to run a

hotel, but...Robert (Barrette) even said to us he is prepared to advance the funds and then we can reimburse him.

"But ultimately, it would be funded by the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda, and we are now formally bringing the ownership of Jolly Beach into the hands of the government and people of Antigua and Barbuda," the prime minister said.

Dozens of young women take part in inaugural Women Empowerment workshop

As the world celebrated International Day of the Girl Child on Tuesday, twenty-six young women from secondary schools across the twin-island nation gathered at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium for the first “For Caribbean Girls, the Future is HER” workshop.

The initiative is the brainchild of the Princess Margaret School (PMS) Guidance Counsellors’ Department in partnership with the Barbados-based LeadHERship Institute.

Other partners and sponsors of the event were Anjo Wholesale, Harper’s Office Depot, The Glam Lounge, Wellness Footprints Antigua, Lilac Scents Antigua, Room Décor by Ro, Shop Zoe Mercedes, Antigua Home and Garden Centre, Lipstick, the American International College of Arts & Sciences, Argos, Oriscia and Shuuz Plus.

The workshop’s focus is to empower girls aged 13 - 16 and equip them with



The 2022 edition of the workshop saw a number the young ladies engaged in several activities and sessions geared towards empowering their minds and skills.

life skills that they can use on their path to success and womanhood.

The all-day event offered sessions including “Inspire Her” which aimed to boost participants’ self-esteem; a confidence club; “In HER Bag”, which was geared towards teaching sound budgeting practices, and “Let’s Talk” which fo-

cused on sexual and reproductive health.

Among yesterday’s guest speakers were gender affairs advocate, Linisa George; entrepreneur, Zoe Teague; marketing manager, Kiz Johnson, and communications officer, Angelica O’Donoghue.

cont’d on pg 8



Local News



PM Browne willing to participate in debate ahead of elections

Although there has never been a national debate between the leaders of the country's main political parties ahead of general elections, Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said he would be willing to participate in such an exercise.

The St. John's City West MP said whomever the main opposition United Progressive Party would nominate to engage him, he is up to the task.

"I will never refuse an opportunity to debate my political opponent, whomever that may be. I would imagine that as the leader of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party, that the person who has the locus would be the Leader of the Opposition (Jamale Pringle).



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

"Now that would be a total mismatch!" he queried.

"Now, if they sent Harold Lovell, he is just as weak," Browne said.

"This also raises the question: If I debate Lovell, would that mean that I would have to debate the leaders of the other parties such as the DNA as well?"

The prime minister continued, saying while he sees the value of a debate, he is equally confident that the people of Antigua and Barbuda are fully aware of his government's policies and successes.

"I have been on a radio programme practically ev-

ery Saturday (The Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM) and there's hardly anything to debate as we have been one of the most open and transparent government(s) this country has had. Then there's the post Cabinet press conferences each week," he said.

Browne explained that among the reasons for his weekly appearance on Pointe FM are his desire to address current issues, to be held accountable about matters including his own personal conduct, and to keep the nation informed about his government's activities.

There have been calls emanating from some quarters for a debate between the prime minister and a senior representative of the UPP.

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Deputy Head Girl of Princess Margaret School, Paula Watson, also addressed her peers in one of the sessions.

"Today we celebrate the day of womanhood, togetherness and sisterhood. For some women, this is not an opportunity readily available, and so let us take the time to appreciate that today, we can. The future is us. The future is you. The future is me. The future is her," Watson said.

Senator Gail Christian, who gave the feature address, charged the young women to "be on fire" and blaze their path forward while remaining true to their authenticity. She urged the young women to be fearless, undeterred, and ready to rise above adversity as they move toward their goals.

"I want you to always remember

that in whatever you do, wherever you are, be on fire: give it your all, do your very best at all times.

"You will meet with adversity along life's path, but...whenever you fall, you must rise. Even in those moments when you are not sure of yourself, even in those moments when you have fallen, rise! Be on fire! Know what your passion is and pursue it fearlessly.

"Make the most of the opportunities that will be provided for you here today.

"We live in a time when people are afraid of being who they are. Whether your hair is straight or curly, you're tall or short, heavy or slim...all of that affects your confidence and I think, your brand goes beyond what we portray to the world. Your brand is accepting who you are, your size, your height, your background. It is critical on this path to

success that you learn to accept who you are and allow that to help you to build your confidence. I believe that all of you are just as God designed and engineered for success.

"You achieve that success by respecting yourselves and others, by being confident in your own skin, by utilising the opportunities that you are given. By rising when you fall.

"The greatest successes are birthed from great trials," Christian said.

Christian, an attorney, concluded her address by offering attendees with an interest in politics and law an internship and mentorship opportunity with her firm.

"For Caribbean Girls, the Future is HER" is expected to be an annual event.

A similar programme is also being organised for young men.



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Workplace

Transitioning from HR Student to HR Professional

If you communicate well, have a passion for personal development and an affinity for fairness and objectivity you may find yourself being drawn to a career in human resources (HR).

The skills required for a career in HR can be learned while working in the field. However, it requires proper guidance from a sponsor or a mentor for you to grow as you learn.

The HR practice in modern times has been identified

as an essential component of organizational development and strategic management because HR activities contribute to the overall success of the enterprise.

Consequently, HR practitioners must be familiar with other key functions of business such as finance and accounting, marketing, information technology and public relations. Knowledge in these areas enables us to be an integral part of strategic planning for the organization.



It is therefore imperative for transitioning students to embrace such a philosophy and gain at least a basic understanding of these disciplines so that they can prop-

erly contribute to business development.

There are decided advantages to be obtained from a career in HR. The first, and perhaps foremost, is the personal satisfaction derived from serving others, whether such persons function in leadership or as line staff. So, having a desire to see people develop and do well is at the very core of HR.

There is a measure of pride to be obtained from being part of a system that is responsible for contributing to the wellbeing of employees and adds value to the organization. Bear in mind though that your first experiences in an entry level HR position may be purely administrative.

Your first tasks could range from answering phone calls, recording complaints and assisting with staff functions to filing applications, arranging for interviews and recording proceedings of meetings.

There is a plethora of information available on the Internet that the transitioning HR student can access for
cont'd on pg 11

Workplace

cont'd from pg 10

self-study. This is now a popular avenue for learning and development but should not be a substitute for practical exposure to daily HR activities. Consequently, persons aspiring to an HR career are advised to consider the following.

