

THURSDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 2022 | VOLUME 3 ISSUE 226 | WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

CABINET WEIGHS IN ON YOUTH VIOLENCE

Story on Page 2



Participants in the recent SLBMC Prematurity Awareness Walk. *Feature on page 5*

Local News



Youth violence receives urgent Cabinet attention

The recent rise in youth-on-youth violence in which cutlass-wielding teens have launched savage attacks against each other has come to the attention of the Cabinet.

The Cabinet reported that at its meeting on Wednesday, Minister of Education, Daryll Matthew, addressed the school gang fights and retaliatory actions of rivals.

The minister said while the police have been called-in, it is believed that the behaviour stems from the fact that the children involved come from dysfunctional homes.

The Cabinet has directed the Ministry of Social Transformation to prepare an urgent report on the situation and propose solutions for their consideration.

For months, several fights, some

captured on camera, have emerged in which cutlasses have been used by school children to brutalise their peers.

Earlier this year, a teen was attacked outside the Princess Margaret School and almost lost a finger after he was ambushed and attacked by a group of teenagers.

The officials say the Cabinet's intervention is timely.

Cutlass-wielding teens attack another student

More images and videos are emerging of students being attacked by alleged gang members.

The latest recording that has gone viral was reportedly captured by a security camera installed outside of the headquarters of the Ministry of Works.

The video of the incident believed to have taken place on Tuesday, shows two young men chasing another boy who is in school uniform before cornering him just off St. John's Street in close proximity to the Ministry of Works.

In the 30-second footage, one of the attackers

armed with a cutlass is seen dealing the boy they were chasing several blows. A car horn is heard blaring as people in the area began peering out as they were drawn to the commotion.

The security footage also shows a man running towards the two attackers and drew from his waist what appeared to be a revolver. Unconfirmed reports are he is a police officer.

The two young men then fled the scene of the crime.

A photo of a man with a laceration from the back of his head down his right jaw line is being circulated, however, it is unclear if the



image is that of the student who was attacked on Tuesday.

This latest incident occurred less than 24 hours after a 15-year-old Antigua Grammar School student was ambushed in a cutlass

attack outside Teachers' Place

The Greenbay resident was leaving school on Monday when in the vicinity of the headquarters of the Antigua and Barbuda Union of Teachers, he was pounced upon by three young men, one armed with a cutlass.

The student sustained non-life-threatening injuries and escaped when people who were walking in the area intervened.

The attacks have shed light on a worrying development of gangs within the public school system.

Thu 24 | Day

83°

Sun and a few passing clouds. High 83F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph.

Humidity 72%

UV Index 9 of 10

Sunrise 6:16 am

Sunset 5:31 pm

Thu 24 | Night

77°

A few clouds from time to time. Low 77F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.

Humidity 79%

UV Index 0 of 10

Moonrise 6:52 am

Moonsset 6:14 pm

Waxing Crescent

NYPAAB in SKN for Joint Youth Assembly

An eight-person contingency from the National Youth Parliament Association of Antigua and Barbuda (NYPAAB) travelled to St. Kitts and Nevis yesterday to participate in the Inaugural Sitting of the Joint Youth Assembly.

The NYPAAB will join the St. Kitts National Youth Parliament Association (SKNYPA) to execute this initiative on Friday 25th November, 2022.

During the sitting, three legislative items will be tabled: The Age of Majority (Amendment) Bill, 2022, along with a Resolution to

Commission a Health Investigatory Select Committee and finally, a Resolution to Promote Integrity and Efficiency within the Civil Service.

The Joint Youth Assembly is one of the key tenets under the Joint Agreement signed by both organisations in February of this year.

The creation of a formal relationship will solidify the mandate to advocate on issues important to youth while developing their skills and capacity.

The youth parliamentarians return to Antigua and Barbuda this Saturday.



