

TUESDAY 18TH OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 199 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

PM SCOFFS AT UPP “BRIBERY” FANTASY

Story on Page 2



To commemorate World Food Day 2022 on Sunday under the theme Leave No One Behind, Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samantha Marshall, and her staff worshipped with the Urlings Moravian Church's congregation. Minister Marshall and her team used the occasion to donate a bounty of locally grown produce to the church's soup kitchen.

Local News



PM Browne scoffs at UPP “bribery” claims

St. John’s City West MP, Gaston Browne, has rubbished claims by the opposition United Progressive Party (UPP) that he was bribing constituents for their support last Thursday.

The UPP’s Alister Thomas said Browne’s donations to UPP supporters during their “Small Business Pull-up” activity was an attempt to win over their supporters through nefarious means.

Browne, who is highly active on social media, responded to the accusation on his personal Facebook page.

“They bought \$5 drinks for their supporters. I gave my supporters money to buy their drinks. Their \$5 gift is morally acceptable, but according to their false logic, my gift constitutes a ‘bribe’, Browne said.

“Tell them UPP losers, laggards and charlatans, get a blasted life,” to which he added, “The latter is a mild



One Facebook user posted this image with the caption, “Even UPP agree that Gaston is the right choice.”

version of what I would really like to tell them.”

Elections in Antigua and Barbuda are constitutionally due by March, 2023, however, it is believed that Prime

Minister Browne, whose Antigua Barbuda Labour Party continues to enjoy a considerable lead over the main opposition UPP, will likely call elections well before the deadline.

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POINTE ON DE STREETZ

Trade Minister calls for national embrace of quality and standards concepts

Trade Minister E. P. Chet Greene is pushing for Antigua and Barbuda to fully adopt the principles of quality standards.

Speaking at the launch of the National Quality Awards Programme on Monday at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI) at Dutchman's Bay, Greene said incorporating these principles in all facets of life will go a long way in helping the country

achieve the goal of becoming an economic powerhouse.

In support of his position, Greene quoted the National Quality Awards (NQA) prepared by the Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards ahead of Monday's launch.

"The National Quality Awards is a useful way of introducing and encouraging the concept and principles of quality as one of

cont'd on pg 4



Trade Minister E. P. Chet Greene

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Local News



cont'd from pg 3

the underlying platforms and tools for business development, service excellence and overall economic development.”

He said while the ideals and principles of quality standard are not generally considered to be “fashionable or popular”, they remain of critical importance as they build

upon the sub-structures of the society.

“It’s about empowering micro-businesses, ensuring that there are standards and quality attached to everything they do, and to ensure that at the end of the day, Antigua and Barbuda is identified as a country where you find standards and quality. That to me is the ultimate,” he

said.

Greene noted that it is imperative that Antigua and Barbuda fall into compliance as countries across the region are conducting similar exercises.

CARIFORUM has also given a commitment that within the grouping, there will also be full compliance.

“It is not Antigua and

Barbuda alone doing this one.

“Most of the countries in this part of the Caribbean thrive on tourism, so, what we are trying to achieve is to find a competitive edge, to set aside Antigua and Barbuda from the rest of the competition,” he explained.

According to Greene, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourist Association is not alone in achieving standards and quality benchmarks in the tourism industry which is vital to the nation’s economy. Rather, they are concepts which all of Antigua and Barbuda must embrace.

Greene also named a NQA Committee which will be responsible for implementing a national education programme and to organise the awards activities.

The NQA committee, headed by Senator Shenella Govia, will also include ABHTA Director, Patrice Christian-Simon; Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Martin Cave; Ministry of Agriculture representative, Shenneth Tonge-Roberts; UWI FIC representative, Dr. Curtis Charles; Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority representative, Jacqueline Yearwood; Ministry of Trade representatives, Petra Williams and Kyrah Carbon and Antigua and Barbuda Bureau of Standards representative, Solange Baptiste.

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More arrests as efforts continue to stop items being smuggled into '1735'

Two men were sentenced yesterday for drugs which they had in their possession in and around His Majesty's Prison.

Rasheam Francis was spotted near the prison wall on 13th October by a police officer who was carrying out surveillance from a tower inside the prison.

The officer observed the defendant walking near the prison's eastern wall with a bag on his back and a mask on his face.

The cop approached Francis and searched him with his consent.

Upon doing so, he found a quantity of green, bushy substance that resembled the controlled drug cannabis.

Further analysis revealed that it was, in fact, 165 grams of marijuana.

Francis admitted to the court on Monday that he would have thrown the marijuana, valued at \$1,650,

into the prison if he had not been caught.

The defendant was ordered to pay \$5000 to the state by 30th December. Failure to pay will land him a year in prison.

Meanwhile, a convicted rapist who was found with marijuana inside of his cell was also sentenced.

Julian Morgan got three months added to his already lengthy sentence of 16 years for possession of 60 grams of cannabis.

The drugs were found inside of his pillow.

These are the latest arrests at the prison stemming from an extensive effort on the part of the government and prison's administration to eliminate conveyance.

Just last week, Soni Russell, who is serving a six-month jail sentence for wounding, was given an additional eight months for the possession of 95 grams of

cont'd on pg 6



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Local News



cont'd from pg 5
cannabis.

A number of other individuals have been caught and penalised. The increase in the discovery of contraband is likely due to the fact

that police officers are now a part of the team providing surveillance and security at the prison.

The decision to increase security at His Majesty's Prison came following a

major prison raid which led to the discovery of over 60 cell phones, drugs, pots, kettles and other items.

Meanwhile, correctional officers at His Majesty's Prison protested outside of

the facility yesterday demanding that authorities settle several outstanding matters they claim are affecting the performance of their duties.

They argued they are not paid overtime and holiday pay and are made to work in unsanitary conditions.

The workers are also demanding to be made established government workers.

They also took aim at the permanent secretary with oversight of HMP, calling for her removal over her failure to address their concerns.

Acting Prison Superintendent, Jermaine Anthony, was also slammed for comments he allegedly made to the media in which he accused the institution's correctional officers of being "corrupt". The officers who staged industrial action are demanding an apology from Anthony.

Pointe Xpress made several attempts to contact the Minister of National Security, Steadroy Benjamin, for comment, however we were unable to reach him.

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ABWU calculates severance owed to former Jolly Beach workers

The union representing former Jolly Beach workers has concluded in-depth discussions with the former employees of the resort who are to receive outstanding severance payments.

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union met last Wednesday and Thursday with the approximately 500 former employees of the hotel to verify their outstanding severance amounts, a statement from ABWU outlined.



Jolly Beach Resort

By Friday morning, more than two hundred people were able to confirm the outstanding severance due

to them.

According to Deputy General Secretary, Chester Hughes, the ongoing verification exercise will ensure that all employees are paid what is rightfully theirs.

The government of Antigua and Barbuda has set aside approximately US\$5 million to pay the former employees who have been waiting for compensation since Jolly Beach Resort closed its doors in 2020.

