

OPERATION “STATIC SENTRY” STAVES OFF UNION STRIKE, FOR NOW

Story on Page 2



Minister of Tourism, Charles Fernandez (centre) is flanked by Antigua and Barbuda tourism officials, representatives of Antigua Cruise Port and Emerald Cruises who recently announced that they too will be using St. John's Harbour as a homeport beginning in 2023. *Story on page 11*

Teachers return to work today, but industrial action still looms

Teachers will return to the classroom today.

Pointe Xpress was reliably informed of this development, following the meeting on Tuesday between the executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) and its membership on Tuesday.

Coming out of the meeting, the union is giving the Ministry of Education, and other stakeholders, until Friday this week to ensure that temporary measures based on the ministry's proposal and the union's

counter proposal are implemented.

If this does not occur, Pointe Xpress has been reliably informed that the A&BUT is prepared to pursue industrial action come Monday next week.

A Ministry of Education delegation led by Minister Daryll Matthew held an emergency meeting with the A&BUT on Monday to discuss concerns over inadequate public school security.

This meeting followed a threat issued by the A&BUT last Friday that



it would call on its members to take industrial action if their concerns were not heard and resolved this week.

Information received on Tuesday by Pointe Xpress revealed that a proposal, dubbed "Static Sentry", was prepared by the Antigua and Barbuda Defence Force (ABDF). It is intended to be a joint operation between the ABDF and Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RP-FAB) to provide additional security on public school campuses.

Both agencies will be called upon to monitor schools, including after hours when most of the break-ins and vandalisms which precipitated the current crisis occur.

Static Sentry, however, is only meant to be a temporary solution which will remain in place until January 2023, when additional security measures approved by Cabinet, including the installation of

CCTV cameras, will all be in place.

For now, however, no details concerning the implementation of Static Sentry were provided, to include which schools will be covered by the operation.

The ABDF requested 48-hours to draft a written proposal which would be submitted to Attorney General and Minister of National Security, Steadroy "Cutie" Benjamin for approval.

Once approval is granted, operation Static Sentry will take immediate effect.

Meanwhile, a 14-day timeline has been established for ongoing negotiations concerning teachers' contracts and other matters raised.

The A&BUT is now expected to write to the Chief Establishment Officer to indicate that if the union does not receive a response within the stated timeline, then it will be left with no other choice but to mobilise its members.

ABPSA 2022
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

Salary increases due to some teachers to be settled

Teachers who are due to receive salary upgrades after furthering their education will receive their just due shortly.

Education Minister, Daryll Matthew, provided an update on this outstanding matter, which was approved by the Cabinet in June, earlier this week.

"I would have returned to the country last Friday and the last information I received is it is either with the Establishment Department or Ministry of Finance - somewhere between there - but it is a matter as well that

we have been in constant dialogue with the teachers' union so they are fully aware of what the process is.

"This is not a kicking the can down the road and let's try to appease them and see how we can gain a few more months of peace and stability. We recognise that teachers must be adequately taken care of.

"They must be made to feel the sort of value that society has in them, and we will do everything we can to ensure that that takes place," Matthew assured.

The matter of upgrades



is one of several long-standing issues the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) has highlighted in numerous discussions with Ministry of Education officials.

This upgrade only applies to teachers who have

pursued further education to enhance their qualifications but have not been compensated for their efforts.

Provisions for increases of this sort for educators who satisfy the necessary requirements are covered under the country's existing laws.

2 DEALS Tuesday & Wednesday 2 DAYS!!

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fries

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MIDWEEK 2
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biscuit
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PM Browne dissatisfied with T&T's response to CLICO/BAICO debt

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has expressed displeasure with the latest response from Trinidad and Tobago's Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley concerning the outstanding millions owed to former clients and shareholders who were left holding the bag after the collapse of the T&T-based insurance companies CLICO and British American Insurance Company (BAICO) in 2009.

In September, Browne, who is chairman of the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU) sub-committee on insurance, said the decision had been made to sue the Rowley administration over its failure to settle the matter in the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), which is based in Port-of-



Spain.

The ECCU nations Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines agreed to pursue legal recourse after three letters had been written to Prime Minister Rowley by Prime Minister Browne.

At the time, Browne said he was aware that each of the letters had been re-

ceived, however, Dr. Rowley flouted the ECCU's attempts to resolve the matter through negotiation and did not respond.

Following the failure of amicable avenues, the ECCU agreed unanimously to take the Trinidad and Tobago government to court in a bid to secure the remaining US\$60 million of the initial US\$100 million owed.

The Rowley administration has since stated de-

fiantly that it is unperturbed by the threat of the ECCU lawsuit, which it is prepared to fight, as in its opinion, the group has no legal foundation on which to expect success.

In August, lawyers, for the Rowley administration, said Prime Minister Browne and the ECCU would first have to find a way to bypass a June 2016 Privy Council judgement in the case of The United Policyholders Group and others, versus the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago, which stated that a government can override a previous administration's promise based on the current economic circumstances.

The CLICO policyholders argued at the time that

cont'd on pg 5

cont'd from pg 4

the Trinidad and Tobago government had given assurances of a Clico bailout which created a “legitimate expectation” of support, however, the government did not agree to the terms when it announced a new bailout plan in 2011.

The Privy Council ruled that the Trinidad and Tobago government was entitled to change its mind over what it perceived to be good reason based on macroeconomic and macro-political issues.

In 2022, however, it is these very economic changes which have improved in Trinidad and Tobago’s favour that have given Prime Minister Browne confidence that the south Caribbean nation is capable of making payment in full.

On Saturday in an appearance on Pointe FM, Antigua and Barbuda’s prime minister hinted that Dr. Rowley

has finally responded in writing to the demands for payment. While he did not disclose the details of the letter, he said he remains dissatisfied with the response.

“His response is one that I think he has commingled a number of issues; even some gratuitous payments that were made by the late Patrick Manning he has tried to include in a settlement.

“So, I am about to respond to him to let him know that he is mistaken and that the issues he has raised in his letter, they certainly have no bearing to the case that we are pursuing,” Browne said.



The ECCU said Trinidad and Tobago had made a commitment to pay US\$100 million to the member countries, but only US\$40 million was disbursed following the collapse of C. L. Financial, the owners of CLICO and British American Insurance Company (BAICO).


In October last year, a group of British American and CLICO policyholders in the Eastern Caribbean filed a lawsuit at the CCJ against the Trinidad and Tobago government and Prime Minister Browne said the ECCU’s decision to follow suit had been in the works for several years.

“Let me make it abundantly clear too that the policy holders will come together collectively, and they have a collective suit against the government of Trinidad and Tobago. That is separate from what we are pursuing here.

“The case I am pursuing is a settlement that was agreed to, even before I became prime minister, of US\$100 million. The government of Trinidad and Tobago paid US\$40 million for it, and US\$60 million is still outstanding.

Gaston Browne said it is on that basis the ECCU believes it has a case if Port-of- Spain refuses to meet its obligation to the policy holders.

Unicorp Bank Overseas, Ltd.			
Statement of Financial Position			
June 30, 2022			
(Amounts in US Dollars)			
	2022	2021	
Assets			
Deposits with banks (Notes 3, 5 and 10)			
Due from banks	2,161,154	1,795,362	
Interest bearing deposits with banks	5,154,071	6,110,400	
Total deposits with banks	7,315,225	7,905,762	
Loans (Notes 3, 6 and 10)	60,725,923	69,084,627	
Investment securities, net (Notes 3, 7 and 10)	49,193,531	41,828,397	
Investment in associates (Notes 3, 8 and 10)	43,157,466	43,670,220	
Computer equipment, net	1,510	2,666	
Right-of-use assets (Note 16)	451	10,183	
Other assets (Notes 3 and 10)			
Other accounts receivable	1,567,536	1,575,517	
Prepaid expenses	46,536	46,233	
Total other assets	1,614,072	1,621,750	
Total assets	162,008,178	164,123,605	
Liabilities and Equity			
Liabilities			
Deposits (Notes 3 and 10)			
Demand	23,764,191	31,131,520	
Time	106,960,429	86,878,718	
Total deposits	130,724,620	118,010,238	
Other liabilities (Note 10)	506,649	770,800	
Lease liabilities (Note 17)	332	10,603	
Total liabilities	131,231,602	118,791,641	
Equity (Notes 3 and 10)			
Common stock (Note 9)	5,000,000	5,000,000	
Retained earnings	27,227,065	39,365,553	
Revaluation reserve for investments	(1,450,489)	966,411	
Total equity	30,776,576	45,331,964	
Total liabilities and equity	162,008,178	164,123,605	
 			
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.			