MOS MEDICAL SCREENING

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2022
12MIDDAY -5PM

FREE HEALTH SCREENING

- *BODY MASS INDEX
- *CHOLESTEROL
- *GLUCOSE
- *BLOOD PRESSURE
- *BREAST EXAMINATION
- *PROSTATE EXAMINATION
- *FOOD AND NUTRITION
- *DIABETES RISK

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Local News



OECS Trade ministers convene meeting in St. John's

Ministers and delegates attending the Fourth Regular Meeting of the OECS Ministers of Trade are meeting in St. John's over the next two days to discuss important trade issues affecting the group, the Caribbean and beyond.

Antigua and Barbuda's Trade Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, as host, will deliver the feature address today at the Royalton Resort, venue of the meeting.

The outgoing chairman of the conference, St. Vincent and the Grenadines Trade Minister, Keisal Melissa Peters will debrief the meeting on the opening.

Director General of the OECS Commission, Dr. Didacus Jules, will also speak at the opening ceremony.

One of the main topics to be discussed involves the strengthening of the OECS Trade Policy Coordination.

Under this item, the Council will deliberate four subtopics related to the strengthening of trade policy coordination in the OECS.

Under the Revised Treaty of Basseterre establishing the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States Economic Union, Member States committed to coordinating, harmonising, and undertaking joint policy actions and pursuing joint policies in a number of areas in or related to trade policy.

The Council will also consider establishing National and OECS Trade Policy Committees.



Trade Minister, E. P. Chet Greene

A conference document said this proposal was presented to the Meeting of Senior Trade Officials on August 16, 2022.

This meeting of officials will report on their review and consultations and make recommendations to the ministers for endorsement to establish an OECS Trade Policy Committee (TPC) to succeed the TNG and to the establishment or designation of National Trade Policy Committees (NTPCs) in each Member State.

The trade ministers will also discuss implementing a Private Sector Trade Facilitation and Engagement Strategy.

The conference document said the OECS Commission with support under the ACP TradeCom II programme has sought to develop an Integrated Regional OECS Private Sector Trade Facilitation and Engagement Strategy to broaden and deepen the holistic encouragement of the private sector in advancing strategic solutions that lower transaction costs and improve the capacity of the OECS private sector.

Observation from SLBMC Paediatric Department Chair



By Shivon Belle-Jarvis
Paediatric Dept. Chair
Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre

“Prematurity is everyone's business. It is a global problem. This year marks the 5th anniversary of Antigua

& Barbuda joining the global movement with activities, special events and most importantly, committing to action to help address premature birth and help improve the lives of preterm babies and their families. During Prematurity Awareness Month, we also take the time to reflect on our unique challenges and victories and recognize the need for continued quality improvement in the care that we deliver.

We continue to be encouraged by the support received from our families and the community. Our recently

held Prematurity Walk saw over one hundred (100) participants—our NICU graduates and their families, staff and many others—coming out and successfully completing the annual trek from Police Recreation Grounds to Merryland Amusement Park.

For us to continue our work it takes a dedicated team and partners who believe in our mission, and for this we want to thank them. Our partners for the Prematurity Walk this year included:

Baby Beanz Boutique, Wish-ing Well Inc., Sandals Grande Antigua and Total Imports.

The clarion call remains for our expectant women to have at least eight (8) visits with their health care provider during pregnancy, as preventing deaths and complications from preterm births starts with a healthy pregnancy.

The nation's hospital, Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, remains committed to ensuring that no baby born too soon is left behind.”



Guilty! Barbudan convicted of attempted murder

On Wednesday afternoon a nine-member jury resumed deliberations to determine the fate of a Barbudan man charged with the attempted murder of another islander.

Before the night had ended, the jury, composed of five men and four women, found Desbones James guilty of the attempted murder of James Elliot on March 25, 2019.

The jury voted 8 - 1 in favour of a guilty verdict.

According to the evidence presented during the trial, the men were in an argument during which James was allegedly struck by El-

liott.

During the altercation, a gun was discharged.

The defendant asked the jury to consider that the weapon was accidentally discharged and that he acted in self-defense.

James will likely return to court for sentencing on 13th December, however, the final date for sentencing will depend on the court's receipt of the pre-sentencing report.

Crown Counsel Sean Nelson led the prosecution, while Wendel Robinson appeared for the accused.