The sale of the property to the government was to be finalised last week, paving the way for payments to begin.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has given the assurance that the money is in an escrow account, allaying the fears of some former workers who are concerned that there will be further delays.

Jolly Beach Resort is set to reopen before the end of the year. It will be managed by Elite Island Resorts on behalf of the Government of Antigua and Barbuda.

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Local News



Met Office issues excessive heat advisory

The Antigua and Barbuda Met Office has issued an excessive heat advisory which will remain in effect until today at 3:30pm.

According to the advisory, the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be in the range of 38 to 41 °C or 100 to 106 °F. Winds will fall to less than 10mph during this time.

While the risk of heat related illnesses exists to anyone in these conditions, vulnerable individuals, including the elderly, children, the unsheltered and those



with specific medical and psychiatric conditions, are at an increased risk.

Symptoms of heat illnesses include the development of a heat rash, swelling, dizziness or fainting, head-

aches, vomiting, cramps, exhaustion and a loss of consciousness.

These symptoms, if left unchecked, can have severe health consequences leading to heat stroke or death.

Until the advisory ends, efforts should be made to remain well hydrated and sheltered in a cool place.

Vulnerable people should be checked on often to ensure that they are not in distress.



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Local News



Tourism officials upbeat after attending regional cruise tourism conference

An Antigua and Barbuda delegation recently returned from attending the Florida Caribbean Cruise Tourism Association's (FCCA) 28th annual conference in the Dominican Republic and has reported that they are "very upbeat" about the country's prospects for the upcoming cruise tourism season.

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA), Colin James, led the delega-

tion which was composed of stakeholders from the Ministry of Tourism, The Antigua and Barbuda Port Authority, and executive members of the St. Johns Taxi Association to the 11th - 14th October conference.

"The delegation participated in high-level meetings with major players in the cruise tourism industry.

"Cruise tourism is a fast-growing component of our tourism industry.

"Since we're now ex-



Antigua and Barbuda's delegation at the 28th annual FCCA conference in the Dominican Republic last week

periencing a strong recovery after being at a standstill due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic,

the staging of the conference is timely," James said.

"The upcoming winter season promises to be record-breaking for cruise arrivals; some 182,120 passengers from 108 calls are expected during the last quarter of this year with January 2023 projected to be our busiest month for the season with 79 calls and 135,810 passengers to St. Johns," he continued.

The team held meetings with executives representing over ten cruise lines as well as FCCA executives.

The Ministry of Tourism and Investment, with the ABTA, was also able to facilitate the attendance of St. John's Taxi Association president, Patrick Bennet and members Leroy Baptiste, and Sean Beazer in its meetings with the leadership of the FCCA.

The meetings were frank and productive, incorporating a presentation from the Taxi Association

cont'd on pg 11

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Nurse Dupie-Winston named Caribbean Nurse of the Year

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association (ABNA) Soria Dupie-Winston is the 2022 Caribbean Nurse of the Year.

Nurse Dupie-Winston received the award at the 32nd Biennial Caribbean Nurses Conference in Jamaica.

The award recognises the outstanding efforts of one nurse from the Caribbean, including the French and Spanish-speaking islands.

This year was of special significance, as it was the first in-person meeting of the body since the start of the pandemic.



President of the Antigua and Barbuda Nurses Association, Soria Dupie-Winston.

Dupie-Winston was part of a 12 member delegation who represented Antigua and Barbuda at the conference last weekend.

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that resulted in the FCCA entertaining the possibility of an increase in transportation charges which have been static for the last 17 years.

As the dynamics of travel platforms continues to evolve, the discussions with each cruise line var-

ied.

Hundreds of Antiguan and Barbudans continue to benefit from the career opportunities that Royal Caribbean and MSC cruise lines offer.

The delegation was also pleased with the announcement that Virgin Voyages, whose deploy-












ment to the region this year was delayed due to logistical challenges, will make its inaugural call to Antigua and Barbuda in 2023.

Cruise lines are now required to comply with a mandate to reduce their carbon footprint. This requirement will affect the ports included on their

itineraries.

The delegation shared the news that Antigua and Barbuda has now commenced installation of 6 Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) generators which will be deployed in April 2023. Princess Cruise Lines advised they will also be launching the 4,300 passenger Sun Princess, its first LNG vessel, which will call on St. John's in 2023.

With the stringent U.S. policies concerning emissions, Antigua and Barbuda anticipates that more USA-based ships will make the island a port of call.

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Opinion

Lovell reveals dangerous privatisation scheme – AGAIN!

By **Sandra Robinson-Weste**

It is often said that a leopard cannot change its spots and Harold Lovell is a prime example of this adage.

In the late 2000s, Harold Lovell, as Finance Minister, and the United Progressive Party (UPP) proposed their first privatisation scheme - privatise state assets! Privatised State Insurance Corporation! Privatised the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA)! Privatised the management of Mount St. John's

Medical Centre! That was the UPP's dangerous and risky plan.

Imagine what APUA would look like today if their operations were sold to those who are solely driven by profit for private investors. We would be seeing much higher electricity, water, and telephone rates and no forgiveness of electricity costs.

Like Br'er Leopard, Lovell is at it again ensuring his spots are clearly visible.

In a speech recently,

he called for more government assets to be privatised. Lovell said that it would be so that Antiguan and Barbudans can own them. But do not believe him! Antiguan and Barbudans will not be able to spend enough money to buy shares that will allow them to control the company.

Instead, Lovell seeks to sell state assets to private foreign investors to do with them as they will. He is literally announcing this as a policy and trying to pretend

that you will benefit. But guess what? Antiguan and Barbudans are not likely to be the majority of the shareholders in Lovell's privatisation scheme - which will be open to anyone in the world to buy into.

It was Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) that fought against the UPP's old dangerous privatisation scheme. And, it is up to YOU this time to stop the UPP's privatisation plans. If you want to see state assets sold off with haste, then, vote UPP. But, if you want the government to work hard and leverage our assets to get the best deal possible for the people, put your X next to the flaming heart.

Lovell brought us to the IMF. He lost 10,000 jobs. He shrunk our economy by 25 percent, and now, this failed so-called captain is introducing a dangerous privatisation scheme that will sell out our country and put you at risk.

The UPP has not changed its spots. They have not changed their leader. And, they have not changed their philosophy.

We rejected them before, and we must reject them again - because they could not manage our country in the best of times for the global economy!

Keep the strong leadership of Gaston Browne and the ABLP working for us.



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Haitians in shock after death of singer Mikaben in Paris

Haitians paid tribute on Sunday to the singer Mikaben, whose sudden death during a concert in Paris left his country reeling.

The 41-year-old recording artist, whose real name is Michael Benjamin, suffered a suspected heart attack or cardiac arrest during a performance on Saturday, shocking fans who saw him collapse as he made his way off stage.