Unicorp Bank Overseas, Ltd.			
Statement of Profit or Loss			
For the year ended June 30, 2022			
(Amounts in US Dollars)			
	2022	2021	
Interest Income (Note 10)			
Interest on loans	93,426	455,887	
Interest on deposits	186,280	256,938	
Interest on investments	1,023,536	1,258,362	
Total interest income	1,303,242	1,971,187	
Interest expense (Note 10)	2,648,554	3,498,588	
Net interest expense before provision	(1,345,312)	(1,527,401)	
Reversal of provision for deposits	15	55	
(Provision) reversal of provision for possible loans losses	(8)	131	
(Provision) reversal of provision for impairment of investments	(676)	4,048	
Net interest expense after provision	(1,345,981)	(1,523,167)	
Other Income (Expense), Net			
Commission income (Note 15)	1,980,469	2,305,145	
Commission expense	(25,502)	(27,541)	
Unrealized gain on investment at fair value through profit or loss	29,911	152,114	
Other income	1,959	1,820	
Other income, net	1,986,837	2,431,538	
General and administrative expenses (Notes 10, 11 and 14)	557,907	555,684	
Income before share in profit of associates	82,949	352,687	
Share in profit of associates (Notes 8 and 10)	1,207,499	6,381,176	
Income before income tax	1,290,448	6,733,863	
Income tax (Note 12)	(32,261)	(168,347)	
Net income	1,258,187	6,565,516	
			
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.			

First-of-its kind environmental initiative launched in Barbuda

An initiative aimed at stimulating the rebirth of coral reefs in Antigua and Barbuda has been launched in Barbuda.

Attended by top government officials, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Tourism Minister Charles Max Fernandez, Housing Minister Maria Browne and Barbudan Senator Knacyntar Nedd-Charles, the occasion marked the inaugural deployment of The Ocean Shot project led by scientist, Dr. Deborah Brosnan, in partnership with philanthropist and entrepreneur, John Paul DeJoria.

Ocean Shot is the first programme of its kind to take action for the world's oceans.

The initiative plans to use technology that mimics the design and shape of natural reefs to provide opportunities for colonisation by coral and other marine life.

The constructed reef modules will also help protect nearby coastal communities from storm surge and

sea level rise.

According to the project scope, "Serving as protective barriers for coastal communities against wave action, the coral reefs enable people to set up homes and businesses closer to the ocean. Coral reefs mitigate sand flow to beaches, replenishing the sparkling white beaches that make the Caribbean a global tourist hot spot.

"The sand itself is thanks to coral and a very important local species that feeds on it. The Ocean-Shot project is starting to operate in Antigua and Barbuda and will be replicated in other Caribbean and Latin American locations. The programme may also find a home in other parts of the world in the future."

The Institutional partner for this project is PADI, whose President and CEO is Dr. Drew Richardson. As the leader in the dive industry, PADI's engagement and partnership will ensure wide reach for this effort and that it will be embed-



ded in dive practices.

Additionally, this programme will form the basis of the PADI AWARE Foundation's development of best practices guidelines for coral reef restoration and monitoring for the dive industry.

The Antigua and Barbuda Government is also

a partner. Prime Minister Browne has been directly involved along with Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries, Samantha Marshall, Minister for Health and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, and Barbuda's Senator Knacyntar Nedd-Charles.

They have pledged their full support, and that of their agencies, to advance the effort. The project also is closely allied with Antigua and Barbuda's policy of ocean resilience and the blue economy which is being developed with key support from the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus.

Wed 05 Day 86° Partly cloudy skies. High 86F. Winds E at 15 to 25 mph.		Wed 05 Night 78° A few clouds from time to time. Low 78F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	
Humidity 74%	UV Index Extreme	Humidity 81%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 5:58 am	Sunset 5:53 pm	Moonrise 3:10 pm	Moonset 1:44 am Waxing Gibbous

Day one of highly anticipated murder trial ends abruptly

The long-awaited trial of Mikhail Gomes, who is accused of killing his ex-girlfriend Vincia James more than five years ago, has finally begun.

The trial began on Tuesday before Justice Colin Williams and 11 jurors.

The day began with Crown Counsel Andrew O'Kola's announcement that he would be prosecuting the case, followed by a summary of the facts for the jury.

Just as the prosecution called their first witness, however, the defendant's lawyer Lawrence Daniels, asked to have a word with O'Kola. He then asked Justice Williams to allow them both to approach the bench.



Justice Williams instead chose to meet the attorneys in his chambers. During the lengthy meeting, family members who were seated in the courtroom were also called to join the discussion.

The suspense continued as shortly after, the Director of Public Prosecutions,

Anthony Armstrong, was seen rushing into the judge's chambers.

Precisely what exactly happened during this time is an enigma, however, when Justice Williams and both counsels returned to the courtroom, it was announced that the matter

would be adjourned until 19th October.

The gallery was then emptied, however, a closed session continued.

On 7th April, 2017, James disappeared without a trace and her body has never been found.

She was last seen outside her workplace, Dixie Operations Ltd., on Old Parham Road.

It is believed that James may have died at the hands of her ex-boyfriend Gomes.

The prosecution is expected to present a case to the jury that is supported mainly by circumstantial evidence, which they hope will be sufficient to prove their case against Gomes.

**NATIONAL
TEACHER
DAY**

-NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SYSTEM-

ASIB
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

TEACHER
TAKES A HAND
OPENS A MIND
& TOUCHES A
HEART

Antigua and Barbuda, Japan celebrate 40 years of diplomatic relations

Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene, has described the government of Japan as “a steadfast ally and a faithful friend” of Antigua and Barbuda.

Greene was speaking on Tuesday at a brief flag-raising ceremony at the compound of the Office of the Prime Minister to mark the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

“As a small island state with many economic and social challenges, Japan over the years has provided support in critical areas such as management of coastal fisheries, disaster mitigation, agriculture, water harvesting and solid waste water management,” Greene said as he listed the areas in which Antigua and Barbuda has benefitted from Japan’s generosity.

He noted that the fishing sector plays a critical role in feeding the nation’s growing population. Greene added that the manner in which Antigua and Barbuda uses

and manages the resources of the ocean requires a sustainable approach that will enable these resources to be available for generations to come.

“The government of Japan, through its many agencies, has been able to help us achieve those objectives through technical training. The construction of fisheries facilities and the provision of training for officers over the past 40 years have helped to improve our capacity to manage our island’s ocean resources,” he declared.

Greene said he looks forward to continued friendship and mutual cooperation between Antigua and Barbuda and Japan as both countries continue to work together on the critical task of building a prosperous and resilient global environment to ensure peace, security and development.

He called on the people of Antigua and Barbuda to fully endorse the continued bonds of friendship with the people of Japan on the occa-



Foreign Affairs Minister E. P. Chet Greene with Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Akimoto Masatochi

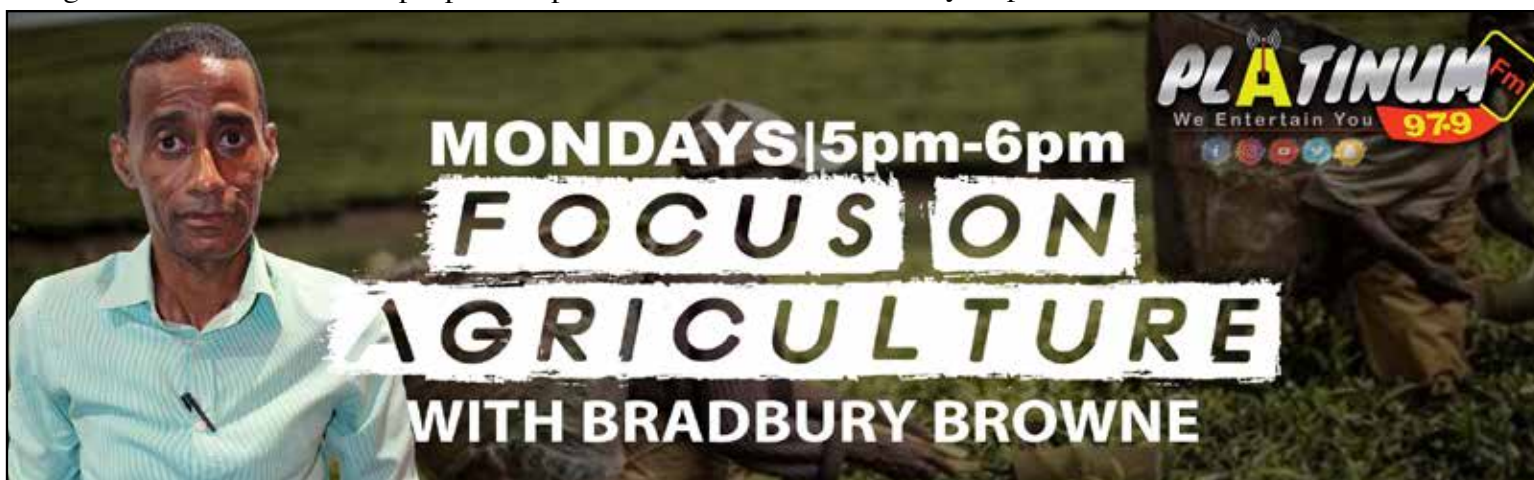
sion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties.

Offering full support of strengthening of existing ties between Antigua and Barbuda and Japan, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs, Akimoto Masatochi, expressed the hope that the relationship will expand in the coming years.