Be prepared to volunteer to hone your HR experience. While such magnanimous behavior may appear to be antiquated, it confers substantial benefit to the transitioning student. It provides meaningful exposure to the practical aspects of the job therefore preparing the individual for the world of work once an opportunity arises.

Build a network of experienced practitioners. Affiliations with experts in the field or professional associations such as the Employers' Federation and HRPAB, will not only provide opportunities to gain firsthand knowledge "from the horse's mouth", but place you in the right place to learn of available vacancies.

Be open to continuous education. Staying current in the HR profession is essential. This could be realized by subscribing to HR journals which present on topical issues, attending webinars and conferences or seeking out and completing appropriate coursework.

Make industrial relations (IR) knowledge a priority. The link between HR management and IR is undeniable. Consequently, HR transitioning students must familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Antigua

and Barbuda Labour Code.

The nuances of HR in the local context, because of our industrial relations climate and the strength of our trade unionism, cannot be understated. It is beneficial to build relationships with officers at the Labour Department or representatives at the trade unions as they are fountains of information and advice.

Other sources of pertinent information include the conventions and recommendations of the International Labour Organization, judgments of the industrial court of Antigua and Barbuda, and similar institutions within the Caribbean Single Market

and Economy and the wider Commonwealth.

In concluding, students transitioning to the HR practice would find it an enduring but exciting process that enriches them with varied knowledge in several relevant areas of organizational life. The need to become familiar with the frustrations associated with the unpredictability of human behavior could be discouraging but at the same time provide profound motivation uniquely related to the HR practice.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, profes-

sional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organisations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.



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Opinion

Commonwealth may change in Africa after Queen Elizabeth's death

By Ope Adetayo

African scholars say dynamics between the UK and a group of mostly former colonies are anchored on outdated principles of association.

On Monday, Buckingham Palace announced the first state visit to be hosted by King Charles III, who ascended to the throne after the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth II last month.

From November 22 to 24, South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa – whose three predecessors all visited the UK – will visit the new monarch. That the first state visit is one by a prominent member of the Commonwealth could be of pointed significance as questions arise on the future of the organisation that Charles now leads.

The new king is known to be opinionated on local and global issues, a deviation from the Queen's stolid diplomatic takes. Before the last meeting of Commonwealth heads of state in Kigali in June, where he represented the queen, local British media reported that Charles called a deal between the UK and Rwanda – with £120 million (\$135.3m) up-front pay-



ment – to send refugees on asylum there, “appalling”.

Discussion on a range of issues is expected during Ramaphosa's visit, including trade and investment, but also possibly a new direction for the Commonwealth under Charles's leadership.

“The visit will offer a chance to celebrate our modern-day partnerships delivering prosperity and security for both countries, as well as to set out how we can work together bilaterally and globally to strengthen those links for the future,” the palace statement read.

Indeed, the future of the Commonwealth, a political

association of mostly former British colonies, has been a global debate for years, especially in the Caribbean – where the push for republicanism is increasing – and in Africa.

The queen's death this September has reignited conversations about the multilateral institution seen as one of the legacies of Britain's longest-reigning monarch.

Since then, a number of Africans have been reliving the horrific experiences their kinsmen and neighbours endured under British colonial rule.

Evelyn Wanjiru who grew up in Nyeri, in central

Kenya, was named after her grandmother who passed away at 106 in 2009. The matriarch was one of the millions who suffered pain and loss during the Mau Mau uprising between 1952 and 1960 against the British plundering of Kenyan land.

She lost an eye due to torture in concentration camps and it broke her spirit, Wanjiru said. “Any time you asked her what happened to her, she would have this sad face and you would hear her voice break,” the 31-year-old pastry chef said.

In Zimbabwe, some older citizens blame the monarchy for botched land reforms there. In 2000, for-

cont'd on pg 13

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mer president Robert Mugabe pursued a constitutional amendment to reallocate, without compensation, land given to white farmers during colonial times, to Black farmers.

Harare blamed London for not fulfilling a pledge to finance part of the former's plan to purchase some of these lands. It was a deal ratified under the Lancaster House Agreement in 1979 between nationalist movements fighting for independence and authorities in what was then Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe.

In the early 2000s, economic growth stunted there partly due to the impact of the land reforms and as relations with the UK soured, Zimbabwe's membership in the Commonwealth was eventually suspended. It exited the fold in 2003. In 2018, it applied to return but has yet to be readmitted.

And the recent change of guard in the UK is now leading to a debate about the continued existence of the body.

An old idea

Founded in 1931, the Commonwealth currently comprises 56 countries representing 2.5 billion people – or one-third of the world's population. Nearly half the members are African, including Gabon, Rwanda and Togo, which were not colonised by the British.

"The idea of the Commonwealth is an old one, from the early 20th century [fashioned by] some of the greatest scholars of the British empire," Sithembile Mbete, a senior lecturer at the Department of Political Sciences at the University of Pretoria, South Africa told Al Jazeera.

"It is explicitly a way of maintaining the structure of British imperialism, even if the political system of the British imperialism had come to an end," she said.

Experts say the Commonwealth is directly tied to the former Queen and

served to legitimise her reign outside Britain after the independence of former colonies.

In her absence, its future is far from certain, they say. "It is a difficult question whether the Commonwealth will continue and last in her absence," Mbete said. "I think it will be very difficult for King Charles to put his stamp on the Commonwealth."

Beyond the debate on the bloc's lifespan, conversations across Africa are discussing the political utility of the organisation in contemporary times. In 2018, the members agreed to then-Prince Charles becoming the head of the bloc while maintaining the charter's non-hereditary clause.

The titular position is largely ceremonial but has historical connotations of ownership, experts say.

Political utility

In Kigali, Charles expressed "the depths of personal sorrow" over the slave trade, a contentious topic the bloc has yet to properly address in spite of African scholars and political leaders raising it.

Just a month after the biennial Commonwealth summit, a tweet by Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo calling for reparations went viral on social media.

And African scholars say an age of reckoning has come.

"The Commonwealth of nations can only be relevant going forward if it can start having conversations about the atrocities and global inequalities caused by the monarchy," Njoki Wamai, assistant professor of International Relations at United States International University-Africa in Nairobi told Al Jazeera.

She added that issues of reparations, trade inequalities, and immigration should be prioritised by the bloc, in order to be reckoned with.