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Local News



Antigua and Barbuda elected to co-chair Adaptation Fund Board at COP27

Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, Antigua and Barbuda's Climate Ambassador and Director of the Department of Environment, was elected as co-chair of the agenda items related to the Adaptation Fund and the Adaptation Fund Board.

She is co-chairing with Eva Schreuder from the Netherlands.

The Adaptation Fund is an international fund that finances projects and programmes of developing countries to help them adapt to the harmful effects of climate change. It was established under the Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Antigua and Barbuda has benefitted from grant-based financing from the Adaptation Fund, which funded the construction of the culverts (bridges) in communities along the McKinnon's Waterway. The international Fund has provided the funding to improve the drainage in the area. The negotiations for the Adaptation Fund will focus on significantly increasing the amount of funds pledged to the funding institution.

The Adaptation Fund

has been financing concrete, scalable interventions in Antigua and Barbuda since the country's Department of Environment acquired accreditation in 2015 as a National Implementing Entity to the Fund.

Antigua and Barbuda was recredited to the Adaptation Fund in 2020 and plans to apply for new projects in 2023.



Ambassador Diann Black-Layne



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Saturday 26th
9:00am - 6:00pm

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The poster features a dark, starry background with a bright explosion in the center. Various household items are scattered around, including a blender, a washing machine, a dining table with chairs, a microwave, and a red cooking pot. The text is bold and colorful, with 'EXPLOSION!' in large, yellow, 3D letters.

Local News



The Antigua Bermuda Race resumes in 2023

Registration for the fourth Antigua Bermuda Race has begun after the event was suspended in 2019 as a result of the pandemic.

The race will begin in Antigua and Barbuda on 9th May, 2023.

The open ocean race covers 935 nautical miles.

It is managed by the Royal Bermuda Yacht Club, in association with Antigua Sailing Week, and supported by the Bermuda Tourism Authority and Goslings Rum.

The event is open to a range of yachts and crews of varying skills.

Once the crews lose sight of Antigua and Barbuda, they will not see land along their path again until ar-



iving in Bermuda.

The race is open to IRC and CSA Racing Yachts, Cruiser Racers, Su-

per Yachts, and Multihulls. Classic yachts and double-handed teams have their own category, and a secondary motor sailing handicap in the CSA Classes, allows yachts to use their engines and still get a result, subject to a time penalty.

The Antigua Bermuda Race is timed to coincide with the end of Antigua Sailing Week when many yachts are planning to sail north back to North America, or east from Bermuda across the Atlantic Ocean.

Additional information about the race and registration can be completed by visiting <https://www.antiguabermuda.com/> or emailing info@antiguabermuda.com

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Montserratian on par with English or Dutch, says linguist

Languages are not like artifacts in a museum that we put in a glass cage for people to watch them."

That's according to linguist, Dr Rhoda Arrindell.

During her address at the 2022 Alphonso "Arrow" Memorial Lecture on Friday, November 18, she said "We have to use them if they are to live. We must use them in spaces that matter."

The lecture was part of the 14th Aliouagana Festival of the Word which ran from November 17 to 19 in Montserrat. Moderated by former Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Shirley Osborne, the St. Martin linguist, and author, along with cultural practitioner Ann Marie Dewar discussed "Language as Protest: How does preserving our dialects serve as a tool for nation building?"

Arrindell said the word dialect has many nuances within the Caribbean. In linguistics, she explained it refers to a specific form of a language from an area and serves as an identity marker. For instance, saying 'he is from Dominica' because of the way someone speaks.

The linguist, who wrote *Language, Culture & Identity* in 2014, says that in the English-speaking territories the varieties in how we speak came about due to contact with English slavers, colonisers, and Africa. She said the education system we inherited was "designed to preserve British and other European culture and interests."

"Through these systems, we have learned that the Queen's English is predominant. That is the standard all colonial subjects would have been told to master. The school system told us to love the king or queen's English and to separate ourselves from anything of African heritage. If you can't speak it

(i.e. the Queen's English), then there's something wrong with you. There's a broken transmission...to show 'Africans can't get it'," Arrindell added.