“It is my hope that the

relationship between Antigua and Barbuda and Japan will be expanded and deepened in a wide range of areas including culture, education, academics, economy and in the international arena,” he stated.

He also suggested the relationship between the two countries, which are both surrounded by the ocean, should serve as a model for the rest of the world.



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Vernest Mack is ABEC's newest commissioner

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) has announced a new member has joined its seven-member body.

Vernest Mack, retired educator, elections training officer and counsellor, was appointed on 27th September, 2022 by Governor General's Deputy, Sir Clare Roberts, KCN, KC.

Mack replaces Jeanette Charles, who was appointed by the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce, the Antigua and Barbuda Trades Union Congress and the Employers' Federation.

Charles' seven-year tenure came to an end in August.

In welcoming Mack, ABEC de-

scribed her as "motivated, hardworking, a community activist and trade unionist" with "high ethical values and standards".

Mack is no stranger to the Electoral Commission, having served as a Returning Officer from 1999-2021 and the training officer for all Returning Officers from 2004 - 2018 for both General Elections and the Barbuda Council elections.

Commissioner Mack said she is looking forward to making a valuable contribution to the work and further advancement of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission whilst maintaining balance, transparency and democracy.



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Director Browne: Teachers “crucial” to transformation of education

Today is World Teachers’ Day.

Twenty-eight years ago on 5th October, 1994, UNESCO officially carved out this day for the celebration of educators and the important role they play in societies around the world.

5th October was selected for the commemoration of World Teachers’ Day, as it was on this date in 1966 that a special intergovernmental conference convened by UNESCO in Paris adopted the UNESCO/ILO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, in cooperation with the ILO.

According to UNESCO, the recommendation establishes the rights and responsibilities of teachers, as well as international standards for their initial preparation and further education, recruitment, employment, teaching and learning conditions.

Since its adoption, the Recommendation has been considered an important set of guidelines to promote teachers’ status in the interest of quality education.

5th October also celebrates the adoption by the UNESCO General Conference in 1997 of the UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Higher-Education Teaching Personnel.

This year, the occasion is being celebrated under the theme “The transformation of education begins with teachers” which reflects on the purpose for which the day was established.

Here in Antigua and Barbuda, de-

spite the very public unfolding of several issues which are affecting education professionals, time has been carved out for reflection and celebration on this day.

Ahead of World Teachers’ Day on Tuesday, Director of Education, Clare Browne, declared that teachers “affect eternity” as he extended gratitude to the nation’s educators for their selfless work.

“I wish every teacher within the Antigua and Barbudan teaching service, an exceptionally meaningful World Teachers’ Day. This year, the day is being recognized under the theme, ‘The transformation of education begins with teachers’.

“The theme acknowledges that there is a global call for the transformation of education but, more significantly, it clearly suggests that teachers are not just an integral part of the transformation of education, they are the nuclei and agents of the radical changes which are currently critical.

“Teachers, by dint of hard work and great sacrifice, make an unparalleled contribution to the lives of the students they teach. Today, we pause to consider the energetic creativity, phenomenal commitment, positive inspiration, and strategic innovation which teachers deliver day in and day out, school year after school year.

“We are humbled by the sum of your service. Thank you for all that you do and will do in the future,” Director



Director of Education Clare Browne Browne said.

In his message, Browne encouraged educators to remain flexible and open to changing their approach as needed to meet the “complex needs of students”.

He also said that it is vital that teachers embrace new technologies which, in turn, will enable them to equip their students with the tools necessary to take full advantage of emerging opportunities.

The country’s chief educator went on to say that this year’s World Teachers’ Day theme holds an important message not only for teaching professionals but governments and the agencies within them that administer the field.

“Our government must recognise that the demands that are placed on teachers must be supported by greater investments in teachers. We need an urgent recalculation of how teachers are cared for. The remuneration they receive, the resources they are provided with and the physical environment in which they work have to motivate them to be agents of change.

“So, while we take the time to celebrate teachers, we must also dwell on our responsibility to this exclusively influential group of people in society. We must take actions which spur teachers on and keep them lighting the fires of progress we need in Antigua and Barbuda.”



Emerald Cruises to homeport at two Antigua ports in 2023

Antigua Cruise Port has confirmed that a luxury yacht owned by Switzerland-based Emerald Cruises will homeport in Antigua in 2023. Emerald Azzurra will begin conducting full turnaround calls at St. John's from November. Emerald Sakara will also begin transit calls on both Antigua and Barbuda in January 2024.

"Serving as a homeport has been one of our main strategic objectives since we began managing Antigua Cruise Port in 2019, so naturally, we are extremely excited about this partnership," explained Dona Regis-Prosper, General Manager. "For us, taking this leap with Emerald Cruises makes it that much more satisfying, since our tourism product offering pairs well with the desires of luxury yacht clientele. This partnership has been two years in the making, so we are grateful to them for their willingness to work with us to try something new. This collaboration gives Antigua & Barbuda a huge advantage when promoting our destination as a luxury cruise partner."

"In recent years, we have worked very closely with the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority to strategically promote the country as the Carib-

bean luxury destination of choice," she added. "To this end, we have meticulously coordinated every element of the homeporting experience, from provisioning to hotel partnerships, to airport movements and transfers. We will give passengers a seamless and enjoyable experience from start to finish."

She also noted that "Barbuda, specifically, is developing into a key destination for the "eco luxe"

sector, so these passengers will experience new tours and activities that combine the best of both worlds – an appreciation of the finer things, while embracing our shared love of our planet. What could be better?"

Mark Robinson, VP of Cruise Operations for Emerald Cruises, shared his team's enthusiasm about the collaboration. "We are delighted to offer our passengers "double the

pleasure" by offering two homeport stops in the stunning islands of Antigua & Barbuda next year. The depth of experiences that await them in this pristine destination have certainly expanded lately, and we are especially pleased to add new adventures to our Caribbean itineraries. We are always looking for what's new and next, and Antigua & Barbuda is at the centre of the future of Caribbean cruising."

Join us for our Walk for the Cure

Saturday, 15 October, 2022 at 4:00 pm

Registration fee:
Adults \$50.00 & Children \$25.00

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Natasha Charles at 484-5137 or Khadijah James at 484-5064.

Route:
Start from Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, turning left to Paynter's Court on to Piggotts Main Road, turning left to pass the Sunny Side School, on to Factory Road and end at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium

All proceeds to be donated to BreastFriends and The Oncology Department at the Sir Lester Bird Medical.



SIR LESTER BIRD
MEDICAL CENTRE



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UPP's political engine stuck in neutral

Dear Editor,

In previous letters concerning the United Progressive Party (UPP), I have made certain salient points, including the party's lack of a philosophy or policy, its lack of quality political and technical advisors and a political campaign manager; all of which are vital and necessary if the neophyte and unqualified team of candidates are to have any chance of winning seats in the coming general elections. To suggest that the UPP, as presently constituted, could win an election is simply "whistling in the dark." It just cannot and will not happen.

It cannot be denied that the UPP as of now, today, has failed to craft a political strategy for its campaign, neither has it put a coherent economic policy for consideration by the voters. Its policy is guided by a hatred of Prime Minister Gaston Browne and the Antigua Barbuda Labour Party and is fuelled by its humiliating defeats in the last two elections, winning three (3) seats in 2014 and one (1) seat in 2018.

As to its campaign strategy this is based on whatever aggravation appears to be upsetting the party's base; the lowest of the "low hanging fruit," a great deal of political noise by the candidates (who for the most part are unemployed or under employed with lots of time on their hands); exaggerated and false claims about the performance of the economy; unproven allegations of corruption, a refusal to realize and to recognize the positive successes of the incumbent ABLP.

In the face of these successes, they state with a straight face "that this government has done nothing for Antigua and Barbuda and Antiguan and Barbudans". Add to this, persistent and easily debunked lies spewed on Crusader, Observer and ZDK radios. And

lastly hyping their base supporters to a frenzy with the claim that it will win the next general election and the belief that a worn out and mentally exhausted Harold Lovell will lead them to a victory at the polls.

Harold Lovell, a proven failure, will wave a magic wand and solve all the complex crises affecting Antigua and Barbuda and the world. We are all living on the same planet Earth and we are all interconnected. We have very little control over many of the problems we face except to use our brain and innovation to manoeuvre through these difficult times.

Those of us, other than the UPP party faithful, do not share this rosy view held by the blues. The UPP has given us no reason to believe that they are on the way to victory. To the contrary, a poll conducted by respected pollster and political analyst, Peter Wickham has indicated that the UPP is only marginally ahead in three seats..... and bear in mind that while the UPP has been campaigning for nearly a year, the BIG RED MACHINE has not yet cranked up.

The UPP candidates, activists and supporters need to comprehend that a party can only gauge its strength and popularity in two ways.

Conducting a poll by a professional pollster which will give a clear indication by the questions posed and answered, whether the polled party is in the pole position and in which constituency.

