

MONDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 223 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# A CARING GOV'T: PM STANDS BY NATIONAL, GOV'T WAGE INCREASES

*Story on Page 2*



Antigua and Barbuda, as Chair of AOSIS, played an instrumental role in COP27 agreeing to establish a Loss and Damage Fund for island nations vulnerable to the devastating impacts of climate change. Minister of Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph on Saturday praised the international gathering in Egypt for taking decisive action which signals the "start of a new paradigm that truly accounts for the burdens of climate change".

# Local News



## Minimum wage to increase despite economic challenges

The government is advancing plans to increase the country's minimum wage despite lingering economic challenges caused by the COVID-19 pandemic which were further compounded by the war in Ukraine.

Over the weekend, Prime Minister Gaston Browne told the nation that his administration acted to increase the national minimum wage and implement an increase in salaries for public servants although the prevailing circumstances suggest that the timing is not the most favourable.

"Now is not the most appropriate time for any increases whatsoever; increases in the minimum wage or general salary increase in the society.

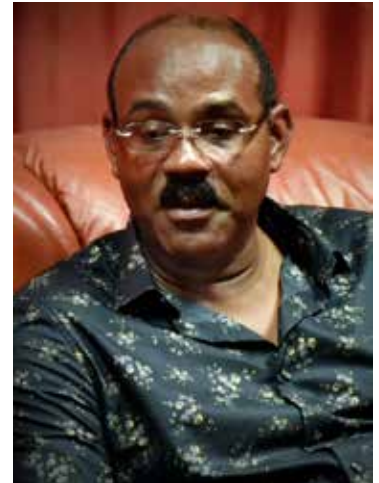
"We are still suffering from the lingering effects of COVID-19, government's revenues are still down by about 20 percent, many private sector companies - small and medium size businesses - are still suffering from the effects. So, it's a most inopportune time to grant any increases whatsoever. Let us understand that," PM Browne said on the Browne

and Browne show on Pointe FM.

Despite these circumstances, Browne said his government was committed to put the needs of the country's workforce first.

"We are willing to offer a few percentage points on the five percent increase we offered to public servants previously, and considering the recent increases in inflation, we would wish to offer this increase to help offset the inflationary pressures on prices," he explained.

The prime minister also took issue with the recent ut-



Prime Minister Gaston Browne terances of the political leader of the United Progressive Party, Harold Lovell, who suggested that inflation in

*cont'd on pg 3*

# 2

## Tuesday & Wednesday

# 2

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## Reward offered as search for Willikies teen continues

A monetary reward is now being offered for information that will lead to the location of missing Willikies teen, Shamar Harrigan.

St. Phillip's North MP, Sir Robin Yearwood, has posted a \$5,000 reward in the hope that it will lead to credible information being provided that will result in Shamar's safe return to his family.

Today marks one week since the 19-year-old went missing.

Since his disappearance, there have been several sightings of the teen in St. John's, but none have led to him being found.

His family is even more anxious for his safe return home as Shamar is autistic, requires twice daily medications and has a childlike disposition.

Shamar also requires twice daily medications which control his impulses.

The teen had his last meal, to his family's knowledge, on the day he went missing. They are therefore also worried that he may try to grab food away from people which could lead to his getting hurt.

The family is appealing to members of the public not to react harshly if they encounter him as he is not aggressive.

Shamar also has a speech impediment that would make it difficult for unfamiliar people to understand him.

If he is seen, an appeal has been made for the police to be contacted immediately or his family members on 776-3922 or 789-5164.

As the family continues to conduct their own searches daily, the public is also welcomed to contact the family to coordinate their own search parties.

Shamar Harrigan was last seen wearing a black and white shirt, light blue jeans and pink and blue backpack.



Shamar Harrigan

### cont'd from pg 2

Antigua and Barbuda hovers at about 20 percent.

Other persons, according to the prime minister, have even suggested that inflation peaks as high as 30 percent.

According to the prime minister, Lovell, and others like him, have employed erroneous methodology to calculate the rate of inflation.

"The Minimum Wage Committee looked at inflation and they did their calculations based on a sound mathematical formula which has proven that in order to maintain the purchasing power parity with 2015 when the last minimum wage was granted, the increase should be in the region of 8.5 percent," he explained.

This means that today, inflation has decreased consumers' purchasing power by 8.5 percent since 2015.

Unions, meanwhile, had been lobbying for the minimum wage to be increased to \$10.00 per hour, or a 22 percent increase on the current rate of \$8.20. Prime Minister Browne, however, noted that the government had to ap-

proach the increase responsibly as too high of an increase could have negative effects such as higher unemployment and an increase in the cost of goods and services which could trigger further spikes in inflation.

"We can't do anything that would further exacerbate the inflation in the country," he stated.



## APUA ELECTRICITY MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

These planned outages are necessary for our continuous upgrade and maintenance programme to provide reliable and consistent service to our customers.

Monday, 21st November 2022	Friday, 25th November 2022
Section of Lightfoot north of the Football Field	Section of Ffryes and Darkwood
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM
—	—

Kindly note that this schedule is subject to slight variation. Changes will be communicated on the APUA Facebook page. Any service disruptions outside of this schedule were not anticipated. For further information and updates please call 311.

## Use of machine-readable passports extended

Holders of machine-readable passports will be allowed to use their travel documents until December, 2023 when they will be withdrawn from use.

The extension to 31st December, 2023, was granted by the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda during its meeting last week.

The Cabinet explained that “the decision was taken in light of the continuing impact of global events on the ability of citizens here and abroad to meet the previous deadline of 31 December 2022”.

“All citizens of Antigua and Barbuda with a Machine-Readable Passport are advised that the document now becomes invalid on 1st January 2024,” a statement said.

Distribution of machine-readable passports ceased in April 2017 with the introduction of ePassports.



“ePassports add a layer of security to traditional non-electronic passports by embedding an electronic chip in the passport booklet that stores the biographical information visible on page 2 of the passport, as well as a digital security feature.

“This digital security feature is a country specific “digital signature”. These digital signatures are unique and can be verified using their respective certificates,” the International Civil

Aviation Organization (ICAO) explained.

Application forms for ePassports are available at the Passport Office on Queen Elizabeth Highway, Antigua and Barbuda’s missions in the USA, Canada and the United Kingdom and the government’s website, [www.ab.gov.ag](http://www.ab.gov.ag).

The Passport Office in Antigua and Barbuda can also be reached for further information by calling 462-0092.



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All interested applicants are asked to apply via e-mail to [hr@jbantigua.com](mailto:hr@jbantigua.com) with copy of their Résumé / C.V. and must be able to work a flexible schedule, including weekends and public holidays.

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## More specialised training for border control personnel

Immigration officers and other national security personnel are to undergo intense training in international border security protocols starting today.

The training, organised by the Immigration Department with the assistance of the British High Commission in St. John's, will upgrade the skills of border control officers and boost their ability to detect fraud or attempts to breach the country's borders.

The start of the training initiative follows months of discussions between UK High Commissioner, Lindsay Thompson, and Antigua and Barbuda's Department of Immigration on the need to improve cooperation on the issue of border security between both nations.

According to Chief Immigration

Officer Katrina Yearwood, the officers involved will receive training on improving their interviewing skills which will allow border control officers to better detect fraudulent claims and identify attempts to circumvent the law through various means including marriages of convenience.

"There will also be behavioural techniques training with both theoretical and practical sessions. The training will run over a five-day period," Yearwood stated.

Officers from the Department of Immigration, Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and other local security personnel will participate.

An invitation was extended to Montserrat's Chief Immigration Officer who



has sent two officers to take part in the training.

The International Immigration Border Security Training takes place at the Trade Winds Hotel.

Two UK-based border security experts will facilitate the workshop.

Yearwood said emphasis will be placed on the practical application of the theoretical concepts introduced over the course of the week.



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# Local News



## Commonwealth SG backs loss and damage initiative for SIDS

Commonwealth Secretary General Baroness Patricia Scotland says while she is pleased that at least this year, for the first time, loss and damage were placed on the agenda of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 29), it is “a critical issue that demands our urgent action, particularly for small and other vulnerable countries that are facing the impacts of climate change as we speak”.

She said communities are struggling to cope with even the tail end of the At-

lantic hurricane season.

“Within the past week or two, Belize was struck by Hurricane Lisa, which has caused widespread damage, while heavy rains and terrible flooding are affecting St. Lucia and my own country of birth, Dominica, where at least one person has died.”

She told the media that due to their small size, geographic makeup and location, level of development and limited capacity, these vulnerable countries tend to suffer the most as a result of climate change, including having to deal with rising



Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland at the COP 27

frequency and intensity of extreme weather.

“This is the lived reality in the Caribbean. And yet, globally, they contribute negligibly to the problem – small island developing states contribute less than one percent to global greenhouse gas emissions which cause climate change.

“The Commonwealth’s stance on loss and damage is clear. In June 2022, leaders of our 56 member countries met in Kigali, Rwanda and in their communiqué they reiterated the urgency of scaling up action and support – including finance, technology transfer and capacity building – to address loss and damage in developing countries.

“They called on developed countries, international partners as well as NGOs and private sources, to pro-

vide enhanced and additional support to deal with loss and damage. I am therefore pleased that at least this year, for the first time, loss and damage is on the official agenda of these talks,” she added.

Caribbean countries are at the forefront in advocating for the establishing of a fund to deal with loss and damage resulting from climate change and Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne calling for oil and gas giants to pay for damage from climate change through a global carbon tax on their profits.