"When we have a conversation about nation building and resisting, what are we resisting? Africans have used all forms of resistance. What is the nation that Montserrat is trying to build in the context of a colony? What is the place of Montserrat dialect in terms of policy and planning? Every decision we make is based on our choice and worldview. What is the world view of the government policymakers in terms of nation-building?" she questioned.

Panellist Ann Marie Dewar, who regularly performs using the Montserratian language, welcomed the discussion, which she said was challenging some of her own ideas about the usage of words like dialect and creole.

"Arrow would have been very pleased with this discussion as he admonished us to use our Montserrat English more and more," Dewar said of the late soca king about his popular track Montserrat English.

"We still have a tendency to say, 'speak properly. We perpetuate the idea that there is a very low value attached to our language. This is something we have grown up with. If you want to get ahead, you speak the Queen's English. I think the time has come for us to own, value, and celebrate our language," added Dewar. We must "appreciate the fact that we are bilingual."

Dr Arrindell says she prefers to use nationality as the definition of the language. Such as Montserratian, Jamaican, Cruzan, or American.

"Creole is a process that the language went through. My St. Martin dialect is no different than a Scottish dialect. All languages of all people are



Dr Rhoda Arrindell

languages. I don't refer to it as a creole. Irish, Gaelic, or Scottish. It's just another dialect of English."

Our languages, the author explained, have the same features as other languages. She encouraged the moving away from racist terminology that these are creole languages.

"When we separate it for Caribbean people, we are saying there is something different about the way we acquire languages than other humans," Dr Arrindell went on to say. "Within the St Martin language, you get the nuances depending on whether they went to school in the North where French was the language of instruction or in the South where it was Dutch."

Ms Dewar said the belief is that "Montserratian is fit for the street and certain circumstances" and used only by those on "the bottom rung of the society. We have been so conditioned that everything that was European was good and everything African was not. People should be free to use the language that they are most comfortable with, and that other people can understand wherever.

cont'd on pg 11

Hard-working Colombian beetles clean garbage, retire as pets

By Astrid Suárez

Three yellow-and-black beetles clung to the shirt of Germán Viasus Tibamoso, a Colombian environmental engineer who uses beetle larvae to transform food waste into fertilizers.

As he encouraged them to move along, he murmured to them in Japanese — trying to get them accustomed, he said, to the sounds of their future homes.

The not-so-little bugs — which can grow up to 17 centimeters (6.5 inches) long — have a remarkably productive and complicated life among the humans who breed and collect them.

Viasus operates a company called Tierra Viva in a rural area around the city of Tunja, a city some 150 kilometers (95 miles) northwest of the Colombian capital of Bogotá.

An attempt as a postgraduate student to produce organic fertilizer with worms failed, Viasus said, but he found beetle larvae in the bags of earth that remained. He tried using them instead. And it worked.

Tons of food scraps collected from nearby communities are spread in concrete ditches and covered with earth. Then beetle larvae — the stage



Colombian environmental engineer Germán Viasus Tibamoso, owner of Tierra Viva, holds a Hercules beetle in Tunja, Colombia, Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022. The company transforms solid, organic waste, with the help of beetle larvae's digestive microorganisms, that transform the waste into a compost rich in nitrogen and phosphorous. Once adults, the beetles are sent to scientific labs and others to Japan where they are popular as pets. (AP Photo/Fernando Vergara)

between egg and adulthood — are introduced.

They chew through the refuse and their digestive microorganisms transform it into a fertilizer rich in nitrogen and phosphorous.

After four months or so, the product passes through a filter that separates the fertilizer from the larvae, who are at the point of becoming adult beetles.

They mate, and their eggs are used to start the process anew. The adults, however, go on very different journeys. Some are headed for scientific labs. And a lucky few embark on a future across the Pacific in Japan, where beetles are popular as pets, and are even sold over online emporiums such as Amazon.

Tierra Viva has been exporting the bugs — largely Hercules beetles — since 2004, and Viasus said they can bring as much as \$150 each.

This year the company sent 100 beetles to Tokyo — down from 300 last year — held in little plastic cases with air holes and food.

The sales are often in the company's variant of cryptocurrency, called "Kmushicoin" — a variant on a Japanese word for beetle.

