

TUESDAY 25TH OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 204 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

CAPTAIN, THE SHIP IS SINKING! UPP MUTINY AFOOT!

Story on Page 2



A ceremony was held yesterday on the site where the Harrison Foundation Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education will be constructed. Trustee of the Harrison Foundation Daniel Harrison (white shirt), joined Government and Ministry of Education officials at the Tomlinson site for the sod turning event. [Photo Credit: Wayne Mariette] *Story on page 6.*

Local News

UPP supporters panicked, “Captain” Lovell facing mutiny

The shock revelation that as many as four United Progressive Party (UPP) candidates may literally jump the “ship” led by the un-seated “Captain” of the opposition party, Harold Lovell, has plunged the organisation into turmoil and its members are demanding answers.

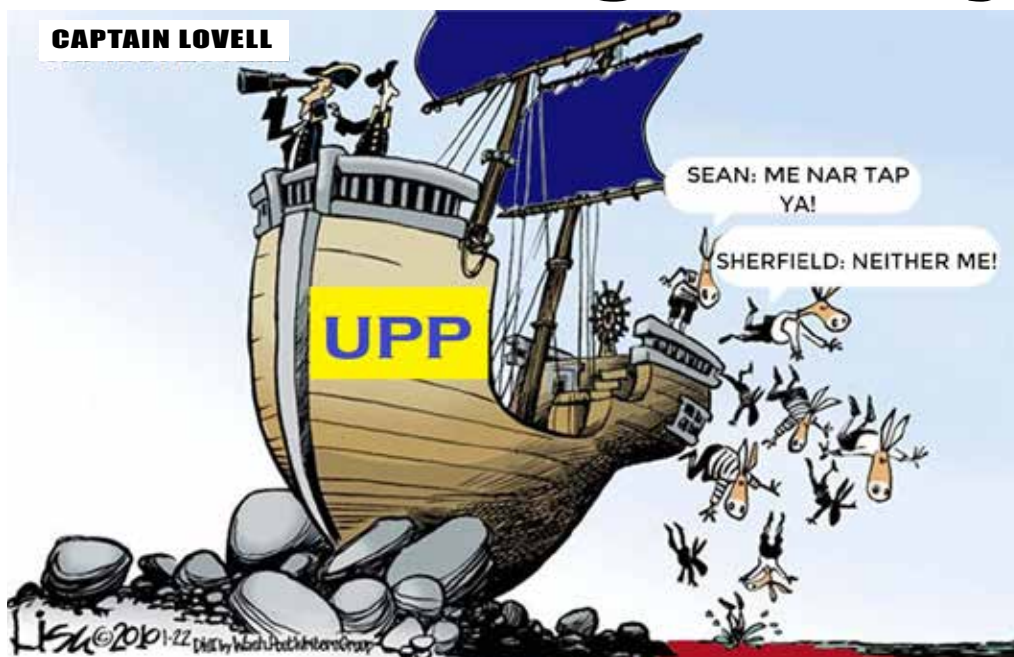
Over the weekend, Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) leader, Gaston Browne said “overtures” had been made by at least two of the UPP’s named candidates to senior members of the ABLP to determine whether they would be welcomed into the ruling ABLP as they have hit a political dead end with the UPP.

During the Browne and Browne Show on Pointe FM on Saturday, two of the three - Sherfield Bowen and Sean Bird - were named. Sherfield Bowen came to fame as a winning candidate in the St. Philip’s South constituency on the ABLP ticket in 1999. In 2003, while still a legislator, the US trained attorney was charged with the murder of 22-year-old Tessa Barthley whom he shot on 16th December, 2003.

Two years later in 2005, he was convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to serve five years at His Majesty’s Prison, however the conviction was overturned on appeal on the basis that the trial judge misdirected the jury on intention, accident, self defence, good character, provocation and manslaughter. Bowen was freed in June 2007 and has since returned to practice as an attorney.

Sean Bird, on the other hand, is the son of local media icon Ivor Bird, owner of Grenville Radio Ltd., the parent company of ZDK Radio and the grandson of the national hero, the Rt. Hon. Sir Vere C. Bird Sr.

After a falling out with the ABLP several years ago, Bird split ranks with



the ABLP and joined the UPP where he eventually was announced the party’s candidate in St. John’s Rural East.

This seat was held for decades by his uncle, former prime minister Sir Lester Bird, and is now held by his cousin Maria Bird-Browne.

While the identity of the other UPP absconder was not revealed, the ABLP leader suggested that that person too had a history with his party.

“I have had information that at least two candidates in recent times, from the UPP, have said to colleagues of mine that they just do not see a pathway to win, and what they’re doing now, they’re suggesting that they are Labourites, but they made bad decisions and they’re trying to create some kind of...corridor or pathway.

“So, they don’t see a pathway to victory and they’re making overtures, and that’s a fact,” Browne said.

Concerning the fourth unnamed UPP candidate, Browne said he had a conversation recently in which that person expressed serious dissatisfaction with the way campaign money acquired through fundraisers was being distribut-

ed among the party’s candidates.

Prime Minister Browne also hinted that the person who expressed that concern frequented his offices on Queen Elizabeth Highway. The St. John’s City West MP’s comments have taken hold within the UPP and is ruffling feathers with its members now demanding that “brothers” Sean Bird and Sherfield Bowen state publicly whether the allegations are factual.

One such UPP supporter, writing under the pseudonym “268KingLiar Detector” expressed his dissatisfaction with his party’s management of this latest crisis and called for “Captain Lovell” to take decisive action concerning the accusations.

“This is a simple matter that both brothers Sherfield Bowen and Sean Bird need to come to the electorate and state publicly if the Prime Minister lied or not.

“As the Captain of the UPP, this action should have been down by both candidates within 24hrs. The electorate expect better from the UPP,” 268KingLiar Detector said. As of the publication of this paper, the UPP has not issued a statement on the matter.

Sexual Offences Registry bill passed

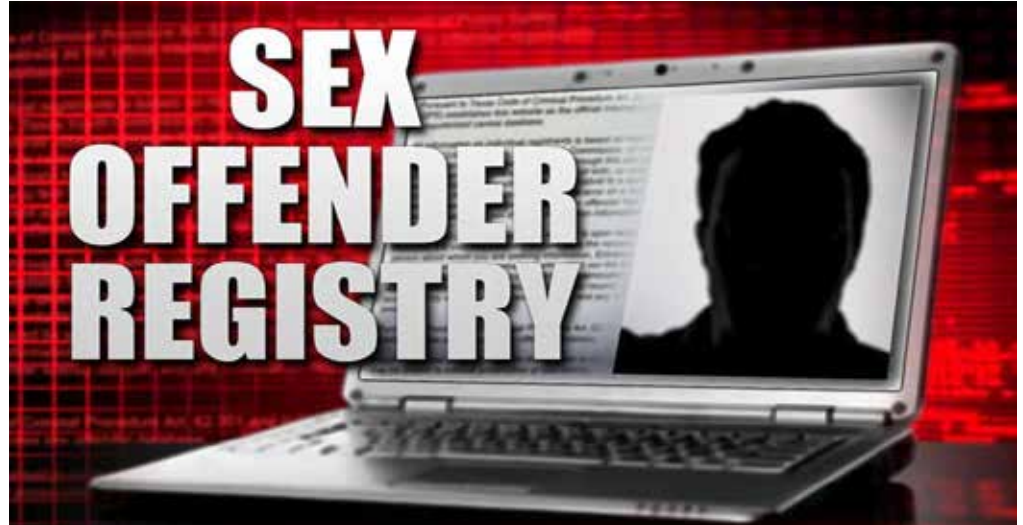
After months of discussions and public consultations the Sexual Offences Registry bill was passed in Parliament on Monday morning.

The Sex Offenders Registry Bill 2022 will allow the names of people convicted of sexual offences to be publicly listed along with other information like their date of birth, nationality, current home address and workplace.

This was done so that the public can be made aware that a sexual predator may be in their midst.

The bill was passed into law unanimously with both sides of the Lower House offering their support.

Sir Molwyn Joseph, member for St. Mary's North, was particularly fiery in expressing his passionate stance on the issue of sexual violence and the importance of the bill.



Sir Molwyn was adamant that the government must continue to lead the charge in the fight against sexual violence in the twin island nation.

"We must keep our girls, our women, our boys and our men safe", Joseph said.

He added that decisive action was

vital as, "if we don't do something people will take justice into their hands".

Other members of Parliament including MP for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, Leader of the Parliamentary Opposition, Jamale Pringle, and the MP for St. Mary's South, Samantha Marshall, all expressed similar sentiments.



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Trevor Walker moves private member bill to amend the Constitution

The Parliamentary Representative for Barbuda, Trevor Walker, has introduced a private member bill in the Lower House that will, among other things, attempt to do away with swearing an Oath of Allegiance to the United Kingdom's monarch.

