


TUESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 189 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

STRIKE AVERTED AFTER MoE, A&BUT MEETING

Story on Page 3



**SCHOOLS
CLOSED**

Local News



Education minister on school break-ins: “If you know something, say something”

A fresh appeal has been made by education minister, Daryll Matthew, for the public's support in ending the recent spate of school break-ins.

Matthew, during a recent media appearance, addressed the dilemma as news of possible industrial action by the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) loomed in the air this weekend.

Last Friday, the union

wrote Matthew's ministry informing him of their intentions if the matter is not addressed.

A meeting to discuss the plague of school attacks was held on Monday, but the details and outcome of those discussions were unknown at the time of publication.

Matthew, however, has taken the position that solving the criminal attacks on schools is the re-



sponsibility not only of the Cabinet, but the public as well.

He is therefore appealing to people who may know who the perpetrators are, or who may have other useful information, to speak up.

"We need the communities to also play a role as it is their children, their neighbours, their friends and family members who attend these schools. That should trigger an emotive response in you and I am appealing to the public that if you know something say something.

"It cannot be a coincidence that every single night a school is broken into.

"So, if someone knows something, say something," Matthew urged.

Addressing the teachers' union, Matthew said he understands their frus-

trations, but noted that the vexing issue does not have a quick fix.

He pointed to the fact that the Cabinet has come up with solutions including installing CCTV cameras and "strong-rooms", which are akin to high security vaults, on school campuses after intensive dialogue with the Ministry of Education and A&BUT officials last month.

Asked whether he believed the break-ins were politically motivated, Matthew responded that "it is a bit suspicious" but conceded that he could not definitively say that is the case.

Meanwhile, following Monday's meeting between Ministry of Education and A&BUT officials, the announcement was made that all government schools will be closed today to allow the union to meet with its members.

ABPSA

20 22

Caribbean Public Service Day Week of Activities

2

OCT

Sunset Cruise (3:00pm)
Wadali Cats Cruise

3

OCT

Church Service (10:30am)
St. John's S.D.A Church

4

OCT

Glow Walk (6:00pm)
Rising Sun. Free to all! Water & Glow sticks included.

5

OCT

Meet and Greet (5:00pm)
Younger Workers - Botanical Gardens

6 & 7

OCT

Media Blitz
Details to be given at a later date.

8

OCT

Karaoke Night (7:30pm)
Dredgers Playing Field

Government makes proposal to A&BUT to avert strike

A proposal to avert a strike by the nation's school teachers has been presented to the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) by the government as it seeks to address the issue at the heart of a threat of industrial action by the educators.

During a meeting on Monday between a government team led by Education Minister Daryll Matthew who was joined by Director of Education, Clare Browne, and other ministry officials and the executive of the A&BUT led by president, Casroy Charles, a possible solution to the vandalism in public schools was presented to the union.

Director Browne would not go into details about the proposal when contacted, however, he described the meeting as being very cordial. He added that it was agreed that the proposal would be considered by the union's membership today.

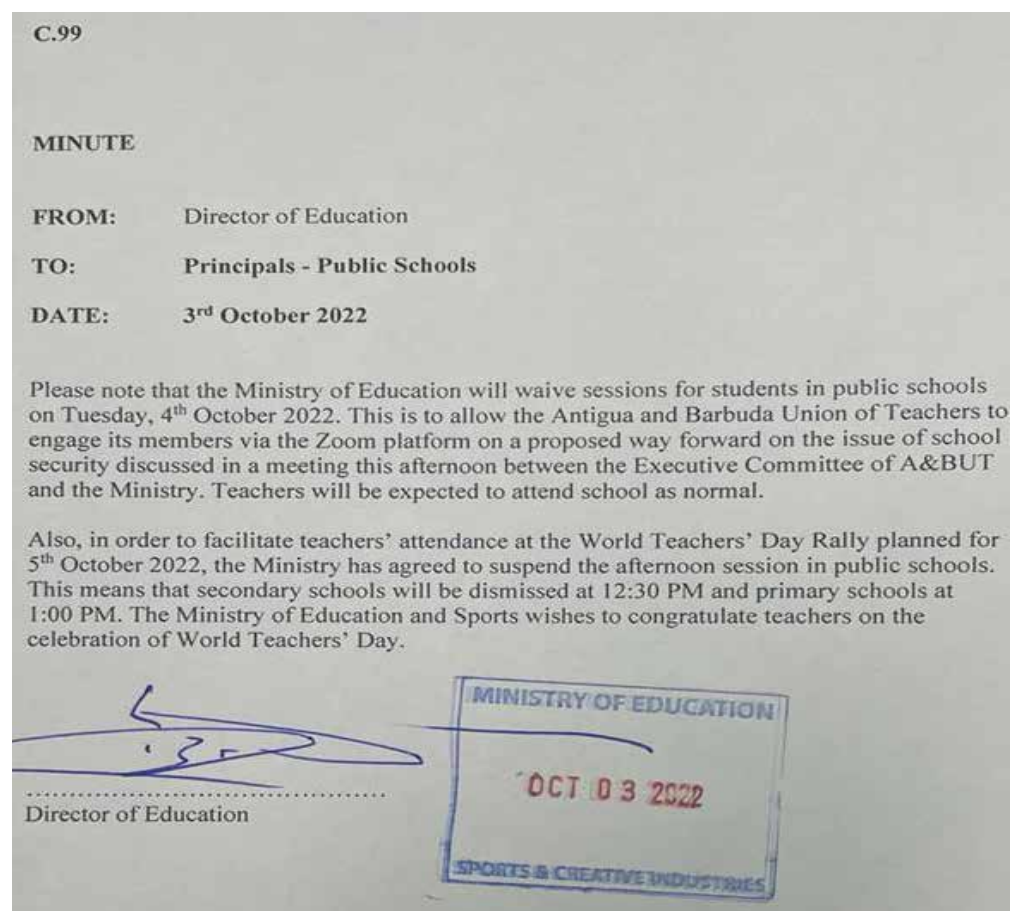
"The ministry is hoping that the membership of the A&BUT would accept the proposal as presented to the executive committee," Director Browne stated.

The A&BUT also asked for all public schools to be closed today to allow for thorough consideration of the proposal during the meeting with its members today.

The saga began late last Friday when the A&BUT issued an ultimatum to the government threatening industrial action today if the issue of schools' security was not satisfactorily addressed by the end of school on Monday.

The ultimatum was contained in a letter from the A&BUT to Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew and Director of Education, Clare Browne, late Friday afternoon.

In the letter, the union complained about the absence of 24-hour security at



government schools which was promised by the government following an increase in break-ins, thefts and the vandalism of several school plants.

According to the union, no school has received 24-hour security and the claim was also made that one school is without security at all.

The union said the recent spate of break-ins has unleashed a "reign of terror" on the nation's education institutions.

The A&BUT also pointed to the emotional trauma that the break-ins and vandalism causes to students and faculty alike and accused the government of a dereliction of its duty for failing to provide adequate security.

In response, Prime Minister Gaston Browne questioned the motive behind the hasty call for industrial action as a reasonable time frame was not given for

the government to respond or negotiate additional security for public schools.

"The letter was received on Friday at 3:45 in the afternoon; the end of the business day for a Friday. Then, the next working day is October 3rd and they are asking that the arrangements are put in place or else they will take industrial action.