Mbete agrees. "I think the Commonwealth has not been much more than symbolic, the area of actual, tan-

gible cooperation has mostly been around education, sport and culture. It certainly has not resulted in significant economic benefits for the countries that are members of the commonwealth besides Britain," she said.

But not everyone is on the same page.

Francis Tsegah, a senior fellow at Ghana's Centre for Democratic Government working previously at the country's Foreign Service, is one of a number of people who believe the body is still relevant in helping Africa confront contemporary challenges.

"The world that we have been seeing for some time is now virtually a global village," he said. But he says the bloc, which is not entirely just symbolic, has to "take away some of the colonial imprints it has been associated with".

"Beyond the symbolism, there are a lot of people-to-people interactions that go on, that are not normally in the media," he said.

Its most visible engagement, besides the biennial meeting of heads of states, is the Commonwealth Games held every four years and other youth-centred programmes around education and politics.

Different responses

As the bloc prepares for a new era under King Charles, Africa may not present a united front in future involvements given each country's peculiar colonial history with Britain, according to Tsegah and Wamai.

A history of large-scale brutal crackdowns on natives and land occupation in countries like Kenya could account for a different view from, say, Nigeria and Ghana, Wamai said.

Back in Nairobi, Wanjiru agrees.

"I just believe there is history between us and them," she said. "We cannot bury our heads and say all is well. No, all is not well. We know what happened but how can we move forwards? How can we trust you again?"

IMF warns of slowing growth, rising market risks as finance officials meet

By David Lawder and Pete Schroeder

The International Monetary Fund warned on Tuesday that colliding pressures from inflation, war-driven energy and food crises and sharply higher interest rates were pushing the world to the brink of recession and threatening financial market stability.

In gloomy reports issued at the start of the first in-person International Monetary Fund and World Bank annual meetings in three years, the IMF urged central banks to keep up their fight against inflation despite the pain caused by monetary tightening and the rise in the U.S. dollar to a two-decade high, the two main drivers of a recent bout of financial market volatility.

Cutting its 2023 global growth forecasts further, the IMF said in its World Economic Outlook that countries representing a third of world output could be in recession next year.

“The three largest economies, the United States, China and the euro area, will continue to stall,” Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas, the IMF’s chief economist, said in a statement. “In short, the worst is yet to come, and for many people, 2023 will feel like a recession.”

The IMF said Global GDP growth next year will slow to 2.7%, compared, down from its July forecast of 2.9%, as higher interest rates slow the U.S. economy, Europe struggles with spiking gas prices and China contends with continued COVID-19 lockdowns and a weakening property sector.

The global lender maintained its 2022 growth forecast at 3.2%, reflecting stronger-than-expected output in Europe but a weaker performance in the United States, after torrid 6.0% global growth last year as the COVID-19 pandemic eased.



A man walks past the International Monetary Fund (IMF) logo at its headquarters in Washington, U.S., May 10, 2018. REUTERS/Yuri Gripas

Some key European economies will fall into “technical recession” next year, including Germany and Italy, as energy price spikes and shortages slam output. China’s growth outlooks also were downgraded as it struggles with continued COVID-19 lockdowns and a weakening property sector, where a deeper downturn would slow growth further, the IMF said.

The growing economic pressures, coupled with tightening liquidity, stubborn inflation and lingering financial vulnerabilities, are increasing the risks of disorderly asset repricings and financial market contagions, the IMF said in its Global Financial Stability Report.

“It’s difficult to think of a time where uncertainty was so high,” Tobias Adrian, the IMF’s monetary and capital markets director, told Reuters in an interview. “We have to go back decades to see so much conflict in the world, and at the same time inflation is extremely high.”

Finance officials from the IMF’s

190 member countries this week are grappling with these uncertainties from differing economic positions in Washington, along with food and energy crises prompted by the war in Ukraine and other global challenges including massive clean energy financing needs.

PRIORITY: INFLATION

The IMF said central bankers had a delicate balancing act to fight inflation without over-tightening, which could push the global economy into an “unnecessarily severe recession” and heap economic pain on emerging markets that are seeing their currencies fall sharply against the dollar.

But Gourinchas said controlling inflation was the bigger priority and letting up too soon would undermine central banks’ “hard-won credibility.”

“What we are recommending is that central banks stay the course. Now that doesn’t mean that they should accelerate compared to what they’ve been doing,” Gourinchas said in a

cont’d on pg 15

Jamaica's Broadcasting Commission bans music that promotes drugs, illegal guns, and scamming

Jamaica's Broadcasting Commission (BC) imposed an immediate ban on the playing of music that it says, among other things, promotes or glorifies lottery scamming, the use of the illicit drug Molly, and illegal guns.

The Commission, whose role is to monitor and regulate electronic media, broadcast radio, and television, as well as subscriber television, said the directive to radio stations reinforces its commitment to keeping the airwaves free of harmful content given the important role traditional media still play as agents of socialisation.

It said the use of public airwaves to broadcast songs that promote/glorify illegal activity could give the wrong impression that criminality is an accepted feature of Jamaican culture and society.

In a statement, the Commission said it could unwittingly lend support to



moral disengagement and further normalise criminality among vulnerable and impressionable youth, and the young adult demographic.

BC executive director, Cordel Green, said it was the end product of a wide-ranging process that included focused monitoring, decoding of subculture dialect and urban slangs, deliberations on balancing free expression vis-a-vis protection from harm, and consultations with Industry.

Green said this approach is necessary given the nuances and peculiarities inherent in content regulation.

"Part of the difficulty in dealing with music, especially that which emerges

from a subculture, is that it takes time to identify, understand and verify the slangs and colloquial language used. Understandably, new street lingua may take some time before they are normalised, or their meanings become well entrenched.

"The Commission also has to be circumspect in its actions, knowing that regulatory attention can have the unintended consequence of giving exposure to and popularising subcultural phenomenon," said Green.

Under the directive, the Commission has banned "any audio or video recording, live song, or speech which promotes and/or glorifies scamming, illegal use, or abuse of drugs (e.g., Mol-

ly), illegal or harmful use of guns or other offensive weapons, "jungle justice" or any other form of illegal or criminal activity"

In addition, the ban extends to "any edited song which directly or indirectly promotes scamming, illegal drugs, illegal or harmful use of guns or other offensive weapons, jungle justice, or any form of illegal or criminal activity.

"This includes live editing and original edits (e.g., edits by producer/label as well as the use of near-sounding words as substitutes for offensive lyrics, expletives, or profanities".