Walker wants to have Section 1 (27) of the Constitution amended so that officers who are required to swear an Oath of Allegiance do so to the Constitution of Antigua and Barbuda rather than to the king or queen of England.

Currently, Oaths of Allegiance must be sworn by persons serving as governor general, prime minister, members of parliament, ombudsman, members of the Cabinet and parliamentary secretaries.

Members of the Public Service Commission and every person who becomes a citizen by registration must also swear an Oath of Allegiance.

"Since our independence in 1981, these individuals have sworn an Oath of Allegiance, not to the people of Antigua and Barbuda, but to a foreign monarch.

"As our nation prepares for our 41st anniversary of independence, I am of the view that we should all swear to our supreme



MP for Barbuda, Trevor Walker

law, our Constitution, and to our people," MP Walker declared. Walker also pledged his support to moving Antigua and Barbuda toward becoming a republic "when the time comes".

"The time has come for us to deal with that situation seriously and what we are doing today is the first step in our establishment of our Constitution as our supreme entity," he stated.

In response, Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin confirmed that Antigua and Barbuda would first have to become a republic to make the constitutional changes advanced by MP Walker.

Benjamin, who noted that he has sought the advice of several regional legal luminaries on the issue of parting ways with the monarchy and becoming a republic, said he expects a report on the matter shortly.

PM Browne: Parents should help reduce youth marijuana use

Prime Minister Gaston Browne wants parents to play a greater role in reducing marijuana use among their children.

Speaking in the House of Representatives on Monday as parliamentarians debated an amendment to the Medicinal Cannabis Act, the prime minister said a public education campaign is needed that will aim to heighten awareness and reduce the demand and use of marijuana among the nation's youth.

Rather than placing the responsibility for this campaign squarely on the shoulders of the government, Browne proffered that parents should shoulder some of the responsibility.

With regard to the presumed increase in marijuana use among young people, PM Browne cautioned against making assumptions that are not supported by empirical evidence.

"Let's not come to any



Prime Minister Gaston Browne (File photo)

premature conclusions about increased marijuana use," he advised.

The prime minister was responding to concerns raised by the Member of Parliament for St. Paul's, E. P. Chet Greene.

In his presentation, Greene said while there has been wide support for the government's move to develop a local medicinal cannabis industry, great concern still exists over the

perceived increase in marijuana use among young people.

According to Greene, people across the country have expressed the opinion to him in conversation that the government's moves to establish a medicinal cannabis industry and decriminalise the use of marijuana have given "a green light" to those desirous of using marijuana.

The St. Paul's MP rec-

ommended that the Cannabis Authority should spearhead the drive to launch a public education programme in which billboards, lectures and other means of communication are used to deliver the message concerning marijuana use to target audiences.

Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition, Jamale Pringle threw his full weight behind the move to amend the legislation.

"This is one of the fastest growing industries worldwide. While we tend to look at it from the standpoint of its recreational use, I commend the drafters of the bill for establishing a role for Antiguans and Barbudans to be major stakeholders in this industry.

"This has implications for the tourism industry, and I feel that given the opportunity, more nationals will participate in the industry," he said.

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Local News



Gov't recommit to advancing education as sod turned for improved ABICE

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has reiterated his government's commitment to the advancement of education as sod was turned for construction of the Harrison Centre Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE).

In May, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in London between the government of Antigua and Barbuda and British entrepreneur and philanthropist, David Harrison, for the construction of the facility at Tomlinson.

The new campus will be financed through grant funding of £4 million.

On Monday morning, Prime Minister Browne said



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and David Harrison, founder of the Harrison Centre for Social Mobility, along with Daryll S. Matthew, Minister of Education, conducted a site visit at the soon-to-be redeveloped Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) on Tuesday, 26th July 2022.

the centre, once operational, will serve as a conduit through which students will acquire academic and technical qualifications which

will allow them to compete in the global job market.

"When we say next level, it is not a cliché; the very construction of this modern facility is a next-level project and even the courses that will be offered, they will be internationally certified."

The prime minister appealed to ABICE's faculty to upgrade their own academic qualifications to avoid displacement once the centre is complete.

"The government of Antigua and Barbuda will extend scholarships for the faculty to upskill. We can-

not offer rudimentary training in the 21st century. We want to make sure that when the students leave this facility, that they can compete anywhere in the world.

"We're talking about ensuring global competitiveness," the prime minister said.

Browne expressed confidence that his government's investment in education will ensure that Antigua and Barbuda is "a significantly better place a decade from now".

Browne said the improvements being made at ABICE are part of his administration's plan to transform Antigua and Barbuda into an economic powerhouse.

"Our ambition is large and I do not want any Antiguan and Barbudan, no matter your circumstances, to limit your ambition.

cont'd on pg 8



Tue 25 Day		Tue 25 Night	
86°	24% ESE 14 mph	78°	24% ESE 12 mph
Mostly cloudy skies. High 86F. Winds ESE at 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy skies. Low 78F. Winds ESE at 10 to 15 mph.	
Humidity 78%	UV Index 9 of 10	Humidity 84%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:03 am	Sunset 5:39 pm	Moonrise 6:05 am	Moonset 5:57 pm
		● New Moon	

ABN, ANR operators in hot water for defying High Court order

The operators of Antigua Newsroom and Antigua Breaking News have fallen afoul of High Court Justice Colin Williams who has summoned them to appear before him.

On 7th October, 2022, the media houses are said to have published an article which contained privileged information concerning the Mikhail Gomes murder trial.

This information was published by

the online news outlets despite an order given by Justice Williams that forbade the media from doing so.

Pointe Xpress can confirm that the offending article was still published on the Antigua Newsroom website up to the time of the publication of this edition of the paper on 25th October, 2022.

Gomes' trial was set to commence on 4th October, 2022, however it was



abruptly adjourned that same day without explanation.

Gomes is accused of killing his former girlfriend Vincia James in 2018.

James' body has never been found.

cont'd from pg 7

"There are many who will continue to scoff at the idea of transforming Antigua and Barbuda into an economic powerhouse and that is because they have limited their own ambition and they do not have any further ambition for future generations.

"I want to make sure that we set the platform now so that future generations can benefit [from] the work we would have done, and that we will have citizens and residents who are globally competitive, who can compete with the best in the world," the prime minister asserted.

During the sod turning ceremony, Minister of Education and Sports, Darryll Matthew, said the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party-led government will spare no effort in meeting the needs of those seeking technical and vocational training as education plays a critical role in the development of a nation.

"As a nation that is now

41 years old, it is incumbent upon us as leaders to close that circle of education, and as all of you will know, ed-

ucation is one of those pillars upon which the growth of any country stands, and it is one of the most effec-

tive ways for reducing and eliminating poverty in any country," Minister Matthew pointed out.



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Local News

More donations for Nelvie N. Gore Primary School

The family of the late calypso icon, Rupert "Mighty Swallow" Philo, fulfilled one of his dying wishes when they presented new steel drums to the Nelvie N. Gore Primary School in Willikies.

Family member, Randy Baltimore, said the instruments were purchased by Philo in Trinidad and Tobago before his death in September, 2020, but due to his poor health at the time, the presentation was delayed.

Two years later, Sir Rupert's family is fulfilling the calypso master's final wishes.

"The pans constitute all the pieces needed to start a full steel band with the various drums and a drum set.

"The pans have been in Antigua for some time, and we lost some be-

cause they were exposed to the elements," Baltimore explained, adding that the pans were cleaned up ahead of the presentation to the school.

Attending the handing over ceremony were MP for St. Phillip's North, Sir Robin Yearwood, Senator Shawn Nicholas, Nelvie N. Gore Primary School alumnus, Ministry of Education representative, Marion Byron, members of the Philo family and well-wishers.

Vernon "Solo" Benjamin, a managing member of Swallow's Calypso Pepperpot which was founded by Sir Rupert, represented the calypso fraternity at the presentation.

Principal of the school, Allison Spencer, accepted the steel drums on behalf of the school.