"Is that a reasonable position to take?" Browne queried on Saturday.

Additionally, the prime minister noted that prior to the threat of industrial action, the A&BUT had not issued a public statement condemning the attacks on the nation's schools.

Over the weekend, Browne said he firmly believes that the school attacks are not random, but part of a wider, more sinister plot.

"I have no doubt in my mind that
cont'd on pg 4

Local News



LIAT one step closer to returning to full operation

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda, and CFA Global - a subsidiary of Caribbean Tourism Group (CTG), a private regional company involved in investments in travel, tourism, and aviation - have signed a Memorandum of Under-

standing which will hasten LIAT's full return to operation.

On Friday, Minister of Works, Lennox Weston signed the MoU on behalf of the government, while Ma Chao, chairman of CTG, signed on behalf of his com-

pany. Under the agreement, CTG T/A "LIAT International" will deploy a fleet of aircraft, including Airbus A330s, Airbus A320s and ATRs, in passenger service to the Caribbean and South America, as well as international travel routes from Eu-

rope.

The new and improved LIAT will maintain Antigua and Barbuda as its base.

A part of the plan to ensure the new LIAT 2020 can remain viable, international routes are also being introduced. One route being pursued will open up travel from Germany to Antigua and Barbuda which will improve connections to the Caribbean for travellers from China.

In addition to significantly reducing travel time from China to Antigua and Barbuda, this route is being pursued as both countries will soon enter a VISA-waiver agreement.

cont'd from pg 3

based on the frequency of these acts [that they are] orchestrated. So don't think that these break-ins are happening as sporadically as in the past. They are now organised break-ins, and I have no doubt that they are politically motivated as well," he said.

PM Browne suggested that the attacks came from the same "play-book" used in the late 1960s and early 1970s by the Progressive Labour Movement (PLM) - the forerunner of today's United Progressive Party - to under-

mine the Antigua Labour Party government of the day.

The prime minister said many teachers in service now are too young to recall this period and he cautioned against becoming innocent pawns in a larger political scheme.

"Don't allow these politically motivated teachers to lead you up a gum tree," he declared.

He is also urging teachers to familiarise themselves with the Civil Service Act to avoid being drawn into participating in an illegal act.

2 Tuesday & Wednesday 2 DEALS DAYS!!

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MIDWEEK 2
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Opportunities for fisher folk to export their produce now under review

Regulations governing the operations of the fisheries sector are currently under review with one of the aims being facilitating export of fish products in bigger amounts.

Speaking at the opening of the OECS Ministerial meeting on Fisheries and the Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources at the Trade Winds Hotel on Monday, Fisheries Minister Samantha Marshall explained that against the backdrop of many challenges that the sector faces...updated regulations are needed to support the industry.

The minister said the regulations are now before the Ministry of Legal Affairs for their review and as soon as this review is completed, it is her intention to implement the regulations as soon as possible.

She further explained that the regulations are necessary in order to clear some hurdles making it easier for fisher folk to export to markets such as the United Kingdom, the European Union and others.

“We want to make sure that we meet the international standards and with these regulations, it would



Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Samantha Marshall.

strengthen our ability to ship fish products into international markets. Currently, most of our exports are shipped to the E.U, but COVID-19 created a problem in the trans-shipment of these products. Before we are able to do this, we have to meet the international standards. These countries will only be satisfied that our fish products are at acceptable standards after we enforce the regulations,” she added.

Marshall said the hope is that the legal review will be completed in a timely manner as the exporters are anxiously awaiting their implementation. “Our exporters are looking for this as another opportunity for them to expand their markets,” she stated.

Meanwhile, Japan’s

Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Akimoto Masatoshi, said his government shares an interest in the sustainable use of living marine resources with the countries of the OECS and his country desires to strengthen the existing relations.

Japan has been described as a key developmental partner for Antigua and Barbuda and the rest of the OECS given its support for the fisheries sectors in the sub-region. In Antigua and Barbuda, Japan financed the construction of several fisheries complexes and lately it financed the upgrade of the reverse osmosis water generation plant located at Friar’s Bay which serves the southern parts of Antigua, one of the island’s main fishing areas.



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Deadline 14th October 2022.

Local News



Webinar to focus on investing to secure financial future

A Webinar organized by the Prime Minister's Entrepreneurial Development Programme is seeking to educate residents on how to invest early for a better financial future.

Scheduled for tomorrow, organizers have targeted entrepreneurs, recent high school/college graduates,

private and public sector employees, business owners and persons saddled with debt.

Garfield Joseph is Director of the EDP and facilitator of the webinar. He said it is important to educate the population on investment.

"We've had a lot of calls, persons coming to the EDP to borrow money for business,

entrepreneurial purposes. But we also see a need that persons have in terms of how can they manage money," Joseph stated.

Identifying key investment opportunities, investment mistakes to avoid, knowing the right time to invest and making wise financial decisions are the topics

that will be discussed during the webinar, which will be hosted on the Zoom platform.

According to Joseph, one of the major setbacks being experienced by prospective business owners and even prospective homeowners is that they have destroyed their credit and not many are aware of it.

"They would have borrowed in the past and not repaid. Most persons may not be aware, but when you borrow money from one financial institution and do not repay it, they conduct what is called a credit history and persons with that type of history may not be able to gain access," he explained.

At the end of the 5th October event, organizers are hoping participants will be in a position to make wise financial decisions, knowing when and how to invest, avoid fatal financial mistakes and avoid financial mistakes.

"We have persons in the workplace who are struggling to manage their finances and so we have had requests from public and private institutions, including church groups, youth groups saying we need to educate our people how to work, save, invest and manage their money. So, because of the pull we have had from the public and private sectors, we saw a greater need in society and we want to be able to respond to those needs," Garfield Joseph concluded.

8 PM EVERY FRIDAY

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f t i

Sons and Daughters of Willikies make donation to Fiennes Institute

The community service group, Sons and Daughters of Willikies, recently contributed disposable adult underwear and walkers to the Fiennes Institute.

Speaking during the brief ceremony, Derrick Nicholas, President of Sons and Daughters of Willikies, said “while [the donation] was the first of its kind, it would not be the last”.

He indicated that one of

the hallmarks of his executive body’s term in office will be its deep involvement in community outreach programmes.

Nicholas also thanked the United States chapter of Sons and Daughters of Willikies Inc. for their continued support as they continue to collaborate closely on charity and community-based projects.

Upon accepting the items,



Derrick Nicholas (left) and Master of the Fiennes Institute, Walton Edwards

Master of the Fiennes Institute, Walton Edwards, expressed gratitude to the Sons and Daughter of Willikies noting that he was “extremely elated” that the Fiennes Institute was selected for the donation.

“Given the scarce resources,” said Master Edwards, “we are even more

appreciative of the kind gesture.”

He offered the assurance that the residents of the elderly care home would benefit from the donation which has increased their ability to cope with the institution’s needs.

The donation was made on Tuesday, 27th September, 2022.



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Local News



St. Paul's Health Month has begun under the theme, 'Your Health-Our Community Wealth'

Member of Parliament for St. Paul, E. P. Chet Greene told Pointe FM last week that several prominent local medical practitioners will come together with 16 doctors from the United States to offer a variety of screening services at no cost to the public.