The Commission said the broadcast of a sampling of any song which promotes or glorifies scamming, illegal drugs (e.g., Molly), illegal or harmful use of guns or other offensive weapons, "jungle justice" or any other form of illegal or criminal behaviour is strictly prohibited". (CMC)

cont'd from pg 14

news conference, adding that it was "a bit early" to shift course.

"I think right now our advice is, 'let's make sure we see a decisive decline in inflation.'"

The IMF forecast that global headline consumer price inflation would peak at 9.5% in the third quarter of 2022, declining to 4.7% by the fourth quarter of 2023.

But the outlook could darken considerably if the world economy is hit by a "plausible combination of shocks," including a 30% spike in oil prices from current levels, the IMF said, pushing global growth down to 1.0% next year - a level associated with widely falling real incomes.

Other components of this "downside scenario" include a steep drop-off in Chinese property sector investment,

a sharp tightening of financial conditions brought on by emerging market currency depreciations and a continued overheating of labour markets that results in lower potential output.

The IMF put a 25% probability of global growth falling below 2% next year - a phenomenon that has occurred only five times since 1970 - and said there was more than a 10% chance of a global GDP contraction.

Tales of survival emerge as Venezuela landslide toll hits 34

AP - Rescue workers using drones and trained dogs searched for survivors Monday following a massive landslide in central Venezuela, as the death toll rose to 34 and residents described harrowing tales of escape from the water and mud.

Jose Medina recalled how the water streaming into his home in the town of Las Tejerías on Saturday night had reached waist level. He and his family were trapped, he realised.

So the 63-year-old turned his refrigerator sideways, opened its door and used it as a boat for his granddaughter.

Meanwhile he held on to the fridge with his wife, and pinned it to a table so that the strong currents of water would not push them downstream.

Medina described their survival as a “miracle.”

“I’m happy that we’re alive but I’m also sad,” said the retired construction worker who lost his home and all of his belongings.

His plight began when torrential rains caused by Hurricane Julia unleashed mudslides and floods that destroyed several mountain-side neighbourhoods in Las Tejerías.

On Monday, Venezuelan officials said at least 34 people died in the flooding and 60 are missing following the worst natural disaster to hit the cash-strapped South



Erika Quintero stands in her home that was damaged after a landslide and flood ripped through Las Tejerías in Venezuela, Monday, Oct. 10, 2022. The fatal landslide was fueled by days of torrential rain and floods that swept through this town in central Venezuela. (AP Photo/Matias Delacroix)

American country in recent years.

In Las Tejerías, a city of 50,000 people located along Venezuela’s main industrial corridor, crews were using heavy machinery to clear debris from neighbourhoods whose streets were still blocked with mud. Meanwhile rescue workers used drones and dogs to find people buried under the debris.

“We are still hoping to find people that can be saved,” said Vice President Delcy Rodríguez as she toured one of the neighbourhoods affected by the mudslides.

For those who survived, the country’s dire economic

situation will make recovery more challenging.

Medina said his pension – which is pegged to Venezuela’s monthly minimum wage – is worth just \$17 a month. Now he will depend on government assistance to survive, but added that he considers himself lucky that he did not lose relatives in the mudslide.

Venezuelan authorities said 317 homes in Las Tejerías were wiped out by the mudslide and another 750 homes sustained damage.

Residents said they only had minutes to leave their homes late Saturday, as the avalanche of mud, rocks and tree logs swept over several

hillside neighbourhoods in the city.

Some people were praying at an evangelical church when the mudslide occurred, while others were at a children’s party, residents said. Several children are among the missing.

Venezuelan president Nicolás Maduro on Sunday declared three days of mourning for the victims and sent rescue workers to Las Tejerías, which lies along a highway that connects Caracas to the industrial city of Valencia. Maduro said that 11 states in the country sustained damage from floods over the weekend.

Barbados sets up hotline as row continues over IDB administered test

CMC – The Ministry of Education Technological and Vocational Training has set up a hotline as the controversy surrounding the survey administered to children in the secondary school system that has offended many citizens.

Education Minister Kay McConney has already indicated that she has no intention of running away from the situation and the ministry said that the hotline “is to assist those who are concerned that their children/wards have been negatively affected by the survey instrument recently administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) within some secondary schools”.

The ministry said that the hotline would remain operational until November 10 and that parents have a seven hour window Monday to Friday to express their concerns.

Last week, an estimated 733 students from first-form students at five of the island’s secondary schools had to complete a survey, as part of a Computer Science test that made many of them uncomfortable.

The questions related to their sexuality, gender, mental state, and their home circumstances, among other areas.

Anglican Church Bishop, Michael Maxwell, said the church is concerned

about the matter and that “while it has been described as a computer science pre-test,” some of the questions reported in the press and on social media, “seem to go beyond standard demographic information”.

In a video message, Bishop Maxwell said best practice demands that the testing of human subjects, especially minors, should always be subjected to oversight by an ethics body responsible to ensure “that unintended harm is not done,”

and also with the consent of parents or guardians.

“In this case, it may be asserted that harm was done, both in the present and the future,” Maxwell said.

Maxwell expressed the Anglican Church’s deep concern about the situation, “which involves a very important demographic within our society,” adding that it should be constructively addressed “to ensure that there is never a repeat of an incident of this nature.

“Legally, ethically and

practically, parents or guardians should have been informed and consent sought so that families would have had the choice to opt out of such an exercise,” he said.

“This is particularly important, because in an age of data privacy and based on what has been reported so far, the information gleaned from those students seems deeply personal and sensitive and could have potentially been used against them.”

cont’d on pg 18



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Regional News



Charges dropped against former T&T attorney general Anand Ramlogan

CMC – Trinidad's Director of Public Prosecutions, Roger Gaspard, SC, Monday announced that he was discounting the case against former attorney general, Anand Ramlogan and former opposition legislator and attorney, Gerald Ramdeen, because the state's main witness has indicated he is not willing to give evidence until a civil claim against the state is concluded.

Gaspard told Chief Magistrate Maria Busby-Earle Caddle, that the state's main witness, Jamaica-born British King's Counsel, Vincent Nelson, had indicated that while he is willing to give evidence, he was not willing to do so until a civil-claim case against the state is concluded.

In that matter, Nelson is seeking damages for breach of indemnity between himself and the former attorney general Faris Al-Rawi. Nelson alleges the indemnity was promised to him.