This nonsense spewed by Senator Tabor and others that in-house polls have indicated UPP winning, cannot be believed; and the results of any push poll by Linley Winter is hilarious, especially since his polls in 2014 and 2018 predicted a UPP win by healthy margins. The idea that the UPP is giving weight to in-house polls and

a push poll, highlights the ignorance and inexperience of the party's hierarchy and membership.

The holding of a series of public meetings throughout the 16 constituencies in Antigua. This is a time-honoured way of political parties testing their strength and flexing their political muscle.

A series of meetings will also indicate whether or not the party is gaining or losing strength. Political pundits and voters will recall that during the State of Emergency, the UPP accused the government of declaring the State of Emergency in order to prevent it from holding political meetings. The State of Emergency has been lifted since December, 2021. It is now October 2022 and the UPP is yet to hold even one general public meeting.

Once the State of Emergency was lifted and life returned to normal, the UPP came to the realization that much of the complaining and bitching had stopped and much of the criticism of the government had subsided and was replaced by optimism and a feeling that the government had handled the Covid pandemic exceedingly well.

So rather than have general public meetings, the UPP decided instead to test the waters by having meetings to present its candidates to the public. The turnout at these mini-meetings was not encouraging. Only one was described as having a modest turnout while the rest were disappointing and sparsely attended. Add to the above the UPP's poor showing at the Labour Day march where they joined with the ABWU.

I recall looking at Harold Lovell as he stood in front of the Union's headquarters and his disappointment was palpable. In contrast, the ABLP's march easily outnumbered the UPP/

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ABWU by 4 to 1, as estimated by independent observers.

On 10th July, 2022 the ABLP held a Special Convention for among other things, to chose its representative for the constituency of St. Peter. The Convention was held at the Party's new headquarters at Nugent Avenue with a seating capacity of 500 persons. The room was filled to capacity with standing room only. It was easily one of the largest conventions I have ever seen in Antigua.

However, more to the point was the enthusiasm and energy displayed by the delegates. The atmosphere was electrically charged with the delegates displaying their love and support of the Prime Minister in particular and the leadership in general. It was clear that that party was in full election mode and ready to hit the campaign trail. The Party exuded dynamism, strength and total commitment.

The Labour Day activity and the Convention put the UPP in a quandary. They feared and/or refused to hold a campaign rally, for after all, their political picketing had failed miserably; the abuse and denigration of Gaston Browne, the unsubstantiated and false accusations of corruption; the lies and the hatred directed at ABLP supporters, were clearly not yielding positive results and its main support emanated from its un-informed supporters on social

media. Something had to be done, so, the gimmick of the "Small business pull-up" was created.

I, like many, have pondered and guessed as to the identity of the 'political genius' who created this really foolish and useless idea. My best guess is Franz De Freitas, who is considered a political moron and who appears to be leading the 'pull up.' I know I am not alone in being puzzled as to the political purpose of this exercise in futility, to have a group of 10 – 13 persons, mostly candidates, going into each other's constituency and stopping at vari-

ous shops and bars, giving mini political speeches and each spending \$5 to \$10. This makes absolutely no sense and does nothing for the business. From a \$10 sale, the business may realise a \$1 profit. It is just a ploy to keep the UPP's fading face before voters, as the whole farcical performance is filmed and uploaded to Facebook.

In the meantime, Gaston Browne and the ABLP are methodically 'putting their ducks in a row', delivering on promises made, some of which had been delayed due to 2 years of Covid. Non-UPP supporters

and fair-minded independents are well aware of the strides the government has made and is making in the economy, health, education, water infrastructure, housing, tourism and other areas. Jolly Beach workers are to be paid and work has started on the re-building and expansion at Halcyon.

While progress in the country continues apace, the noise one hears from the UPP is that of a sputtering political machine that is stuck in neutral and at a standstill, mired in political hopelessness.

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Ukraine war: Will Putin use nuclear weapons?

Russian president has repeatedly pledged to use all means at his disposal to keep his country safe.

Vladimir Putin, who controls the world's largest nuclear arsenal, pledged last week to use "all the powers and means at our disposal" to defend Russia. The United States, he said, had set "a precedent" when it dropped two atomic bombs on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945.

It was Putin's latest thinly veiled nuclear threat to Ukraine and its Western allies since he sent Russian troops into the neighbouring country more than seven months ago.

But will the Russian leader use nuclear weapons? What would be the impact of such a move? And how might the US respond? As tensions ratchet up, here are key questions answered:

Who has the most nuclear weapons?

Russia is the world's biggest nuclear power based on the number of nuclear warheads. It has an estimated 5,977 while the US has 5,428, according to the Federation of American Scientists.

Those figures include stockpiled and retired warheads, but both Russia and the US have enough firepower to destroy the world many times over. While Russia and the US have dismantled thousands of their retired warheads, they still have 90 percent of the world's total nuclear weapons.

Russia has 1,458 strategic nuclear warheads deployed –



Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised to use 'all the means at our disposal' to defend Russia as he wages war in Ukraine [Mikhail Metzler/Sputnik/Kremlin Pool via AP Photo]

or ready to fire – and the US has 1,389 deployed, according to the latest publicly declared data. These warheads are on intercontinental ballistic missiles, ballistic missiles on submarines and strategic bombers.

When it comes to tactical nuclear weapons, Russia has about 10 times the number the US has. About half of the 200 US tactical nuclear weapons are deployed at bases in Europe.

US tactical nuclear weapons have adjustable yields of 0.3 to 170 kilotons. (The atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was equivalent to about 15 kilotons.)

What nuclear weapons could be used?

No Russian official has called for a strategic nuclear weapons attack using the weapons that were designed to destroy cities in the US, Europe and Asia.

Ramzan Kadyrov, head of Russia's Chechnya region, said recently that Moscow should consider using a low-yield tactical nuclear weapon in Ukraine.

The Kremlin dismissed his call. "This is a very emotional moment," spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. "The heads of regions have the right to express their point of view. Even at difficult moments, emotions should still be excluded from any assessments."

Tactical nuclear weapons are essentially nuclear weapons used on the battlefield for a "tactical" purpose. They are much less powerful than the big bombs that would be needed to destroy large cities such as Moscow, Washington or London.

Such weapons can be mounted on missiles and fired from the ground, ships or submarines. They can also be dropped from planes or detonated by ground forces.

Long-range nuclear weapons that Russia could use in a direct conflict with the US are battle-ready. But its stocks of warheads for shorter ranges – so-called tactical weapons – are not, analysts said.

"All those weapons are in storage," Pavel Podvig, a se-

nior researcher who specialises in nuclear weapons at the United Nations' disarmament think-tank in Geneva, told The Associated Press news agency.

"You need to take them out of the bunker, load them on trucks" and then marry them with missiles or other delivery systems, he said. Russia has not released a full inventory of its tactical nuclear weapons or their capabilities.

Putin could order a smaller tactical nuclear weapon be surreptitiously readied and teed up for surprise use. But overtly removing weapons from storage is also a tactic the Russian president could employ to raise pressure without using them.

He would expect US satellites to spot the activity and perhaps hope that baring his nuclear teeth might scare Western powers into dialing back support for Ukraine, some analysts said.

"That's very much what the Russians would be gambling on, that each escalation provides the other side with both a threat but (also) an off-ramp to negotiate with Russia," researcher Sidharth Kaushal told AP. He's a researcher with the Royal United Services Institute in London, which specialises in defence and security.

Although Russia has specialised forces trained to fight on a nuclear battlefield, it is unclear how its army of regular troops, mercenaries, drafted reservists and local

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 militias would cope.

Will Putin go nuclear?

Putin's reaction will depend on how he perceives the threat to the Russian state and his rule.

The Russian leader casts the war in Ukraine as an existential battle between Russia and the West, which he says wants to destroy his country and grab control of its vast natural resources.

Putin warned the West he was not lying when he said he was ready to use nuclear weapons to defend Russia. Some analysts say Putin is bluffing, but Washington is taking Putin seriously.

Since claiming 18 per cent of Ukraine as part of Russia, the nuclear threat has increased because Putin could cast any attack on these territories as an attack on Russia itself.

Russia's nuclear doctrine allows for a nuclear attack after "aggression against the Russian Federation with conventional weapons when the very existence of the state is threatened".

But there are also reasons for Putin to decide against a nuclear attack. Many Russians live in Ukrainian territory that Putin has proclaimed as part of Russia, and breaking the post-World War II nuclear taboo would not necessarily change the tactical situation on the ground.

"He is bluffing right now," Yuri Fyodorov, a military analyst based in Prague, told the Reuters news agency. "But what will happen in a week or a month from now is difficult to say – when he understands the war is lost."

Asked if Putin was moving towards a nuclear attack, CIA Director William Burns told the CBS television network: "We have to take very seriously his kind of threats, given everything that's at stake."

Burns, though, said US intelligence had no "practical evidence" that Putin was moving towards using tactical nuclear weapons any time soon.

What would the US do?

The White House has warned of "catastrophic consequences for Russia" if Putin goes nuclear.

President Joe Biden's options would include ordering a non-military response, responding with another nuclear strike that would risk escalation, and responding with a conventional attack that could involve the US in a direct war with Russia.