He was appearing at the 20,000-capacity Accor Arena in eastern Paris as a

guest of the Haitian group Carimi. He “died after suffering a seizure on stage and despite the efforts of emergency services”, the venue announced on Twitter.

Videos on social media show him performing, then suddenly turning and making his way towards the back of the stage. He collapsed in full view of spectators, the music stopped and medics were called.

Tributes poured in from across Haiti after his death,



Mikaben was one of Haiti's most popular recording artists and was described by Wyclef Jean as 'one of the most influential and inspirational young artists of our generation'. Photograph: Zuma/Alamy

with radio stations and venues playing his music on

repeat from Saturday night. “I’m shocked by the sudden death of the young and very talented artist Michael Benjamin ‘Mikaben’,” the Haitian prime minister, Ariel Henry, wrote on Twitter. We have lost a major figure in Haitian music.”

Haiti-born rapper Wyclef Jean, of the hip-hop group the Fugees, called him “one of the most influential and inspirational young artists of our generation”, in an interview with the Miami Herald newspaper. “Rest in peace,” he wrote in a tribute on Twitter, with a video showing him with Mikaben. “Gone too soon.”

The former Haitian premier Jean Henry Céant echoed the praise, hailing Mikaben as “one of the most talented artists of his generation”.

In a special broadcast by Magik9 radio, the sing-
cont'd on pg 15

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Technology

PAGE 15

Netflix sets \$7 monthly price for its ad-supported service

By Michael Liedtke

Netflix next month will unveil the first version of its video streaming service with ads, giving cost-conscious viewers a chance to watch most of its shows at a steep discount in exchange for putting up with commercial interruptions.

The ad-supported service is scheduled to debut Nov. 3 as Netflix tries to reverse a drop in subscribers. It will cost \$7 per month in the U.S., a 55percent mark-down from Netflix's most popular \$15.50-per-month plan, which is ad-free.

Netflix's ad-supported option will also be rolling out in Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain and the U.K., according to a Thursday post by the company's chief operating officer, Greg Peters.

Besides putting up with roughly four to five minutes of ads during each hour of viewing, Netflix subscribers who sign up for the cheaper service also won't be able to download



A logo for Netflix is seen on a remote control in Portland, Ore., on Aug. 13, 2020. Netflix will unveil the first version of its video streaming service with ads in November 2022, giving cost-conscious viewers a chance to watch most of its shows at a steep discount in exchange for putting up with commercial interruptions. (AP Photo/Jenny Kane, File)

TV shows and movies to in more than a decade.

watch when their devices are offline. Peters also said a "limited" amount of programming available on the commercial-free service won't be on the ad-supported version because of licensing issues.

Netflix's 15-year-old streaming service has until now been commercial free, but the Los Gatos, California, company decided to head in a new direction six months ago after reporting its first loss in subscribers

The customer erosion worsened a wrenching decline in its stock price that has wiped up more than \$200 billion in shareholder wealth during the past 11 months. The shares rallied after Thursday's announcement, but still have lost about two-thirds of their value since reaching their peak last November when the streaming service was still growing.

Through the first half of this year, Netflix lost 1.2

million subscribers, leaving it with nearly 221 million. Management in July predicted it would regain about 1 million of those subscribers during the summer months. The numbers for the July-September period are scheduled to be disclosed Tuesday.

Netflix is betting the low-priced option with ads will be particularly popular at a time that persistently high inflation is pressuring millions of households to curb their spending, particularly on discretionary items such as video streaming.

The streaming market also has become crowded with tougher competition from the likes of Amazon, Apple and Walt Disney Co., which also is preparing to offer an ad-supported version of its service soon.

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er Tamara Suffren said his death was "a blow to the country" – a state mired in security and health crises.

Mikaben, son of the famed singer Lionel Benjamin, was born in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince, in 1981, and was well known in the local music scene as a singer, writer and producer. He featured in several Carimi hits, including Baby I

Missed You and Fanm sa Move.

Smiling and thanking fans, he posted a video to his more than 1 million followers on Instagram from inside the Accor Arena on Saturday before the concert.

His wife Vanessa, who is pregnant, posted a message thanking people for their prayers but asking for privacy.

"I'm in no condition to talk. I lost my other half and have no words," she wrote.

Regional News



Haiti gang blockade is causing catastrophic hunger, U.N. officials say

Reuters - Haitians are experiencing catastrophic hunger because of gangsters blockading a major fuel terminal, U.N. officials said on Friday, with more than 4 million facing acute food insecurity.

A coalition of gangs has prevented the distribution of diesel and gasoline for over a month to protest a plan to cut fuel subsidies. Most transport is halted, with looting and gang shootouts becoming increasingly common.

"We have for the first time a famine present in Haiti," Ulrika Richardson, Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for the U.N. system in Haiti, said in a telephone interview.

"The gang violence has cut off the capital from the food-producing south, and that means that we have now an increase in food insecurity." A U.N. spokesperson later clarified that Richardson should have described the situation as catastrophic hunger rather than famine.

Richardson said other countries need to do more to support Haiti, as the Caribbean country's humanitarian response plan for this year has received less than 30percent of the required funding.

"While we address the current symptoms of the multiple crises that Haitians are facing ... the security and the fuel crisis - we also have to make sure that we invest in the longer term root causes, such as impunity, such as corruption," said Richardson, the U.N.'s most senior humanitarian official in Haiti.

Some 19,200 people in Haiti's Cite Soleil are suffering famine conditions, according to an analysis by U.N. agencies and aid groups on Friday. A famine is declared when at least 20percent of the households in



People run to board a public transport locally known as "taptap" as trash burns on the side of a road in Port-au-Prince, Haiti October 13, 2022. REUTERS/Ricardo Arduengo

a region are suffering famine conditions.

The analysis said that in total 4.7 million people - nearly half of Haiti's population - are experiencing high levels of acute food insecurity.

The situation was "close to breaking point", Jean-Martin Bauer, World Food Program country director in Haiti, told reporters earlier.

A U.N. report released on Friday said children as young as 10 and elderly women have been subjected to sexual violence, including collective rapes for hours in front of their parents or children.

"Gangs use sexual violence to instill fear, and alarmingly the number of cases increases by the day as the humanitarian and human rights crisis in Haiti deepens," said Nada Al-Nashif, the Acting Human Rights Chief.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry last week asked for military assistance from abroad to confront the gangs, and U.N. Secretary-General Antonio

Guterres has proposed "a rapid action force" to help Haiti's police. It is not immediately evident which countries would participate in such a force.

U.S. development agency USAID on Friday sent a Disaster Assistance Response Team to Haiti, the agency's chief, Samantha Power, wrote on Twitter.

Such teams are dispatched in response to natural disasters and complex emergencies, and typically include infectious disease specialists, nutritionists, and logistics experts, according to USAID's website.

The U.S. State Department has offered support for Haiti's police and has sent a Coast Guard vessel to patrol the area.