Anand Ramlogan (left) and Gerald Ramdeen

Roger Gaspard said it would not be fair to have the duo "in limbo" while Nelson is pursuing his litigation adding that the charges may be reinstated once it is completed.

The Chief Magistrate then discharged the duo.

In 2019, Ramdeen and Ramlogan were charged with conspiring with Nelson for Ramlogan to misuse public office, by accepting money from Nelson as a

reward for giving him state briefs.

The state had also alleged that the men conspired for Ramdeen to receive, conceal, and transfer criminal property, which represented corrupt rewards Nelson gave him for the state briefs.

The third allegation against the two was that they conspired for Nelson to give ten percent of the legal fees to Ramlogan as a "gift" or "reward" for being granted

state briefs.

In March 2020, Nelson, who pleaded guilty in June 2019 for his part in the alleged kickback scheme, was ordered to pay TT\$2.25 million (One TT dollar=US\$0.16 cents) in restitution as part of a plea-bargain arrangement with the State. As part of the deal, he agreed to turn state witness and testify against Ramlogan and Ramdeen.

Under his plea agreement, the conspiracy to commit misbehaviour in public office charge was dropped against Nelson and the judge, Justice Malcolm Holdip said Nelson was free to return to the United Kingdom while he cleared the fines under a ten-month court-approved payment plan.

He was also placed on a TT\$250,000 bond to keep the peace for three years.

cont'd from pg 17

Maxwell said there are several questions that need to be raised and addressed including why the test was not reviewed by a Ministry of Education official before final administration, given the reported initial objections to a number of areas.

Last week, the IDB expressed regret that a survey administered to children in the Barbados secondary school system had offended many citizens, saying it "sincerely apologises, but stresses that no offence was intended.

The questions at the centre of concern, to which the Ministry of Education had objected prior to the administering of the survey and which were inadvertently left in the paper, have been removed," the IDB said, adding that it recognises its position as a development partner with the Barbados government "with a long and mutually respectful relationship".

It said it wanted to assure "Barbadians it would not deliberately engage in any practice that would harm that relationship".

Kremlin war hawks demand more devastating strikes on Ukraine

AP – Moscow's barrage of missile strikes on cities all across Ukraine has elicited celebratory comments from Russian officials and pro-Kremlin pundits, who in recent weeks have actively criticised the Russian military for a series of embarrassing setbacks on the battlefield.

Russian nationalist commentators and state media war correspondents lauded Monday's attack as an appropriate, and long-awaited, response to a successful Ukrainian counteroffensive and a weekend attack on the bridge between Russia and Crimea, the prized Black Sea peninsula Russia annexed in 2014.

Many of them argued that Moscow should keep up the intensity of Monday's strikes to win the war now. Some analysts suggested that Russian President Vladimir Putin was becoming a hostage of his allies' views on how the campaign in Ukraine should unfold.

"Putin's initiative is weakening, and he is becoming more dependent on circumstances and those who are forging the 'victory' (in Ukraine) for him," Tatyana Stanovaya, founder of the independent R.Politik think tank, wrote in an online commentary Monday.

"The fear of defeat is so strong, especially for those who are now fully immersed in this military venture, that Putin's indecisiveness, with his logic of 'We have not started anything yet' and 'Restrained tactics have paid off' has become a problem," the analyst said.

For weeks, Putin's supporters have called for drastic battlefield steps in Ukraine. The exhortations intensified over the weekend after an explosion on the Kerch Bridge linking Crimea to Russia; the bridge, Europe's longest, is a prominent symbol of Russian mili-



Flame and smoke rise from the Crimean Bridge connecting the Russian mainland and the Crimean peninsula over the Kerch Strait, in Kerch, Crimea, Oct. 8, 2022. Russian authorities say a truck bomb has caused a fire and the partial collapse of a bridge linking Russia-annexed Crimea with Russia. Three people have been killed. The bridge is a key supply artery for Moscow's faltering war effort in southern Ukraine. (AP Photo/File)

tary might. Putin himself opened the span in 2018.

"And?" Margarita Simonyan, head of Russia's state-funded RT television, wondered on social media about Moscow's response to the Saturday bridge attack.

"This is one of those cases when the country needs to show we can hit back," wrote Alexander Kots, a war correspondent for the popular pro-Kremlin tabloid newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda*.

Senior Russian lawmaker Sergei Mironov, who leads the state-backed A Just Russia party, tweeted Saturday that Moscow should disregard Western opinion in formulating its answer to the conspicuous attack.

"It is time for fighting! Fiercely, even cruelly. Without looking back at whatever censures from the West," Mironov tweeted Saturday. "There won't be any bigger sanctions. They won't say any worse words. We need to do our thing. We started it — we

should go till the end. There is no way back. Time to respond!"

The response came Monday morning, when Russia simultaneously launched dozens of missiles at Ukrainian cities, killing and wounding scores and inflicting unprecedented damage on Ukraine's critical infrastructure. The strikes, which hit 15 Ukrainian cities, most of them regional capitals, knocked out power lines, damaged railway stations and roads, and left cities without water supplies.

For the first time in months, Russian missiles exploded in the heart of Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, in dangerous proximity to government buildings.

Putin said Monday the strikes were in retaliation for what he called Kyiv's "terrorist" actions targeting the Kerch Bridge, and vowed a "tough" and "proportionate" response should Ukraine carry out further attacks that threaten Russia's security.

"No one should have any doubts about it," he said.

Israel, US announce Lebanon sea deal, but questions remain

AP – President Joe Biden on Tuesday said the U.S. has brokered a “historic breakthrough” between Israel and Lebanon that would end a dispute over their shared maritime border, pave the way for natural gas production and reduce the risk of war between the enemy countries.

The agreement, coming after months of U.S.-mediated talks, would mark a major breakthrough in relations between Israel and Lebanon, which formally have been at war since Israel’s establishment in 1948. But the deal still faces some obstacles, including legal and political challenges in Israel.