Retired General and former CIA chief David Petraeus said that if Moscow used nuclear weapons, the US and its NATO allies would destroy Russian troops and equipment in Ukraine and sink its entire Black Sea fleet.

Would nuclear force help reverse Russia's military losses?

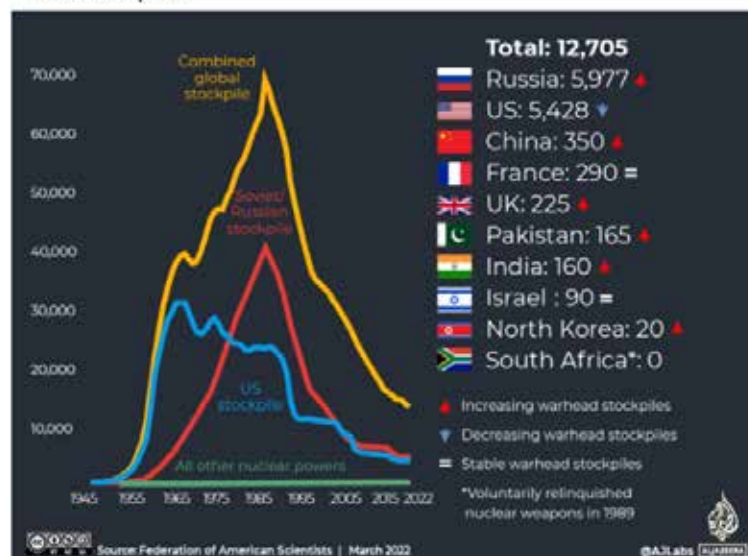
Kremlin watchers are unsure whether a nuclear strike would help Russia on the battlefield, in part because they do not see how it could help reverse Russia's recent military losses in Ukraine.

Ukrainian troops are not using large concentrations of tanks to wrest back ground, and fighting is sometimes for places as small as villages. So what targets could Russian nuclear forces choose that

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Which countries have nuclear weapons?

Nine countries held roughly **12,700** warheads as of early 2022, according to estimates by the Federation of American Scientists. While **Russia and the US** have dismantled thousands of their retired warheads, they still own **90 percent of the world's total nuclear weapons**.



would have a significant effect?

"Nuclear weapons are not a magic wand," said Andrey Baklitskiy, a senior researcher specialising in nuclear risk at the UN's Institute for Disarmament Research. "They are not something that you just employ and they solve all your problems."

Analysts are struggling to identify battlefield targets that would be worth the huge price Putin would pay internationally. If one nuclear strike did not stop Ukrainian advances, would he then attack again and again?

Podvig noted the war does not have "large concentrations of troops" to target. Striking cities in the hope of shocking Ukraine into surrender would be an awful alternative.

"The decision to kill tens and hundreds of thousands of people in cold blood, that's a tough decision," he said. "As it should be."

For Leonid Reshetnikov, a retired lieutenant general

who spent more than 40 years working in the Soviet and Russian foreign intelligence services, the prospect of Russia using tactical nuclear weapons in Ukraine was "impossible and would make little military sense" right now.

In an interview late last month, he argued that such a move would be a sharp deviation from the risk-averse strategy that Russia has pursued in Ukraine so far, noting that the Kremlin waited nearly seven months before declaring a partial mobilisation.

NATO troops becoming directly involved in the conflict could change Moscow's calculus, however.

"The United States and practically all of Europe are already participating in this conflict by providing Ukraine with weapons, intelligence, instructors and volunteers," Reshetnikov said. "If this continues to further escalate, then that creates the risk of a global war in which nuclear weapons could be used." (Al-Jazeera)

Haitian police fire tear gas as thousands protest against gov't

Reuters - Police in Haiti fired tear gas on Monday at thousands of protesters marching in the streets of the capital, Port-au-Prince, against Prime Minister Ariel Henry's government and its handling of crippling fuel shortages and soaring prices.

Reuters footage showed a man being carried on a stretcher after suffering a leg injury and police firing tear gas and guns into the air to disperse protesters.

A gang blockade of Haiti's main fuel port over a fuel price increase Henry announced last month, and the resulting shortages have forced some hospitals, which are powered by diesel generators, to close, shut down transport and brought much daily life to a halt.

The protest took place on the day schools were meant to re-open after a one-month postponement of the resumption of classes after the summer break because of the economic crisis.

"If the prime minister solves insecurity and hunger, if he can solve the gang problems in the country and manage the crisis, there will be no problem in restarting classes," a protester who identified himself as Wilgens told Reuters.



People march during a protest against the government and rising fuel prices, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti October 3, 2022.

uters.

"If he has no answers to these questions, he must leave power and hand it to the right person."

Another protester, Marckenson, called for Henry to step down.

"Ariel does not have the dignity to open the schools. We will open the schools and Ariel must leave."

In a statement to the United Nations the week after announcing the fuel price increase, Henry acknowledged the right of people to protest over rising

prices but condemned the organisers of looting, vandalism and violence.

"Sooner or later they will have to answer for their crimes before history and the law," he said.

The protest came a day after Haiti's health minister said at least seven people had died of cholera, indicating more problems with access to clean drinking water in the poorest country in the Americas.

An outbreak of the disease killed some 10,000 people in 2010.

About 109,000 still without power in Puerto Rico two weeks after Fiona

Reuters - An estimated 109,000 homes and businesses were still without power in Puerto Rico on Tuesday, two weeks after Hurricane Fiona caused an island-wide outage for its 3.3 million people.

Fiona hit Puerto Rico on Sept. 18, about five years after Hurricane Maria also

knocked out all power on the island.

After hitting Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic, Fiona turned north and slammed into eastern Canada on Sept. 24, leaving more than a third of Nova Scotia without power.

Nova Scotia Power, a unit of Canadian energy

company Emera Inc (EMA.TO), said about 13,800 customers were still without power in the province early on Tuesday, down from about 24,500 early on Monday.

PowerOutage.us said about 109,000 customers were without service in Puerto Rico on Tuesday,

down from 120,000 on Monday, based on information from LUMA Energy, which operates its grid.

That pace of restoration - though slow - was faster than after Maria when almost all 1.5 million customers had no power for a week. At that time the now bankrupt Puerto Rico Electric

cont'd on pg 18

Lula and Bolsonaro court new allies for competitive Brazil runoff

Reuters - Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and his leftist challenger were hunting endorsements on Tuesday, party officials said, as they fine tuned their campaigns for a runoff in an election that has proven more competitive than expected.

Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva won 48.4% of the votes on Sunday, just short of the majority needed for an outright win against the far-right Bolsonaro, whose surprisingly strong showing won him 43.2% of votes.

The highly polarised race, marked by threats from Bolsonaro that he might contest the results, will be decided on Oct 30.

Lula's Workers Party reached out to the parties whose presidential candidates placed third and fourth on Sunday – Simone Tebet of the centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement party and Ciro Gomes of the left-of-centre Democratic Labour Party (PDT) – to win their endorsement. Together they got 7% of the votes on Sunday.

Tebet is expected to back Lula and could announce her support later on Tuesday, though some sectors of her party may still lean toward Bolsonaro.

Gomes has had a history of clashes with Lula, but agreed with his party's decision to throw its support behind the leftist, which may help to transfer some of the 3% of votes that Gomes received in the first round.

Lula's economic advisers said they are pushing him to adopt proposals by Tebet and Gomes in an effort to build a broader centre-left coalition to win the runoff.

Bolsonaro also nailed a key endorsement on Tuesday, meeting with the newly re-elected governor of Minas Gerais, Brazil's second-most populous state. Governor Romeu



Former Brazil's President and current presidential candidate Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva gestures during a meeting with campaign associates for the second round of elections, in São Paulo, Brazil, October 3, 2022.

Zema, who stayed neutral in the first round of the election, formally endorsed Bolsonaro after their meeting in Brasilia.

"Zema's support is more than welcome, it is decisive for my re-election," Bolsonaro told reporters after the meeting.

Rio de Janeiro Gov. Claudio Castro, who is leading his re-election race in Brazil's third-largest state, also backed Bolsonaro.

The president enters the second round with wind in his sails after his surprising success in rallying conservative sentiment, turning his Liberal Party into the largest in both chambers of Congress in Sunday's general election.

"We always knew Brazil was a conservative country, but we did not realise it was so conservative," said a campaign adviser who asked not to be named.

Party officials said Bolsonaro's strategy will now focus on drawing

more votes from women while toning down the attacks on Brazil's electronic voting machines.

The president is planning to increase payments to women who are breadwinners with an extra year-end payment under an expanded welfare program, according to two sources familiar with the discussions.

The initiative, which would go into effect next year, could help Bolsonaro's popularity with women and poor families, two segments where he has faced resistance.

"His runoff campaign will have a positive agenda, with less attacks on Lula and no criticism of the electronic voting system," said the campaign aide.

Bolsonaro's attacks on the integrity of Brazil's electoral system, suggestions that he may not concede if he loses and pressure on the military to conduct a parallel vote count have made this election the tensest in Brazil in decades.