Viasus, 52, said he hopes the project can grow and prosper for another century — perhaps with its fertilizer used in reforestation projects.

"It's very difficult in Colombia ... because we do it without any help from the state or any other entity. In any other country of the world, a project like this would get a lot of help," he said.

cont'd from pg 10

"The more we have people who are regarded as influential, the elites, the people who 'run tings'. The more of those who embrace the language, once they are heard to be using it, I think it breaks down some of those barriers," added the poet, who will release her first collection in Montserratian in the new year.

Dr Arrindell who is also

an instructor at the University of the Bahamas said she makes it a "point that people know that my language is part of my identity. There are times when you do ameliorate to be understood by a broader audience, but it is not something I do too often."

She encouraged Montserratians to write down their language as certain structures are lost over time

and the only way they will be preserved is if future generations learn how to speak it.

Arrindell also said that using a nation's language shouldn't be only for artists and entertainers. It should be put into the national policy and planning that spells out how its use will be promoted and how it will live beyond us.

Dewar added that every

Montserratian schoolchild should know how to speak the language. It need not be a pivot away from English but the usage of both.

Montserrat's 14th edition of the literary festival was presented in partnership with the Montserrat Arts Council, Golden Media, Governor's Office, Montserrat Public Library, and the Department of Environment. (CMC)

UN: Children in Haiti hit by cholera as malnutrition rises

By Evens Sanon And Dánica Coto

A cholera outbreak sweeping through Haiti is claiming a growing number of children amid a surge in malnutrition, UNICEF announced Wednesday.

The deadly combination means that about 40% of cholera cases in the impoverished country of more than 11 million inhabitants now involve children, with 9 out of 10 cases reported in areas where people are starving, according to the United Nations agency.

“We have to plan for the worst,” Manuel Fontaine, director of UNICEF’s Office of Emergency Programs, told The Associated Press on Tuesday during a visit to Haiti.

Cholera has killed more than 200 people since the first deaths were announced in early October, and another 9,300 are hospitalized, according to the Haitian Health Ministry, but experts believe the number is much higher due to underreporting.

UNICEF and Haiti’s government are seeking at least \$28 million to help feed, hydrate and care for 1.4 million people affected by the crisis, with that number expected to increase as malnutrition worsens, especially in urban areas such as the Cite Soleil slum in the capital of



A mother hydrates her son who is stricken with cholera, at a clinic run by Doctors Without Borders in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Friday, Nov. 11, 2022. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph)

Port-au-Prince, something that hasn’t been seen before.

“Cholera and malnutrition are a lethal combination, one leading to the other,” Fontaine said.

On a recent morning at the Gheskio medical clinic in Port-au-Prince, nurses, doctors and social workers tended to malnourished children who also were fighting cholera.

“This is a challenge for us,” said Dr. Karine Sévère, who runs the clinic’s cholera department. “When the children are malnourished, it takes more time for them to recover.”

She estimates that malnutrition cases have increased by at least 40% in recent weeks, with nurses feeding children soup in the morning and rice, beans, meat and vegetables in the afternoon to help them gain weight.

It’s food that not many

parents can afford in a country where about 60% of the population earns less than \$2 a day.

Roselord David, 40, says she and her five children had to flee Cite Soleil after warring gangs set her house on fire. They temporarily lived in a public park and then moved in with her sister as she continues to struggle to find food for her children.

A social worker who spotted her emaciated 5-year-old daughter at the park urged David to take her to the clinic.

“They told me she was suffering from malnutrition,” David said in a quiet voice, embarrassed to confide her family’s problems in the clinic packed with patients.

Nearby, a 15-year-old teenage boy was sleeping, an IV in his thin arm. His friend, Island Meus, said she was taking turns with

his mother to care for him.

“He sometimes goes without food,” she confided, adding that he occasionally eats a bowl of rice with plantains when his family can afford it.

Haiti’s government recently requested cholera vaccines, but there’s a worldwide shortage of them and 31 countries are reporting outbreaks, so it’s unclear if and when they will arrive. However, Fontaine said Haiti would be given priority.