On Sunday, Greene said, "In anticipation of a very packed and diverse calendar of activities, I take this opportunity to encourage all of us to make full use of the services planned for this year's celebration.

"Our theme this year,

'Your Health-Our Community Wealth', amplifies our personal responsibility dovetailed into our common good and corals us into protective action."

The initiative is being led by Dr. Jerry Simon.

While emphasis is be-

ing placed on eye health this year, men's health and paediatrics will also feature prominently.

For the first time, services will also be open to people living outside of the St. Paul's community as transportation providers across the country are being encouraged to have their vision checked.

In another first this year, corrective glasses will also be offered to those persons who present with specific vision impairments.

St. Paul's Health Month is an annual event which runs throughout October.

Tue 04 Day		Tue 04 Night	
85°		79°	
24% E 14 mph		22% E 13 mph	
Sunshine and clouds mixed. High around 85F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy skies. Low 79F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity 77%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 83%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:58 am	Sunset 5:53 pm	Moonrise 2:19 pm	Moonset 12:39 am
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Director EDP

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- * Investment mistakes to avoid.
- * Making wise financial decisions.
- * Knowing the right time to invest.
- * Q & A

AT THE END OF THE SEMINAR ATTENDEES WILL BE ABLE TO:

- * Make wise financial decisions.
- * Know when and how to invest.
- * Avoid fatal financial mistakes.
- * Identify investment opportunities.

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- * Recent high school/college graduates.
- * Public and Private sector employees.
- * Business owners.
- * Persons who want to get out of debt.

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- Zoom Link will be sent to all registered participants.
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Report finds little progress combating systemic racism against people of African descent

A new report by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) finds that little progress has been made in combating systemic racism against people of African descent.

The OHCHR said more than two years since the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in the United States sparked the global Black Lives Matter movement, there's been only "piece-meal progress" in addressing systemic racism.

While more people have been made aware of systemic racism and concrete steps have been taken in some countries, the acting high commissioner for human rights called on states to demonstrate greater political will to accelerate action.

"There have been some initiatives in different countries to address racism, but, for the most part, they are piece-meal," said Nada Al-Nashif, who is presenting the report to the UN Human Rights Council today.

"They fall short of the comprehensive evidence-based approaches needed to dismantle the entrenched structural, institutional and societal racism that has existed for centuries, and continues to inflict deep harm today," she added.

The acting high commissioner for human rights specifically pointed to key recommendations made in the OHCHR's Agenda towards Transformative Change for Racial Justice and Equality.

The OHCHR said the report describes international, national, and local initiatives that have been taken towards ending the scourge of racism.

These include an Executive Order from the US White House on advancing effective, accountable policing and



[Photo: The New York Times]

criminal justice practices in federal law enforcement agencies; an Anti-Racism Data Act in British Columbia, Canada; measures to evaluate ethnic profiling by police in Sweden; and census data collection to self-identify people of African descent in Argentina.

The OCHR said the European Commission has issued guidance on collecting and using data based on racial or ethnic origin; formal apologies issued; memorialization; revisiting public spaces; and research to assess links to enslavement and colonialism in several countries.

The report notes that poor outcomes continue for people of African descent in many countries, notably in accessing health and adequate food, education, social protection, and justice, "while poverty, enforced disappearance and violence continues."

It highlights "continuing...allegations of discriminatory treatment, unlawful deportations, excessive use of force, and deaths of African migrants and migrants of African descent by law enforcement officials."

"The barometer for success must be positive change in the lived experiences of people of African descent. States need to listen to people of African descent, meaningfully involve them and take genuine steps to act upon their concerns."

Where available, the OCHR said recent data still point to disproportionately high death rates faced by people of African descent, at the hands of law enforcement, in different countries.

"Families of African descent continued to report the immense challenges, barriers, and protracted processes they faced in their pursuit of truth and justice for the deaths of their relatives," the report noted, detailing seven cases of police-related deaths of people of African descent.

Al-Nashif called on states to "redouble efforts to ensure accountability and redress wherever deaths of Africans and people of African descent have occurred in the context of law enforcement and take measures to confront legacies that perpetuate and sustain systemic racism." (CMC)



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Weather



Caribbean region warned to expect frequent wet days and above-average cyclone activity

Over the next three months, the Caribbean forecast features frequent wet days, excessive rainfall, and above-average tropical cyclone activity as the transition between wet and dry seasons begins. The Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) on Monday said the situation in the Caribbean region is being exacerbated by La Niña.

In its latest Caribbean Climate Outlooks publication CariCOF said this would result in frequent disruptions of outdoor activities and rising water levels in soils, rivers, and reservoirs.

“The potential for floods and cascading hazards is forecast to be extremely high across the Lesser Antilles, high elsewhere across the Caribbean islands and in Belize, and moderate in the coastal Guianas, where the chance of excessive rainfall increases during November.”

It said in October, high humidity and temperatures at times may increase heat stress south of Guadeloupe.

CariCOF said severe short-term drought has developed in the northwestern Bahamas, northwest Martinique, and St. Barts and as of September 1, severe long-term drought has de-



Courtesy DESMOND BOYLAN/AP

veloped in Antigua, Western Cuba, Guadeloupe, southwest Haiti, eastern Jamaica, Martinique, St. Barts, Sint Maarten, and St. Vincent.

In a brief climate outlook for the first three months of next year, CariCOF said there are indications that climatic conditions during the first three months of 2023 may still be characteristic of a La Niña, potentially being wetter than usual in the ABC Islands (Aruba, Bonaire and Curacao), the Guianas and the Lesser Antilles, as well as in Belize, but possibly drier than usual in The Bahamas, the Cayman Islands, and Cuba.

“This results in a high potential for flooding, flash floods, and cascading hazards through early February in the coastal Guianas. By contrast, water shortages associated with the core of the dry season may be exacer-

bated in The Bahamas, Cayman Islands, and Cuba.” It added.

It said during the first

three months, temperatures in the Caribbean region “will be comfortably cool.” (CMC)

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15 October, 2022

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Caribbean economic forum to discuss digitization of region's payments systems

Senior financial officials from the region will on Thursday discuss how Caribbean people can benefit from the digitization of their country's payments systems when the Central Bank of Barbados (CBB) hosts the latest edition of its Caribbean Economic Forum.

According to the CBB, the forum, which will be held under the theme "Moving to Digital Payments: What Does it Mean for Me," will bring together Wendy Delmar, the chief executive officer of the Caribbean Association of Banks, Sharmyn Powell, the chief risk officer with the St Kitts-based Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) and John Outridge, chief executive officer of the Trinidad and Tobago-based International Financial Centre (IFC).

"We are seeing the acceleration of digital payments worldwide, and the Caribbean is no exception. Indeed, three central banks have launched their digital currencies, and several private sector regional and international companies are offering digital solutions to facilitate payments and reduce the associated costs," said the chief of corporate communications at the CBB, Novaline Brewster.

The bank said both public and private sector experts

agree that digital payments extend financial inclusion, accelerate transactions, and improve business facilitation.

"Like the rest of the world, many of us are paying digitally, whether it's online banking, mobile wallets, or in the case of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), Jamaica, and The Bahamas, a central bank digital dollar," Brewster said.

Brewster said the forum will explore the benefits and

challenges of central bank digital currencies (CBDCs) and private digital payments and explain how these solutions will transform the payments landscape in the consumer's interest.