The United States and Canada in the coming days will deliver armoured vehicles to the Haitian police that have been purchased by Haiti, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Brian Nichols said in an interview with Haitian TV on Thursday.

Bahamas records first case of Cholera since 2017

CMC-Bahamas health authorities confirmed a case of Cholera on the island last week, the first case recorded in 5 years. As Bahamians begin to panic the government has sought to reassure citizens that the country can handle an outbreak of cholera, should it occur.

Health and Wellness Minister Dr. Michael Darville told reporters that the case involved a 52-year-old Bahamian man in New Providence who was reported by the Ministry of Health and Wellness on Thursday.

He insisted that the man did not travel to Haiti, where there is an outbreak of the disease, but did not reveal any other details on the patient's recent travel history.

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection caused by the ingestion of food or water contaminated with the bacterium *Vibrio cholera*, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). The health minister said given the new case, the ministry is working closely with the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) to implement additional protocols.

"The additional protocols are more closely monitoring our borders, having more healthcare, individuals in our surveillance unit,

high alert, monitoring our airports, ports of entry ships coming in from various different jurisdictions. It's more involved with surveillance," he said

He said that the country's healthcare facilities have the capacity to deal with cholera cases, adding "yes, we have an emergency protocol that we can activate in the event that we have cases that supersede these isolated cases. They are available not only in

New Providence but also in Grand Bahama.


"And our team on the Family Islands are also on high alert. So, these are standard medical protocols that our healthcare providers have the ability to activate, in the event that we do have an outbreak."

But Dr. Darville said the population should not be alarmed at the situation, even as he urged residents to take the necessary precautions, such as using and

drinking safe water and practising proper hygiene.

"I want the residents of The Bahamas to know that our neighbour is in close proximity, there's an outbreak and there's always the possibility. And so, for us in the healthcare industry, we must be mindful of what is around us and begin to prepare for any possible outbreak."

The Bahamas recorded its last case of cholera in 2017.




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Regional News



Brazil's da Silva, Bolsonaro clash in first one-on-one debate

AP — Brazil's former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and incumbent Jair Bolsonaro clashed in their first one-on-one debate Sunday, two weeks before the presidential election's run-off.

Debates in the election's first round featured several other candidates, none of whom garnered more than 5percent of the Oct. 2 vote. During the debates, they were largely distractions from the two obvious front-runners.

On Sunday, the two repeatedly called each other liars during an encounter lasting about 1 ½ hours. The term was used more than a dozen times by each of the candidates in the TV Band debate that, otherwise, was less aggressive than many analysts had expected.

"You are a liar. You lie every day," da Silva said during one exchange. Bolsonaro frequently said: "You can't come here to tell people these lies."

Earlier this month, da



Brazil's former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who is running for office again, left, faces President Jair Bolsonaro in a presidential debate at Bandeirantes Television in São Paulo, Brazil, Sunday, Oct. 16, 2022. The presidential runoff election is set for Oct. 30. (AP Photo/Marcelo Chello)

Silva, who is universally known as Lula, won the election's first round with 48percent of the vote compared to Bolsonaro's 43percent.

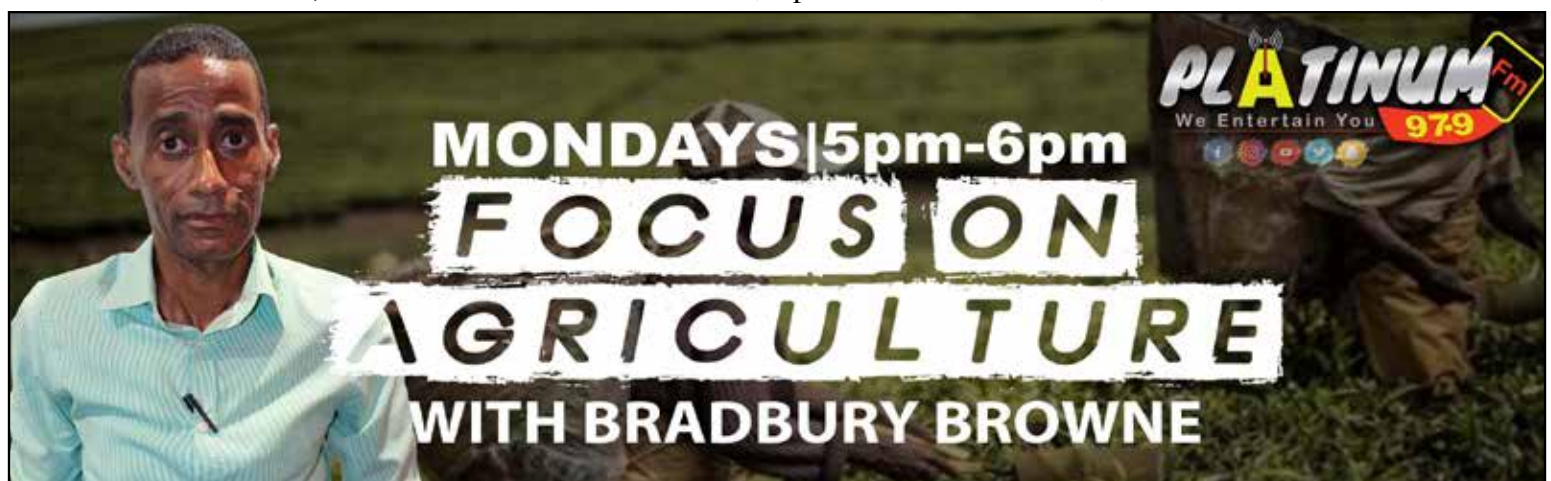
Polls indicate the leftist former president, who governed between 2003-2010,

remains the frontrunner, though his lead has shrunk considerably.

Each candidate focused on the issues that, according to polls, represent their adversary's weak points: for Bolsonaro, the COVID-19 pandemic that killed 680,000

Brazilians, and for da Silva, corruption scandals involving his Workers' Party.

Da Silva and Bolsonaro are expected to take part in one more debate, days before the vote, on TV Globo, Brazil's most popular network.



Lawmakers will try to oust UK PM Truss this week, Daily Mail reports

Reuters - British lawmakers will try to oust Prime Minister Liz Truss this week despite Downing Street's warning that it could trigger a general election, the Daily Mail reported.

More than 100 members of parliament (MPs) belonging to the governing Conservative Party are ready to submit letters of no confidence in Truss to Graham Brady, the head of the Conservative Party's committee which organises the leadership contest, the tabloid reported, quoting unnamed sources.

Britain, engulfed in a political crisis, has lost three prime ministers since it vot-



British Prime Minister Liz Truss attends a news conference in London, Britain, October 14, 2022. Daniel Leal/Pool via REUTERS

ed to leave the European Union in 2016.

The MPs will urge Brady to tell Truss that "her time is up" or to change the political party rules to allow

an immediate vote of confidence in her leadership, the report said.