Lennox Linton gives reasons for stepping down as party leader

CMC - Dominica's Opposition Leader, Lennox Linton, said infighting within the main opposition United Workers Party (UWP) had served to prevent the party from getting into the corridors of power, especially during his tenure as a political leader.

"I stepped up to the responsibility of political leadership in response to the need for change. I served in the responsibility of political leadership, on the agenda for change. I have stepped down from the responsibility of political leadership in the embrace of change," said Linton, who announced his resignation as UWP leader over the weekend.

In a Facebook statement, Linton, who had been at the helm of the party since 2013, leading



Lennox Linton

it to two electoral defeats, said "a house divided under itself cannot stand and it is in the balance between democratic freedoms and the discipline for collective leadership responsibility that eludes us from time to time."

In 1995, the centrist political party, which was formed in 1968, secured a narrow majority of 11 seats

in the 21-seat Parliament but lost the 2000 general election when it won nine seats.

Linton said while he believes that the opposition's quest to remove the ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) from office has been unsuccessful due to an uneven playing field, betrayal within his own party led to its defeat at the polls.

"And yes, there has been the infighting, the vilification from within, the backstabbing and the treachery, but I'm alive, I survived to stand aside, to continue to serve, committed to secure a course correction so that the leadership of the party going forward is protected from similar impediments to ensuring that Dominica is on the ballot, and not the parties and interests we define in mindless prejudice, of colours. It's time for a change."

Linton, a former journalist, said his resignation as UWP leader emerged from the national yearning for change "that is a must."

"For real change that people, especially the youth can believe in," he said, adding that his relationship with the party was never "till death do us part."

cont'd from pg 16

tric Power Authority (PREPA) was still operating the grid.

It took PREPA about 11 months to restore power to all customers, but Maria was a much more powerful storm than Fiona.

Maria hit Puerto Rico in 2017 as a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 155 miles (249 kms) per hour (mph), while Fiona hit as a Category 1 storm with winds of 85 mph.

LUMA Energy said it

restored service to 1.374 million, or about 94% of all customers by late Monday and expects to restore service to 90% of customers in the hardest hit areas by Oct. 6 so long as sufficient generation is available. LUMA is a joint venture owned by units of Canadian energy firm ATCO Ltd (50%) and U.S. energy contractor Quanta Services Inc (PWR.N) (50%).

Puerto Rico is restoring power to homes more quickly in the wake of Hur-



A man wades through a flooded street after Hurricane Fiona affected the area in Yauco, Puerto Rico September 18, 2022. REUTERS/Ricardo Arduengo/File Photo.

ricane Fiona than after Hurricane Maria five years ago,

when it took months before the island fully recovered.

UK's Truss faces Conservative dissent amid policy U-turns

AP — Liz Truss should be celebrating her first month as Britain's prime minister. Instead, she's fighting for her job.

Truss is spending her first Conservative Party conference as leader this week scrambling to reassure financial markets spooked by her government's see-sawing economic pledges, while trying to restore her authority with a party that fears its chance of re-election is crumbling.

An unpopular tax-cutting package last month and the series of U-turns that followed have turned Truss' debut conference leader's speech on Wednesday from a moment of triumph to one of peril.

Former Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said that "the next 10 days is a critical period of time" for Truss.

He told the News Agents podcast that some Conservative lawmakers were thinking: "Well, I'm going to be out at the next election,' (so) then they might as well roll the dice, as it were, and elect a new leader."

Truss insisted Tuesday that she is leading "a listening government" that learns from its mistakes.

"I think there's absolutely no shame in a leader listening to people and responding, and that's the kind of person I am," she told Sky News.

To the BBC she said: "We have learned from the feedback we've received.

That "feedback" has been dramatic: Truss' four weeks in office have seen the pound plunge to record lows against the dollar, the Bank of England take emergency action and the opposition Labour Party surge to record highs against her Conservatives in opinion polls.



British Prime Minister Liz Truss and Chancellor of the Exchequer Kwasi Kwarteng visit a construction site for a medical innovation campus in Birmingham, on day three of the during day three of the Conservative Party annual conference at the International Convention Centre in Birmingham, England.

Now Truss also faces a battle with her party over her economic plans, with some lawmakers — including government ministers — warning they will oppose any attempt to slash welfare benefits to help pay for the lower taxes that are a key part of Truss' economic philosophy.

Truss said "no decision has been made yet" on whether to cut benefits and pensions in real terms by raising them by less than inflation.

The government descended into factional fighting as Truss loyalists hit back at the critics. Home Secretary Suella Braverman said some Conservative lawmakers had "staged a coup, effectively, and undermined the authority of the prime minister in an unprofessional way."

Tory dissent leaves Truss facing a choice between jettisoning more of her economic plan or facing a show-down with the party in Parliament, where defeats on economic bills are

generally regarded as re to reshape Britain's economy through tax cuts and deregulation in a bid to end years of sluggish growth. But she is trying to ride out a series of U-turns over her first big policy: a stimulus package that includes 45 billion pounds (\$50 billion) in tax cuts, to be paid for by government borrowing. Its announcement on Sept. 23 sent the pound tumbling to a record low against the dollar and increased the cost of government borrowing, signing matters for a government.

The Bank of England was forced to intervene to prop up the bond market and stop a wider economic crisis. Fears that the bank will soon hike interest rates caused mortgage lenders to withdraw their cheapest deals, causing turmoil for homebuyers.

Under political and financial pressure, the government on Monday scrapped the most unpopular part of

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Ecuador prison clash leaves at least 15 dead, 20 injured

AP — A clash between inmates armed with guns and knives inside the Latacunga prison in central Ecuador on Monday left at least 15 people dead and 20 injured, authorities said.

Officials attributed the fighting to national and international drug trafficking groups which have turned the Andean nation's prisons into the scene of repeated massacres as the groups fight for power and drug distribution rights.

Ecuador's national penitentiary service confirmed the death toll in the Latacunga prison, located 50 miles (80 kilometres) south of the capital of Quito. Agents are still searching the prison's pavilions for bodies.



Videos in which gunfire and the screams of inmates can be heard were posted on social media.

Some 316 inmates were killed inside Ecuador's prisons last year, accord-

ing to the penitentiary service. So far this year there have been 90 deaths. The worst massacre took place in September of last year in the Litoral Penitentiary in Guayaquil, where 125 pris-

oners were killed.

Ecuador's prison system is designed for about 30,000 people, but some 35,000 inmates were held in 53 state prisons as of last month.



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

cont'd from pg 19

its budget package, a tax cut on earnings above 150,000 pounds (\$167,000) a year.

Abandoning the top-rate tax cut will save about 2 billion pounds, a small share of the government's 45 billion-pound tax-cutting plan — and it's unclear how the rest will be paid for.

Treasury chief Kwasi Kwarteng has also promised to publish a fully costed fiscal plan, alongside an economic forecast from the independent Office for Budget Responsibility. Initially that was due to come Nov. 23, but mounting

pressure means it's likely to arrive weeks sooner.

What Kwarteng on Monday called the "hullabaloo" over the government's plans has cast a shadow over the Conservatives' annual conference in Birmingham, where many delegates express fears that the party, in power since 2010, is headed for defeat in the next election.

Truss is due to make a speech to conference delegates today, and the recent turmoil has turned what should have been a triumphant welcome for a new leader into a moment of peril.

Uganda's president fires military son after offensive tweets

AP — Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni fired his son as commander of the nation's infantry forces Tuesday after the son tweeted an unprovoked threat to capture the capital of neighbouring Kenya, drawing widespread concern in East Africa.

Lt. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, dubbed 'the tweeting general' of Uganda, in recent months had sparked anger among some Ugandans who see his frequent posts on Twitter as provocative and sometimes even dangerous.

He has tweeted in support of the Tigray rebels fighting Ethiopian federal troops. He's voiced support for violent rebels fighting in eastern Congo. He said all Africans support Russia in its war in

Ukraine. Bizarrely, he recently said he was offering 100 long-horned cattle — apparently as bride price — for Italy's incoming female prime minister.

Some of Kainerugaba's supporters say his tweets are attempts at humour and shouldn't be taken seriously. But many others see a bigger problem.

As an army officer, he is constitutionally barred from engaging in partisan politics and some Ugandans point out that any other soldier tweeting like Kainerugaba would be court-martialed.

"It wouldn't take us, my army and me, 2 weeks to capture Nairobi," he tweeted Monday.

That threat to seize the capital of Kenya went too far for his father, an au-



thoritarian leader who has held power since 1986.

Kenyan President William Ruto, who took power last month, is friendly with Museveni, whom he described as the region's "father" during his inauguration.

Kainerugaba's tweets exasperated many Kenyans, and the foreign minister tweeted Tuesday that he had a meeting with the Ugandan ambassador. Uganda's foreign ministry dismissed Kainerugaba's tweets in a statement that spoke of a "harmonious relationship that we value."

Kainerugaba, the pillar of his father's personal security apparatus, has been the de facto head of Uganda's military, with his allies strategically deployed in command positions across the security services, according to observers.