"The discussion will also focus on how providers mitigate cyber security and other associated risks. We invite people across the Caribbean to log on and share their experiences, describe the benefits, and seek responses to

any concerns. This forum is for those who have embraced paying digitally as well as those who still rely on cash only," Brewster added.

The CBB said the Caribbean Economic Forum provides a platform for thought leaders to discuss issues of significance and importance to the region's people. The program is aired on regional television stations, the bank's website, and social media channels.



UPDATED SCHEDULE

SCHEDULE UPDATE
TYPHOON EXPRESS

MONDAY
(FROM ST. JOHN'S)

AB 3:45 PM

OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA

TUESDAY

BA 6:00AM

WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)

AB 10:00AM
BA 3:00PM

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Regional News



Dr. Keith Rowley being challenged for leadership of Trinidad's ruling party

CMC – Former finance minister, Karen Nunez-Tesheira, has announced her intention to challenge the prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. Keith Rowley for the leadership of the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) when the internal election is held on December 4.

"I was approached fairly seriously and not just in terms of why don't you go up, but it came with a very rare commitment and a

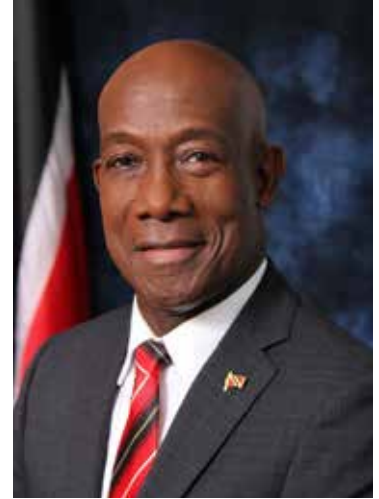
plan moving forward," she told local media."

Nunez-Tesheira, an attorney, who was elected to Parliament in 2007, but has since then not contested any general election, said although she has deliberately maintained a low profile that has kept her out of the political limelight for several years, her loyalty is forever vested in the PNM.

She told local media that she has lost confidence in Rowley and believes



Karen Nunez-Tesheira she has no other choice because of the challenges facing the people of the



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley twin-island republic.

Karen Nunez-Tesheira, who served as finance minister in the Patrick Manning government from 2007-10, said her appearances on various talk shows and publishing articles relating to the socio-economic climate over the past several years also helped with the process, as she was forced to delve deeper into the issues.

"It made me very well aware of how serious our situation was from my point of view and certainly a lot of the citizens of this country, that if something was not done in relation to the leadership of the party, Trinidad was already feeling a sense of hopelessness and I think that is where the trajectory was heading."

She said she is not blind to the realities that exist and there are people who will not want to come out and openly support her.

"I do understand why
cont'd on pg 15



MENTAL HEALTH PEER WORKSHOP FOR NON-CLINICIANS

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

Facilitators:

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



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

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Bermuda faces gang violence crisis, says national security minister

CMC – Bermuda's National Security Minister Michael Weeks says the country is facing a "crisis" in gang violence and "candid discussions" need to be held with stakeholders to resolve the problem.

Weeks added that the issue of violence "is the proverbial 800-lb elephant in the room that poses a threat to us all".

Weeks claimed around 1,000 people are actively involved in gangs across the island.

"I find it utterly unconscionable that around 1,000 people can cause this much disruption and devastation to a population of just over 60,000 people on a 21-square-mile island."

"We are losing too many young Black men. This is an existential threat, and I want to know the 'whys' and the 'what's' – why are we losing these

young men and what can be done to stop this crisis," he added.

Weeks addressing a two-day community workshop, involving 100 stakeholders representing charities, government agencies, and helping organisations, on gang violence, said he believes that it poses a grave threat to young people, the island's peace of mind, schools, societal expectations of normal behaviour, and the very fabric of the Bermudian culture.

"Colleagues, friends, make no mistake – this is a health and safety crisis and a matter of national security," Michael Weeks said, noting that the problem can only be solved by community action.

"Before we immerse ourselves into this day, let me first state that no one person, entity or agency



Bermuda's National Security Minister Michael Weeks

is to blame for today's crisis. You may have heard me publicly state over and over that this problem is a community problem, not a police problem. I meant it then, and I mean it now.

"The sooner each of us on the island comes to terms with this concept, the faster we will solve this issue," Weeks said, adding that while he has been national security minister for five months, it feels like

five years.

"During this time, the country has seen numerous incidents of physical violence, domestic violence, stabbings, shootings, and murders.

"This issue is personally heart-wrenching. I constantly receive frantic phone calls from worried parents fearful for their sons who are involved in or affected by the violence in some way, and I have the unpleasant task of offering sympathies to murder victims' families when tragedy strikes.

"I also find myself consoling and giving counsel to those who have been impacted by physical violence and guiding them to agencies that can help," the national security minister added.

cont'd from pg 14

members of his own Cabinet who probably, if they had their way, would probably say he shouldn't be there...they don't want to lose their job and I do understand that.

"I do understand people who are chairmen and directors remaining silent because the price, as with any government by the way, not just PNM, would be the loss of their positions and all that

goes with it, so the fact of the matter is that it is a challenge."

Dr. Keith Rowley has been the PNM leader since 2010 and has led the PNM to successive victories in the 2015 and 2020 general elections serving as Trinidad and Tobago's seventh prime minister.

A volcanologist by profession, he has been the parliamentary representative for Diego Martin west since 1991.

Regional News



Guyana gov't slashes gasoline, diesel prices

CMC – The Irfaan Ali led government has slashed the cost of gasoline and diesel from the Guyana Oil Company Limited (GUY-OIL) in a bid to bring further relief to consumers across the country.

In a statement on Saturday, the Finance Ministry said the price of gasoline will be reduced by 20 percent and the price of diesel will be slashed by 15 percent.

These changes were expected to come into effect on Sunday.

According to the Finance Ministry, during the first half of 2022, global oil prices surged more than 50 percent, increasing from US\$77 per barrel at the end of December 2021 to US\$120 in June; having risen as high as US\$137 per barrel primarily as a result of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

“The impact of the dramatic increases in oil prices were significant and given the interconnected nature of the global economy, translated into higher cost of



landing fuel in Guyana.”


The statement added that in order to mitigate the impact of rising global fuel prices on domestic consumers and the productive

sectors to which fuel is a key input, the Government lowered the excise tax rate on both gasoline and diesel from ten percent to zero percent in March of this year.

“Since resuming office in August 2020, the PPP/C Government has implemented a suite of measures to ease the cost-of-living pressures and to improve disposable incomes, in an ongoing effort to address these issues head-on and to mitigate the effects of rising prices globally on all Guyanese citizens.”

The ministry noted that the reduction in excise taxes is one such measure within the wide menu of measures implemented by the Government since assuming office.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says overall economic growth is projected to be 57.8 percent this year for Guyana as the country continues to recover from the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic-induced recession in 2020, and protracted political transition, non-oil economic growth.



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Kremlin prefers 'balance' after Putin ally suggests using nuclear bomb in Ukraine

Reuters -The Kremlin on Monday said it favoured a "balanced approach" to the issue of nuclear weapons, not based on emotion, after a key ally of President Vladimir Putin called over the weekend for Russia to use a "low-yield nuclear weapon" in Ukraine.