Randy Baltimore and other members of Sir Rupert "King Swallow" Philo's family presenting steel drums to the Nelvie N. Gore Primary School

BOI BANK CORPORATION		
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AT DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020 (Expressed in United States Dollars)		
	2021	2020
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents, net (Note 7, 23, 27)	32,998,312	33,412,613
Loans, net (Note 8, 23, 26, 27)	5,320,322	6,338,292
Investment securities, net (Note 9, 23, 26)	1,195,034,155	1,204,511,789
Restricted deposits with banks, net (Note 10)	5,964,630	5,964,630
	<u>1,239,317,419</u>	<u>1,250,227,324</u>
Other assets		
Asset by right of use, net (Note 11)	111,829	152,494
Other assets (Note 12)	107,509	149,116
	<u>219,338</u>	<u>301,610</u>
Total Assets	<u>1,239,536,757</u>	<u>1,250,528,934</u>
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY		
LIABILITIES		
Due to depositors (Note 13, 23, 27)	869,178,690	881,674,005
Borrowings (Note 15, 23, 27)	211,554	250,781
	<u>869,390,244</u>	<u>881,924,786</u>
Other liabilities		
Customer deposits pending of document (Note 16)	3,622,238	3,821,332
Other liabilities (Note 17, 27)	4,097,903	2,320,284
	<u>7,720,141</u>	<u>6,141,616</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>877,110,385</u>	<u>888,066,402</u>
EQUITY		
Common stock (Note 18)	5,000,000	5,000,000
Legal reserve (Note 19)	5,500,000	5,500,000
Fair value reserve	(3,398,126)	23,593,076
Retained earnings	355,324,498	328,369,456
Total Equity	<u>362,426,372</u>	<u>362,462,532</u>
Total Liabilities and Equity	<u>1,239,536,757</u>	<u>1,250,528,934</u>

*Approved by the Board of Directors on 10/10/2022 and signed on its behalf by:

Director

Director

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

5

BOI BANK CORPORATION		
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021 AND 2020 (Expressed in United States Dollars)		
	2021	2020
INTEREST INCOME		
Securities	46,687,838	44,111,331
Loans	312,067	512,483
Due from banks	6	1,910
Total interest income	<u>46,999,911</u>	<u>44,625,724</u>
INTEREST EXPENSES		
Deposits	(23,798,324)	(24,647,027)
Borrowings (Note 15)	(17,036)	(24,138)
Securities sold under repurchase agreements		(360,754)
Total interest expenses	<u>(23,815,360)</u>	<u>(25,031,919)</u>
Net interest income	<u>23,184,551</u>	<u>19,593,805</u>
IMPAIRMENT ON AVAILABLE FOR SALE SECURITIES		
Provision for deposits	617	(479)
Income recovery (provision for loan losses)	22,835	213,394
Income recovery (provision for losses on securities held until maturity)	(846,962)	(1,873,232)
Provision for investments at FVOCI	740,365	(2,050,890)
Net interest income (loss) after impairment loss on financial assets	<u>23,101,406</u>	<u>15,882,598</u>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)		
Net realized gain on sale of investment at FVOCI (Note 8)	1,808,632	10,167,760
Gain (loss) on foreign currency exchange	6,822,792	(7,567,197)
Commissions from banking services	448,117	134,684
Commissions expense	(64,474)	(94,936)
Total other income (expenses)	<u>9,015,067</u>	<u>2,640,311</u>
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES		
Salaries and other benefits	(293,471)	(317,791)
Depreciation and Amortization (Note 12)	(39,337)	(51,406)
Other operating expenses (Note 20, 21)	(4,227,500)	(4,861,614)
Total general and administrative expenses	<u>(4,560,308)</u>	<u>(5,230,811)</u>
Net income before tax	<u>27,556,165</u>	<u>13,292,098</u>
Tax on profits (Note 22)	<u>(601,123)</u>	<u>(315,845)</u>
Net income for the year ended	<u>26,955,042</u>	<u>12,976,253</u>
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME (LOSS)		
Items that are or may be reclassified to the statements of income		
Fair value reserve:		
Debt investment - Net change in fair value	(25,182,570)	10,673,136
Debt investment - Net amount transferred to profit or loss	(1,808,632)	(10,167,760)
Other comprehensive income (loss) for the year	<u>(26,991,202)</u>	<u>505,376</u>
Total comprehensive income	<u>(36,160)</u>	<u>13,481,629</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements

6

The bosses who silently nudge out workers

By Alex Christian

Employers are often reluctant to fire employees for myriad reasons. But quietly side-lining them in the hope that they'll quit often leads to even greater harm.

When marketing manager Eliza returned from holiday, she received an email from her boss asking her to arrive at work early the next day. "I instantly feared the worst," she explains. "I knew the job wasn't the best fit. I'd had my probation previously extended; there was an expectation of week-end working and post-work drinking that didn't suit me. I thought he'd used my time off as an opportunity to fire



me."

However, when Eliza arrived at her boss's office, she wasn't immediately let go. Instead, she was in-

formed of a company restructure – her job description was being completely rewritten. Someone else would take over her tasks,

and she would be expected to work remotely in a new admin role.

In the weeks that fol-
cont'd on pg 10



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Workplace

cont'd from pg 9

lowed, Eliza's professional life became much quieter. Instead of formulating the London-based events agency's marketing strategy from the office or attending live shows as part of her remit, her main duties now consisted of simply being available between 0900 and 1800, sending the occasional email and completing the odd routine task from home.

Eliza had effectively been frozen out by her employer. Barely a month later, she quit. "It was humiliating – I was made to feel worthless," she says. "It was the worst experience of

my career: I'd rather have been just fired on the spot and paid off than have to go through that."

There may not always be a good fit between jobs and the workers hired to do them. In these cases, companies and bosses may decide they want the worker to depart. Some may go through formal channels to show employees the door, but others may do what Eliza's boss did – behave in such a way that the employee chooses to walk away. Methods may vary; bosses may marginalise workers, make their lives difficult or even set them up to fail.

This can take place over weeks, but also months and years. Either way, the objective is the same: to show the worker they don't have a future with the company and encourage them to leave.

In overt cases, this is known as 'constructive dismissal': when an employee is forced to leave because the employer created a hostile work environment. The more subtle phenomenon of nudging employees slowly but surely out of the door has recently been dubbed 'quiet firing' (the apparent flipside to 'quiet quitting', where employees do their job, but no more). Rather

than lay off workers, employers choose to be indirect and avoid conflict. But in doing so, they often unintentionally create even greater harm.

The path of least resistance

For myriad reasons, bosses have long tried to nudge workers they perceive as underperforming or being a bad cultural fit out the door. "This has been happening in workplaces for decades," says Christopher Kayes, professor of management at the George Washington University School of Business, based in Washington, DC.

The reasons for this are complex. If workers behave in ways that violate their contracts, for example, companies can terminate their employment. But if bosses simply dislike workers, or see them as middling or mediocre performers, taking action to remove them is more complicated, often requiring lengthy processes involving performance management programmes and multiple warnings.

"Companies are usually reluctant to let a worker go," says Kayes. Firing leads to an "immediate sense of sides being created" which, at worst, can land the company in court if the worker contests it, potentially generating negative headlines about the working environment. "It's often easier to simply let the underperforming employee stay in the job than to go through

cont'd on pg 12



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Workplace



cont'd from pg 10

the process of firing and potential litigation.”

Employers often don't want to expose themselves to risk or conflict, adds Suzanne Horne, partner in employment law at legal firm Paul Hastings, based in London. “Subtly encouraging someone to leave is seen as the easier option. If the employee eventually resigns, it's the ‘no-fault approach’: severance doesn't need to be paid, conflict is avoided and both parties are ultimately happy.”

Managing perceived poor performance, working with the employee to

improve their output and turning them into a useful resource for the company would be an alternative way to deal with the problem. However, Kayes says bosses are often ill-equipped to do this, whether through a lack of time or training. “Organisations tend to be bad at preparing leaders to take on the responsibilities they'll need in the job. So, they often find themselves without the resources they need to be effective and deal with employee underperformance.”

In this situation, with firing seen as a last resort and managers unable – or

unwilling – to turn the employee into what they want them to be, they often follow the path of least resistance: quiet firing. “Much of it is ultimately an avoidance behaviour and comes down to procrastination: managers in most cases are wanting to avoid having difficult conversations,” points out Kayes. “Ironically, they worry that firing a worker will reflect poorly on them, so they quietly fire them instead.”

Why it often backfires

By engaging in quiet-firing behaviours, managers are likely to be playing the long game. In theory, it's

low risk and minimal effort; the hope is that by withdrawing support, the worker soon realises they don't have a future at the company and moves elsewhere.

However, this approach can have collateral damage. The tactic means firms and managers can end up saddled with workers they don't want, leading to managers engaging in behaviours often seen as passive-aggressive, says Kayes. “You stop offering the employee opportunities to advance; you stop inviting them to certain meetings; you stop providing them important work and feedback.”

There is also the risk of creating an ‘us and them’ mentality, potentially harming workers not targeted for quiet firing. “You have the engaged employees, and then those just quietly left there, sometimes without their knowledge,” says Horne. “It doesn't create an inclusive or high-performance workplace culture.”

Quiet firing can affect a firm's reputation, too, even if a worker departs without apparent conflict; employees may well share their experience in an online review. “There's a greater awareness of employment rights today,” says Horne. “People are now more willing to call out workplace issues, especially following the pandemic.”