Although he was sacked from his post as head of Uganda's infantry forces, Kainerugaba still

was promoted to a four-star general and will remain a military adviser to his father, according to a statement issued by the military Tuesday. He was replaced as infantry commander by Lt. Gen. Kayanja Muhanga.

Many Ugandans believe Kainerugaba is being groomed to replace Museveni as president, allegations the president has long denied.

Kainerugaba's associates describe him as a dedicated military officer who often eschews ostentatious displays of power and wealth. He attended military schools in the U.S. and Britain before taking charge of a presidential guard unit that has since been expanded into an elite group of special forces.

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni fired his son, Lt. Gen. Muhoozi Kainerugaba, as commander of the nation's infantry forces.



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Paris joins big screen boycott of World Cup games from Qatar

AP — Paris will not broadcast World Cup matches on giant screens in public fan zones amid concerns over rights violations of migrant workers and the environmental impact of the tournament in Qatar.

It follows similar moves by other French cities, despite France going in as the defending champion. Some other European teams or federations are also looking at ways to protest.

Pierre Rabadan, deputy mayor of Paris in charge of sports, told reporters in the French capital that the decision against public broadcasting of matches is due to “the conditions of the organisation of this World Cup, both on the environmental and social level.”

He said in an interview with France Blue Paris that “air-conditioned stadiums” and the “conditions in which these facilities have been built are to be questioned.”

Rabadan stressed that Paris is not boycotting the soccer tournament, but explained that Qatar’s “model of staging big events goes against what (Paris, the host of the 2024 Olympics) wants to organise.”

The move comes despite the city’s football club, Paris Saint-Germain, being owned by Qatar Sports Investments.

“We have very constructive relations with the club and its entourage yet



Supporters watch on giant screens the Euro 2016 final soccer match between Portugal and France in the Paris fan zone, France, Sunday, July 10, 2016. Paris has decided not to display the matches of the World Cup in Qatar on giant screens in fan zones amid concerns over rights violations of migrant workers and the environmental impact of the tournament that have led some other French cities to make the same decision.

it doesn’t prevent us to say when we disagree,” Rabadan said.

Denmark is staging its own protest: Its team jerseys at the World Cup will include a black option to honour migrant workers who died during construction work for the tournament.

And several European soccer federations want their captains to wear an armband with a rainbow heart design during World Cup games to campaign against discrimination.

A growing number of French cities are refusing to erect screens to broadcast World Cup matches to protest Qatar’s human rights

record.

The mayor of Strasbourg, the seat of the European Parliament and the European Court of Human Rights, cited allegations of human rights abuses and exploitation of migrant workers in Qatar as the reason for cancelling public broadcasts of the World Cup.

“It’s impossible for us to ignore the many warnings of abuse and exploitation of migrant workers by non-governmental organisations,” Jeanne Barseghian said in a statement. “We cannot condone these abuses, we cannot turn a blind eye when human rights are violated.”

And then, there’s the

impact on the environment, Barseghian said.

“While climate change is a palpable reality, with fires and droughts and other disasters, organising a soccer tournament in the desert defies common sense and amounts to an ecological disaster,” she said.

Arnaud Deslandes, a deputy mayor of Lille, said that by cancelling public viewing of matches, the northern city wanted to send a message to FIFA about the irreparable damage of the Qatar tournament to the environment.

“We want to show FIFA that money is not every-

cont’d on pg 23

ICC Women's T20 World Cup schedule released

The top 10 teams in the world will begin their bid for the ultimate prize in T20 cricket when South Africa take on Sri Lanka in the opening match of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup at Newlands on 10 February, as the match schedule for the biggest ever women's sporting event in Africa was announced.

Bangladesh and Ireland complete the list of participating teams, joining Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and the West Indies in the eighth edition of the Women's T20 World Cup, which will be a spectacular celebration for everyone to be a part of.

West Indies, who won the title in 2016 – have been drawn in Group B alongside India, Pakistan, England and Ireland. They will have their first match in Paarl on Satur-

day February 11.

Fans can now buy tickets for the 23 matches that will be played across Cape Town, Paarl and Gqeberha in 15 days. The world's best cricketers will take centre stage for a uniquely African celebration of cricket culminating in a Finals weekend at Newlands Cricket Ground with the winner being crowned on Sunday, 26 February.

The Western Cape will play host to a bumper opening weekend of the Women's T20 World Cup. Boland Park will host the first double-header, with England and the West Indies in action in the early match, followed by defending champions Australia taking on New Zealand. The four sub-continent sides will headline the second double-header at Newlands on Sunday as India take on Pakistan and Bangladesh face Sri Lanka.



ICC Chief Executive, Geoff Allardice said. "We are thrilled to be announcing the match schedule for the next ICC Women's T20 World Cup as we look to build on the success of Australia 2020 and host a uniquely African celebration of cricket. "As a key strategic priority for the sport, women's cricket con-

tinues to build momentum and engage more fans than ever before. With T20 as the growth vehicle for cricket we are confident that this event and the inaugural U19 Women's T20 World Cup preceding the senior event will leave a lasting legacy to grow girls and women's cricket around the world."

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thing," Deslandes said in an interview.

As for residents' reactions to the city's decision, he added: "I have yet to meet a person in Lille who was disappointed by our decision."

The gas-rich emirate has been fiercely criticised in the past decade for its treatment of migrant workers, mostly from south Asia, who were needed to build tens of billions of dollars' worth of stadiums, metro lines, roads and hotels.

Qatar has been equally fierce in denying accusations of human rights

abuses, and has repeatedly rejected allegations that the safety and health of 30,000 workers who built the World Cup infrastructure have been jeopardised.

Qatar has also said that it is mindful of environmental concerns and has committed to offsetting some of the carbon emissions from the World Cup events through creating new green spaces irrigated with recycled water and building alternative energy projects.

Environmental activists across France have supported the cancellation

of public broadcasting in fan zones because outdoor viewing of the Nov. 20-Dec. 19 tournament would use energy that the country has been storing for winter.

In the southwestern city of Bordeaux, authorities cited concerns with the energy cost associated with outdoor public broadcasts in the winter cold.

The French government is calling for a sharp 10% reduction in the country's energy use to avoid the risk of rationing cuts this winter amid tensions with supplier Russia over the war in Ukraine.

Indonesia soccer group: Some gates locked in deadly crush

AP — Delays in unlocking the gates at an Indonesian soccer stadium after violence broke out at the end of a match contributed to a disaster in which at least 131 people died, the national soccer association said Tuesday.

The Football Association of Indonesia said it has permanently banned the chief executive and security coordinator of the team that hosted Saturday's match, Arema FC, for failing to secure the field and promptly issue a command to unlock the gates.

"The doors should have been open, but were closed," said Erwin Tobing, chief of the association's discipline commission.

Because of a lack of workers, only a few people were ordered to open the gates, and they had not yet reached some doors when spectators began rushing to escape tear gas fired by police in an attempt to control fans who had entered the field, association spokesperson Ahmad Riyadh said.

He said all gates should be unlocked 10 minutes before the end of a match. But on Saturday, 7 minutes after the referee blew the final whistle, several doors were still locked, contributing to the toll in one of the world's deadliest sporting disasters.

Police, however, continued to insist Tuesday that the gates were open but were too narrow and could only accommodate two people at a time when hundreds were trying to escape.

According to recommendations by FIFA and the Asian Football Confederation, exits at stadiums must be unlocked at all times during a game for safety purposes. Those rules don't necessarily apply to domestic or national leagues but nevertheless are a safety standard, as is the recommendation against the use of tear gas as a crowd-control mea-



A man throws flowers outside Kanjuruhan Stadium where a soccer stampede killed more than 100 people on Saturday, in Malang, East Java, Indonesia, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022. 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.

sure.

Photos from the Malang stadium showed four connecting door panels forming one gate. There were 14 gates in total.

Police said their investigation focused on video recordings from surveillance cameras at six of the 14 gates where most of the victims died.

"For those six gates, they were not closed but they were too small. They had a capacity for two people but there were hundreds coming out. There was a crush there," police spokesperson Dedi Prasetyo told reporters. He added that the gates were the responsibility of the organisers.

Most of the deaths occurred when riot police fired tear gas and caused fans to make a panicked, chaotic run for the exits. Police acted after some of the 42,000 Arema fans ran onto the pitch in anger after their team was defeated 3-2, its first loss at home against visiting

Persebaya Surabaya in 23 years.

On Monday, police announced they had removed a police chief and nine elite officers, and 18 others were being investigated for responsibility in the firing of tear gas inside the stadium.

Hundreds of Arema supporters and local residents have been paying tribute to the victims at Gates 13 and 12 since Monday. They prayed together, dropped rose petals, flower bouquets and placed several Arema scarves around the gates.

The Football Association of Indonesia announced it has banned Arema from hosting any matches attended by its supporters in Malang until next year as a result of Saturday's disaster.