Asked about the comments by Ramzan Kadyrov, leader of the Chechnya region, who also criticised Russia's military leadership over battlefield setbacks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he had the right to voice his opinion, but that Russia's military approach should not be driven by emotions.

"This is a very emotional moment. The heads of regions have the right to express their point of view," Peskov said in a call with reporters on Monday.

"But even in difficult moments, emotions should be kept out of any kind of



Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov attends a news conference of Russian President Vladimir Putin following the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Samarkand, Uzbekistan September 16, 2022. Sputnik/Sergey Bobylev/Pool via REUTERS/File Photo

assessment. So we prefer to stick to balanced, objective assessments."

Peskov said the basis for any use of nuclear weapons was set down in Russia's nuclear doctrine.

Those guidelines allow for the use of nuclear weapons if they - or another weapon of mass destruction - are used against Russia, or

if the Russian state faces an existential threat from conventional weapons.

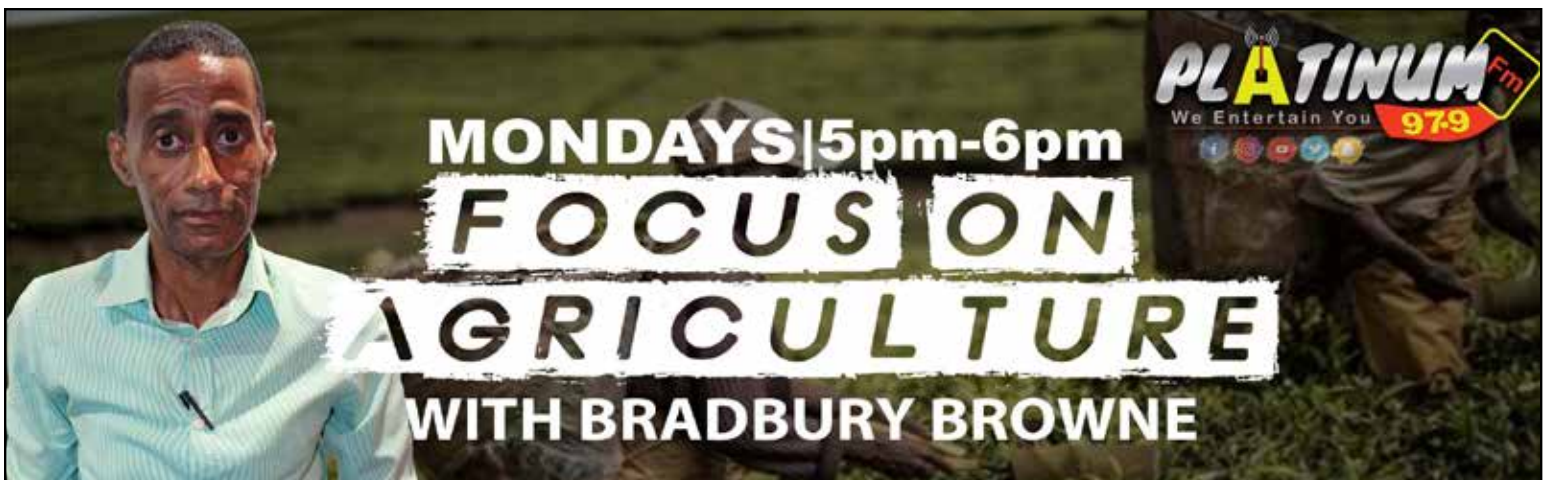
"There can be no other considerations when it comes to this," said Peskov.

The Kremlin has made clear that those nuclear protections extend to the four regions of Ukraine that Moscow is in the process of formally annexing.

Last month, Putin warned the West he was "not bluffing" when he said Russia was prepared to use nuclear weapons to protect its territory. On Friday he said the United States had created a "precedent" by dropping nuclear bombs on Japan at the end of World War Two.

Kadyrov was installed as Chechen president by Putin in 2007 to exert control over an autonomous region that had fought bloody wars with Moscow throughout the 1990s and early 2000s for independence.

Kadyrov has provided Chechen forces to support Russia's military campaign in Ukraine, and his criticism of the military leadership after Russia withdrew from its stronghold of Lyman was some of the most trenchant since the start of the seven-month-old conflict.



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UN chief: World is in 'life-or-death struggle' for survival

AP — U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres warned Monday that the world is in “a life-or-death struggle” for survival as “climate chaos gallops ahead” and accused the world’s 20 wealthiest countries of failing to do enough to stop the planet from overheating.

The U.N. chief said emissions of global-warming greenhouse gases are at an all-time high and rising, and it’s time for “a quantum level compromise” between rich developed countries that emitted most of the heat-trapping gases and emerging economies that often feel its worst effects.

Guterres spoke as government representatives opened a meeting in Congo’s capital Kinshasa to prepare for the major U.N.-led climate conference in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in November. It’s a time of immense climate impacts around the world — from floods that put one-third of Pakistan under water and Europe’s hottest summer in 500 years to hurricanes and typhoons that have hammered the Philippines, Cuba and the U.S. state of Florida.

In the last few weeks, Guterres has amped up a push for climate’s version of asking polluters to pay for what they’ve done, usually called “loss and dam-



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during a high level Security Council meeting on the situation in Ukraine, Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022 at United Nations headquarters. (AP Photo/Mary Altaffer)

age,” and he said Monday that people need action now.

“Failure to act on loss and damage will lead to more loss of trust and more climate damage. This is a moral imperative that cannot be ignored.”

Guterres said the COP27 meeting in Egypt “must be the place for action on loss and damage.”

In unusually critical language, he said commitments by the so-called G20 group of the world’s 20 leading economies “are coming far too little, and far too late.”

Guterres warned that current pledges and policies “are shutting the door on our chances to limit

global temperature rise to 2 degrees Celsius, let alone meet the 1.5 degree goal.”

“We are in a life-or-death struggle for our own safety today and our survival tomorrow,” he said.

“COP27 is the place for all countries -- led by the G20 -- to show they are in this fight, and in it together,” Guterres said. “And the best way to show it is by showing up at COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh.”

Rich countries, especially the United States, have emitted far more than their share of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas, data shows. Poor nations like Pakistan and Cuba have been hurt

far more than their share of global carbon emissions.

Loss and damage has been talked about for years, but richer nations have often balked at negotiating details about paying for past climate disasters, like Pakistan’s flooding this summer.

The issue is fundamental for the world’s developing countries and Guterres is reminding rich nations “that they cannot try and brush it under the carpet ... G20 nations have to take responsibility for the great need their actions have caused,” said Mohamed Adow of Power Shift Africa, which tries to mobilise climate action in Africa.

Princeton University
cont’d on pg 19

Switzerland has 'systemic' racism issues, UN experts say

Reuters – Switzerland has a serious systemic problem with racism against people of African descent, according to a report presented to the U.N. Human Rights Council on Monday, giving a broad range of examples from police brutality to a children's game.

The U.N.-appointed working group noted positive measures taken by Switzerland but still voiced concerns about the prevalence of racial discrimination and highlighted several incidents following a visit to the country this year.

"The ubiquity and impunity of this misconduct indicates a serious systemic problem exists," it said.

Switzerland's ambassador to the U.N. in Geneva broadly accepted the findings in comments to the council, although questioned the experts' use of a limited number of examples to draw wider conclusions.