Brady is said to be resisting the move, arguing that Truss, along with newly

appointed Chancellor Jeremy Hunt, deserve a chance to set out economic strategy in a budget on Oct. 31, the report added.

Separately, The Times reported that some lawmakers have held secret discussions on replacing Truss with a new leader.

Truss, who won the Conservative Party leadership last month after promising to slash taxes, is fighting for her political survival after ditching key parts of the programme.

The chaos has fuelled discontent in the party, which is falling behind the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls.

Iran Evin prison death toll jumps, state says

BBC-The death toll from a fire at Iran's notorious Evin prison has risen from four to eight, Iran's judiciary has said in a statement.

Officials said dozens more were injured in the blaze at the jail in Tehran on Saturday night. Hundreds of those taking part in anti-government protests which have swept the country for the past month have been sent to Evin prison. It is not clear whether the incident at the jail was connected to the unrest.

The judiciary said the fire began in a prison workshop after a fight among inmates. State TV said it was a "premeditated" escape plan, which the head of prisons in Tehran said was foiled by the security forces. However, a witness inside the prison told BBC Persian that prisoners had not set fire to the site.



Iran Evin prison death toll jumps, state says Getty Images

The prison has long been criticised by Western rights groups. Human Rights Watch has accused authorities at the prison of using threats of torture and of indefinite imprisonment, as well as lengthy interrogations and de-

nial of medical care for detainees. On Monday, the EU said it was imposing sanctions on 11 people and four organisations in Iran - including its morality police - in response to Iran's crackdown on the protests.

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Nigeria races to assist flood victims; death toll tops 600

AP— The death toll from floods in Nigeria this year has increased to 603 as local authorities race to get relief items to hundreds of thousands being evacuated from their submerged homes.

More than 1.3 million people have been displaced by the disaster, which has affected people across 33 of Nigeria's 36 states, the nation's humanitarian affairs ministry said late Sunday.

At least 340,000 hectares of land also have been affected, worsening fears of food supply disruptions. Armed conflict already has threatened production in the northwest and central regions of Nigeria, which produce much of what the country eats.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari directed "all concerned to work for the restoration of normalcy," according to a statement issued by the presidency.

Nigeria experiences annual flooding especially in coastal areas but this year's floods are the worst in more than a decade. Authorities blame the disaster this year on the release of excess water from Lagdo dam in neighbouring Cameroon and on unusual rainfalls.



People walk through floodwaters after heavy rainfall in Hadeja, Nigeria, Monday, Sept 19, 2022. Officials in Nigeria say the death toll from this year's flooding has now risen to 603. Authorities have called the floods the country's worst in more than a decade, blaming the disaster on unusually heavy rainfall and the release of excess water from the Lagdo dam in neighbouring Cameroon. (AP Photo, File)

The flooding has worsened the the end of November.

humanitarian crisis in Nigeria where armed violence especially in the troubled northern region has already displaced more than 3 million people, according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Center. Sadiya Umar Farouq, Nigeria's minister of humanitarian affairs, warned that five states are still at risk of experiencing floods up till

"We are calling on the respective state governments, local government councils and communities to prepare for more flooding by evacuating people living on flood plains to high grounds," Farouq said. Last week, President Buhari approved 12,000 metric tons of grains for the flood victims, the humanitarian affairs minister said.

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The morality police - a force which ensures compliance with Iran's Islamic values, including dress code - has borne the brunt of public anger and has been blamed for the death of a young woman in custody - an event which sparked the protests.

Protests continued overnight, including in neighbourhoods of Tehran. In a video from the north-east district of Narmak, chants

of "Death to the dictator" - a reference to Iran's supreme leader - among others can be heard in the dark. Elsewhere, in Ekbatan in western Tehran, a crowd of protesters chanted anti-government slogans, while video showed a group cheering as a woman burnt her hijab on a bonfire lit by protesters.

The protests erupted one month ago in the wake of the death of 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian Mahsa Amini in police custody.

Officials said she died of a heart attack, but her family dispute this, saying she was beaten by morality police.

The demonstrations quickly spread across the country, mounting the most serious challenge to the Islamic Republic since its inception in 1979. Iranian security forces have used force including live fire, beatings and mass arrests to try to put down the protests. Human rights groups say at least 200 people have been

killed, though the true figure is believed to be much higher.

The BBC and other independent media are banned from reporting from inside Iran, while authorities have disrupted the internet and social media tools, making it difficult to know

outside what is happening. Iranians, however, are still managing to post videos of protests and incidents which have been verified by the BBC.

Jurgen Klopp red card among incidents prompting referee charity to call for inquiry into managers

BBC-A leading referees' charity has called for an inquiry into the touchline behaviour of managers after ugly scenes at several Premier League matches.

Jurgen Klopp's red card for berating a referee's assistant during Liverpool's win over Manchester City was among a number of flashpoint incidents. It came on a weekend where Merseyside Youth League games were postponed amid ongoing issues with referee abuse. "People mimic what they see on TV," said Ref Support UK CEO Martin Cassidy.

The Football Association is looking into incidents on and off the pitch at Anfield as well as Manchester United players surrounding referee Craig Pawson at Old Trafford in their draw against Newcastle. "For years, we have said the dissension towards referees comes from the top down as well as the bottom up," Cassidy added.

"When you see world recognised figures like Jurgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola behaving like that, it is then replicated by people in youth football and perpetuates the idea that it is OK to do it."

Klopp apologised in his post-match comments



Jurgen Klopp's reaction to the assistant referee in Liverpool's win over Manchester City earned him a red card.

but insisted his behaviour had been borne out of frustration at what he saw as the officials' failure to award Liverpool a free-kick for a challenge on Mohamed Salah. "Something snapped in that situation, I'm not proud of that - I deserved a red card, and the way I looked in this moment is not right," the German, 55, admitted. However, Cassidy, a Liverpool fan, said apologies would not suffice and that the League Managers Association must encourage its members to behave more respectfully. "As far as I'm aware, the LMA has never put out a statement condemning this behaviour - is there a code of conduct? They have to take responsibility," he said.

"The time has come to have some form of inqui-

ry into the behaviour of people on the touchline - it goes on and on and I don't think people understand the ramifications it has at grassroots level."

While Klopp's tirade towards the official running the line at Anfield was the highest-profile instance of dissent, it was by no means alone on a day packed with controversy.

His counterpart Pep Guardiola confronted Anthony Taylor when the referee, invited to consult his pitchside monitor by the video assistant referee, disallowed a City goal for a foul by Erling Haaland. Elsewhere, Manchester United players angrily surrounded referee Craig Pawson for disallowing a Cristiano Ronaldo goal in their stalemate with Newcastle United.

There were similar scenes from West Ham's players at Southampton, castigating Peter Banks for not ruling out Saints' opener, while Hammers boss David Moyes said the VAR needed "to go to Specsavers". And Chris Kavanagh was also crowded by players from both sides at Elland Road in another game heavy on VAR intervention as Premier League leaders Arsenal beat Leeds.