He told COP 27 that these giants “profligate producers of fossil fuels have benefited from extortionate profits at the expense of human civilization,” adding while they are profiting, the planet is burning”. (CNW)

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## Fernandez welcomes inaugural cruise visits, credits GPH's work for increased interest

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez has credited the country's reputation as a top tourism destination for the inaugural visits of two cruise lines just days apart.

Norwegian Getaway made its inaugural call to Antigua and Barbuda recently while Voyager of the Seas arrived days after with 3,800 tourists on board.

Fernandez said Global Ports Holding was worthy of commendation for the magnificent work they have produced.

"What this is saying is that they have confidence in the destination, and again, hats off to GPH (Global Ports Holding); they are a very important partner to us.

"As a matter of fact, I know we were vilified to an extent when we started negotiations and actually closed with GPH, but St. Lucia has closed with them, The Bahamas closed with them right after we closed, and they are having serious



*Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez* discussions with San Juan and are expected to close pretty soon.

"So... we were the leader in going forward with this because we understood that to really face up against the cruise lines you had to have somebody

with muscle and GPH is the largest cruise port operator in the world.

"They handle all of the Mediterranean. They come with a great wealth of knowledge, experience and professionalism, and of course, the investments they have made," Fernandez said.

One of those investments involves the upgrade of the pier and area around the dock.

Fernandez revealed that this phase of the development is picking up pace following the demolition of the buildings along the shoreline with fencing now being erected around the area.

"We should have those plans approved hopefully within a few weeks", he added.

The winter season is expected to be a busy one for the local cruise sector with over 50 calls scheduled before its end.



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- Assist with monthly bank reconciliations
- Perform sub-ledger to general ledger reconciliations when and where necessary
- Assist with the preparation of monthly management accounts.
- Participate in the monthly intragroup reconciliations.
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- Any other duties that may arise within the department

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- Professional written and verbal communication abilities and general office skills.
- Data entry skills and proficiency in using an accounting software /computer application, including MS Office.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is November 25, 2022, with the names and contact information for 2 referees able to provide professional references on your behalf.

Email applications to: [Accting.officer@gmail.com](mailto:Accting.officer@gmail.com)



Deputy Commissioner Everton Jeffers accepted a donation of crime fighting technology from Everson Francis of the US-based company, Francis Criminologist's Law.

## Bodycams added to police arsenal

On Thursday, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda received a donation of body cameras which will be used to track their interactions with the public.

The cameras will also add an extra layer of protection for the police and the public and serve to hold both sides accountable for their actions.

As the devices were handed over, Deputy Commissioner of Police Everton Jeffers explained that officers will receive rigorous training on their use before the bodycams are activated.

“Too many times, the police have been criticised about their actions, and so wearing the bodycam, the police will be able to say exactly what they did and the bodycam will record exactly what happened.

“And so, some of these

allegations that we have levied against the police, I believe would be thrown out of the window because of these bodycams,” said Deputy Commissioner Jeffers.

The cameras, and other security devices, were donated by Francis Criminologist's Law based in the United States of America.

The other items presented included desktop and laptop computers, projectors, and police radios.

The company's principal, Everson Francis, who is a citizen of Antigua and Barbuda, migrated to the US after completing high school education at the Jennings Secondary School.

He noted that he was pleased to be able to aid in the upgrade of the crime fighting technology in his homeland and support the efforts of the police.



## Antigua and Barbuda's first domestic violence perpetrator's intervention programme launched

Together We Must (TWM), a local non-profit organisation, recently launched EMERGE, its model Domestic Violence perpetrator's intervention programme; the first of its kind in the twin-island state. TWM's EMERGE is a homegrown therapeutic intervention that is supported by UN Women Caribbean through the Spotlight Initiative, a global multi-year partnership between the European Union and the United Nations to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

EMERGE will make its rehabilitative services available to 20 men who are between the ages of 18 and 35, residents of Antigua and Barbuda, and have committed the offenses set out in the Domestic Violence Act (2015)

EMERGE supports efforts to end violence against women and girls by delivering a 1-year domestic violence intervention program that provides (1) coordinated case management services, (2) psychological screening and risk assessment, (3) therapeutic counseling, (4) a 12-week psychoeducational workgroup and (5) a peer support group.

The TWM EMERGE Case Managers will conduct an intake assessment for each applicant. After, qualified psychologists will conduct a psychological screening inclusive of a violence risk assessment.

Once an applicant is accepted into the program, Case Managers will develop a tailored service plan that assists the EMERGE Member in identifying and accessing relevant social and other services in a coordinated manner. Participation in the TWM EMERGE psychoeducational workgroup is a required component of every EMERGE Member's service plan. Additionally, the plan may include individual counseling with a TWM EMERGE Psychologist.

The 12-week face-to-face

psychoeducational workgroup, aimed at developing participants' critical awareness of attitudes and beliefs that support the use of violence, while increasing their awareness of the effects of domestic violence, will be delivered by TWM EMERGE Workgroup Facilitators.

TWM EMERGE members who complete the workgroup will continue to meet informally through a peer support group. To measure EMERGE's effectiveness in reducing incidents of domestic violence and recidi-

vism, TWM will conduct pre and post intervention testing through questionnaires and interviews and collect statistics on DV arrests.

On the 3rd of November TWM EMERGE launched to key stakeholders - Directorate of Gender Affairs, MESH, CariMan, Magistrate's Court, Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda and Antigua and Barbuda Disability Association - most of whom have participated in ongoing discussions and have provided feedback on the program's design since late 2021.



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# Opinion

## Will the real William Shakespeare please stand up?

By **Tony Deyal**

*Polonius: "What do you read my lord?"*

*Hamlet: "Words, words, words."*

Mummy kissing Santa Claus under the mistletoe does not lead to serious questions about whether Daddy is the conditional or just a subordinate Claus.

Unfortunately, there are more than 80 candidates for the post of Shakespeare including Sir Francis Bacon, Edward de Vere (17th Earl of Oxford), Christopher Marlowe and two women, Countess Mary Sidney and Emilia Bassano, considered "Moorish", who argued for women's "Libertie" against male oppression.

In this case, the Moor is not the merrier and I wouldn't support Bacon regardless of how much I fry. However, I am not restricting myself to mere text but am going to examine the context.

Shakespeare welcomed us from the second day of Secondary School. We were placed in Form 2A Special which was the three-year

stream for the Cambridge Examination.

When one of our colleagues, who later became Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), was demoted to the four-year class, we pondered like Shakespeare's Hamlet, "2B or not 2B? That is the question."

During our early encounters with the Bard (and getting worse the more you read) we added our own insights.

For example, we actually told our teacher, Brother Theodore, that it was not Macbeth who killed Duncan but Lady Macbeth's father who, just after murdering Duncan, heard footsteps outside the door, threw Duncan's body under the bed and then lay on the bed himself.

Brother Theodore asked, "How did you come to such a conclusion that has defied scholars for so many years?" "Easy," was the reply.

"Lady Macbeth sell him out when she said that had he not resembled her father as he slept she would have killed him. It was really her father that she saw."



Tony Deyal

This was almost as bad as saying we wouldn't play football if the witches from Macbeth are referees and running lines.

Why? Because they think that Fair is Foul and Foul is Fair. Worse, chickens were in trouble because Macbeth was guilty of murder most foul, and Lady Macbeth used to be angry with her dog and standing by the door angrily shouted, "Out, damned Spot!"

For those of you who love the English Language, the Reader's Digest recently identified 21 "Everyday Phrases" that were invented by Shakespeare.

They include "Come Full



Circle" which is a roundabout way of saying that you're back where you started when you run around the track instead of a hundred meters.

Then, to give us a sense of whether Shakespeare was rich or poor and how this affected his treatment of his children, there is (from Henry IV, Part 2) "Eaten Me Out Of House And Home."

I like "Elbow Room" and avoid crowds but "King John" was really looking for elbow room to free his conscience. Most of us need more space than that and for Catholics, confession might take a few days and several priests.

One that we hear from people who play both sides is, "Give the devil his due." In my case that would be me, myself and I but as it is used today it is that we should look at the good qualities of really terrible people to find some kind of balance.

In other words, if they  
*cont'd on pg 11*

Mon 21   Day		Mon 21   Night	
<b>83°</b>		<b>77°</b>	
32% E 19 mph		22% ENE 18 mph	
Partly cloudy early followed by mostly cloudy skies and a few showers later in the day. High 83F. Winds E at 15 to 25 mph. Chance of rain 30%.		Mostly clear skies. Low 77F. Winds ENE at 15 to 25 mph.	
Humidity 78%	UV Index 9 of 10	Humidity 78%	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:14 am	Sunset 5:31 pm	Moonrise 3:50 am	Moonset 3:48 pm
		Waning Crescent	



*cont'd from pg 10*

steal your money and all you have left is a cent, instead of putting the hounds of the Baskervilles on the scent, you say philosophically, "At least he was good enough to leave me something."

Wearing Your Heart On Your Sleeve" (unless you are decked off in an armless), believing that love is blind and letting your beloved wife see you with another woman, might be taken as

"Neither Here Nor There". But Shakespeare, and your wife (overwhelmed by the "Green-Eyed Monster") would know, there is "Something In The Wind". In other words, that will be not just "The Naked Truth" but also the "Be All And The End All."