Landlocked Switzerland was never a colonial power but its banks, traders and municipalities invested heavily and benefited from the transatlantic triangular trade, the report said.

It noted efforts to raise public awareness about aspects of Swiss history, such as a petition and debate around the removal of the statue of a banker whose fortune relied on exploitation of enslaved Africans, in the canton of



People sit down on a bridge during a Black Lives Matter protest, following the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis police custody, in Zurich, Switzerland, June 13, 2020. REUTERS/Michael Schields

Neuchâtel. However, others remained valorised such as Louis Agassiz, an advocate of scientific racism, who has an Alpine peak named after him.

Swiss playground games persist such as "Who is afraid of the Black man?", which have a racially discriminatory effect, the experts said.

The report also noted "shocking" police brutality, noting the deaths of several Black men in the Vaud canton.

"Switzerland agrees with your ob-

servation that racism and racial discrimination - including against people of African descent - are problems that must be tackled as a matter of urgency," Jürg Lauber told the Geneva-based Human Rights Council on Monday.

He stressed that new measures had been implemented to address the issues, including cantonal consultation centres for victims of racial discrimination and pointing to improvements in police training programmes.

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 climate science and international affairs professor Michael Oppenheimer said in an email that if high-income and other big emitters like China want the U.N. convention on climate change to remain useful, "they will need to grapple seriously with loss and damage."

Otherwise, he said, ne-

gotiations "are headed for interminable gridlock."

Poor countries with low emissions can simply refuse to discuss anything else until the issue is resolved, Oppenheimer said. Richer countries may find a way around the issue without paying for direct damage by paying poorer nations more to adapt to lessen fu-

ture disasters, but even then developed nations will have to pay out money, not just make promises as they have in the past, he said.

Guterres' remarks "highlight what small islands and least developed countries have been arguing for decades — that loss and damage is irrefutable and already disproportionately

affecting the most vulnerable countries and communities," said Adelle Thomas, a climate scientist from the Bahamas.

"We are reaching a breaking point, where developed countries must respond instead of continuing to delay action with empty promises and prolonged discussions," she added.

Indonesia police chief, others removed over soccer disaster

AP – An Indonesian police chief and nine elite officers were removed from their posts Monday and 18 others were being investigated for responsibility in the firing of tear gas inside a soccer stadium that set off a stampede, killing at least 125 people, officials said.

Distraught family members were struggling to comprehend the loss of their loved ones, including 17 children, at the match in East Java's Malang city that was attended only by hometown Arema FC fans. The organiser had banned supporters of the visiting team, Persebaya Surabaya, because of Indonesia's history of violent soccer rivalries.

The disaster Saturday night was among the deadliest ever at a sporting event.

Arema players and officials laid wreaths Monday in front of the stadium.

"We came here as a team asking forgiveness from the families impacted by this tragedy, those who lost their loved ones or the ones still being treated in the hospital," head coach Javier Roca said.

On Monday night, about a thousand soccer fans dressed in black shirts held a candlelight vigil at a soccer stadium in Jakarta's satellite city of Bekasi to pray for the victims of the disaster.

Witnesses said some of the 42,000 Arema fans ran onto the pitch in anger on Saturday after the team was defeated 3-2, its first loss at home against Persebaya in 23 years. Some threw bottles and other objects at players and soccer officials. At least five police vehicles were toppled and set ablaze outside the stadium.

But most of the deaths occurred



Players and officials of the soccer club Arema FC pray outside Kanjuruhan Stadium where a deadly crush broke out on Saturday night, in Malang, Indonesia, Monday, Oct. 3, 2022. Police firing tear gas at Saturday night's match between host Arema FC of East Java's Malang city and Persebaya Surabaya in an attempt to stop violence triggered a disastrous crush of fans making a panicked, chaotic run for the exits, leaving a large number of people dead, most of them trampled upon or suffocated. (AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim)

when riot police, trying to stop the violence, fired tear gas, including in the stands, triggering a disastrous stampede of fans making a panicked, chaotic run for the exits. Most of the 125 people who died were trampled or suffocated. The victims included two police officers.

At least 17 children were among the dead and seven were being treated in hospitals, the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection said. Police said 323 people were injured in the crush, with some still in critical condition.

National Police spokesperson Dedy Prasetyo said Malang police chief Ferli Hidayat had been removed along with nine members of an elite police mobile brigade and face possible dismissal in a police ethics trial.

He said 18 officers responsible for

firing the tear gas, ranging from middle- to high-ranking, were being investigated.

Police are questioning witnesses and analysing video from 32 security cameras inside and outside the stadium and nine cell phones owned by the victims as part of an investigation that will also identify suspected vandals, he said.

Rights group Amnesty International urged Indonesia to investigate the use of tear gas and ensure that those found responsible are tried in open court.

While FIFA has no control over domestic games, it has advised against the use of tear gas at soccer stadiums.

Despite Indonesia's lack of international prominence in the sport, hooliganism is rife in the soccer-obsessed

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Russian court sets Brittney Griner appeal date for Oct. 25

AP – A Russian court on Monday set Oct. 25 as the date for American basketball star Brittney Griner's appeal against her nine-year prison sentence for drug possession.

Griner, an eight-time all-star centre with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and a two-time Olympic gold medalist, was convicted Aug. 4 after police said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

The Moscow region court said it will hear her appeal.

Griner admitted that she had the canisters in her luggage, but testified that she had inadvertently packed them in haste and that she had no criminal intent. Her defence team presented written statements that she had been prescribed cannabis to treat pain.

Her February arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between

Moscow and Washington, just days before Russia sent troops into Ukraine. At the time, Griner, recognized as one of the greatest players in WNBA history, was returning to Russia, where she played during the U.S. league's offseason.

The nine-year sentence was close to the maximum of 10 years, and Griner's lawyers argued after the conviction that the punishment was excessive. They said in similar cases defendants have received an average sentence of about five years, with about a third of them granted parole.

Before her conviction, the U.S. State Department declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" — a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

Reflecting the growing pressure on the Biden administration to do more to bring Griner home, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the unusual step of revealing publicly



WNBA star and two-time Olympic gold medalist Brittney Griner is escorted from a courtroom after a hearing in Khimki just outside Moscow, Russia, on Aug. 4, 2022. The Moscow region's court on Monday Oct. 3, 2022 set a date for American basketball star Brittney Griner's appeal against her nine-year prison sentence for drug possession, scheduling the hearing for Oct. 25. (AP Photo/Alexander Zemlianichenko, File)

in July that Washington had made a "substantial proposal" to get Griner home, along with Paul Whelan, an American serving a 16-year sentence in Russia for espionage.

Blinken didn't elaborate, but The Associated

Press and other news organisations have reported that Washington has offered to exchange Griner and Whelan for Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. and once earned the nickname the "merchant of death."

The White House said it has not yet received a productive response from Russia to the offer.

Russian diplomats have refused to comment on the U.S. proposal and urged Washington to discuss the matter in confidential talks, avoiding public statements.

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country where fanaticism often ends in violence. Data from Indonesia's soccer watchdog, Save Our Soccer, showed 78 people have died in game-related incidents over the past 28 years.

Saturday's game was among the world's worst crowd disasters in sports, including a 1996 World Cup qualifier between Guatemala and Costa Rica in Guatemala City in which over 80 died and

more than 100 were injured. In April 2001, more than 40 people were crushed to death during a soccer match at Ellis Park in Johannesburg, South Africa.