An employee subtly nudged out the door isn't without legal recourse, either. “If you were to look

cont'd on pg 11

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Workplace

cont'd from pg 12

at each individual aspect of quiet firing, there's likely nothing serious enough to prove an employer breach of contract," says Horne.

"However, there's the last-straw doctrine: one final act by the employer which, when added together with past behaviours, can be asserted as constructive dismissal by the employee."

More immediate though, is the mental-health cost to the worker deemed to be expendable by the employer – but who is never directly informed. "The psychological toll of quiet firing creates a sense of rejection and of being an outcast from their work group. That can have a huge negative impact on a person's wellbeing," says Kayes.

Eliza agrees. "I was made to feel worthless and useless being quietly fired," she says. Now happily employed elsewhere, she's realised that her experience "was a reflection of having a terrible boss, rather than me". But other people who experience quiet firing over the longer term, in more insidious ways, may not see things so clearly.

"Over time, an employee may figure out something isn't right if their one-to-one meetings are always cancelled, their manager never makes time to talk about development and performance or they're always overlooked for promotion," says Horne. "They face a daily drip feed of their employer trying to make them resign

– it's absolutely grueling." 'A self-fulfilling prophecy'

Quiet firing may be the easiest option on the table for bosses – especially in a remote-work world, where excluding employees is even easier – but it's not a good solution for firms or workers.

"Employers can end up damaging their business's morale, productivity and culture while risking litigation proceedings anyway," says Horne. "For employees, there's a mental-health impact of feeling excluded, frustrated or angry. They

can lose their confidence and it becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy: their performance declines even further."

Fixing it requires better-resourced managers, greater HR support and the acceptance that workplace confrontation is sometimes best. However, the time and cost needed to educate managers on how to better motivate employees and deal with difficult situations means that, realistically, quiet firing may be here to stay. "Training is expensive," says Kayes. "It takes huge investment and

requires leaders to be open to it; an acceptance that they need to ask themselves hard questions.

Human psychology plays its part, too. Ultimately, quiet firing is the avoidance of difficult emotions.

"There can be the implication that the manager is being nasty or manipulative when they quietly fire an employee, but there is a person on either side of the table," says Horne.

"And people generally like to avoid hard conversations."

Eliza is using one name for career-security reasons



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Business



Barbados glow in the dark coin wins award

A limited edition glow-in-the-dark coin printed by the Central Bank of Barbados, has won an award for the best new commemorative or test circulating coin for 2022.

The International Association of Currency Affairs (IACA) made the recent announcement during the 2022 Excellence in Currency Awards for Coins which formed part of the Coin Conference in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

The Bank issued the \$1 coin in December 2020 as a tribute to the island's essen-

tial workers on the frontline during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It features the same design as the regular \$1 coin but the flying fish is painted light blue.

That paint contains a special property that absorbs energy from the sun or other light. In a dark setting, if it has absorbed enough energy, the coin will glow.

Made by the Royal Canadian Mint, it was the first glow-in-the-dark circulation coin to be issued in the Caribbean.



Octavia Gibson, Director of the Central Bank of Barbados' Currency & Payments Oversight Department, was present to receive the award.

"This is a significant

honour for us here at the Bank.

"We're happy that our commemorative coin has been recognized on the international stage by a highly-regarded organisation, IACA. I'm proud that I can bring this award back home to the people of Barbados, especially those front-line workers for whom it was designed," she said.

Other finalists in the Best New Commemorative or Test Circulating Coin category included the South African Mint and South African Reserve Bank (SARB) with their 5 Rand Coin which celebrates the centenary of SARB and Monnaie de Paris with the Silver €100 which commemorates the 20-year anniversary of the Euro.

The judges assessed the entries on the basis of innovation, uniqueness of features, integration of features, and how effectively the coin highlights a significant event.

The Central Bank and the Royal Canadian mint are the producers of the winning coin. (CMC)

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Belize: Opposition's Shyne confident of defeating moves to oust him

CMC - Opposition Leader, Shyne Barrow, says he is confident of withstanding efforts to oust him as leader of the main opposition United Democratic Party (UDP) and is also pointing an accusing finger at some "forces" within the ruling People's United Party (PUP).

Last weekend, a group of disgruntled UDP members, including the party's vice chairman, Alberto August, announced plans for a recall convention to discuss the removal of Barrow, who became leader in March this year at a leadership convention, amassing 256 votes as against 253 for his closest rival, Tracy Panton.

August has presented documents containing the signatures of party members urging the recall convention and party officials said the petitions will be vetted before a decision is announced on the way forward regarding the fate of the convention.

"When this recall is triggered, we are hoping that nothing gets nasty. The UDP has gone through enough and so we will be meeting privately with the delegates and seeking to campaign with them. That's about it," said August.

Asked to explain what



Belize's Opposition Leader Shyne Barrow

has brought about the need to recall Barrow, the UDP vice chairman said "we, we don't want to go down this road.

"Like I said, the UDP has been through too much. We have triggered the constitutional requirements of the party in terms of the recall of the party leader and that is what we are doing. We are leaving it at that.

"We are not here to badmouth the party leader, to badmouth anybody in the party, we are just simply fulfilling Article 7 of our party's constitution. We move from there. The next step, like I said, we are go-

ing privately to speak with the delegates and campaign and we hope that the next side does the same thing," August added.

Media reports here said that Barrow, a former rapper, has come under much criticism for his style of leadership, but has brushed aside such criticisms pointing to the work he has done since coming to office six months ago.

"In six months, I set a schedule for standard bearers conventions, for delegates conventions, everything that I have promised, I have kept my word. So, if you have to lie to people to

get them to sign a petition against me, that's sad," Barrow told reporters.

"But this is politics, we will continue forward. We have a plan, before this happened we had conventions scheduled for the delegates, the standard bearers. We have a constitution reform committee to look at our constitution and to amend it. We have a membership drive to engage our current membership and to hopefully attract new members. We have work to do."

He said he would not rule out parliamentarians within the ruling PUP being in collusion to implement the plan to oust him.

"There are external forces, in my view, PUP special interests, who, in their vested desire to have a destabilised, divided UDP, will translate into a victory for the PUP in the next general elections and that is what this is all about.

"And so, what do you do? You play on the selfish desires of people, you play on their ambitions, you play on their desperation and that is what has resulted in our current situation where six months ago I won the election," Barrow said, adding that he was chosen after all stakeholders had campaigned for the position.

Regional News



T&T police launch probe into murder of four people, including a toddler

CMC - Trinidad and Tobago police are appealing for the public's assistance as they probe the shooting deaths of four people, including a three-year boy, gunned down in Diego Martin, west of Trinidad, as they were returning from a wedding on Sunday.

"If there is CCTV footage we will use it, witnesses will be interviewed, thorough investigations are underway, and once again I am appealing to anyone who has information that can

lead to the capture and arrest of these murderers, we need you to come forward," said acting Police Commissioner, McDonald Jacob.

He urged persons to put aside their "erroneous rhetoric about not being able to trust the police" and help solve the shootings of 27-year-old Chelsea Julien, her boyfriend Akeil Keron Gloster, their 22-year-old friend Marcus "Markie" Noel, 31-year-old Nicholas "Calke Boss" Owen, his girlfriend Khadija Vilbara



and their three-year-old son Nizam.

Police said they were ambushed by gunmen as they drove in a vehicle with Jacob urging eyewitnesses not to "sit on information that can help not only a family, but all of us, to heal from this attack that affects everyone.

"If we want light to prevail, then we must do what is right, when you see something, please say something to the police," he added, offering condolences to the victim's families and providing counselling from the police's Victim and Witness Support Unit.

"I do not want to just offer condolences and counselling from our Victim and Witness Support Unit, I strongly wish to offer timely justice for those who were slain," he added.

CCTV footage of the shooting, which was subsequently shared on social media, showed the gun-

men, who are suspected to have followed the vehicle in which those were killed, shooting as they were overtaking the car causing it to veer left off the road and crash into a wall.

Julien, Gloster and Noel died at the scene, while residents took Owen, Vilbara and their son to the St James Medical Facility for treatment, where the toddler was pronounced dead on arrival.

In 2007, Gloster with several others were charged with the kidnapping and murder of former Xtra Foods chief executive Vindra Naipaul-Coolman.

But the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) opted to discontinue the prosecution of Gloster and some of the others were eventually freed at the conclusion of their trial in 2016. However, two other persons are still facing a retrial.

So far this year, 487 people have been murdered.

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Haiti Hospitals grappling with oxygen shortage - patients at risk

CMC - One of the main hospitals in Port-au-Prince Haiti, the General Hospital, is currently facing a shortage of oxygen and there are fears of the worst for the lives of the patients who depend on it.

According to hospital officials, the institution's oxygen supplier has warned that it will soon be unable to supply oxygen, as essential production equipment is blocked at Port Laftéau.