The flashpoints are pictured below - and have your say on the issue.

'Yellow cards for abuse the solution' - Lineker

BBC Sport presenter Gary Lineker believes the problem of referee abuse in the professional game can be solved by the implementation of stricter punishments.

"I think you stop that by issuing yellow cards for any form of abuse whatsoever and then make it red straight after," Lineker, who was famously never booked during his playing career, told BBC Radio 5 Live.

"It'll be carnage for a few weeks, but they'll learn like they do, like they did with kicking players, you can't do it anymore. It would work, I'm convinced of that."

Neymar appears in court in trial over Barcelona transfer

AP— A few hours after scoring the winning goal in Paris Saint-Germain's victory over Marseille in the French league, Neymar arrived in court in Spain on Monday to face a trial for alleged irregularities involving his transfer to Barcelona in 2013.

Neymar's parents, former Barcelona president Sandro Rosell and representatives for both the Spanish club and Brazilian team Santos also appeared in court after a complaint brought by Brazilian investment group DIS regarding the amount of the player's transfer.

The Brazil forward arrived at the court in Barcelona wearing sunglasses and a black suit and tie. Neymar's mother and father, who also is his agent, were among those arriving alongside the player.

The defendants, who have denied wrongdoing, sat near each other to hear the opening arguments in the trial that comes nearly a month before the World Cup opens on Nov. 20 in Qatar, and is expected to last until the end of the month.

Neymar left the Barcelona court about two hours after arriving, without talking to reporters.

Neymar and the rest of the defendants had to be in court for the first day of the trial, but the player is only expected to testify on Friday. On Sunday night, Neymar scored his ninth French league goal of the season in first-half stoppage time to lead PSG to a 1-0 win over Marseille in French soccer's biggest game.

Prosecutors have charged the 30-year-old Neymar and his father with corruption and asked for a prison sentence of up to two years, although any jail time would likely be suspended. DIS accused them of



Former FC Barcelona player Neymar who now plays for Paris Saint-Germain sits in court in Barcelona, Spain, Monday Oct. 17, 2022. Neymar is in court to face a trial over alleged irregularities involving his transfer to Barcelona in 2013. Neymar's parents, former Barcelona president Sandro Rosell and representatives for both the Spanish club and Brazilian team Santos are also in court after a complaint brought by Brazilian investment group DIS regarding the amount of the player's transfer. All defendants have denied wrongdoing. (AP Photo/Joan Mateu Parra)

corruption and fraud and asked for a five-year prison sentence for Neymar and his father, and for compensation of 34 million euros (\$32.1 million) and a fine of 195 million euros (\$190 million) that would be paid to the Spanish state.

Prosecutors seek a fine of 10 million euros (\$9.7 million) for Neymar and his father. They also seek five years in prison for Rosell for fraud and corruption charges, plus a fine of 10 million euros (\$9.7 million).

Neymar's representatives have argued that the crime of corruption between individuals was not punishable in Brazil, which is where they say the transactions originally took place.

They said that according to Spanish law, a crime can't be punished in Spain if it didn't happen in both territories.

DIS was entitled to 40 percent of Neymar's transfer but said it received a smaller compensation because part of the transfer fee was concealed. Prosecutors said those involved tried to hide the real amount of the transfer in order to pay a lower commission to the investment group.

The lawyers for the plaintiffs argue that DIS only received its due percentage from the 17 million euros (\$16.6 million) that Barcelona and Santos initially announced as the transfer fee between the clubs, while the real cost was about 82 million euros (\$79.9 million).

An investigative judge in Spain has already said that the real cost was at least 83.3 million euros (\$81.2 million). Neymar and his father previously appeared in court in Madrid a few years ago because of the accu-

cont'd on pg 23

World Cup host Qatar wins rights for 2023 Asian Cup

AP — With the World Cup in Qatar just weeks away, the country was selected Monday as host of the 2023 Asian Cup by the Asian Football Confederation.

Qatar beat bids from South Korea and Indonesia in a short-notice contest to replace China and host a tournament that could yet be played in 2024.

The 2023 Asian Cup is set in the FIFA-managed calendar of national-team soccer games to be played from June 16 to July 16 — when the desert heat in Qatar is so extreme that the World Cup had to be moved to November and December. Qatar hosted the 2011 Asian Cup in January that year and now becomes the first country to host the continental championship three times after also staging the event in 1988.

The Qatari men's team will be aiming to defend the title it won in 2019 in the United Arab Emirates. China was originally scheduled to hold the 24-team event in 2023 but gave up hosting



FIFA presidential candidate Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa of Bahrain attends an extraordinary FIFA congress in Zurich, Switzerland Feb. 26, 2016. With the World Cup in Qatar just weeks away, the country was selected Monday, Oct. 17, 2022 as the host of the 2023 Asian Cup by the Asian Football Confederation. (AP Photo/Michael Probst, File)

rights in May because of the country's "Zero-COVID" policies to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, leaving the AFC looking for replacements.

"Given the short lead time in preparation, we know that the hard work begins immediately but with their existing world-class infrastructure and unrivalled hosting capabilities, we are confident that Qatar will stage a worthy spectacle befitting the prestige and stature of Asia's crown jewel," AFC President Sheikh

Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said in a statement. Qatar's win Monday offered good news for neighbouring Saudi Arabia which is bidding to host the 2027 Asian Cup, in a contest that is now a two-bid race with India.

That 2027 contest originally included Qatar and Iran, whose soccer federation withdrew its candidacy last Thursday, the AFC said. No reason was cited, although Iran has experienced a month of street protests in support of women's rights after the death in police cus-

tody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini, "In the All India Football Federation and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation, we have two exemplary bids," Sheikh Salman said.

The AFC will need to seek FIFA agreement and likely a decision from the sport's world body's ruling Council to amend the international match calendar and find new dates for the 2023 Asian Cup. That process could raise tension with European clubs which typically object to soccer's continental championships being moved to their midseason from June slots.

The FIFA calendar mandates the game dates and tournament periods when clubs must release their players who have been selected for national teams. However, fewer Europe-based players are needed for the Asian Cup than had to leave their clubs for the African Cup of Nations that was played in Cameroon in January. That tournament also was moved from an intended slot in June.

The influential European Club Association is led by a Qatari who is a close friend of the country's Emir. The Switzerland-based club group's chairman is Nasser al-Khelaifi, the president of Paris Saint-Germain.

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sations.

Neymar made his highly anticipated move to Spain at age 21. He helped Barcelona win the club's last Champions League title in 2015, and eventually became involved in a soap-opera-like transfer to PSG in 2017.

Neymar's move from Santos also got Barcelona in trouble with Spain's tax office. In 2016, the Catalan club paid a fine of 5.5 million euros (\$5.3 million now) to settle a separate case brought by authorities. In that settlement, the club acknowledged it had made "an error in the fiscal planning of the player's transfer."