In February 2012, 74 people were killed and more than 500 injured after a match between rivals al-Masry and al-Ahly when thousands of al-Masry fans invaded the field and attacked visiting supporters. The Egyptian league was suspended for two years as a result.

Abuse in women's pro soccer league was systemic, report says

AP – An independent investigation into the scandals that erupted in the National Women's Soccer League last season found emotional abuse and sexual misconduct were systemic in the sport, impacting multiple teams, coaches and players, according to a report released Monday.

"Abuse in the NWSL is rooted in a deeper culture in women's soccer, beginning in youth leagues, that normalises verbally abusive coaching and blurs boundaries between coaches and players," former acting U.S. Attorney General Sally Q. Yates wrote in her report on the investigation.

U.S. Soccer commissioned the investigation by Yates and the law firm King & Spaulding after former NWSL players Sinead Farrelly and Mana Shim came forward with allegations of harassment and sexual coercion dating back a decade involving former coach Paul Riley. Their account was published by The Athletic in September 2021.

Riley, who denied the allegations, was quickly fired as head coach of the North Carolina Courage, and NWSL Commissioner Lisa Baird stepped down.

But it was clear the problems were widespread.

Five of the 10 head



Portland Thorns fans hold signs during the first half of the team's NWSL soccer match against the Houston Dash in Portland, Ore., Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021. An independent investigation into the scandals that erupted in the National Women's Soccer League last season found emotional abuse and sexual misconduct were systemic in the sport, impacting multiple teams, coaches and players, according to a report released Monday, Oct. 3, 2022. (AP Photo/Steve Dipaola, File)

coaches in the NWSL last season either were fired or stepped down amid allegations of misconduct.

"The verbal and emotional abuse players describe in the NWSL is not merely 'tough' coaching. And the players affected are not shrinking violets. They are among the best athletes in the world," Yates wrote.

More than 200 people were interviewed by investigators. Some two dozen entities and individuals provided documents. U.S. Soccer also provided documents and the firm reviewed 89,000 deemed likely to be relevant.

U.S. Soccer President

Cindy Parlow Cone called the findings "heartbreaking and deeply troubling."

The report recounts an episode in 2013, when Parlow Cone was coach of the Portland Thorns, in which she herself experienced an inappropriate comment by a team executive.

"I've been a part of this game all my life, from the youth all the way up to the professional level and an international level, so the women's game is really important to me.

"And many of the players in this report I know. Many of them I coached," Parlow Cone said.

"I just found it really maddening that players

had to go through this."

The report made numerous recommendations to prioritise player health and safety.

Among them is the requirement that teams accurately disclose coach misconduct to the league and the soccer federation to ensure coaches aren't allowed to move between teams. It also calls for meaningful vetting of coaches and timely investigation into allegations of abuse.

The NWSL said it was reviewing the report. The league and the NWSL Players Association are also conducting an investigation.

AGHS defeats Clare Hall and gets bye into girls' knockout final

Antigua Girls' High School (AGHS) defeated Clare Hall Secondary 2-0 on penalties in the girls' division of the Ministry of Sports Schools' Football Knockout competition on Friday, 30th September.

Playing at the Princess Margaret School's playing field, Ozora Roberts and Thedia Browne converted their penalties to give the Antigua Girls' High School their victory in the decisive penalty shootout after both teams had battled to a nil-all draw at the end of regulation.

Following yesterday's (Monday) draw, Antigua Girls' High School received a bye into the girls' knockout final.

They will await the winners of tomorrow's (Wednesday) only girls' semi-final between defending knockout champions Ottos Comprehensive School and Princess Margaret School at the Princess Margaret School's playing field at 3 pm.

The boys' division knockout competition will resume with three second-round matches, which are all slated to kick-off at 3 pm today (Tuesday).

All Saints Secondary will clash with Antigua Grammar School at the



Players of Antigua Girls' High School gather in a huddle during a team talk with their coach following their victory over Clare Hall in the girls' division of the schools' knockout football competition at the PMS playing field in St. John's on Friday, 30th September, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Princess Margaret School's playing field.

St Mary's Secondary School will meet Ottos Comprehensive at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos and Irene B. Williams Secondary will tackle Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) at the Police Recreation Grounds.

The winner of the match between

All Saints Secondary and Antigua Grammar School will meet the winners of the encounter between St. Mary's Secondary School and Ottos Comprehensive in the lone semi-final on a date to be decided.

The winner of the match between Irene B. Williams and ABICE will receive a bye into the boys' division knockout final.

SLBMC wins fourth straight game in Business League

Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) continued their resurgence in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's

(ABBA) Business League at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday night.

Following a dismal start to their campaign in

which they lost their first five games, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre continued their significant turnaround in their fortunes

by coasting to their fourth consecutive win with a 62-39 victory against Health First Pharmacy Fearless

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Sports News



Quarter-finalists confirmed in ABFA's Knockout Cup

Cedar Grove Blue Jays, SAP FC and Grenades FC have completed the quarter-finals line-up in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Joma Caribbean Cool and Smooth Knockout Cup competition.

All three teams booked their spots in the quarter-finals by recording wins in the last three matches of the round of 16 at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Sunday evening.

A four-goal blitz by Jabbarry Chandler propelled Cedar Grove to a 6-1 drubbing of Five Islands FC in Sunday's opening encounter of a triple-header.

Okeski Leadette gave Cedar Grove a 1-0 lead

with a 16th minute conversion. Chandler then scored in the 29th and 42nd minutes to give the Blue Jays a 3-0 halftime advantage.

After the interval, Chandler scored in the 58th minute to complete his hat-trick and further extended his team's lead.

A Lyndon Goodwin's 66th minute conversion gave Cedar Grove a 5-0 lead and Chandler scored in the 79th minute to achieve his four-goal blitz and completed his team's scoring. Leon Joseph scored a late consolation goal for Five Islands.

Ex-national striker Peter "Big Pete" Byers scored a hat-trick to inspire SAP FC to an emphatic 6-1 victory over former fellow

premier division league champions Greenbay Hoppers in Sunday's second game.

Javaughn Parker gave SAP an excellent start when he scored in the 6th minute to give the side from Bolland a 1-0 lead. One minute later, Byers scored his first goal of the match and converted his second in the 23rd minute as SAP took control of the match.

A 37th minute conversion by Emerson Henry then gave SAP FC a 4-0 half-time advantage. Shortly after the break, Jari Jackson scored what turned out to be Greenbay Hoppers' only goal of the match in the 53rd minute.

Byers then scored in the 68th minute to com-

plete his hat trick and restored SAP's four-goal advantage and mid-fielder Timothy Sanasie sealed his team's victory with an 83rd minute conversion.

Two first half goals by Keanu Barrett and Ridel Stanislaus was sufficient to give Grenades a 2-0 victory over All Saints United FC in the final round of 16 encounter.

Barrett scored in the 14th minute and Stanislaus produced an 18th minute conversion to secure Grenades' victory.

Pigotts Bullets FC and Willikies FC both recorded 1-0 victories in the opening round of 16 matches last Friday.

A Shamari Dyer 81st minute conversion gave Bullets a 1-0 win over Villa Lions FC, while a goal by Juniah John in the 26th minute propelled Willikies FC to a 1-0 win against Parham FC.