The hospital still has a maximum reserve of one to two weeks for the survival



of its patients.


Other hospitals are also affected by the lack of oxygen, but this has been attributed to the lack of fuel.


However, the situation at private hospitals is different – according to the director of the Development of Health Activities in Haiti

(DASH), Dr. Ronald Laroche the network is not affected by the lack of fuel as the essential infrastructures are running on solar energy.


Criminal gangs have been blocking access to the main fuel terminal in the capital Port-au-Prince, bringing critical services to a standstill, as Haiti grapples with a widening cholera epidemic, amid political and economic meltdown.

The UN said “catastrophic” levels of hunger have been recorded this *cont'd on pg 18*


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Regional News



Mottley urges BLP supporters not to intervene in court case against former deputy speaker Neil Rowe

CMC - Prime Minister Mia Mottley says she has “every confidence in the independence and the integrity of the Barbados Police Force,” as government legislator Neil Rowe is due to appear in court on Monday on rape-related charges.

Police on Sunday confirmed that the former deputy speaker of the House of Assembly, is expected to appear in the Oistins Magistrate’s Court on Monday after being charged with rape.

Police public relations officer, Acting Inspector Rodney Innis said Rowe had been in police custody for the past day being investigated on sexual assault allegations, and had indeed been charged with rape.

Mottley in an address to her ruling Barbados Labour Party (BLP) on Sunday told supporters “we are a family and as brothers and sisters, we are there for each other in good times and in bad times.”

She said Rowe has had a very serious accusation



Prime Minister Mia Mottley

levelled against him and consistent with the provisions of the law, he has been charged and is set to appear in court.

“I have been both a member of the Bar of this country and I have been a parliamentarian for almost 30 years, long enough to know and to respect the spirit and the intent of the Constitution of Barbados, which provides unequivocally for the separation of powers.

“It is not our place to intervene in the process of

justice, but rather to secure the integrity of the critical institutions that preserve the rights of the individual in this country. And to ensure law, order, and indeed good governance in Barbados.”

Mottley said the situation is not easy for the persons involved, saying “but as a responsible political party, we must acknowledge the rights of each of them.

“I would urge that as mature people, we respect the privacy of all concerned and behave responsibly, par-

ticularly as it relates to the predictable social media onslaught that regrettably has already started against both persons.

“I have every confidence in the independence and the integrity of the Barbados Police Service. I have every confidence in the independence and integrity of our judiciary. And I ask, therefore, that we do not rush to judgement but permit a process, a due process that has been around for many centuries to work and to run its course,” she added.

Earlier, during the three-day BLP convention, Mia Mottley said the member of parliament for St. Thomas, Cynthia Forde, will be nominated for the position of deputy speaker in the House of Assembly on Tuesday, replacing Rowe.

cont'd from pg 17

month for the first time, in the gang-controlled Cité Soleil neighbourhood, and 4.7 million people are facing acute hunger, with many losing access to jobs, markets, health, and nutrition services.

The United Nations Security Council Friday unanimously approved a sanctions regime for Haiti, targeting gang leaders and those who finance them, in the hope of

easing months of violence and lawlessness which has fueled a major humanitarian crisis.

The UN said Resolution 2653, drafted by the United States and Mexico, is the first sanctions regime adopted since that of Mali, just over five years ago. It establishes a committee that will be responsible for designating the individuals and entities to be sanctioned.

Rishi Sunak, UK's next PM, faces major economic problems

AP - Former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak is set to become Britain's first prime minister of colour after being chosen Monday to lead a governing Conservative Party desperate for a safe pair of hands to guide the country through economic and political turbulence.

The challenges facing the U.K.'s third prime minister this year are enormous: He must try to shore up an economy sliding toward recession and reeling after his predecessor's brief, disastrous experiment in libertarian economics, while also attempting to unite a demoralised and divided party that trails far behind the opposition in opinion polls.

In his first public statement, Sunak said "the United Kingdom is a great country, but there is no doubt we face a profound economic challenge."

"We now need stability and unity, and I will make it my utmost priority to bring our party and our country together," said Sunak, who at 42 is Britain's youngest prime minister in 200 years.

Sunak will be the first British prime minister with South Asian roots and its first Hindu leader — a milestone for a country with an extensive colonial past, and one that is still contested.

Elected party leader on the major Hindu festival of Diwali, Sunak takes over from Liz Truss, who quit last week after 45 tumultuous days in office. His only remaining rival, Penny Mordaunt, conceded and withdrew after failing to reach the nomination threshold of 100 Conservative lawmakers needed to stay in the race.

Sunak will now be asked by King Charles III to form a government and become the prime minister in a hand-



Rishi Sunak, centre, waves after winning the Conservative Party leadership contest at the Conservative party Headquarters in London, Monday, Oct. 24, 2022. Former British Treasury chief Rishi Sunak is frontrunner in the Conservative Party's race to replace Liz Truss as prime minister. (AP Photo/Aberto Pezzali)

ver of power from Truss on Tuesday.

Victory is vindication for Sunak, who lost out to Truss in the Conservative election to replace former Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the summer when party members chose her tax-cutting boosterism over his warnings that inflation must be tamed.

Truss conceded last week that she could not deliver on her plans — but only after her attempts triggered market chaos and worsened inflation at a time when millions of Britons were already struggling with soaring borrowing costs and rising energy and food prices.

The party is now desperate for someone to right the ship after months of chaos — both during Truss' short term and at the end of Johnson's.

As finance minister, Sunak steered the economy through the coronavirus pandemic, winning praise for his financial support for laid-off workers and shuttered businesses.

He now faces the huge challenge of calming markets and trying to tame inflation at a time of weakened government finances, a worsening economic outlook and a wave of strikes. Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt, appointed by Truss 10 days ago, is due to make an emergency budget statement Oct. 31 — if Sunak keeps him in the job.

Britain also faces broader economic problems stemming from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the country's exit from the European Union in 2020. Sunak was a firm supporter of Brexit.

Sunak was cheered wildly by Conservative lawmakers during a packed private meeting in Parliament minutes after he won the contest on Monday.

Former Cabinet minister Chris Grayling said Sunak had urged the party "to unite and fix the problems the country faces" and had got "a rapturous reception."

cont'd on pg 20

Iran will not remain indifferent if proven Russia using its drones in Ukraine - official

Reuters - Iran will not remain indifferent if it is proven that its drones are being used by Russia in the Ukraine war, the Iranian foreign minister said on Monday, amid allegations the Islamic Republic has supplied drones to Moscow to attack Ukraine.

"If it is proven to us that Iranian drones are being used in the Ukraine war against people, we should not remain indifferent," state media cited Hossein Amirabdollahian as saying.

However, Amirabdolla-

hian said defence cooperation between Tehran and Moscow will continue.

Britain, France and Germany on Friday called for a United Nations probe of accusations Russia has used Iranian-origin drones to attack Ukraine, allegedly violating a U.N. Security Council resolution.

Citing diplomats and officials, Reuters reported last week that in addition to more drones, Iran had promised to provide Russia with surface-to-surface missiles.



Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian speaks during a news conference in Ankara, Turkey June 27, 2022. REUTERS/Cagla Gurdogan

cont'd from pg 19

Theresa Coffey, who was Truss' deputy prime minister, said the whole party should support Sunak now.

"We need to get behind him," she said.

But Sunak still faces resentment from supporters of Johnson for quitting the government in July, a move that helped topple the then-leader. His background as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs and his wife's vast wealth — she is the daughter of an Indian billionaire — also fuel a sense he is out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people.

He takes the reins after Truss' proposal for aggressive tax cuts that would be paid for through government borrowing pummelled the value of the pound, drove up the cost of government borrowing and home mortgages, and forced emergency Bank of England intervention. Truss executed a series of U-turns and re-

placed her Treasury chief but faced rebellion from lawmakers in her party that obliterated her authority.

In the lightning-quick contest to replace her, Sunak's position strengthened after Johnson dramatically quit the race on Sunday night, ending a short-lived, high-profile attempt to return to the prime minister's job he was ousted from little more than three months ago amid ethics scandals.

The prospect of a return by Johnson had thrown the already divided Conservative Party into further turmoil.

He led the party to a thumping election victory in 2019, but his premiership was clouded by scandals over money and ethics that eventually became too much for the party to bear.

He threw in the towel late Sunday despite insisting he was "well placed to deliver a Conservative victory" in the next national election.

The Conservative Party turmoil is

fueling demands for a national election. Under Britain's parliamentary system, there does not need to be one until the end of 2024, though the government has the power to call one sooner.

Currently that looks unlikely. Opinion polls say an election would spell disaster for the Conservatives, with the left-of-centre Labour Party winning a large majority.

Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, said the Conservative Party is "not out of the woods yet" even after choosing Sunak.