You end up "A Sorry Sight" while your wife is "Fancy Free" knowing that she was "More Sinned Against Than Sinning."

The best way to deal with that situation is to believe it was "Too Much Of A Good Thing" to last, and then look for someone else with whom you can "Break The Ice" before your wife breaks your head. The fact is that when I read and applaud Shakespeare's originality, I really don't care who he was or whether he had sex or gender,

or was black, white or mulatto. There are many funny Shakespeare one-liners like, (As You Like It), "I do desire we may be better strangers."

In All's Well That Ends Well you will find, "Virginity breeds mites, much like a cheese". Then there was something that came back to me yesterday when I was asked by my wife to cut up some members of the "Allium family".

While this includes garlic, I was actually chopping into bits and pieces of what caused Shakespeare to complain, "Mine eyes smell onions." In his case it was All's Well That Ends Well but not in mine. I had to go quickly for eye drops.

The Bard was bad when he wanted and dropped in the mouths of others some funny insults and put-downs. In Coriolanus, "More of your conversation would infect my brain"; Timon of Athens, "I'll beat thee, but I would infect my hands"; Henry IV Part 1, "There's no more faith in thee than in a stewed prune"; and in All's Well That Ends Well, "The woman's an easy glove, my lord, she goes off and on at pleasure."

Sometimes, it sounds more like English-Caribbean in the context if not exactly the language, as in Titus

Andronicus, "Villain, I have done thy mother." And from Timon of Athens enough to make a man pull out his sword, "Would thou wert clean enough to spit upon!" One we all laughed at is what is considered Shakespeare's most crude linguistic joke.

It is from Twelfth Night. Malvolio is boasting about a letter from the lady of the house, Olivia, declaring her love for him. He says, "By my life, this is my lady's hand: these be her very C's, her U's and her T's; and thus makes she her very great P's."

I doubt that anybody's P's could compare with Shakespeare's plays, powerful prose, puns, protagonists and presence.

From the "Two Gentlemen of Verona" through "The Taming of the Shrew", past "Henry IV", "Romeo and

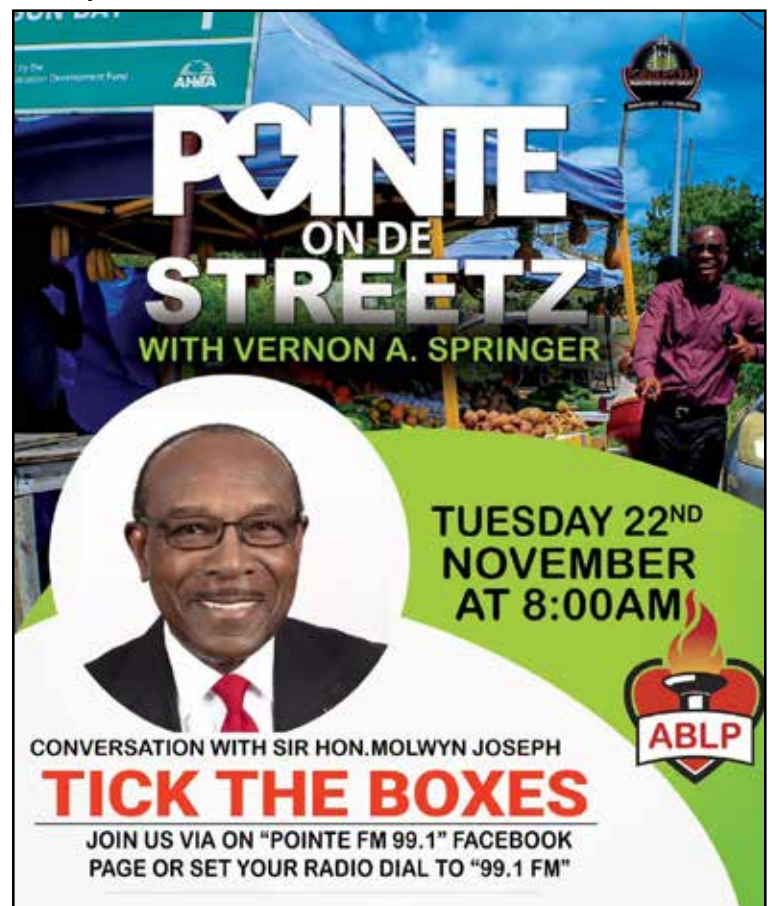
Juliet", "Julius Caesar" and ending with "The Two Noble Kinsmen" his genius lived, laughed and clearly labored to please his sponsors and supporters. He and his work will outlive all of us. The English ask, "If a cat has its kittens in the oven does that make them biscuits?"

My view of Shakespeare and who he is has the same kind of question but is one that Shakespeare wrote in Romeo and Juliet, "What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Or write as well.

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen describing an all-day Shakespeare session he went to. The morning was devoted to Shakespeare's plays and the evening, his poetry. In other words, it went from Bard to Verse.*

## NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that MICHAEL DANIEL EUTROPE of 250 Jolly Harbour, St Mary's Antigua is applying to the Ministry for Naturalization and that any person who knows any reason why Naturalization should not be granted should send a written and signed statement of facts to the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs.



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# Parenting



## Bounce-back culture: Why new mums are expected to 'snap back'

By Amanda Ruggeri

After having a baby, mums are barraged with the pressure to return to their pre-baby bodies. It's having an insidious – sometimes dangerous – effect.

Soon after Sharon Oakley gave birth in 2018, acquaintances were quick to congratulate her on her appearance. "Oh, you look really good – you've really bounced back!" she says people told her within months of having her baby.

She may have looked like she'd 'snapped back'. But the reality was different. While she had lost most of the weight she'd put on during pregnancy, physically, she was suffering. An avid runner, Oakley, a Canadian who lives in Yorkshire, UK, loved jogging with her son in the stroller, a routine she took up six months after giving birth. But she'd leak urine the whole way. Back at work, she started experiencing bladder leaks in the office, too.

After a complicated diagnosis journey that included a six-month wait for a physiotherapist referral, Oakley was diagnosed with bladder, rectocele and uterine prolapses – where the pelvic organs, not adequately held in place by a weakened pelvic floor, slip out of their normal position.

Four years later, her condition has improved. But she still has occasion-



al leaks. She carries spare knickers with her everywhere. She worries when she runs. For a while, she thought she might have to quit her job.

"It is a very strange part of our culture where we gauge a woman's postpartum period in terms of how they look, rather than how they're feeling," says Oakley. "I look fine – but I have these birth injuries that I'm still navigating every day."

Stories like Oakley's are far more common than they are talked about publicly. While not always symptomatic, pelvic organ prolapse alone affects up to 90% of women postpartum. Urinary incontinence, which can also be caused by a too-tight pelvic floor, scar tissue or nerve damage, is experienced by about a third. Diastasis recti, where

the abdominal muscles that separate to make room for a growing belly haven't yet knitted back together – something which can make the belly look like it bulges and cause pain, constipation and urine leaks, as well as make walking or lifting difficult – affects 60%.

And even in the absence of specific pregnancy or birth injuries, the drastic physiological changes that happen during pregnancy, labour and postpartum – from the hormones that tell the body to hold onto fat stores, to pressure on the pelvic floor, to the nutrients being siphoned out of the mother's diet to feed a foetus or breastfeeding infant – mean that it takes time to recover and heal.

But many women find that, once the baby is born, the messaging they're get-

ting isn't to rest and recover. It's to 'snap back' into the bodies and behaviours they had before getting pregnant.

In the media, postpartum celebrities' bodies are dissected based on whether they have or haven't lost weight, with little or no knowledge of what other conditions the person might be dealing with. Diet and fitness programmes aimed at mothers abound, relatively few of them led by experts on postpartum health. Friends, family and even colleagues often make comments about a mother's physical appearance. And while 'dad bod' – referring to a man with an 'average' physique – is having a celebratory moment, the people who actually give birth rarely enjoy the same latitude.

*cont'd on pg 14*





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# Parenting

*cont'd from pg 12*

For some mothers, the pressure to lose weight quickly, combined with inadequate medical support and care postpartum, can be a toxic, even dangerous mix – one that can make birth injuries worse and healing harder. It can also take a toll on both mental and physical health in one of the most vulnerable, sleep-deprived, emotionally turbulent periods of life.

**Inevitable changes**

Becoming a mother means more than entering a new life stage. It is a transformation of one's life, mentality, even identity.

For many women, it's likely to be the first time they've been completely responsible for a small, vulnerable human – one who needs them nearly constantly. It also might be the first time they haven't worked or are financially dependent on a partner. Particularly in countries without adequate parental leave or childcare support policies, they may be contending with financial stress. And when, or if, they do return to their careers, mums often feel pressure to project an image that motherhood hasn't changed them – often to avoid the 'motherhood penal-

ty', in which women see their wages and job prospects suffer. That's even though it's well known that becoming a parent not only affects people's priorities (and makes things like, say, late nights at the office more challenging to juggle), but even changes the brain.

All of this is happening, of course, at a time when many women are more exhausted than they've ever been. They're recovering physically from pregnancy and birth. And more than a quarter are experiencing mental health challenges like postnatal depression or birth-related PTSD.

Yet on top of all these omnipresent stressors, mothers are contending with the pressure to 'bounce back'.

Many cultures, especially in the West, put immense pressure on postpartum women to look like pregnancy, birth and motherhood never happened – and quickly.