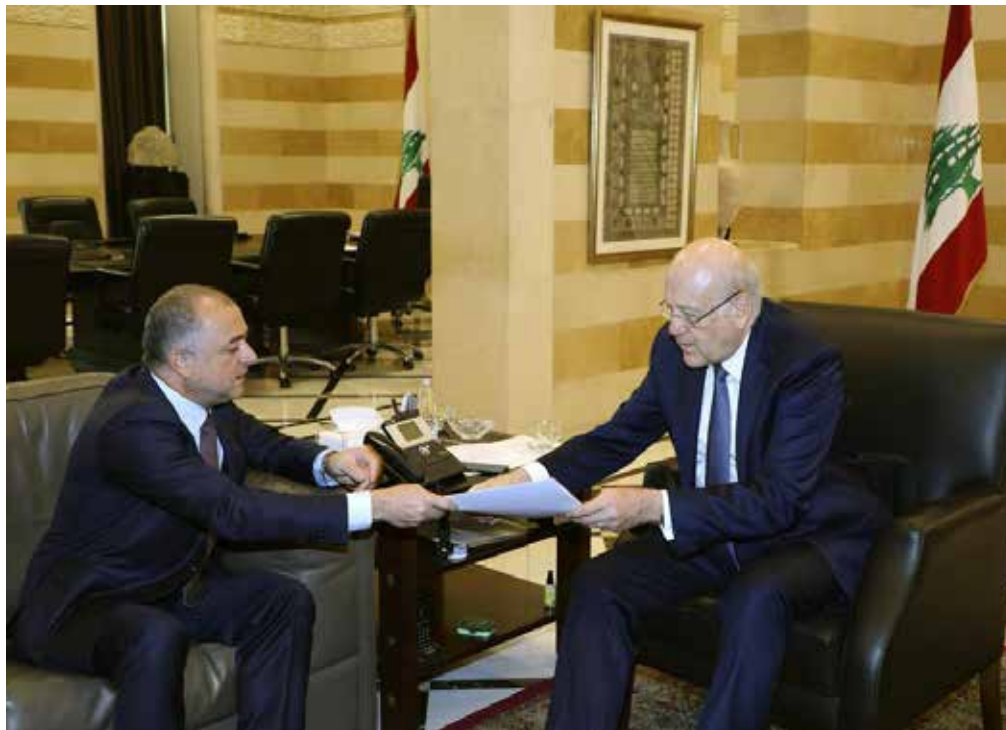
Israel welcomed the deal even ahead of Biden’s announcement. Lebanese leaders made no formal announcement, but indicated they would approve the agreement.

In Washington, Biden said that Israel and Lebanon had agreed to “formally end” their maritime dispute. He said he had spoken to the leaders of both countries and been told they were ready to move ahead.

The agreement “will provide for the development of energy fields for the benefit of both countries, setting the stage for a more stable and prosperous region,” Biden said. “It is now critical that all parties uphold their commitments and work towards implementation.”

Lebanon and Israel both claim some 860 square kilometres (330 square miles) of the Mediterranean Sea. At stake are rights over exploiting undersea natural gas reserves. Lebanon hopes gas exploration will help lift its country out of its spiralling economic crisis.

Israel also hopes to exploit gas reserves while also easing tensions with



In this photo released by Lebanon's official government photographer Dalati Nohra, Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Makati, right, receives the final draft of the maritime border agreement between Lebanon and Israel from his deputy Elias Bou Saab who leads the Lebanese negotiating team, in Beirut, Lebanon, Tuesday, Oct. 11, 2022. Israel's prime minister said Tuesday that the country has reached an "historic agreement" with neighbouring Lebanon over their shared maritime border after months of U.S.-brokered negotiations. (Dalati Nohra via AP)

its northern neighbour.

Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid called the deal a “historic achievement that will strengthen Israel’s security, inject billions into Israel’s economy, and ensure the stability of our northern border.”

Under the agreement, the disputed waters would be divided along a line straddling the strategic “Qana” natural gas field.

Israeli officials involved in the negotiations said Lebanon would be allowed to produce gas from that field, but pay royalties to Israel for any gas extracted from the Israeli side. Lebanon has been working with the French energy giant Total on preparations for exploring the field, though actual production is likely years away.

The agreement would also leave

in place an existing “buoy line” that serves as a de facto border between the two countries, the officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were discussing behind the scenes negotiations, said the deal would include American security guarantees, including assurances that none of the gas revenues reach Hezbollah.

Many leading Israeli security figures, both active and retired, have hailed the deal because it could lower tensions with Lebanon’s Hezbollah militant group, which has repeatedly threatened to strike Israeli natural gas assets elsewhere in the Mediterranean.

With Lebanon now having a stake in the region’s natural gas industry, experts believe the sides will think twice before opening up another war.

‘Not fair’: Ghana slams West over low funding for climate change

AlJazeera – Ghana’s President Nana Akufo-Addo has criticised Western nations for their low financial commitment to addressing issues caused by climate change on the continent.

“\$55m for 54 countries – this is not fair,” Akufo-Addo was quoted as saying by French state broadcaster RFI on Monday.

Akufo-Addo who is on a six-day visit to France where he is expected to meet President Emmanuel Macron, was referring to commitments made during a climate summit in Rotterdam last September – \$23m from the United Kingdom, \$15m from Norway, \$10m from France and \$7m from Denmark.

“The adaptation summit had the mission of mobilising \$25bn by 2025 ... ridiculously, while the G20 countries are responsible for 80 percent of emissions, Africa left Rotterdam with pledges of up to \$55m,” the Ghanaian leader said.

The African Development Bank pledged an additional \$12.5bn to support the cause.

The Rotterdam summit was set up to discuss climate change financing for Africa and took place ahead of the 27th annual summit of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) to be held this November in Egypt.

It also came on the heels

of a warning from the UN climate science panel that extreme weather and rising seas are hitting faster than expected, prompting calls for more money and political will to help people adapt.

The Rotterdam meeting – attended by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa and International Monetary Fund head Kristalina Georgieva – heard from representatives of African nations, small island developing states and other climate-vul-




Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo

nerable countries.

Western countries said they will spend about \$25bn by 2025 to boost Africa’s efforts to adapt to climate change. Still, their pledges in

Rotterdam fell short.

“It is a lot, of course, but it is derisory,” said Akufo-Addo, reminding that G20 countries “are responsible for 80 percent of [gas] emissions”.




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Sports News



LIV Golf players should get ranking points, Matsuyama says

AP — The players who left to compete in the Saudi-funded LIV Golf series should be entitled to earn ranking points, former Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama said Tuesday.

Speaking at the Zozo Championship, which opens Thursday, Matsuyama called the ranking-points question "difficult" and didn't offer any details, solutions or clarifications.

"I think they should be able to," he said, speaking in Japanese. "However, there's a procedure they'll have to follow."

LIV Golf is funded by Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund. Matsuyama suggested he was staying with the PGA Tour.