"And certainly I think voters, while possibly they may give Rishi Sunak a little bit of a bounce, a little bit of credit for not being Liz Truss, are certainly out of love with the Conservative Party as a whole," he said. "So I don't expect this to make an enormous amount of difference to the opinion polls."

Russian TV presenter says sorry but faces probe for call to drown Ukrainian children

Reuters- A Russian TV presenter apologised on Monday for calling for Ukrainian children to be drowned, as Russia's state Investigative Committee said it was probing his remarks.

In a show last week on state-controlled broadcaster RT, presenter Anton Krasovsky said Ukrainian children who saw Russians as occupiers under the Soviet Union should have been "thrown straight into a river with a strong current" and drowned.

Ukraine said on Sunday that RT was an inciter of genocide and should be banned worldwide. Margarita Simonyan, the channel's editor-in-chief, said she had suspended Krasovsky because of his "disgusting" comments, adding that no



Journalist Anton Krasovsky attends a session of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) in Saint Petersburg, Russia June 16, 2022. REUTERS/Maxim Shemetov

one at RT shared his views.

Krasovsky said in a social media post he was "really embarrassed".

"Well, it happens: you're on air, you get carried away. And you can't stop. I ask for the forgiveness of everyone who was stunned by this," he said.

'SHARP STATE-

MENTS'

State television, heavily controlled by the Kremlin, has been a vocal cheerleader of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, often calling on President Vladimir Putin to take an even more aggressive approach to the war. But Krasovsky's comments appeared to have crossed a

line for the authorities.

The Investigative Committee, which handles serious crimes, said it had been asked to look into his "sharp statements" and had ordered a report.

Krasovsky is a pro-war commentator on Russian television who has been sanctioned by the European Union. In last week's show, he also talked about shoving children into huts and burning them, and joked about the rape of Ukrainian women.

"Governments which have still not banned RT must watch this excerpt," Ukraine's Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said on Twitter, linking to a clip of the interview. He said Ukraine would put Krasovsky on trial for "aggressive genocide incitement".

Myanmar crisis: 50 killed in air raid on Kachin rebels, reports say

BBC - An air raid targeting one of Myanmar's biggest ethnic insurgent groups has killed at least 50 people and injured about 100, reports say.

The death toll was given to the BBC by Colonel Naw Bu, spokesman of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA).

Eyewitnesses in Kachin State, northern Myanmar, say aircraft dropped three bombs on a concert organised by the KIA in Kansi village.

Villagers said there was no warning before the raid.

The concert in Kansi was to mark

the 62nd anniversary of the rebel army's campaign for autonomy.

Witnesses reported three huge explosions at around 20:30 (14:00 GMT) local time on Sunday. They ripped apart the cluster of buildings at the base and caused heavy casualties in the audience.

Among those killed are believed to be four popular Kachin singers. Eyewitnesses say the military blocked medics trying to move the injured to the nearby town of Hpakant, which has a hospital.

This part of Kachin State has been

fiercely contested for many years by the military and Kachin insurgents because of its jade mines, which are thought to be worth around \$30bn (£27bn) a year.

There has been frequent fighting there before and after the military coup last year, which deposed the civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi.

This attack may be retribution, or a warning, from the military, over the support the Kachin insurgents have been giving to other armed groups in Myanmar formed to resist the coup.

West Indies players returning home for CG United Super50

The West Indies Men's T20 team have departed Australia to head back to the region, following the team's exit from the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022.

The return of the international players will coincide with the start of the CG United Super50 Cup, the annual regional List A tournament, with their inclusions to be confirmed this week in their respective regional squads for the upcoming event.

The players will now be available for the tournament upon their return to the Caribbean on 25 October, whilst some of the Test Players will remain in Melbourne to prepare for the upcoming Test Series against Australia. This year's CG United Super 50 Cup will

feature eight teams – the traditional six franchises who will be joined by the West Indies Academy and Combined Campuses & Colleges (CCC) teams.

The event will bowl off in Antigua on Saturday 29 October, with a match between the Leeward Islands and the West Indies Academy at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium (SVRS). Defending champions Trinidad & Tobago Red Force open their campaign on 31 October against CCC at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy (BLCA). The final will be played on Saturday 19 November at the SVRS. The other two venues for the tournament are the Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua; along with the Queen's Park Oval (QPO) in Trinidad.

The CG United Super50 tournament will showcase the traditional rivalries with players throughout the region eager to prove themselves in the List A format, with spots in the West Indies ODI set-up for next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup up for grabs.

Overseas broadcast partners for the CG United Super50 Cup are ESPN+ (USA), BT Sport (UK & Ireland), FanCode (India), SuperSport (Sub-Saharan Africa) and Sky NZ (New Zealand). Additionally, LIVE ball-by-ball scoring for all twenty-seven (27) CG United Super50 Cup matches will be available on the www.windiescricket.com Match Centre.

Due to the returning T20 World Cup contingent, CWI will allow larger squads from the originally stipulated 14 players. However, this will only be applicable for the period prior to the departure of the West Indies Test team on 8 November when the franchises must revert to 14 players only.

The West Indies next international assignment is a two-match Test Series in Australia, with the squad set to be announced this week. The first Test will be at the Perth Stadium (30 November to 4 December) and the second, a pink ball day-night contest at the Adelaide Oval (8-12 December), for the Frank Worrell Trophy.

This series will form part of the ICC World Test Championship with important points up for grabs. The West Indies are sixth in the current standings, while Australia tops the table. West Indies have won both their Test series so far this year – a 1-0 series win against England at home in March to capture the Richards-Botham trophy, followed by a 2-0 series sweep against Bangladesh on home soil in June.



Spanish man trekking to World Cup reported missing in Iran

AP— A Spanish man who was documenting his ambitious journey by foot from Madrid to Doha for the 2022 FIFA World Cup has not been heard from since crossing into Iran three weeks ago, his family said Monday, stirring fears about his fate in a country convulsed by mass unrest.

The experienced trekker, former paratrooper and fervent soccer fan, 41-year-old Santiago Sánchez, was last seen in Iraq after hiking through 15 countries and extensively sharing his journey on a popular Instagram account over the last nine months. But his exuberant posts stopped suddenly on Oct. 1, the day he entered Iran from the country's volatile northwestern border.

Sánchez's family says his daily WhatsApp updates stopped that day as well. Weeks later, they fear the worst.

"We are deeply worried, we can't stop crying, my husband and I," his mother, Celia Cogedor, told The Associated Press.

Sánchez's parents have reported him as missing to Spain's national police and the Foreign Ministry.

But Spanish authorities say they have no information about his whereabouts, adding that the Spanish ambassador to Tehran was handling the matter.

Calls to the Iranian Foreign Ministry seeking comment were not immediately returned on Monday.

Sánchez's reported disappearance in Iran — his last stop before reaching Qatar for the World Cup — comes as protesters rise up across the Islamic Republic in the largest antigovernment movement in over a decade.

The demonstrations erupted on Sept. 16 over the death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old woman taken into custody by Iran's morality police for



Santiago Sánchez, documenting his travel by foot from Madrid to Doha for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, speaks to The Associated Press on a street, in Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, Sept. 28, 2022. (AP Photo)

allegedly not adhering to the country's strict Islamic dress code.

Tehran has violently cracked down and blamed foreign enemies and Kurdish groups in Iraq for fomenting the unrest, without offering evidence. The Iranian Intelligence Ministry said authorities had arrested nine foreigners, mostly Europeans, over their alleged links to the protests last month.

Westerners and dual nationals have increasingly become pawns in Iran's internal political struggles and in tensions between Tehran and Western capitals, analysts say, with at least a dozen dual nationals arrested in recent years on disputed spying charges.

Sánchez arrived in Iraqi Kurdistan in late September, after trekking thousands of kilometres (miles) carrying a small suitcase in a wheeled cart, packed with little more than a tent, water purification tablets and a gas stove for his 11 months on the road. He said he wanted to learn how others lived by living among them before reaching Qatar, the first World Cup host country in the Arab world, in time for Spain's first match on Nov. 23.

"The idea of the journey is to mo-

tivate and inspire other people to show that they can go very far with very little," he told the AP from Sulaymaniyah, a Kurdish city in northeastern Iraq. "You can go a long way walking."

The day before he disappeared, Sánchez had breakfast with a guide in Sulaymaniyah. The guide, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said he tried to warn Sánchez about the dangerous political situation in Iran as they parted ways.

Protests in Iran's Kurdish region after Amini's death kindled the nationwide unrest still roiling Iran. In response, Iranian forces have unleashed drone and artillery attacks targeting Kurdish separatists in northern Iraq.

But Sánchez was undeterred and confident, the guide said.

"He didn't look nervous at all. He told me, 'I sorted out everything, don't worry,'" he said.