"Many new birthing parents feel that they have to do a lot to prove that their pregnancy didn't change them or their bodies at all," says Dr Jennifer Lincoln, an obstetrician-gynaecologist and lactation specialist in Portland, Oregon, US. This is an "unattainable reality for many", she

says, yet women still internalise this pressure – and sometimes push their bodies to the brink in dangerous ways.

"I've seen people who started up exercising just a week postpartum who then had issues with cervical and uterine prolapse because they went too hard as well as had increased bleeding," says Lincoln, who is also author of the book *Let's Talk About Down There: An OB-GYN Answers All Your Burning Questions... without Making You Feel Embarrassed for Asking*. "I've also had birthing parents who were breastfeeding but who cut down their calories too drastically and their milk supply tanked."

Even in a healthy, uncomplicated pregnancy and delivery, the body changes a great deal. Many of those physiological changes mean that a return to vigorous exercise or cutting calories needs to be undertaken with caution. Other physical transformations may be here to stay, making bouncing back an impossible goal.

My boss at the time, even before I had my baby, was like, 'Are you so excited to get your body back?' And that was such a bizarre thought to me,

*cont'd on pg 15*





# Parenting

*cont'd from pg 14*

because I'm literally growing a human – Shelby Alley

First, of course, there is weight gain. "When you're pregnant, you have a surplus of all these hormones that tell us to hold on to this weight because we need it," says Jenna Perkins, a women's health nurse practitioner and expert in pelvic floor disorders practising in the Washington, DC area. "We need these fat stores around our belly to protect our sensitive uterus and the baby that's growing inside."

Meanwhile, the muscles in both the abdominals and the pelvic floor are stretched paper-thin. Carrying a foetus, and the stress of vaginal delivery, puts increased weight and pressure on the pelvic floor. Even the bones move: during pregnancy, the pelvis tilts and becomes, on average, around 2.5cm wider.

Many women also undergo the common procedures and injuries that can result from pregnancy and labour – not just pelvic organ prolapse and diastasis recti, but healing from a C-section or perineal tear, for example. This can take longer than what many women are told; six weeks after a caesarean section most caesarean section scars haven't fully healed, and the abdominal fascia, which holds organs and muscles in place, has regained less than 60% of its original strength.

All these changes and possible outcomes, say ex-

perts, means that the idea that women can physiologically return to their pre-pregnancy body within weeks of giving birth is inaccurate at best, risky at worst.

In Indiana, US, Shelby Alley says she started experiencing the pressure of snap-back culture before even giving birth in 2022. "My boss at the time, even before I had my baby, was like, 'Are you so excited to get your body back?' And that was such a bizarre thought to me, because I'm literally growing a human. My body is more mine than it's ever been. But that was when I first felt that pressure," she says.

She internalised the messaging – and changed the way she treated her body as a result. "Once my son was here, it was like, 'Okay, I don't have to keep feeding my body because I'm not growing another human. I can start limiting my diet'," she says.

But when she began to cut calories, the first thing she noticed was that her breastfeeding supply decreased. "I went from an oversupply – I could pump about eight ounces – to barely making enough for my son. He was nursing every hour; he didn't seem full," she says. Already sleep-deprived from life with a new-born, she felt even more exhausted. Her mood dipped.

Alley no longer restricts food, but still feels "guilty" sometimes about not hav-

ing lost all the weight from her pregnancy. "It was hard reconciling what the world wants you to be, versus what nature needs you to be," she says.

'I've lost all this weight – you should, too'

Despite these realities, the messaging women face post-partum is clear: restore your body, and do it as quickly as possible.

The emphasis on post-partum weight loss stems from a number of factors. But at its heart, bounce-back culture springs from our ideas of modern motherhood in general, says Sophie Brock, a motherhood-studies sociologist in Sydney, Australia and the host of the podcast *The*

Good Enough Mother.

"Mothers are subject to certain social rules and expectations in ways that those who are not mothers are not," she says. "Bounce-back' cultural pressure is an example of that. Mothers are expected to be able to erase any physical evidence of ever having children, while devoting their 'all' to their children – while trying to fulfil the competing pressures and demands of what it means to be a perfect mother/wife/worker." But, she adds, "it's not possible – we're asked to fulfil competing ideals and can never be 'enough'".

*Continued in tomorrow's issue of Pointe Xpress*



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# Technology



## Elizabeth Holmes gets more than 11 years for Theranos scam

By Michael Liedtke

Disgraced Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes was sentenced Friday to more than 11 years in prison for duping investors in the failed startup that promised to revolutionise blood testing but instead made her a symbol of Silicon Valley ambition that veered into deceit.

The sentence imposed by U.S. District Judge Edward Davila was shorter than the 15-year penalty requested by federal prosecutors but far tougher than the leniency her legal team sought for the mother of a year-old son with another child on the way.

Holmes, 38, faced a maximum of 20 years in prison. Her legal team requested no more than 18 months, preferably served in home confinement.

"This is a very heavy sentence," said Rachel Fiset, a defence lawyer who has also been involved in health care cases.

Holmes, who was CEO throughout the company's turbulent 15-year history, was convicted in January in the scheme, which revolved around the company's claims to have developed a medical device that could detect a multitude of diseases and conditions from a few drops of blood. But the technology never worked, and the claims were false.

Theranos was dashed

"by misrepresentations, hubris and just plain lies," the judge said.

"This case is so troubling on so many levels," Davila said. "What was it that caused Ms. Holmes to make the decisions she did? Was there a loss of a moral compass?"

Holmes' meteoric rise once landed her on the covers of business magazines that hailed her as the next Steve Jobs. And her deception was persuasive enough to draw in a list of sophisticated investors, including software magnate Larry Ellison, media mogul Rupert Murdoch and the Walton family behind Walmart.

She sobbed as she told the judge she accepted responsibility for her actions.

"I regret my failings with every cell of my body," Holmes said. She promised Davila she would devote the remainder of her life to trying to help others.

Holmes' attorney, Kevin Downey, indicated she would appeal the sentence. Holmes and her family left the courthouse by a side entrance and managed to evade reporters and photographers.

Before handing down the sentence, Davila reflected on Silicon Valley's transition from an agricultural hub populated by farmers and ranchers to a "crucible of innovation" brimming with bright-eyed entrepre-



Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes, centre, walks into federal court with her partner Billy Evans, right, and her parents in San Jose, Calif., Friday, Nov. 18, 2022. A federal judge will decide whether Holmes should serve a lengthy prison sentence for duping investors and endangering patients while peddling a bogus blood-testing technology. (AP Photo/Nic Coury)

neurs dreaming of changing the world.

Recalling the humble beginnings of technology pioneer Hewlett-Packard in a small garage in Palo Alto — the same city where Theranos was based — he spoke wistfully of "honest, hard work."

"That, I would hope, will be the legacy and continuation of this valley," the judge said.

Amanda Kramer, a former federal prosecutor who is now a defence attorney, described the sentence as "the equivalent of neon, flashing billboard" offering "a reminder the long-term consequences of fraud far outweigh any short-term gains."

The sentencing in the same San Jose courtroom where Holmes was convicted on four counts of investor fraud and conspir-

acy marked another climactic moment in a saga that has been dissected in an HBO documentary and an award-winning Hulu series.

Her lawyers argued that Holmes was a well-meaning entrepreneur who is now a devoted mother. Their viewpoints were supported by more than 130 letters submitted by family, friends and former colleagues praising Holmes.

Davila suggested that the letters might have struck a different tone had the writers seen and heard all the evidence shown to the jury.

Prosecutors also wanted Holmes to pay \$804 million in restitution — an amount that covers most of the nearly \$1 billion that she raised from investors. But the judge left that question for a future hearing that has not been scheduled.

*cont'd on pg 17*



*cont'd from pg 16*

While wooing investors, Holmes leveraged a high-powered Theranos board that included former Defense Secretary James Mattis, who testified against her during her trial, and two former secretaries of state, Henry Kissinger and the late George Shultz, whose son, Alexander submitted a statement blasting Holmes for concocting a scheme that played Shultz “for the fool.”

Alexander Shultz made a brief appearance Friday to lambaste her for terrorizing his son, Tyler, a former Theranos employee turned whistleblower who helped The Wall Street Journal expose the flaws in the company’s blood-testing technology.

Before the first in a series of Journal articles appeared in October 2015, Alexander Shultz said Holmes hired private investigators to follow Tyler. The surveillance made Tyler so fearful that Alexander said his son began sleeping in his bed with a knife.

The judge gave Holmes more than five months of freedom before she must report to prison on April 27 — a window of time that should enable her to give birth to her second child before she is incarcerated. She gave birth to a

son shortly before her trial started last year.

If Holmes’ pregnancy had a role in determining her sentence, the decision could prove controversial. A 2019 study found that more than 1,000 pregnant women entered federal or state prisons over a 12-month study period; 753 of them gave birth in custody.

According to a 2016 survey by the Bureau of Justice Statistics, more than half of women entering federal prison — 58% — reported being mothers of minor children.

Kramer said it seemed clear that Davila did not allow the pregnancy to sway his judgement. His sentence “was a lesson about justice being blind, whether you are a woman, a mother, a powerful figure, you are still going to be treated equally under the law.”

Federal prosecutor Robert Leach described the Theranos scam as one of the most egregious white-collar crimes ever committed in Silicon Valley.

In a scathing 46-page memo, Leach urged the judge to send a message to curb the hubris and hyperbole unleashed by the tech boom of the last 30 years.