Sports News



Scotland bowlers script huge upset against West Indies

Scotland 160 for 5 (Munsey 66*, Holder 2-14, Joseph 2-28) beat West Indies 118 all out (Holder 38, Watt 3-12, Leask 2-15, Wheal 2-32) by 42 runs

Two-time T20 World Cup champions West Indies were stunned by Scotland in their opening match of Group B in Hobart. With the bat, opener George Munsey scored 66 off 53 to hold Scotland's innings together to help them post 160. With the ball, Scotland relied on their slower bowlers to rock West Indies to 118 all out and consign them to a 42-run defeat. It is the second time in two days that a Full-Member side has gone down to an Associate nation, with Namibia beating Sri Lanka on opening day.

West Indies started their chase strongly and were 53 for 1 in 5.4 overs, but then lost their next seven wickets for 26 runs, with left-arm spinner Mark Watt producing a penetrative and economical spell to finish with 3 for 12 in his four overs. Offspinner Michael Leask also put in a stranglehold with the wickets of Nicholas Pooran and Rovman Powell, while right-arm seamer Brad Wheal got crucial breakthroughs at the top and then in his return spell.

The loss puts West Indies under pressure with



Brad Wheal had Shamarh Brooks caught ICC via Getty Images

matches against Ireland and Zimbabwe next on their docket. Scotland, meanwhile, will be looking to build on this comprehensive win and will eye a second consecutive Super 12 spot at the T20 World Cup.

Watt, Leask open West Indies' wounds

The pitch wasn't particularly difficult to bat on, and many of West Indies' key batters fell looking to play their shots in a chase of 161. Kyle Mayers was the first to go, caught at deep midwicket going for a big hit even though he had just slammed a four and a six. Evin Lewis and Brandon

King stayed positive through the rest of the powerplay, but Lewis perished after his pull found

the only fielder on the leg side boundary.

By now the skies were turning grey. Watt, who opened the bowling, came back after the powerplay. But a sizable part of his focus - and the captain Richie Berrington's - was on the DLS sheet. At that point, Scotland were marginally behind, but the tables turned when King was bowled trying to cut Watt off the back foot. With Scotland now slightly ahead of the DLS, it was West Indies who were trying to force the play, and in the process hurt their own game since rain never arrived in the second innings.

Leask, from around the stumps, had Pooran bowled for 5 after he missed a pull shot. Powell soon fol-

lowed, holding to long-on. And Shamarh Brooks was caught trying to heave a back-of-a-length delivery to the only boundary rider on the leg side to leave West Indies reeling at 77 for 6 after 12 overs.

Akeal Hosein was then run out after a mix-up. Watt induced a nick from Alzarri Joseph for a first-ball duck to bring West Indies down to 79 for 8, and from there on, the result appeared to be a formality.

Jason Holder at No. 7 did save some face for West Indies with his 33-ball 38 to take the team's total past 100. He was the last man to depart in the 19th over, caught at long-off by Chris Greaves, prompting a se-date and composed cele-

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Antigua & Barbuda loses second game at Americas Netball World Cup Qualifiers

Antigua and Barbuda suffered their second loss in the Americas Netball World Cup Qualifiers at the National Indoor Sports Centre in Kingston, Jamaica, on Sunday night.

After losing their opening match 24-55 against Trinidad and Tobago earlier in the day, Antigua and Barbuda went under 22-34 against the United States of America in their second encounter.

Trinidad and Tobago defeated St. Lucia 63-25 for a second impressive win from as many matches.

Trinidad took control very early in their second match and raced to a 17-7 lead at the end of the first quarter, and they were comfortably ahead 33-16 at the half-time break.

The Trinidadians continued their dominance into the second half, taking a 48-19 lead at the end of the third period before going on to win the contest

by 38 goals.

It was also the second defeat for the St. Lucians, who were beaten 53-45 by Grenada in their opening game earlier on Sunday.

Grenada secured their second win on the opening day by pulling off a 50-40 victory over the Cayman Islands, who also lost their opening encounter 27-67 to Barbados on Sunday morning.

Jamaica's Sunshine Girls cruised to a 74-36 win over St. Vincent and Grenadines in their opening game on Sunday night.

Jamaica led their opponents 18-8 after the first quarter and 42-15 by half time, going on to run away with the third quarter 19-10 to take a 37-point lead (61-24).

The Sunshine Girls would then take their foot off the gas in the final quarter, but still came away with the biggest margin of victory on the open-

ing day of the tournament.

Jamaica's coach Connie Francis said it was a great display by the young bunch of players, led by experienced captain Jhaniele Fowler.

"I thought this young bunch with six debutants got the exposure we need to grow our young players in order to make our final preparations for Cape Town (Netball World Cup).

"It is a young team and we commend them for the effort. It is just to recognize when teams come up with tactical changes and stick with our game plan and push forward to get more points on the board," Francis said.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines coach Godfrey Harry said despite the loss, he was pleased.

"Jamaica has already qualified. It was a tough game, but we are satisfied with the outcome," he said.

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bration from the victorious Scotland side.

Munsey holds Scotland's fort

Scotland were asked to bat by Pooran at the toss. The West Indies captain said he wanted first use of the moisture on a fresh surface only to then toss the new ball to medium-pacer Mayers and left-arm spinner Hosein.

Munsey and his opening partner Michael Jones took full toll, racing away to a wicketless 52 runs in 5.3 overs before rain

stopped play for 45 minutes. Munsey, in particular, took on Mayers and Joseph in the early salvo, using his wrists to pepper the leg side with fours or leaning in to drive through the covers.

However, a combination of a revamped bowling strategy, along with a sluggish post-rain outfield, slowed Scotland down. Holder got the first wicket just after the powerplay and made it two in his next over with Matthew Cross' scalp. From the other end, Hosein and Joseph recovered from

their opening spells with the latter removing Riche Berrington for 16.

The set batter Munsey was struggling to find the boundaries with the field spread out, and Scotland appeared to be losing their momentum, but Calum MacLeod injected some pizzazz with four fours in his 14-ball cameo of 23. At the other end, Munsey slow-burned his way to fifty in 43 balls in the 17th over.

At that time, Scotland looked set for a sub-150 score, a sharp decline from

the position they were in after the powerplay. But they got a timely boost, with two big overs right at the end.

The 18th over from Obed McCoy went for 12 runs and the 20th from Odean Smith cost 15 allowing them to post what turned out to be a more than match-winning total. Munsey contributed three of the five fours Scotland hit in those 12 balls, making what was comfortably the highest score of the match and even picking up an award for it.

Sports News



Heron and Scott capture Queen and King of Domino titles

Natalie Heron and Trevor Scott were crowned Queen and King of Dominoes to win the first competition of the 2022 national domestic season.

Heron and Scott won the opening classic competition of the Antigua & Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) 2022 season at its headquarters at the former Ottos School in Ottos over the weekend.