Tobing said Arema's chief executive, Abdul Harris, and the coordinator of security, Suko Sutrisno, have been banned from participating in soccer for life because they had not secured the field and delayed the opening of the gates.



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Sports News



Antigua & Barbuda names squad for ECVA Senior Women's Tournament

A 15-member squad with a mixture of youth and experience has been selected to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Women's Championship in St. Maarten from 13th to 16th October.

The squad includes six players who are making a step-up into the national senior side for the first time, but have previous experience of representing Antigua and Barbuda at the national junior level.

Among them are Stoneville's Opposite Hitter Nashea Brown, Middle Blocker Rayana Regis and Setter Harmony Edwards.

The other newcomers are national women's club champions Da Squad's Outside Hitter Yuderka Martinez, along with Starz Outside Hitter Zellene Edwards and Middle Blocker Jassania Joseph.

The squad also includes Stoneville's Opposite Hitter and Setter Tyke Hawkins, who is a junior player that represented the senior national team in 2018.

The rest of the squad are all experienced national women players. They include Jets' Libero Rosemarie Simon, Paragons' setter Vanessa Burke and Middle Blocker Nyota Peters.

Completing the squad are Jets Outside Hitter Sha-



Da Squad's outside hitter Yuderka Martinez (#5) is one of six newcomers named in a 15-member squad to represent Antigua and Barbuda at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Senior Women's Championship in St. Maarten from 13th to 16th October. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

ron Payne, Middle Blocker The 15 players were chosen from an initial squad
Kwansia Carr and Outside Hitter Joelle Thomas. *cont'd on pg 27*

Antigua Vision Care continue to dominate Business League

Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care continued their impressive unbeaten run by coasting to their eight win in as many matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business Basketball League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday evening.

Javonte Daley and Lopez Adams each scored 10 points to lead Antigua Vision Care to their 75-44 victory over Sledge O'Ballers in the second game of a triple-header.

Shamari Bascus scored 12 points for Sledge O'Ballers who slumped to their fourth loss in seven encounters.

Anjo Wholesale crushed Mill Reef 77-44 in Monday's second game to secure their sixth win in seven encounters, which is currently the second best record

in the league.

Steven Matthew shot a game-high 23 points and Humroy Wright contributed 17 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Fitzroy Francis scored 19 points and Eril Quallis had 13 points for Mill Reef who suffered their sixth loss in seven outings.

Pointe FM claimed their fifth win in nine encounters by prevailing 55-44 against Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew in Monday's feature game.

Josue Hernandez scored 24 points and Jesus Emanuel chipped in with 11 points for Pointe FM, while Travis Pryce converted 10 points for Fearless Crew as they slipped to their seventh loss in nine encounters.

It was a rather strange occurrence as

all three losing teams achieved a total of 44 points in their respective games on Monday.

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

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.

In tomorrow's triple-header, Galley Bay will meet Anjo Wholesale at 6:30 pm, Sandals Antigua will take on Mill Reef at 7:30 pm and Fitzroy Rewinding will face Eye Mobile Antigua Vision Care at 8:30 pm.

Wilson to stand in T20 World Cup

The International Cricket Council has announced the 20 match officials for the first round and Super 12s stages of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2022 in Australia. Joel Wilson, the experienced umpire, is the lone West Indian official named to stand in the tournament.

The 55-year-old has been an international umpire for over a decade since doing his first One-Day International between West Indies and India in June 2011. So far he has stood in 31 Tests; 84 ODIs and 39 T20Is.

His first match in the upcoming T20 World Cup will be the qualifier between Sri Lanka and Namibia in Geelong. He will also stand in the highly anticipated clash between Australia and England at the MCG on October 29.

In total, 16 umpires will officiate across the tournament with Richard Kettleborough, Nitin Menon, Kumara Dharmasena and Marais Erasmus having been the umpires in charge of the 2021 final which saw this year's hosts claim their first ICC Men's T20 World Cup title.

It is an experienced

group of umpires, with the same 16 selected as last year's tournament which was held in the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

Chief Referee of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees, Ranjan Madugalle, is part of a quartet of former international cricketers who make up the match referees for the eighth edition of the T20 World Cup. Sri Lankan Madugalle is joined by Andy Pycroft of Zimbabwe, England's Chris Broad and Australian David Boon.

Pycroft will take charge of the tournament opener in Geelong on 16 October when Sri Lanka takes on Namibia in the First round with Joel Wilson and Rodney Tucker the umpires in the middle. Paul Reiffel will act as the TV umpire with Erasmus, occupying the role of the fourth umpire.

Erasmus, Tucker and Aleem Dar are all set to appear in their seventh ICC Men's T20 World Cup, with Langton Rusere umpiring in his second World Cup of the year having stood in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2022, including acting as reserve umpire for the final.



Joel Wilson

Rusere will be the television umpire in place when Australia and New Zealand kick off the Super 12 round on 22 October in Sydney. The match is a replay of the 2021 final and Rusere will be joined by Adrian Holdstock and Dharmasena (on-field) and Richard Illingworth (fourth umpire).

Officials have been named for the entirety of the First Round and Super 12s, with the selections for the semi-finals and final of the tournament to be named in due course.

Adrian Griffith, ICC Senior Manager – Umpires and Referees said:

"We are delighted to announce the match officials who will be officiating at the ICC Men's T20 World Cup. This group are the very best from around the world and whilst it is a very challenging job with the eyes of the cricketing community focused on every decision, we know they will do an outstanding job and wish them the very best of luck."

Match Officials

Match Referees: Andy Pycroft, Chris Broad, David Boon, Ranjan Madugalle

Umpires: Adrian Holdstock, Aleem Dar, Ahsan Raza, Christopher Brown, Christopher Gaffaney, Joel Wilson, Kumara Dharmasena, Langton Rusere, Marais Erasmus, Michael Gough, Nitin Menon, Paul Reiffel, Paul Wilson, Richard Illingworth, Richard Kettleborough, Rodney Tucker.

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of 26 players that have been training since July this year.

The team is being trained by head coach Fitzroy Benjamin and assistant coach Olsen "Karrot" Joseph. The manager is former senior women's national play-

er Giselle Azar.

Teams from Antigua and Barbuda, French St. Martin, Dutch St. Maarten, Anguilla, St. Lucia, Bermuda, Grenada, the British Virgin Islands and St. Eustatius will be competing in this month's ECVA senior women's tournament.

Antiguan & Barbudan pair finish 10th in NORCECA Beach Volleyball Tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda duo of Adrian Constant and Jahsun Noah Josiah finished 10th with 144 points at a recent NORCECA Beach Volleyball Tournament in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

The duo were among 16 teams from the North Central America and Caribbean Volleyball Confederation (NORCECA), which is the international governing body for the sport in the region, that participated in the 29th September to 2nd October tournament.

The 16 teams were divided into four groups of four. Constant and Josiah recorded one win and one defeat to finish second in their preliminary group A, which included group winners, host Dominican Republic, Costa Rica and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The Antiguan and Barbudans were beaten 2-0 (6-21, 15-21) by the Dominican Republic duo of Martinez and De Jesus in Group A play.

Constant and Josiah also went under 2-0 (11-21, 19-21) against the St. Lucian pair of Sheldon and Clercent in the playoff for places 9th to 12th.

Constant and Josiah then coasted to a 2-0 (21-3, 21-3) win over the pair of Hawkins and Simmons of the Turks & Caicos Islands.

They were then beaten 2-0 (21-0, 21-0) by the pair of Dyner and Monge of Costa Rica in the playoff for 9th place.

The competition was won by the United States of America duo of Brewster and Friend who defeated the team of Diaz and Alayo of Cuba 21-16, 21-20 in the final.

The pair of MacNeil and Russell of Canada captured third place by overcoming the Dominican Republic duo of Martinez and De Jesus 2-1 (14-21, 21-14, 15-8).

Meanwhile, the NORCECA Confederation will be staging the first edition of the Under-23 NORCECA Beach Volleyball Continental Tour to start in Cayman Islands from 27-31 October.

All National Federations members of the NORCECA Confederation have been invited to participate in this first edition of the event, which will consist of a maximum of 16 teams per gender.

National teams and players registered for the compe-



The Antigua and Barbuda pair of Adrian Constant, left, and Jahsun Noah Josiah at the NORCECA Beach Volleyball Tournament in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic from 29th September to 2nd October, 2022. (Photo courtesy the ABAVA)

tion will accumulate FIVB ranking points, accountable for other international events, as well as seedings for the following stages of the Under-23 NORCECA Beach Volleyball Continental Tour.

Since 2009, Cayman Islands has joined efforts with NORCECA in organizing the NORCECA Beach Volleyball Continental Tour and on this occasion, becoming the first host country of the inaugural Under-23 Beach Continental event.

Indhira Ramírez, NORCECA Beach Volleyball Department Director, said, "With the creation of the NORCECA U23 Beach Volleyball Tour, we will be establishing the under-age ranking for the qualification to FIVB world competitions as well as multisport events.

"This was necessary to increase the under-age group competition at a continental level and to create our regional ranking, in addition to contribute to beach volleyball development."