Even though Holmes was acquitted on four counts of fraud and con-

spiracy tied to patients who took Theranos blood tests, Leach also asked the judge to factor in the health threats posed by Holmes’ conduct.

Evidence submitted during her trial showed the tests produced wildly unreliable results that could have steered patients toward the wrong treatments.

Holmes’ lawyers painted her as a selfless visionary who spent 14 years trying to revolutionise health care. They asserted that Holmes never stopped trying to perfect the technology until Theranos collapsed in 2018.

They also pointed out that Holmes never sold any of her Theranos shares — a stake valued at \$4.5 billion in 2014. “Where did all the money go? To building technology,” Downey said.

In court documents, Downey also asked Davila to consider the alleged sexual and emotional abuse Holmes suffered while she was involved romantically with Ramesh “Sunny” Balwani, who became a Theranos investor, top executive and eventually an accomplice in her crimes.

Balwani, 57, is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 7 after being convicted in a July trial on 12 counts of fraud and conspiracy.



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# Regional News



## Guyana and Venezuela making presentations on border dispute before the ICJ

CMC - Guyana on Friday urged the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to dismiss as “both legally unstoppable and entirely without foundation” Venezuela’s preliminary objections regarding the border dispute between the two countries.

“Guyana will demonstrate today that Venezuela’s preliminary objections are both legally unsupportable and entirely without foundation,” said Carl Greenidge, the Agent of Guyana in the case concerning the Arbitral Award of October 3, 1899.

Greenidge told the ICJ panel of judges, headed by its president, Joan E. Donoghue that in December 2020, the ICJ ruled that it has jurisdiction over the case, rejecting Venezuela’s objections in this regard.

Then, on March 8, 2022, Guyana filed its Memorial on the merits of its case against Venezuela in accordance with the Order of March 8, 2021 of the Court.

He said Guyana has been complying with requirements from the court because the country remains committed to international law, describing Venezuela’s preliminary objections as a tactic meant to delay the Court’s assessment of Guyana’s merits in the border controversy.



Greenidge said this tactic is all the more apparent given Caracas’s non-participation in earlier proceedings at the ICJ. But he told the panel that Venezuela’s belated engagement with the Court indicates that the country is finally accepting the legitimacy of the Court in settling this controversy.

“...it is apparent that it accepts the legitimacy of the Court’s role, its power to dispense justice and the binding effects of the Court’s orders and judgments,” Greenidge said on Friday.

Venezuela had earlier this week, said the ICJ could not hear the case and that the 1899 Arbitral Award is a full, final and perfect settlement of the land boundary between the two coun-

tries because Britain is not a party to the proceedings.

Venezuela’s Vice President Delcy Rodriguez told the ICJ that her country maintained that the ICJ does not have jurisdiction to entertain the case while urging it to find that Guyana’s case should be deemed inadmissible.

She said the 1966 Geneva Agreement provides for an “amicable solution” to the dispute after the 1899 Arbitral Tribunal Award.

“We submit that this court would not be in a position to resolve Guyana’s application because the United Kingdom, an indispensable party to settle such a matter of the dispute requested by Guyana is not participating,” she told the judges.

“The United Kingdom never had title over the territory over Guyana Essequibo,” she said, accusing the UK of shifting the boundary unilaterally throughout the 19th century by asserting new land rights reflected in “doctored maps containing falsified border lines in its favour” to voraciously govern gold mines and other natural resources.

Rodriguez said the UK had stated that the new border line had not been subject to negotiation and any action could be greeted with the use of force.

## Dominica’s Ruling party nominates candidates for all 21 seats at stake in general election

CMC - Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit says his ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP) is seeking to bring new energy to the country and remains confident that the party will win the December 6 snap general election.

“I am very grateful to the voters of the Vieille Case

Constituency who reposed their confidence in me in 2000 at age 27 and they are all still standing strong with me today.

“So I am a very fortunate and blessed candidate. Every success I have had in politics is due to the people of the Vieille Case Constituency,” Skerit told reporters

after he was nominated to contest the seat on the north coast of the island.

The DLP has nominated candidates for all 21 seats in Parliament. In the 2019 general election it won 18 seats.

Skerit, 50, who has been in office since 2004, called the general election two years ahead of the con-

stitutional deadline, telling reporters “As I indicated, this is a national reset”.

“We are seeking to bring new energy so that we can face the challenges ahead,” he said, making reference to the impact the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic had on world economies, the on-

*cont’d on pg 19*



## Jamaica's Anti-Gang legislation can now prosecute criminal groups

CMC -Provisions under Jamaica's updated Criminal Justice (Suppression of Criminal Organisations) (Amendment) Act, 2021, also known as the Anti-Gang legislation now allow for the prosecution of criminal groups.

This was disclosed by Jeremy Taylor, senior deputy director of public prosecutions at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (ODPP), during the Ministry of Education and Youth's Anti-Gang Week Townhall on November 17.

Anti-Gang Week is being observed from November 13 to 19, with the theme 'Leggo Di Gang, Lift Up Jamaica.'

Taylor said the Act initially prosecuted an individual despite other members engaging in criminal activity.

"What has changed with the new legislation is that we no longer have to look at individuals, because up to 2014 we really could only prosecute the individual, irrespective of what other persons may have done either in the background or foreground.

"You could only move against the individual in that respect. Now, this new Act allows us to move against groups and you have seen that we have brought certain groups to trial," he said.

He said the law, which was passed in 2014 and amended in 2021, now allows all those involved in criminal activity to be prosecuted regardless of their role.

"Even if you are not the trigger person, you are the person who drives them to do the crime, you are charged as a facilitator of the criminal offence, just as how if you are the person who shoots the person, you are also charged as the facilitator of the criminal offence," he said.

He added that the law also states that individuals who engage in actions that help a gang are also breaking the law.

"It speaks about providing a benefit to a criminal organisation. These are the gun bags; if you carry the guns for the criminal organisation to hide or to 'lock', you have provided a benefit.



If you carry the stolen goods, you carry them to a pawn shop and you sell them, you have provided a benefit. If you get a doctor for a person, knowing he is a member of a gang and has committed a gang-related activity, you have provided a benefit.... The law has tried to cover all the major areas," Taylor said.

The activities slated under Anti-Gang Week are being hosted by the Ministry of Education and Youth, in collaboration with the JCF.

According to the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF), gang violence accounts for an estimated 80 percent of the country's murders.

*cont'd from pg 18*

going Russia-Ukraine War and the effects of climate change on vulnerable states.

"At this time, we need strong decisive leadership and this is what I have provided the country with for the last eighteen years and this is what I will continue to give to this country after the elections are held."

The main opposition parties –the United Workers Party (UWP) and the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) – have said they will boycott the polls because of the lack



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, speaking to reporters after being nominated to contest the December 6 general election

of promised electoral reform. At least two independent candidates have said they will contest the polls and the newly formed Team Unity Dominica (TUD) said

it will nominate candidates.

"Voting is one of the most important decisions that anybody can make in his lifetime as a qualified voter in this country. In some parts of the world, in Australia for example, voting is mandatory, you must vote, in Dominica it is a choice," Skerrit told reporters.

But he said this choice has to be utilised "in a serious way because how you vote can determine how your life will be in the next five years".

## Turkey strikes in Syria, Iraq a week after Istanbul bombing

AP - Turkey launched deadly airstrikes over northern regions of Syria and Iraq, the Turkish Defense Ministry said Sunday, targeting Kurdish groups that Ankara holds responsible for last week's bomb attack in Istanbul.

Warplanes attacked bases of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, and the Syrian People's Protection Units, or YPG, the ministry said in a statement, which was accompanied by images of F-16 jets taking off and footage of a strike from an aerial drone.

The ministry cited Turkey's right to self defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter in launching an operation it called Claw-Sword late Saturday. It said it was targeting areas "used as a base by terrorists in their attacks on our country."

Syrian Kurdish officials have alleged civilian deaths from the air attacks.

The airstrikes came after a bomb rocked a bustling avenue in the heart of Istanbul on Nov. 13, killing six people and wounding over 80 others. Turkish authorities blamed the attack on the PKK and its Syrian affiliate the YPG. The Kurdish militant groups have, however, denied involvement.

Ankara and Washington both consider the PKK a terror group, but disagree on



*People inspect a site damaged by Turkish airstrikes that hit an electricity station in the village of Taql Baql, in Hasakeh province, Syria, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022. The Turkish Defense Ministry said Sunday that Turkey launched deadly airstrikes over northern regions of Syria and Iraq, targeting Kurdish groups that Ankara holds responsible for last week's deadly bomb attack in a bustling street in Istanbul. (AP Photo/Baderkhan Ahmad)*

the status of the YPG. Under the banner of the Syrian Democratic Forces, the YPG has been allied with the U.S. in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria.

The PKK has fought an armed insurgency in Turkey since 1984. The conflict has killed tens of thousands of people since then.

Following the strikes, the Defense Ministry posted a photo of an F-16 fighter plane with the phrase, "Payback time! The scoundrels are being held to account for their treacherous attacks." The DHA news agency reported that F-16s took off from airfields in Malatya

and Diyarbakir in southern Turkey while drones were launched from Batman.

The ministry claimed that a total of 89 targets were destroyed and a "large number" of what it designated "terrorists" were killed in strikes that ranged from Tall Rifat in northwest Syria to the Qandil mountains in Iraq's northeast.