Sonika Regis and Wenedel Anthony finished sec-

ond, while Carol-Faye Bynoe and Devon Graham captured third place.

A total of eighty (80) players, comprising forty-two (42) males and thirty-eight (38) females battled between the 13th and 16th October for the prestigious queen and king titles.

The ABNDA will host its second competition this season on Thursday, 20th October, with the staging of a Team Three Hand contest at its headquarters in Ottos.



Domino Queen Natalie Heron, left, with Domino King Trevor Scott. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)

SAP and Grenades to clash in ABFA's Knockout Cup final

SAP FC and Grenades FC will clash in the final of the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean, Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup Competition.

Both teams recorded wins in their respective semi-finals at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday evening.

With all the goals scored in the first half, SAP overcame Willikies FC 2-1 in the first semi-final. Ex-national striker, Peter "Big Pete" Byers, snatched the winner for SAP with a 43rd minute conversion.

Javaughn Parker had given SAP a 1-0 lead by scoring in the 16th minute, but D'Jarie Sheppard scored in the 34th minute to equalize for Willikies before Byers snatched the winner for the team from Bolans.

Inspired by a hat-trick from Tev

Lawrence, Grenades FC staved off a late fightback by Pigotts Bullets to salvage a 4-3 victory in the second semi-final.

Lawrence scored his first goal in the 28th minute, which gave Grenades a 1-0 halftime advantage. He netted his second in the 56th minute to extend his team's lead.

Pigotts Bullets reduced the deficit via an own goal scored by Vashami Allen in the 70th minute.

But Lawrence restored Grenades' two-goal cushion with a 72nd minute conversion to complete his hat-trick.

Ridel Stanislaus scored Grenades' fourth and final goal in the 74th minute to give his team a 4-1 lead.

But striker Akeem Isaac scored two late goals in the 79th and 80th minutes for Pigotts Bullets to give

Grenades a scare.

However, Grenades were able to see out the game and sealed their victory as Pigotts Bullets left it too late and were unable to snatch the equalizer to send the game into extra time.

While Grenades and SAP will meet in the final, Pigotts Bullets and Willikies will face each other in the playoff for third place on a date to be decided by the ABFA.

All four semi-finalists are already guaranteed to take home at least EC\$5,000 at the end of the competition.

The fourth place finishers will walk away with EC\$5,000, the third place winners will get EC\$10,000, the runners-up will claim EC\$20,000 and the champion team will take home the grand cash prize of EC\$50,000.

Antigua & Barbuda beat St. Maarten to take bronze at ECVA tournament

Antigua and Barbuda overcame host St. Maarten, who were cheered on by a noisy partisan home crowd, 3-1 in the third-place playoff to claim the bronze medal in the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Women's Championship at the LB Scott Sports Auditorium in Phillipsburg, St. Maarten, on Sunday night.

Although being pushed by the home side in almost every game, Antigua and Barbuda prevailed 25-12, 29-31, 25-21, 25-23.

A well-rounded attack helped the Antiguan and Barbudan cause as Middle Blocker Nayota Peters posted 17 points, Kwansia Carr chipped in with 13 points and Sharon Payne contributed 10 points. Middle Blocker Natalie scored 10 points for St. Maarten.

Antigua and Barbuda took control of the scoresheet, winning 30 to 24 in attack, 11 to 8 in Blocks and 15 to 9 in Service Points.

Despite the win, Antigua and Barbuda was guilty of committing too many errors. Forty-six of the 87 points garnered by St. Maarten was attributed to errors made by the Antiguan and Barbudan.

This issue was not missed by Antigua and Barbuda's head coach Fitzroy Benjamin.

"We still have a problem with transition and we committed far too many errors, particularly with our serve. We definitely can do better than this brand of volleyball displayed here. We will now look to the future to integrate the youths into our programme," Benjamin said.

Unbeaten St. Lucia retained the ECVA Senior Women's Championship by coasting to a comfortable 25-17, 25-10, 25-13 victory over the British Virgin Islands in Sunday's final.

Kerin Neptune scored 17 points for

the St. Lucians. St. Lucia's head coach Kendall Challery expressed his elation with his team's successful performance.

"I am very happy that we got the job done. The girls stuck to our game plan by thwarting their main attack. Once we did that, we gained momentum on that and never looked back," Challery stated.

"Finally, the girls started playing the way we ought to. We have a tendency to drop our level, but that did not happen tonight. So I feel very proud and I know the fans back home will be happy for us."

Coach of the BVI team, Stephen Payne, was gracious in defeat.

"The championship was all St. Lucia. They had their way and we could not find answers at the moment. How-

ever, the intention for us coming here was to medal and we have achieved that objective. I would like to say congratulations to the winners, they deserved it. We will now debrief and concentrate on future efforts," Payne said.

Grenada overcame Anguilla 3-2 in the playoff for fifth place, prevailing 16-25, 25-16, 13-25, 25-13, 16-14.

Grenada prevailed 32 to 29 in Kills, Anguilla won 7 to 4 in Blocks, while both teams were even seven-all in Service Points. Both teams were also even in giving away 54 percent of their points in errors.

St. Eustatius, who failed to advance to the knockout phase after losing their three matches in the preliminary round, finished in the cellar position of the seven-team tournament.



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Graphic Impact Shooters blow away Sledge O'Ballers



Graphic Impact Shooters produced an impressive shooting display in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's Cool and Smooth Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday, 16th October, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Graphic Impact Shooters produced an impressive shooting display to blow out Sledge O'Ballers by 68 points in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Nickon McGregor shot a game-high 25 points to lead Graphic Impact Shooters to their 123-55 victory over Sledge O'Ballers.

Yannick Samuel converted 21 points, Olivee Morris sank 19 points, Tavarus Benta scored 17 points, Sean Nicholas contributed 13 points and Michael Barton chipped in with 12 points to help Graphic Impact Shoot-

ers secure their ninth win in 12 appearances.

Dion Harry Jules had 13 points and Kareem Jacobs scored 10 points for Sledge O'Ballers, as they suffered their eighth loss in 12 outings.

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care completed a perfect preliminary-round campaign by coasting to a comfortable 100-52 victory against the Board of Education.

Tequan Brodie converted 17 points, Adonis Humphreys and Javonte Daley each sank 13 points and Dante Trimmingham scored 12 points to lead Antigua Vision Care to finish the preliminaries with a perfect 13th win from as many encounters.

Sandals Antigua ensured they finished the preliminaries with the second best record by snatching a hard fought 60-55 victory against defending champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board.

Coy Quinland scored 17 points, Selassie Braithwaite had 13 points and Kenya Achom chipped in with 11 points, as Sandals Antigua finished the preliminaries with their 11 wins in their 13 games.

Kelvin Simon sank 17 points, Is-han Peets scored 12 points and Russell Daley contributed 11 points for the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board who slipped to their fourth loss in 11 encounters.