"I'm a member of the PGA Tour," Matsuyama said. "The players who left did so because they thought it was the right thing to do. So I can't say anything about them."

Viktor Hovland also said LIV



Hideki Matsuyama, of Japan, hits from the sixth tee during their singles match at the Presidents Cup golf tournament at the Quail Hollow Club, Sept. 25, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C. Former Masters champion Matsuyama said on Tuesday, Oct. 11, that he believes players who left to play on the Saudi-funded league known as LIV Golf may be entitled to earn ranking points. (AP Photo/Julio Cortez)

players shouldn't get an automatic exemption for ranking points.

"If you want to get world ranking points, you obviously have to follow the process," the Norwegian said. "And I think they're obviously making

an effort to get those points, but I don't think it's right to give them an exemption to just get points overnight. They obviously have to follow the process, whatever the process might be."

Matsuyama won last year's Zozo Championship — the only PGA Tour event in Japan — with a final-round 65 for a five-shot victory over Brendan Steele at the Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club, the same venue for this year.

He'll be the local favourite at the course located about an hour outside Tokyo. The purse is \$11 million.

"The energy that the fans provide really helps out, it helps my game," Matsuyama said. "But on the other hand, there's pressure that goes along with it."

Xander Schauffele may be under more pressure than Matsuyama, and also will have his own Japan-related following.

Clubs invited to get FIFA money from \$209M World Cup fund

AP — Soccer clubs around the world were invited by FIFA on Tuesday to apply for money from a fund of \$209 million set aside for teams that release players for this year's World Cup in Qatar.

Clubs get paid a daily rate — which FIFA estimates at about \$10,000 — for as long as 832 players selected for the 32 rosters are on national team duty ahead of and during the tournament.

The preparation period

starts Nov. 14 and the tournament ends on Dec. 18.

The \$209 million fund, agreed to by FIFA and the European Club Association in 2015, also rewards clubs who helped develop World Cup players. Each player's share of the fund is distributed among the clubs he played for in the past two years.

FIFA said more than 400 clubs playing in 63 different member countries were paid shares from the \$209 million fund allocated



PSG's Lionel Messi, left, celebrates with PSG's Kylian Mbappé after scoring during the Champions League group H soccer match between SL Benfica and Paris Saint-Germain at the Luz stadium in Lisbon, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022. (AP Photo)

from the 2018 World Cup commercial revenues.

The "Club Benefits Program" was created in a *cont'd on pg 23*

John Campbell considering filing appeal against doping ban

CricInfo – West Indies batter John Campbell is considering appealing against the four-year ban he was handed on October 7 for an anti-doping violation. The decision to ban Campbell was taken by an independent panel, after he was accused of refusing to provide a blood sample at his home in Kingston in April by the Jamaica Anti-Doping Commission (JADCO).

Campbell's legal representatives, Nunes Scholefield Deleon & Co, a Jamaican law firm, said in statement that "he was not properly notified by JADCO" with regards to incident where he did not provide the sample, and that there were "several mitigatory factors supported by evidence which were not challenged by JADCO and which ought to have militated against the imposition of the maximum penalty".

The statement also emphasised that Campbell has "to date never returned an adverse analytical finding for banned substances".

"Mr John Campbell and his legal team are very disappointed with the ruling of the Independent Anti-Doping Disciplinary Panel," the statement, which was put up on the West Indies Players' Association (WIPA) website, read.

"Mr Campbell has been a clean athlete throughout his outstanding ca-



John Campbell was handed a four-year ban for a doping violation (Getty Images)

reer as a batsman and he remains committed to clean sport...

"The allegation concerned refusing or failing to submit to sample collection after proper notification pursuant to Article 2.3 of the JADCO Anti-Doping Rules. Our client has, to date, never returned an adverse analytical finding for banned substances..."

"Mr Campbell's position was that he was not properly notified by JADCO. There were several breaches by JADCO of the mandatory International Standards for Testing and Investigations in respect of the notification of the athlete which, in our view, were not adequately addressed by the Panel.

"Additionally, there were sever-

al mitigatory factors supported by evidence which were not challenged by JADCO and which ought to have militated against the imposition of the maximum penalty, even if the Panel found that the athlete committed a violation..."

"Our client will therefore at this time consider exercising his right of appeal ... and will make a decision shortly."

Campbell, 29, has played 20 Tests, six ODIs and two T20Is for West Indies. While he has not played white-ball cricket for them since 2019, he opened in all five Test matches they have played so far this year, scoring 248 runs at 35.42 with one fifty.

cont'd from pg 22

2008 deal for FIFA to recognize the newly launched ECA as a more democratic representative of teams' interests.

European teams typically employ about 75% of the players who go to the World Cup.

FIFA paid \$40 million

into the fund for players who went to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa, and it was \$70 million four years later for the tournament in Brazil.

Clubs are set to get a bigger share from the 2026 World Cup, which will have about 50% more players in an expanded 48-team

tournament.

FIFA's revenue from sponsorship, ticket sales and corporate hospitality is also set to rise sharply for the 2026 edition, which will be hosted by the United States, Canada and Mexico.

A similar payment scheme is run by UEFA for the European Champi-

onship, which was worth 200 million euros (\$194 million) for the tournament played last year.

Chelsea got the biggest share of 5.1 million euros (\$5 million) from the Euro 2020 fund, which also rewarded clubs whose players were called up for qualifying games.

Sports News



Simmons says preparation is key to win World Cup Number 3

West Indies Head Coach Phil Simmons says his team will use the official warm-up period to finalise their planning for the crucial qualifying stage of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in Australia. The two-time world champions West Indies defeated the United Arab Emirates on Monday at Junction Oval and took on The Netherlands at the Melbourne Cricket Ground this morning.

"The two warm-up games are about getting things to work together, about getting the plans we have in place, about making sure players are getting sharper and sharper as they go along," Simmons said. "The mood in the camp has been very



Phil Simmons

good. We played two games against Australia... and we lost the two games but at the same time, some of the things we're trying to put in place are starting to come in place and the mood in the camp has been excellent."

In Monday's match, West Indies were led to victory by

Brandon King, who made a stylish half century at the top of the order and left-arm seamer Raymon Reifer who took three wickets in the crucial middle overs phase of the UAE innings.

West Indies will be going in search of a third ICC T20 World Cup title. They won

in 2012 and 2016 both times under the captaincy of Daren Sammy and remain the only team to win the trophy twice.