Defense Minister Hulusi Akar oversaw the airstrikes from an operations centre and congratulated pilots and ground staff. "Our aim is to ensure the security of our 85 million citizens and our borders and to retaliate for any treacherous attack on our country," he said, according

to a ministry statement.

Akar claimed that a wide range of targets "were destroyed with great success," including what he described as the "the so-called headquarters of the terrorist organization," without giving further details.

Other Turkish officials responded to the attacks. Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin tweeted a photograph of the Turkish flag with the comment "Payback time for Istiklal" — a reference to the street where last week's bombing happened.

The airstrikes targeted Kobani, a strategic Kurd-

*cont'd on pg 21*



*cont'd from pg 20*

ish-majority Syrian town near the Turkish border that Ankara had previously attempted to take in its plans to establish a "safe zone" along northern Syria.

Syrian Democratic Forces spokesperson Farhad Shami in a tweet said that two villages heavily populated with displaced people were under Turkish bombardment. He said the strikes had resulted in 11 civilian deaths and destroyed a hospital, a power plant and grain silos.

In the Syrian town of Derik, which lies where the borders of Syria, Iraq and Turkey meet, The Associated Press found a burnt out petrol station with destroyed buildings nearby.

"There were Turkish airstrikes here, approximately five strikes," said Abdulgafar Ali, an employee at the petrol station. "The bombardment caused mass destruction. It shut down the station completely and resulted in the killing and injuring of innocent civilians, who committed no sin."

The Women's Protection Units, or YPJ, which is linked to the YPG, said the airstrikes targeted areas along the Turkey-Syria border including Kobani, Derbasiyeh and Ein Issa. "The airstrikes are random that target the people," the YPJ media office said.

"The people who fought the Daesh terrorist organization are now under attack by Turkish warplanes," it said, using an Arabic acronym to refer to the Islamic State group.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, reported that the strikes had also hit Syrian army positions and that at least 12 had been killed, including SDF and Syrian soldiers.

The observatory said about 25 airstrikes were carried out by Turkish warplanes on sites in the countryside of Aleppo, Raqqa and Hasakah.

The Syrian Defense Ministry said "several" Syrian soldiers were killed in the northern Aleppo countryside and Hasakah province. Syrian state media had previously reported three soldiers killed.

In neighbouring Iraq, officials of the Kurdistan Regional Government said at least 32 PKK militants had been killed in 25 air raids.

The Kurdish-led authority in north-east Syria said Saturday that if Turkey attacks, then fighters in the area would have "the right to resist and defend our areas in a major way that will take the region into a long war."

SDF commander Mazloun Abdi called on people to remain at home and abide by security forces' instructions.

"We are making every effort to avoid a major catastrophe. If war erupts, all will be affected," he tweeted.

An SDF statement later said the attacks "will not remain unanswered. At the appropriate time and place, we will respond in a strong and effective manner."

Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency reported that a Turkish soldier and two police officers were later wounded in a rocket attack on the On-cupinar border gate with Syria.

It emerged that Erdogan gave the order for the airstrikes as he was returning from the G-20 meeting of world leaders in Indonesia on Thursday. The president's office released images of Erdogan being briefed on his plane by Akar.

Later on Sunday Erdogan, accompanied by a clutch of officials including Akar, left Turkey for the World Cup opening ceremony in Qatar.

Turkey has invaded northern Syria three times since 2016 and already controls some territories in the north. Earlier this year, Erdogan threatened another military operation in the border area.

Turkish forces launched a fresh ground and air operation, dubbed Claw-Lock, against the PKK in northern Iraq in April.



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## Equatorial Guinea leader poised to extend 43 years in power

AP - Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Africa's longest-serving ruler, was poised Sunday to extend his 43 years in power in the oil-rich country amid accusations of voting irregularities from the opposition.

In previous elections, Obiang has never gotten less than 90% of the vote, and one of the two opposition candidates said Sunday that the ruling party appeared to be again committing electoral fraud.

Andres Esono told journalists that his party had been receiving complaints all day from across the Central African nation, with many voters saying they were forced to cast ballots publicly rather than in secret.

"What he is doing is massive fraud, even worse than on previous occasions," Esono said of the 80-year-old incumbent.

Esono was one of only two candidates running against Obiang in Sunday's election. Fourteen of the country's opposition parties joined an alliance with the authoritarian regime, which critics have long accused of intimidation, torture and corruption.

The incumbent president expressed optimism about the election's outcome after voting alongside his wife, Constanca



*Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo is pictured at the start of the Paris Peace Forum, Nov. 12, 2019 in Paris. Equatorial Guinea President Teodoro Obiang Nguema Mbasogo, Africa's longest-serving ruler, was poised Sunday Nov. 20, 2022, to extend his 43 years in power in the oil-rich country after only two opposition candidates decided to run against him. (Ludovic Marin/Pool via AP, File)*

Mangue de Obiang.

"I am sure that the victory belongs to the Democratic Party of Equatorial Guinea," he said.

In the streets of the capital, Malabo, Obiang's posters have flooded public spaces in recent weeks with the message: "Vote for the right way, vote for continuity." Only a handful of opposition posters could be seen.

At a final campaign event in Mongomo last week, the president shouted to the crowds: "Who's your papa?" He urged voters to keep him in power, warning of the risks of political upheaval.

"Some preach that there should be change," Obiang

said. "We have to see the changes that they want to produce. We do not know if they are for the benefit of the people, or if it is to create a catastrophic situation."

Despite its oil and gas riches, Equatorial Guinea has a dramatic gap between its privileged ruling class and much of the population, who live mainly on subsistence farming. The Obiang family has long been accused of living in opulence and using money from state coffers to fund their lifestyle.

Obiang's son, Teodoro Nguema Obiang Mangue, known as Teodorin, has come to embody the regime's excesses, purchas-

ing everything from logging firms to a rap label to Michael Jackson memorabilia even as his father promoted him up the ranks to second vice president. Observers have speculated he is being groomed for succession.

A French court last year upheld Teodorin's conviction for money laundering and embezzling millions of dollars in public money. The French court handed him a three-year suspended sentence, fined him 30 million euros and ordered property in France worth tens of millions of euros seized.

Obiang seized power in a 1979 coup, overthrowing the country's first president since independence from Spain in 1968. For the first years of his rule, Obiang headed a military dictatorship. He then oversaw a three-year transition to multiparty democracy that ended in 1993.

Since then, though, the robustness of the country's democratic institutions has been undermined by the president's eyebrow-raising election wins. After allegedly earning 99% of the vote in 1989, when the country was still a one-party state, he dipped only marginally to 97.8% in 1996, 97.1% in 2002, 95.7% in 2009 and 93.7% percent in 2016.



## Japan's prime minister sacks third minister in a month

AP - The internal affairs minister in Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government was forced into resigning over funding irregularities on Sunday, in a blow to the scandal-prone Cabinet that has already lost two ministers in one month.

Internal Affairs Minister Minoru Terada has been under fire over several accounting and funding irregularities. In one, he acknowledged that one of his support groups submitted accounting records carrying a dead person's signature.

"I apologise for the series of resignations," Kishida said. "I'm aware of my heavy responsibility for their appointment." He told reporters that he will announce Terada's replacement on Monday.

Terada showed up at the Prime Minister's Office and told reporters that he had submitted his resignation to Kishida, though he did not say when he was asked to do so.

"I made up my mind because I must not interfere with parliamentary discussion of key legislations because of my problems," Terada said.

Terada, who has been grilled over the scandal for over a month, said his feelings were swayed between his hope to contribute to the Kishida Cabinet while be-



*Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida arrives for a press conference in Bangkok, Thailand, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, APEC summit, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)*

ing concerned about causing trouble because of his funding problems.

Kishida summoned Terada to his office and had him submit the resignation, NHK national television said. Kishida, when asked last Friday about a possible dismissal, urged Terada to fulfil accountability but did not defend him, and said he was going to make his own decision as prime minister.

Kishida said Sunday he believed Terada submitted his resignation in response to the comment he made in

Bangkok after wrapping up the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit.

Terada said then that he did not break any law, promised to fix the accounting issues and showed determination to stay on. Opposition lawmakers said funding problems for the internal affairs minister, one of whose jobs is to oversee political funds, are serious and demanded his resignation.

"His credibility was already lost and the resignation came too late, and calls

Prime Minister Kishida's judgement and leadership into question," Kenta Izumi, head of the main opposition Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan, said in a statement.

Political watchers also said that Kishida's lack of decisiveness comes from his weak footing within the governing party. They say Kishida, whose faction ranks fourth-biggest in the party, needs to listen to the voices of three bigger factions including one led

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# International

AROUND THE WORLD



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by the assassinated leader Shinzo Abe and heavyweights like Taro Aso.

Kishida is expected to appoint Takeaki Matsumoto, a former foreign minister from Aso's faction, as new internal affairs minister.

Recent media surveys showed the majority of respondents supported Terada's resignation, while support ratings for Kishida's government fell to just above 30%, lowest since he took office in October 2021.

Terada's resignation is a further blow to the Cab-

inet already shaken by the governing Liberal Democratic Party's close ties to the Unification Church, which has been accused of problematic recruiting and brainwashing followers into making huge donations, often breaking up their families.

Because Terada is a member of Kishida's own faction in the party, his dismissal is seen as an additional embarrassment and a blow to the prime minister's grip on power.