They communicated through Google Translate, as Sánchez only speaks Spanish.

Sánchez, the guide added, planned to meet an Iranian family in the Kurdish town of Marivan — a scene of recent antigovernment protests. The family, delighted by Sánchez's Instagram posts, had reached out and offered to host him.

After Sánchez crossed the border on Oct. 1, his messages became sparse and cryptic, the guide said. Sánchez told him that things were "very different" in Iran from Sulaymaniyah, the Iraqi metropolis filled with parks and cafes.

"It's been a long story," his last message read.

Sánchez's parents said he had warned them he'd temporarily lose internet access after reaching Iran.

cont'd on pg 24

Sports News



Russian runner stripped of 2012 Olympics title for doping

AP - Russian runner Natalya Antyukh was disqualified on Monday from her 400-metre hurdles win at the 2012 London Olympics for doping, and Lashinda Demus of the United States is set to be upgraded to the gold medal.

Antyukh was already serving a four-year ban in a previous case judged by the Court of Arbitration for Sport last year that stripped her results from 2013 to 2015.

The new ruling based on historical evidence recovered from a Moscow testing laboratory database further

disqualified Antyukh in all of her events from July 15, 2012 through June 29, 2013, track and field's Athletics Integrity Unit said.

At the 2012 Olympics, on Aug. 8, Demus finished 0.07 seconds behind the Russian winner.

Now aged 39, Demus is in line to become an Olympic champion for the first time and get a gold medal from the International Olympic Committee to add to her world title won in 2011.

The bronze medalist 10 years ago, Zuzana Hejnová of the Czech Repub-



Russia's Natalya Antyukh, right, powers ahead of United States' Lashinda Demus to win gold in the women's 400-metre hurdles final during the athletics in the Olympic Stadium at the 2012 Summer Olympics, London, Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2012. (AP Photo/Daniel Ochoa De Olza, File)

lic should be upgraded to silver, and the bronze is set to go to Kaliese Spencer of Jamaica.

The AIU did not specify evidence against Antyukh from the Moscow database that was part of a years-long

standoff between the World Anti-Doping Agency and Russian authorities.

The latest case was prosecuted at national level in Russia and can be appealed, the Monaco-based AIU said.

cont'd from pg 23

"The country is 'hot,' and there are no communications," Sánchez told his father in his last message on Oct. 1, possibly a reference to the turmoil in Iran's Kurdish region and the government's disruption of internet and popular communications applications used by protesters. His parents tried not to fret when their messages didn't deliver. But their worries grew as the weeks passed.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry said it had registered Sánchez's border crossing into Iran and was

not ruling out any possibilities.

In his last Instagram update, the night before he crossed the Iranian border, he posted images of his emotional farewell to Iraq and told of a Kurdish family's generosity.

He had planned to camp on a mountain, but the owner of a nearby farm took him in, giving him a bed, shower and a hearty dinner.

Pictures on Instagram show him eating bread and chicken soup, smiling and posing with young boys from the village and drinking tea over an open fire.

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LI Hurricanes warm-up for Super-50 with win over CWI Players Academy

The Leeward Islands Hurricane snatched a two-wicket win over the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Emerging Players Academy in a warm-up match for the upcoming regional CG United Super-50 Championship at the Coolidge Cricket Grounds on Sunday.

Set 239 to win, the Leeward Islands Hurricanes achieved victory by scoring 242 for eight with three balls to spare. Allrounder Hayden Walsh Jr. guided the Leewards to victory with an unbeaten 53 off 67 balls with five fours.

Walsh Jr. shared in a 57-run unbroken ninth-wicket stand with Colin Archibald, who hit a run-a-ball 27 not out. The left-handed Walsh Jr. also shared in two other key partnerships.

He added 54 runs for the eighth wicket with captain and wicketkeeper/batsman Jahmar Hamilton, who cracked 36 off 37 balls with five fours and a six.

Walsh Jr. also put on 38 runs with Jeremiah Louis, who made 24 off 27 balls with three fours and a six, for the eighth wicket.

Middle-order batsman Keacy Carty made 43 off 60 balls in which he struck two sixes and a four. Carty also shared in a 45-run fourth-wicket partnership with allrounder Kofi James, who made 14 off 35 balls.

Barbadian fast bowl-

er Johann Layne picked up two wickets for 29 runs in nine overs and Kevin Wickham captured two wickets for 47 runs in his 10 overs allotment.

Earlier, the CWI Emerging Players Academy were dismissed for 238 in 43.4 overs after they lost the toss and were sent in to bat. Opener Teddy Bishop top scored with 77 off 88 balls with nine fours.

Bishop shared in a 78-run second wicket partner-

ship with middle-order batsman Kevin Wickham, who contributed 47 off 35 balls, including three fours and two sixes.

Bishop also added 68 runs for the third wicket with Wicketkeeper/batsman Leonardo Julien, who made 20 off 28 balls. Middle-order batsman Ackeem Augustine also chipped in with a run-a-ball 20.

Off-spinner Kofi James grabbed four wickets for 26 runs, Terrance Warde

snapped up three wickets for 42 runs and Karima Gore captured two wickets for 40 runs.

The 2022 CG United Super50 Cup, which was last contested in February 2021, will bowl off later this month.

The West Indies Academy team and Combined Campuses & Colleges (CCC) will join the six regional franchise teams in contesting the 50-overs-a-

cont'd on pg 26



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Sports News



Graphic Shooters end Antigua Vision Care's unbeaten run

Graphic Impact Shooters have ended the unbeaten run of Eye Mobile Vision Care in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League.

The Impact Shooters romped to a 65-40 victory over Antigua Vision Care at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night to take a 1-0 lead in their best of three semi-finals playoff series.

Olivee Morris produced 16 points, Sean Nicholas had 15 points and Yannick Samuel contributed 12 points for Graphic Impact Shooters.

Tshawn Lewis converted 13 points and Najee



The Graphic Impact Shooters team. (File photo)

George scored 11 points for Antigua Vision Care, who

were beaten for the first time in 15 encounters in this year's Business Basketball League.

Anjo Wholesale also took a 1-0 lead in their best of three semi-finals series by snatching a one-point win over Sandals Antigua in the first game of their playoffs match-up at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Cohen Desouza scored 12 points, while Xavier "X-Man" Meade and Andrew Venture each chipped in with 10 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 20 points, Selassie Braithwaite produced 19 points and Kenya Achom scored 13 points for Sandals Antigua.

cont'd from pg 25

side competition, which will be played in Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago from 29th October to 19th November.

Trinidad & Tobago Red Force will defend their title and host Zone A featuring the Windward Islands Volcanoes, Guyana's Harpy Eagles and CCC. Zone B will feature hosts Leeward Islands Hurricanes, Barba-

dos Pride, Jamaica Scorpions and the West Indies Academy.

Leeward Islands Hurricanes will take on the West Indies Academy in a Zone B clash in the opening match of the limited overs tournament at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium in Antigua and Barbuda on Saturday 29th October, starting at one o'clock in the afternoon.

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ABSF stages swimming championship

The Antigua & Barbuda Swimming Federation (ABSF) hosted its swimming championship at the Vipers Aquatics Swimming Pool from 14th to 16th October, 2022.

There were new records set in both the age group and national record categories as swimmers from Vipers Aquatics (Vipers), Wadadli Aquatic Racers (WAR), Antigua Aquatic Club -Storm and Marlins Swim Club (Marlins) displayed their talents.

Approximately fifty-five (55) swimmers participated in the swimming championships.

Leading the record settings was Vipers Aquatics' swimmer Kaylee Warner in the Girls' 8 & Under Category. War-



Kaylee Warner



Ellie Shaw (Photos courtesy ABSF)

ner set five (5) age group records in the 25-metre freestyle, 25-metre backstroke, 50-metre freestyle, 100-metre freestyle and 100-metre Individual Medley (IM).

Another record setter was WAR's swimmer Tivon Benjamin in the Boys' 13-14 age group. Benjamin set records in the 50-metre freestyle, 100-metre backstroke and in the 100-metre freestyle, where his time tied with the existing record set by national swimmers, Noah Mascoll-Gomes.

WAR's swimmer Ellie Shaw set both Age Group and National Records in the Girls 13-14 Category, perfecting her favourite stroke in the 50 and 100-metre breaststroke events.

Swimmers from all age groups were awarded high-point recognitions with medals and trophies presented to the top three finishers.

Warner claimed first place in the Girls 8 & under category, Elizabeth Sukumaran of Vipers captured second place and Alyssa Watkins of Marlins finished in third place.

In the Boys 8 & under, Zane Williams of WAR was first, followed by Christopher Walter of WAR in second place and Mkazo Lindsay of Vipers took the third-place position.