The country’s first brush with cholera occurred in 2010 after U.N. peacekeepers from Nepal introduced the bacteria into the country’s largest river by sewage. Nearly 10,000 people died, and more than 850,000 became ill.

This time, the situation is more complicated, said Bobby Sanders, Haiti director for Food for the Hungry.

Nearly half of those sick with cholera are now younger than 15, and they are struggling to survive given the deepening malnutrition crisis, he said in a phone interview.

The situation also is worsening because gang violence has spiked, preventing aid groups from reaching those who need it the most.

“It’s really complex,” he said. “We have to act right now.”

Former Haitian Prime Minister Laurent Lamothe demands apology from Canada

CMC - Former Haitian prime minister Laurent Lamothe is demanding an apology from Canada after the country linked him to “the egregious conduct of Haitian political elites who provide illicit financial and operational support to armed gangs” in the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

“I was totally shocked to learn, through social media, that the Canadian government has decided to sanction me for allegedly financing gangs and supporting criminal activities in Haiti,” said Lamothe, who served as prime minister under the presidency of Michel Martelly.

“It is my belief, that this arbitrary decision by the Canadian government is the result of false information relayed to them by my detractors. I defy anyone to show a single concrete piece of evidence showing my involvement in any type of association with gangs or linking me to any type of financing of criminal activities.

“The Canadian government should thoroughly verify its sources of information, and in full transparency, either make public all evidence backing their accusations, or completely and formally withdraw

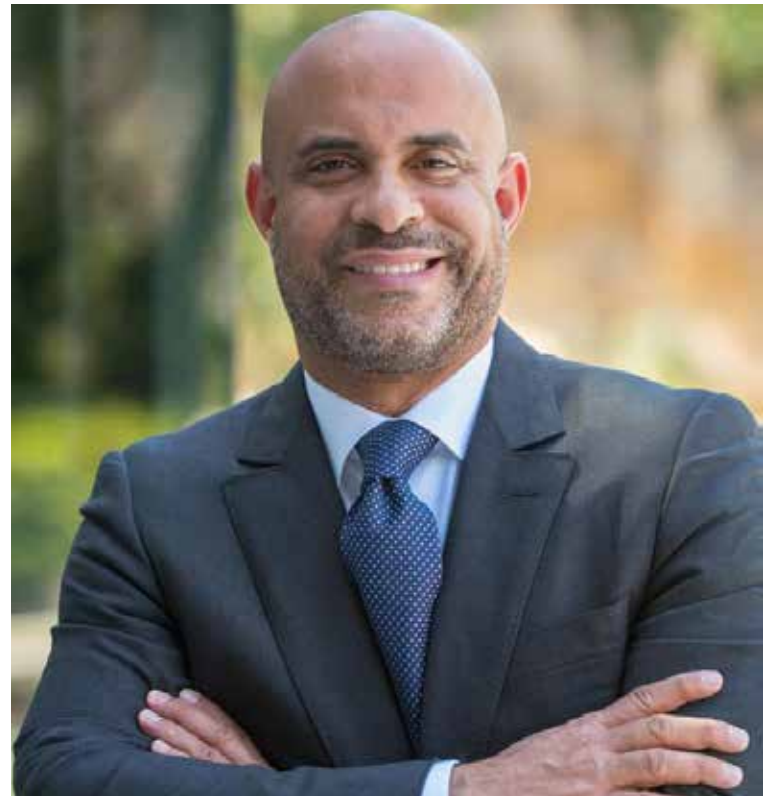
them. I demand a public apology and reserve the right to go to the Canadian courts for the sake of defending my honor and my integrity,” Lamothe added.

Media reports said Martelly, who served as head of state from 2011-2016, is also being sanctioned by Canada which last week-end imposed sanctions on Senator Ronny Célestin, the former president of the Chamber of Deputies, Gary Bodeau, and former senator Hervé Fourcand.

In a statement, Lamothe described Canada’s decision as “absurd” adding “it is not based on any verifiable fact or evidence, and is inconsistent with my track record of fighting crime and implementing law and order. I vehemently condemn the levity with which these false accusations were made.

“I applaud Canada’s interest in Haiti which is descending into chaos because of the unspeakable actions of armed groups and their sponsors who act with impunity.”