"The batsmen understand what we need to add to get to where we want to be and they've been working hard. So far, the enthusiasm and excitement is there in all the players so that's good to see," Simmons said. "We see this as a journey. We want to win the World Cup but we will be focusing on it match by match ... in stages."

Following the warm-ups, West Indies will travel to Hobart, Tasmania where they take on Scotland, Ireland and Zimbabwe in Group B, with the top two teams advancing to the main draw.

OCS makes winning start to Schools' League title defense

Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) has made a successful start in defence of their Under-14 Boys' Division title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

Ottos Comprehensive prevailed 2-1 against All Saints Secondary in their opening encounter at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos on Monday, 10th October.

Thikwan Henry and Cody Richardson scored for Ottos Comprehensive, while Kamarlie Benjamin scored for All Saints Secondary.

Princess Margaret School (PMS) also made a winning start to their campaign by romping to an emphatic 6-0 victory against Clare Hall Secondary at the Princess Margaret School's playing field.

There were no winners in the open-

ing day encounter between St. Joseph's Academy and Sir Novelle Richards Academy who fought to a nil-all draw in their match at the PMS playing field.

The other opening round encounter between Antigua Grammar School and St. Mary's Secondary School was not played because the players from St. Mary's Secondary failed to show up for the match at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

The 2022 Inter-Schools' Football Programme will continue today (Wednesday) with the opening round of matches in the Under-20 Girls' League. All matches will kick-off at 3 pm. Defending champions Ottos Comprehensive School will clash with Antigua Girls' High School at Radio Range in Ottos.

All Saints Secondary will face Jen-

nings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

Antigua State College will challenge Clare Hall Secondary at the King George V Grounds in Grays Farm and St. Anthony's Secondary School will take on Princess Margaret School at the PMS playing field in St. John's.

The second round of matches in the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division League will kick off across three venues tomorrow (Thursday) at 3 pm. Clare Hall Secondary will tackle Irene B. Williams Secondary at Clare Hall.

All Saints Secondary will meet the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints and Glanvilles Secondary and Pares Secondary schools will clash in an eastside derby at the Police Recreation Grounds.

Sandals maintains third best record in Business Basketball League

Sandals Antigua secured a 65-48 victory over Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew to maintain the third best winning record in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday night.

Devorn Benjamin shot a game-high 28 points, Coy Quinland scored 14 points and Selassie Braithwaite contributed 10 points to lead Sandals Antigua to their ninth win in 11 appearances in the feature game of Monday's triple-header.

Daysher Samuel sank 18 points for Fearless Crew who slumped to their ninth loss in 12 encounters.

Unbeaten leaders Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care currently holds the league's best record with a perfect nine wins in as many encounters.

Anjo Wholesale are currently boasting the league's second-best record with eight wins and one defeat in

their nine outings thus far.

Mill Reef failed in their attempt to record their second win of the competition as they fell to a 49-61 loss to Fitzroy Rewinding in the opening game on Monday.

Ariel Quallis scored 12 points and Fitzroy Francis chipped in with 10 points for Mill Reef who tumbled to their ninth loss in 10 outings.

Lindsay McDonald converted 17 points, Eric Joseph produced 16 points and Daleonte Phillip contributed 10 points for Fitzroy Rewinding to secure their fourth win in 11 encounters.

Galley Bay Resort remained winless as they slipped to their 10th loss in as many games in a 47-59 defeat against Sledge O'Ballers in the second game on Monday.

Molefi Joseph netted a game-high 20 points and Joseph Prosper chipped in with 10 points for Galley Bay.

Shamari Bascus scored 18 points,

Troy Franklyn sank 12 points and Kareem Jacobs contributed 10 points for Sledge O'Ballers to record their fourth win in 10 encounters.

The Business Basketball League will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Wednesday).

Unbeaten leaders Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care will face Mill Reef at 6:30 pm, Pointe FM will tackle the Board of Education at 7:30 pm and Vendors will clash with the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 8:30 pm.

In tomorrow's (Thursday) triple-header, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre will take on Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care at 6:30 pm, the Board of Education will meet Sandals Antigua at 7:30 pm and Anjo Wholesale will clash with Graphic Impact Shooters at 8:30 pm.



The teams in attendance at the official opening of the 2022 Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Business League at the YMCA Sports Complex in St. John's on Saturday, 8th October, 2022.

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pants are Police, Sandals, MEDSO, which is a collaborative team from the Medical Benefits Scheme and Social Security, Zamine and the Antigua and Barbu-

da International Institute of Technology (ABIIT).

The league will serve-off with the opening double-header at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA today Wednesday,

12th October. Zamine will tackle ICONS in the opening encounter at 6:30 pm and MEDSO will clash with Nate's Photography at 7:30 pm.

The competition will

continue with another double-header tomorrow, Thursday. Sandals will take on ABIIT at 6:30 pm and the Inland Revenue Department will meet ECAB at 7:30 pm.

Sandals wins Business Volleyball League's Ballorama

Sandals captured the Ballorama title which was staged following the official opening ceremony to commence to start of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Competition last Saturday.

Playing at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex, Sandals defeated the Media in the final of the knockout competition, which was geared towards providing the participating teams with a warm-up competition prior to the start of the league championship today (Wednesday).

Reigning Business League champions APUA finished third in the Ballorama in which the top place finishers received sports drinks that were provided by sponsor Frank Schwartz, a former national coach and executive member of the ABAVA.

The Ballorama was conducted using a simple knockout format tournament. Each game lasted for 10 minutes utilizing a running clock and the team with the most points at the end of the time was declared the winner.



Sandals celebrate with their prizes after capturing the Ballorama title at the official opening of the 2022 Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Business League at the YMCA Sports Complex in St John's on Saturday, 8th October, 2022. (Photos courtesy the ABAVA)

The Ballorama took place following a parade of the teams in a march past inside the volleyball facility and a brief opening ceremony in which former national coach Harris Lewis addressed the participants.

Lewis declared four newcomers are among the 14 teams that have registered to contest this year's competition, which is be-

ing held following a two-year absence due to the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

The four new teams are Friends & Family of Island Academy (FFIA), the Department of Treasury, Nate's Photography and ICONS.

Also participating in this year's Business Volleyball League are defending champions APUA, which

won the title in 2019, the last time the competition was held before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Also contesting this year's event are the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB), the Inland Revenue Department (IRD), 77 Bus and the Media.

The rest of the partici-

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