Pigotts Bullets FC, Willikies FC, Cedar Grove Blue Jays, SAP FC and Grenades FC are joined in the quarter-finals by Garden Stars FC, Old Road FC and Tryum FC.

In the quarter-finals, Pigotts Bullets FC will take on Cedar Grove Blue Jays, Old Road FC will clash with Willikies FC, Grenades FC will face Tryum FC and SAP FC will meet Garden Stars FC.

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Crew in Sunday's feature game.

Point guard Nigel Joseph shot a game high 18 points and Baldwin Anthony Jr. contributed 16 points for Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, while Daysher Samuel scored 10 points for Fearless Crew who suffered their 7th loss in nine outings.

Graphic Impact Shooters notched up their fifth win in six outings with an 85-41 victory over the Board of Education in Sunday's first encounter.

Tavarus Benta shot a game high 20 points, Delornje Jules sank 18 points, Yannick Samuel scored 17 points and Jaheem James converted 15 points for Graphic Impact Shooters.

Sunday's other game was not played because the players of Galley Bay Resort failed to show up for their encounter

against Sandals Antigua who were awarded victory by default.

The Business Basketball League will continue with a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex today, Tuesday, 4th October.

Pointe FM will meet the Vendors at 6:30 pm, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board will oppose Galley Bay Resort at 7:30 pm and Graphic Impact Shooters will challenge Fitzroy Rewinding at 8:30 pm.

In tomorrow's (Wednesday) triple-header at the same venue, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre will meet the Board of Education at 6:30 pm, Sledge O'Ballers will take on the Vendors at 7:30 pm and Anjo Wholesale will oppose Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew at 8:30 pm.

Brooks to replace Hetmyer for West Indies

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has today informed the International Cricket Council (ICC) that Shamarh Brooks has replaced Shimron Hetmyer in the West Indies Squad for the upcoming ICC T20 World Cup in Australia.

The decision by the CWI Selection Panel was made as Shimron Hetmyer missed his re-scheduled flight to Australia, which had been changed from Saturday 1 October at his request, due to family reasons.

With flight availability a real challenge, a seat was found for him to leave Guyana today, Monday 3 October, meaning he would unfortunately miss the 1st T20 International (T20I) against Australia on Wednesday 5 October at the Metricon Stadium.

This morning, Mr. Hetmyer, informed the Director of Cricket that he would not be able to get to the airport in time for his flight this afternoon to New York.

"This afternoon we informed the CWI Board of Directors that the Selection Panel had unanimously decided to replace Shimron Hetmyer with Shamarh Brooks in our T20 World



WEST INDIES
T20 WORLD CUP SQUAD

NICHOLAS POORAN (C)
ROVMAN POWELL (VC)
SHAMARH BROOKS
YANNIC CARIAH
JOHNSON CHARLES
SHELDON COTTRELL
JASON HOLDER

AKEAL HOSEIN
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BRANDON KING
EVIN LEWIS
KYLE MAYERS
OBED McCOY
RAYMON REIFER
ODEAN SMITH

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IT'S OUR GAME

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP AUSTRALIA 2022

Cup squad. Whilst we changed Shimron's flight from Saturday to Monday due to family reasons, it was made clear to him that if there were any further delays and issues with his travel to Australia then we would have no choice but to replace him in the squad, as we are not prepared to compromise the team's ability to prepare for this

extremely important global event."

Adams added, "Shamarh has been a part of our recent T20 International squads and delivered strong performances in the latter stages of the recently concluded CPL. He will fly out as soon as possible this week to Australia and I wish him and all the squad all the very best for the Tournament."

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ing junior females, we also have to send a female chaperone, so the mother of Marquise George is going to accompany the team," Jonas stated.

"Generally, I would accompany the team as the manager and also to attend the ECGA Annual General Meeting, not saying the meeting is not important, but we also have to watch the finances; so to send an extra person will be an extra burden financially.

"So because we are

sending a female chaperone, we have made a decision that I will not travel with the team in our effort to minimize the cost as much as we can.

"Generally we send 13 people, 12 players and a team manager. We are still going to have the 12 players and the chaperone so we are still sending 13 people.

Jonas said he is also exploring the option of being allowed to participate in the meeting via the zoom online platform or asking one of the players to attend the

AGM on his behalf.

"I am just suggesting that if I am unable to go to the AGM, perhaps we could just identify one of the players, perhaps the team captain to represent us at the meeting.

"As an alternative, I could also ask them if I could join the meeting via zoom," Jonas said.

"The point I am making is instead of having to send 14 folks and increase our costs, we have made a decision to send the same 13 people as we normally do

just to keep the cost where they are."

After an absence of two years as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the St. Lucia Golf Association will be welcoming the best of the Eastern Caribbean golfers over two days at the Sandals Golf and Country Club.

Joining St. Lucia and Antigua and Barbuda at this year's event will be teams from fellow ECGA members in Martinique, Guadeloupe, St. Croix, St. Maarten, St. Kitts, Barbados and St. Thomas.

Four juniors in A&B squad to attend ECGA championship

Four of the nation's top junior golfers have been included in a 12-member squad named by the Antigua and Barbuda Golf Association (ABGA) to represent the twin-island state at the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championship in St. Lucia this weekend.

Marquise George is selected in the four-member men's team, while Lexi Hunte, Andreina De La Cruz and Akevia Warner comprise the three-member female team for the 8th to 9th October event in which Antigua and Barbuda is the defending net champion and Barbados the gross champs from the 2019 championship in Barbados, the last time the event was held.

President of the ABGA Avery Jonas said the four junior players are all from the Striving for Excellence Academy, which along with the Vincent James Golf Academy, are the two major organizations in Antigua and Barbuda with strong junior golf programmes.

"This year we have four juniors in our team and that's remarkable. The juniors are stepping up their game. There are junior programmes at the (Cedar Val-

ley) golf course that are putting out fantastic and good talent," said Jonas during an interview on the Sports Overflow programme on Platinum Radio 97.9 FM.

"We have had a junior in our team, I think, over the past several years, but I don't recall it ever being more than one, but this year we have four juniors.

"We have a junior golfer in Marquise George. I believe Marquise is just 14 years old, but he has been playing extremely well.

"In the female section, we have all juniors representing the ladies and their ages range between 15 and 18. We have Andreina De La Cruz, who is a former Antigua Open champion, Lexi Hunte, and Akevia Warner."

The squad will be led by team captain Paul Michael, who is also a member of the men's team that includes George, Wilston Charles and Antigua and Barbuda's number one golfer, 18-year-old Demar James, who has been a member of the team since he was 15 years old.

The super seniors in the squad are Wesley Dyer and Vere Ambrose, who is replacing Antigua and Barbu-



Lexi Hunte, left, and Marquise George are two of the nation's top junior golfers who have been selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Eastern Caribbean Golf Championship in St. Lucia this weekend. (File photo)

da's National Hero Sir Vivian Richards, who pulled out of the squad due to another commitment.

The squad is completed by seniors Dion Massiah, newcomer to the team Marcus Franker and former West Indies cricket all-rounder Eldine "Soca" Baptiste.

Jonas said Marquise

George's mother will accompany the squad as team chaperone and in an effort to reduce cost; he will not be travelling as team manager as well as to attend the Eastern Caribbean Golf Association's (ECGA) Annual General Meeting in person.

"Because we are send-

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