The Vipers' swimmers dominated the Girls 9-10 Category. Anya De-



Tivon Benjamin

Gannes captured first place, Keziah Joseph claimed second place and Amy Brookes took third place.

Vipers also made a sweep of the top three places in the 9-10 Boys' category. Jamie Tranter grabbed first place, Alessandro Bazzoni claimed second place and Malique Josephs secured third place.

In the Girls 11-12 category, Davina Barton of Vipers bagged first place, Isabelle Bremner of Storm took second place and Mila Festini-Cromer of WAR secured third place.

Reuben Edwards of Vipers topped the Boys 11-12 category. Esprit Shaw of WAR came second and Zahid Derrick, also of WAR, finished third.

WAR also made a sweep of the top three positions in the Girls 13-14 category.

Aungelique Liddie captured first place, Shaw came second and Alandra Dublin grabbed third place.

Benjamin claimed first place in the Boys 13-14 category, followed by Davin Barton of Vipers in second place and Neil Sherwin-Noronha of Vipers in third place.

In the Girls 15 and over Age Group category, Hailey Derrick of Storm placed first, Kimberlee Warner of Vipers was second followed by Anisa Lewis of Storm in third place.

cont'd on pg 29

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Bridges claims 22nd place finish at CCC road race in DR



Antigua and Barbuda's Emmanuel Gayral, left foreground yellow and black outfit, and Jyme Bridges, right foreground yellow and black outfit, on the starting line of the road race of the Senior Men's Caribbean Cycling Championship (CCC) in the Dominican Republic on Sunday, 23rd October, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

Jyme Bridges was the better finisher of the two-man Antigua and Barbuda team in the road race of the Senior Men's Caribbean Cycling Championship (CCC) in the Dominican Republic on Sunday, 23rd October.

Bridges finished 22nd and his fellow Antigua and Barbuda team-mate Emmanuel Gayral came 44th from a total field of 63 cyclists from across the Caribbean that participated in the event.

Bridges completed the race in

three hours, one minute and 37 seconds while Gayral crossed the finish line in a time of three hours, 18 minutes and 17 seconds.

The road race was won by Edwin Nubul of Martinique in a time of three hours and 46 seconds.

Two cyclists from fellow Caribbean French Island of Guadeloupe claimed second and third places respectively after clocking the same time of three hours, one minute and four seconds.

In the end, it was Jeremy Deloumeaux who snatched the runner-up position over his Guadeloupe compatriot Taino Cailliau.

Steven Manuel Polanco of the Dominican Republic snatched fourth place ahead of his fellow teammate Junior Marte, who finished fifth.

Polanco also crossed the finished line in three hours, one minute and four seconds, while Marte completed the road race in a time of three hours, one minute and 21 seconds.

cont'd from pg 27

The Boys 15 and over had the most swimmers in an age group category. Leading the charge in first place was Tony Goodwin of WAR,

Naeem DeSouza of WAR in second place and Zardad Jan of Vipers in third place.

The ABSF also extends thanks to all its sponsors for their generosity and timely

contribution in making the meet a success.

Following the meet, a team of approximately thirty-three (33) swimmers will be selected to represent An-

tigua & Barbuda at the 30th OECS Swimming Championships, which will be held at the Rodney Heights Aquatic Center in St. Lucia from 11th to 13th November.

Grenades capture ABFA's Knockout Cup title

Grenades FC are the champions of the 2022 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup.

Grenades claimed the coveted trophy and the championship grand prize of EC\$50,000 by romping to a 4-1 victory against neighbours SAP FC in the knockout final at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday night.

Watched by a large crowd of more than 3,000 people, Grenades dominated the play from the start and it was no surprise when they took a 1-0 lead, even though it came fortuitously via a SAP's own-goal in the 28th minute.

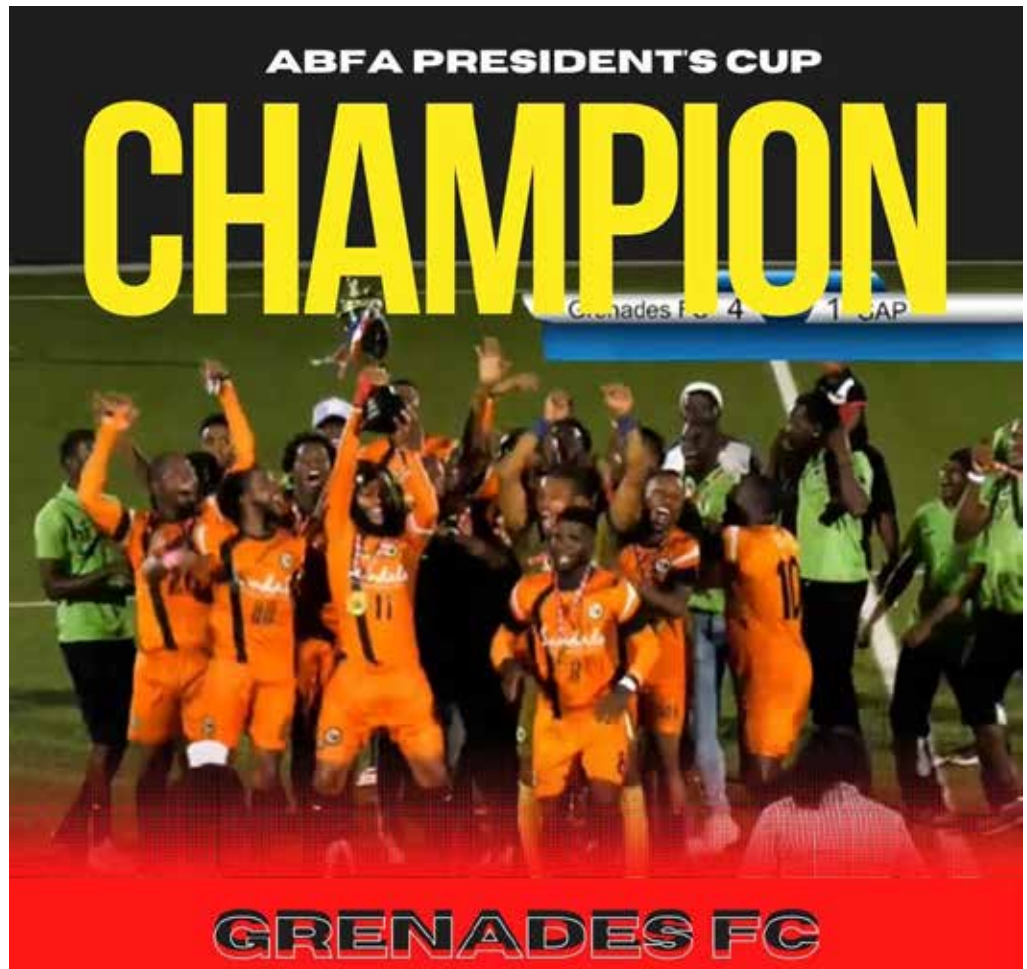
The goal was scored when Sap's defender Timothy Sanasie attempted to clear the ball from inside the six-yard box. The ball inadvertently struck the back of SAP's goalkeeper Tajaje Tonge and rebounded into the unguarded net.

A brace by striker Rakeem Henry, who scored on either side of halftime, effectively ensured Grenades' victory and ended all hopes of SAP winning the encounter.

Henry, who was lively all game, scored his first in the 43rd minute to give Grenades a 2-0 halftime advantage. Henry then scored his second in the 55th minute and a Rick Gordon's 69th minute conversion gave Grenades a 4-0 lead.

Veteran striker Peter "Big Pete" Byers, who earlier showed his visible frustration with his lack of service and inability to make any incisive runs against the Grenades well-orchestrated defense, scored SAP's late consolation goal via a well taken free-kick in the 79th minute.

For their efforts, SAP claimed the



Grenades FC won the 2022 Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Sunday, 23rd October, 2022. (Photo courtesy Grenades FC)

runners-up prize of EC\$20,000.

The third-place cash prize of EC\$10,000 was captured by Willikies FC after they prevailed 3-2 against Pigotts Bullets FC in extra-time in the third-place playoff at the same venue on Sunday.

Striker Novelle Francis snatched the winner in the 104th minute after the game finished 2-2 at the end of regulation.

It was Pigotts Bullets who took an early 1-0 lead when Shamo Andrew scored in the 6th minute. But their lead was short-lived as Phil Nicholas scored

two goals in three minutes to give Willikies a 2-1 lead.

Nicholas scored Willikies' equalizer in the 12th minute and put his team ahead with a 15th minute conversion. Akeem Isaac scored the Pigotts Bullets' equalizer via a penalty kick in the 37th minute.

Both teams were unable to breach each other's defense during the remainder of regulation time, which forced the game into extra time where Francis was able to score Willikies' winner.

Pigotts Bullet had to settle for fourth place and the EC\$5,000 cash prize.