Kishida had been considered as a safe driver and was expected to steer the country over the next three

years without a scheduled election after his victory in the July vote, but his popularity has since nosedived over his handling of the party's widespread church ties. Kishida also came under fire for holding a controversial state funeral for Abe, one of Japan's most divisive leaders, and is now seen as a key figure behind the LDP's decades-long cosy relations with the church.

Abe's friendly ties to the church, as well as of those among many LDP lawmakers, surfaced in the investigations into his assassination.

The suspect told investigators his mother had made huge donations to the church, bankrupting his family and ruining his life.

Economic Revitalisation Minister Daishiro Yamagiwa quit on Oct. 24 after facing criticism over his lack of explanations about his ties to the Unification Church, starting what became known as "a resignation domino" of the Kishida Cabinet.

Justice Minister Yasuhiro Hanashi was forced to resign over his remark that his job is low profile and only makes news when he signs the death penalty, only 10 days before Terada's departure Sunday.

Kishida's delayed decision in firing the justice minister led him to push back his Nov. 11 departure for three Asian summits, sparking criticism from opposition lawmakers and observers for being indecisive and lacking in leadership.

Kishida returned to Tokyo on Saturday after a nine-day trip and apparently faced pressure from his governing party executives to make a quick decision on Terada before discussions on key legislations resume Monday.

Kishida's governing party needs to pass the second supplementary budget through March during the current parliamentary session, while also finalising work on a new national security strategy and mid- to long-term defence guidelines by the end of the year.



## Jack Warner vows not to give up extradition fight

CNW - A defiant Austin 'Jack' Warner said Thursday he will continue to fight his extradition to the United States to answer corruption charges, even after London's Privy Council ruled that the extradition proceedings are not unlawful.

The former football administrator, businessman and politician also defended the decision by football's world governing body FIFA, of which he is a former vice-president, to give preference to South Africa, Russia and Qatar to host World Cup Finals.

The award of the 2018 World Cup Final to Russia was among the issues at the centre of corruption allegations against the 79-year-old Warner who is facing 12 charges of wire fraud, racketeering and money laundering.



Austin "Jack" Warner

The Privy Council, Trinidad and Tobago's highest court of appeal, dismissed Warner's lawyers' contention that the extradition proceedings in the magistrate's court were unlawful, thus paving the way for the matter to resume.

"I continue to have confidence in my team led by Fyard Hosein senior counsel, and I have advised them

to continue to press my case on the three remaining stages of these proceedings," Warner said in a post on his Facebook page on Thursday morning, following the Privy Council ruling.

"I have lived in this country for nearly eighty years, and I am confident that I will continue to receive the love, affection, and respect that people from

all walks of life have always extended to me. I am certain I will prevail in the end."

Warner, who said he had conferred with his lawyers before issuing the statement, also suggested that the Trinidad and Tobago courts should not have been involved in this matter.

He had challenged the authority to proceed (ATP) granted by the attorney general in September 2015 which had given the court the authority to begin extradition proceedings.

"I note that several European countries, including France and Switzerland, several Latin American countries, including Brazil, and several African and Middle Eastern countries have refused to extradite their citizens. Trinidad and Tobago is therefore an outlier," Warner said.

## West Indies celebrate International Men's Day in Australia

To mark International Men's Day, West Indies paid special honour to the organisers of the warm-up match against the ACT/NSW XI at Philip Oval in Canberra on

Saturday. The team presented special souvenirs at the end of the three-day match, which formed part of the preparations for the two-Test series against Australia.

As part of its mantra to celebrate the spirit of the game, West Indies players interacted with their young opponents as well as several fans who attended the final day's play.

Coach Phil Simmons said, "Today as we mark International Men's Day we want to show our appreciation for all the great men who have dedicated their time and efforts to the game of cricket. On cricket fields all across the world many men have en-

joyed playing the game and off the field several others also help to organise and ensure things are in place."

Simmons added, "Today at Philip Oval here in Canberra we honoured the unsung heroes on the ground staff, the organising and logistics crew and the caterers, who worked tirelessly to make sure the game was a huge success."

The awards were presented by allrounder Jason Holder and Zeph Nicholas, the long-standing massage therapist.



Photo: Cricket West Indies

# Irving rejoins Nets, apologises for hurt his actions caused

AP - Kyrie Irving returned to the Brooklyn Nets on Sunday and apologized to anyone who felt threatened or hurt when he posted a link to a documentary with antisemitic material.

Irving was suspended by the team on Nov. 3, hours after he refused to say he had no antisemitic beliefs when meeting with reporters at the Nets' practice facility.

Back at the building for the team's morning shootaround, Irving said he should have handled that interview differently.

"I don't stand for anything close to hate speech or antisemitism or anything that is going against the human race," Irving said. "I feel like we all should have an opportunity to speak for ourselves when things are assumed about us and I feel it was necessary for me to stand in this place and take accountability for my actions, because there was a way I should have handled all this and as I look back and reflect when I had the opportunity to offer my deep regrets to anyone that felt threatened or felt hurt by what I posted, that wasn't my intent at all."

Irving has missed eight games during the suspension, which the Nets said would be for a minimum of five games without pay. The team said he is available to play in its home game Sunday night against Memphis.

Irving said he was initially searching for more information about his heritage when he posted the link to "Hebrews to Negroes: Wake Up Black America" on his Twitter page. When first asked about it, he was defiant about his right to post material that interested him. Then, he refused to apologise or clarify his religious beliefs during another interview a few days later, leading to his suspension.



*Brooklyn Nets' Kyrie Irving speaks before the team's NBA basketball game against the New Orleans Pelicans, Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022, in New York. NBA Commissioner Adam Silver wants an apology and Kyrie Irving still isn't going to give one. Shortly after the NBA Commissioner said Irving "made a reckless decision" by tweeting out a link to a film containing antisemitic material last week, the Brooklyn Nets guard again stopped short of saying he was sorry for doing so. (AP Photo/Frank Franklin II, File)*

"I was rightfully defensive that there was an assumption that I could be antisemitic, or that I meant to post a documentary to stand side by side with all the views in the documentary," Irving said, adding, "How can you call someone an antisemite if you don't know them?"

But his tone was more reflective while speaking for about 12 minutes Sunday, thanking family and friends for their support. Some, including officials from the National Basketball Players Association and Nets general manager Sean Marks, were in the room as he spoke.

"I meant no harm to any person, to any group of people and yeah, this is a big moment for me because I'm able to learn throughout this process that the power of my voice is very strong, the influence that I have within my community is very strong, and I want to be responsible for that," Irving said. "In order to do that, you have to admit

when you're wrong and in instances where you hurt people and it impacts them."

Nike suspended its relationship with Irving and the fallout seemed to further strain the relationship between Irving and the Nets, who declined to give him a contract extension last summer.

He missed most of their home games last season when he refused to get vaccinated against COVID-19, as was mandated at the time in New York City.

The organisation said he was "unfit to be associated with the Brooklyn Nets" when it suspended him. But the Nets praised Irving on Sunday for the steps he has since taken.

"Kyrie took ownership of this journey and had conversations with several members of the Jewish community," the team said in a statement. "We are pleased that he is going about the process in a meaningful way."



## Qatar's World Cup opener shows its reemergence after boycott

AP - Qatar opened the Middle East's first World Cup on Sunday with its ruler sitting next to the leaders of two Arab countries that only a year and a half earlier had been part of a boycott trying to bring the energy-rich nation to its knees.

No leaders of major Western countries were seen at the opening ceremony for the tournament in Qatar, which has faced intense criticism, particularly in Europe, over its treatment of migrant labourers and the LGBTQ community.

But the presence of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi shows how far Qatar has come since the boycott that saw its sole land border and air routes cut off for years as part of a political dispute.

Also on the dais with leaders was Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who provided a vital lifeline to Qatar during the crisis.

Dubai's ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and his son attended on behalf of the UAE. Sheikh Mohammed serves as the UAE's vice president and prime minister — and skyscraper-studded Dubai long has been a focus of Qatari investment.

But missing was the UAE's president, Abu Dhabi ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and

the king of Bahrain. Analysts believe both remain highly sceptical of Qatar and their absence suggests that a full rapprochement across the typically clubby Gulf Arab nations remains far off.

Saudi Prince Mohammed smiled broadly and sat only one seat away from Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, Qatar's ruling emir, at the opening ceremony in Al Khor north of the capital, Doha. Between them was Gianni Infantino, the president of FIFA, the governing body of world soccer.

After an opening ceremony speaking of the inclusivity of Bedouin tradition — inside a stadium designed to look like a traditional tent — Sheikh Tamim struck the same note in a short speech.

"How beautiful it is for people to put aside what divides them in order to celebrate their diversity and what brings them together at the same time," he said.

At the height of the Qatar crisis, newspaper columns even suggested digging a trench along the 87-kilometre (54-mile) border and filling it with nuclear waste. While rhetorical bluster, it showed how deeply the anger ran in the region amid the dispute — which Kuwait's then-ruler suggested nearly sparked a war.

Its root came from Qatar's stance in supporting the



Former Emir of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, centre left, and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, right, greet each other before the start of the World Cup, group A soccer match between Qatar and Ecuador at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022. (AP Photo/Hassan Ammar)

Islamists who rose to power in Egypt and elsewhere following the 2011 Arab Spring. While Qatar viewed their arrival as a sea change in the gerontocracies gripping the Mideast, other Gulf Arab nations saw the protests as a threat to their autocratic and hereditary rule.

Erdogan's own support of the Islamist group Muslim Brotherhood and Egypt's deposed late President Mohammed Morsi had alienated the Gulf Arab nations. El-Sisi, who as a general led the 2013 coup that toppled Morsi, was photographed shaking hands with Erdogan in the sign of a possible thaw between those two nations. Sheikh Tamim could be seen smiling in the background.

Qatar also faced criticism from the West as groups they funded initially in Syria's civil war be-

came extremists. Qatar later would deny that it ever funded Islamic extremists, despite criticism from across the American political spectrum from Hillary Clinton to Donald Trump.

Qatar, like Saudi Arabia, follows an ultraconservative version of Islam known as Wahhabism. Yet the country allows alcohol to be served in hotel bars and at a FIFA Fan Zone in the country. Already, some in the country have criticised what they view as Western cultural extravaganzas of the tournament — likely leading to the stadium beer ban.

Al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula, the Yemen-based arm of the extremist group, issued a communique Saturday criticizing the Qataris for hosting a tournament "bringing immoral people, homosexuals, sowers of cor-

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# Sports News



## ECAB among winners in business volleyball league

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) were among the winners of the latest round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 19th November.

Following a straight-set win over Friends and Families of Island Academy in their previous outing, the ECAB notched up their fourth win in five games by surging to a straight-set 25-18, 25-17 victory against 77 Bus in what should have been the first game of a double-header. It was the fourth loss in five matches for 77Bus.

However, Saturday's second game was not played because the Media team failed to show up for their scheduled encounter against the defending champions APUA. The cup holders were awarded the



*The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank claimed their fourth win in five encounters in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Business League at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday, 19th November. (File photo)*

match by default along with a 25-0, 25-0 victory score line.

The result ensured that the APUA volleyballers are able to maintain their perfect start to the competition with their fifth win in as many outings.

Police claimed their fourth win in five games with a comfortable 25-22, 25-18 straight set victory over MEDSO who tumbled

to their fourth loss in six encounters.

Nate's Photography also won for the fourth time in five outings by prevailing 25-20, 25-18 against the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) which were beaten for the fifth time in as many appearances.

There was success as well for the Friends and Fam-

ily of Island Academy (FFIA) and Sandals.

The Friends and Family of Island Academy recorded their second win in five games with a 25-17, 23-25, 15-13 victory over Treasury which lost for the fourth time in five outings.

Sandals won by default after Zammie Shipping was unable to field a team for their scheduled encounter.

It was the fourth win in five games for Sandals, while it was the fifth loss in as many outings for Zammie Shipping.

The Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Business League competition will continue with another double header at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday, 23rd November.

ICONS will take on Nate's Photography at 6:30 pm and Zammie Shipping will clash with ABIIT at 7:30 pm.

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ruption and atheism."

"We warn our Muslim brothers from following this event or attending it," the group said, calling on scholars not to support it. However, the al-Qaida arm did not directly threaten the tournament and has been weakened by years of drone strikes from American forces and engulfed by Yemen's ongoing war.

On hand Sunday night at the opening was U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres, Jordan's King Abdullah II, Algerian President Abdelm-

adjid Tebboune, Senegalese President Macky Sall, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

Kuwait's crown prince came, along with the director-general of the World Health Organization and Djibouti's president.

But the biggest applause came for Sheikh Tamim and his father, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, who secured the tournament back in 2010.

Meanwhile, Iran sent just its minister of youth and sports — not its hardline president — as the Islamic Repub-

lic faces monthslong protests over the death of a 22-year-old woman earlier detained by the country's morality police.

It was unclear at what level Western nations were represented at the ceremony and the opening match between Qatar and Ecuador. On Saturday, Infantino delivered an unusual speech at a news conference where he scolded Europeans for criticising Qatar's human rights record ahead of the tournament, saying they were in no position to give "moral lectures" given their history.



## ASC beat AGS to stay at the top of senior boys' West Zone

Antigua State College (ASC) pulled off a 2-0 win over Antigua Grammar School (AGS) on Friday to stay at the top of the West Zone of the Under-20 Boys' Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League competition.

Playing at the King George V. Grounds, goals by James Simon and Joshua Ferdinand gave Antigua State College their fifth win in seven matches, drawing one and losing the other one of their encounters.

It was the third loss in six outings for the senior boys of Antigua Grammar School.

Defending champions Ottos Comprehensive School stay within touching distance of the leaders by securing a similar 2-0 victory over host St. Mary's Secondary School at the Bolans playing field.

It was the sixth loss in seven outings for the senior boys of St. Mary's Secondary School who remain second from bottom in the six-team round robin West Zone.



*The Antigua State College Under-20 Boys' football squad. (File photo)*

Joylan Joseph and Demario Roberts each converted a goal as Ottos Comprehensive School secured their fourth win in six matches, having drawn their other two encounters.

Princess Margaret School lost grounds on the front-runners as they were held to a 1-1 draw by Jennings Secondary School in their encounter at the Golden Grove playing field.

Tyrik Hughes scored for Princess Margaret School who was held to a draw for the second time in seven matches in which they won four and lost the other encounter.

Marius Andrew scored for Jennings Secondary

School as they claimed their second draw in seven matches. But it wasn't sufficient to lift Jennings Secondary from the bottom of the West Zone as they remain in the cellar position, having lost their other five encounters.

Twenty-four hours earlier, All Saints Secondary ensured they remained at the top the East Zone by hammering Irene B. Williams Secondary 4-1 at the Swetes playing field.

Wilden Cornwall Jr. scored a brace, while the other goals were converted by Alergnon Hodge and Daquan Samuel for All Saints Secondary to secure their fifth win in six match-

es.

Karique Knight scored a consolation goal for Irene B. Williams that were beaten for the third time in six matches.

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) recorded their fifth win in seven matches as they defeated Glanvilles Secondary 3-1 at the Potters playing field.

Kemmoy Francis, Malique Chatam and Shaquan Simon each scored once for ABICE, while Chadene Miller scored an own goal for Glanvilles Secondary which lost for the fourth time in five matches.

Clare Hall secondary secured their first win in five matches by snatching a 1-0 victory against Pares Secondary at the Police Recreation Ground. It was the fourth loss in five matches for Pares Secondary.

Also on Thursday, a Kiara Ramsey own-goal gave Ottos Comprehensive School a 1-0 win over Antigua State College in a Female Under-20 Division affair at the Ottos playing field.

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at all levels of the organization and that the introduction of this ceremony is part of that mindset.

He further commented that far too often, stakeholders who would have made meaningful contributions to LI cricket were recognized posthumously and the objective is to put an end to

that unfortunate practice.

As it relates to the future, Lewis confirmed that the plan is to host the event annually on a rotation basis in each of the eight territories that comprise the Leeward Islands Cricket Board.

He also encouraged all stakeholders to support the event as it will double

as a fundraiser with the funds raised to be invested in the further development of cricket in the Leeward Islands.

To purchase tickets for the event, persons are asked to contact Mr. Jimmy Bharrat and Mr. Cameron Williams of the BVI Cricket Association at telephone numbers 1 284 541 0510 and 1 284 341 6529 respectively.

## LICB to introduce new award ceremony

The Leeward Islands Cricket Board (LICB) Limited will introduce a new initiative dubbed "The Gold Jacket Award Ceremony" next month.

This ceremony, which is being initiated to recognize stakeholders who would have given distinguished service to Leeward Islands cricket, on and off the field, will be an annual event.

In the initial ceremony, which is scheduled to be hosted on 6th December in the British Virgin Islands (BVI), the sub-regional cricket board will be awarding LICB branded Gold coloured Jackets to two outstanding servants of Leeward Islands cricket.

The first recipient will be left-arm spinner Elquemed Tonito Willett, MBE, the first Leeward Islands player

to play test cricket for the West Indies, and the legendary fast bowler, Sir Anderson Montgomery Everton Roberts, who happens to be the second player from the territory to have achieved the feat.

Nevis-born Willett made his debut for the West Indies as a 19-year-old against Australia in 1972-73. He took two wickets and five in the next two tests - including his best of three for 33 at Port-of-Spain. He then toured India and Pakistan in 1974-75, taking two wickets in each of his tests.

It is widely believed that Willett was never selected again to play for the West Indies due to insularity in West Indies cricket. He went on to represent the Leeward Islands team for 14 seasons in which he played 98 first



Former Leeward Islands fast bowler Sir Andy Roberts (Photo courtesy CWI)

class matches, capturing 286 wickets at an average of 28.43.

Sir Andy, who was born in Urlings Village in Antigua and Barbuda, is considered the father of modern West Indies fast bowling. He was the first Antiguan and Barbudan to play test cricket for the West Indies. Following his debut for the West Indies against England in 1974, he went on to play a total of 47 tests between 1974 and 1983, grabbing 202 wickets. Roberts also represented the Combined Islands and the Leeward Islands from 1970 to 1984.

According to a media release from the LICB, "In

informing Mr. Willett of the Board's decision, he stated he was gratified and honoured to have been identified as one of the first recipients of the award.

"Meanwhile, Dr. Roberts said it is always special to be recognized by your home board, and like his fellow recipient, he is happy he was chosen as one of the initial beneficiaries of the award. Both parties congratulated the Board on the initiative."

In commenting on the initiative, President of the LICB, Enoch Lewis, indicated that the board is on a mission to create excellence

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Former Leeward Islands left-arm spinner Elquemedo Willett