The former prime minister said he was the first to plead in favor of an international tribunal to shed light on the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse “which may disturb many in the current government”



Former prime minister, Laurent Lamothe

Moïse was gunned down at his private residence on July 7, last year and while several people including former Colombian army officials have been detained, no one has been officially charged with his assassination.

“I was also one of the first Haitian personalities to seek an armed international support to help the National Police (PNH) dismantle all gangs in Haiti, these same gangs that are funded and supported by certain members of this government.”

Lamothe said during his tenure as prime minister from 2012 to 2014, the fight against insecurity was his main priority.

“Thanks to a policy of zero tolerance against armed criminals of all walks of life and of any background, against kidnapping and corruption, my government’s track record in the fight against organized crime during this period remains indisputable.”

He said his administration had dismantled the two largest kidnapping rings in Haiti, apply the full effect of the law against all personalities involved in kidnapping as well as strengthened the National Police through the purchase of weapons and equipment, including good quality armored patrol tanks that are still in use today.

Regional News



Dominican Republic denies US accusation regarding treatment of people of color

CMC - The Dominican Republic has accused the United States government of providing “no evidence” to back its claim that the Spanish-speaking country engaged in “a systematic pattern of violations of the rights of migrants” especially those from neighboring Haiti.

“Isolated cases may occur, as in any country in the world, which, if reported to the competent authorities, would be duly investigated and punished, if proven to be true,” the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement regarding Washington’s accusation.

Authorities say they deported 43,900 migrants, largely Haitians, between July and October. In September and October alone, deportation figures shot up by about 50 percent.

Last weekend, the US Embassy issued a statement advising US citizens that in recent months travelers to the Dominican Republic have reported being delayed, detained, or subject to heightened questioning at ports of entry and in other encounters with immigration officials based on their skin color.

“Reports of disparate treatment of US citizens by Dominican authorities are



A truck of the General Directorate of Dominican Migration carrying Haitians to be returned to their country arrives at the border crossing in Dajabon, bordering city of Ouanaminthe in Haiti, in the northwest of Dominican Republic on September 27, 2018. - Dominican Defense Minister Ruben Paulino Sem presented deportation statistics, according to which, in the first half of this year 79,842 undocumented Haitians were prevented from entering the country. (Photo by ERIKA SANTELICES/AFP via Getty Images)

a matter of ongoing concern to the US Embassy.”

It said in recent days, “as reported in Dominican media, Dominican Migration (DGM) agents have conducted widespread operations aimed at detaining those they believe to be undocumented migrants, especially persons of Haitian descent.

“In some cases, authorities have not respected these individuals’ legal status in the Dominican Republic or nationality.

“These actions may lead to increased interaction with Dominican au-

thorities, especially for darker skinned US citizens and US citizens of African descent.”

The Embassy said there were also “reports that detainees are kept in overcrowded detention centers, without the ability to challenge their detention, and without access to food or restroom facilities, sometimes for days at a time, before being released or deported to Haiti”.

The Embassy said it was advising US citizens to always carry their passport with them, have a charged cell phone and notify the

Embassy immediately if they need assistance.

In its reaction to the statement by the US Embassy, the Dominican Republic expressed “its firmest rejection of the alert statement issued ...by the United States Embassy in the country, considering it manifestly unfounded, improvised, and unfortunate.

“The United States Government has provided no evidence, beyond anecdotal cases without independent verification, that there is a systematic pattern of violations of the rights of migrants, ordered by the Dominican authorities.”

The Dominican Republic said it would never have “imagined such serious insinuations on the Dominican Republic, whose population shows in its skin color a wide melting pot of races; let alone from an ally who has himself been the target of numerous accusations of xenophobic and racist treatment of migrants and even of sectors of his own population”.

It recalled that the Dominican Republic offers welcoming treatment to “millions of tourists who visit us every year from all over the world, especially from the United States.”

Jamaica: Paternity leave comes into effect January 1, 2023

CMC - The proposed introduction of paternity leave in Jamaica for fathers of newborns and family leave for adoptive parents bringing a new child into the home, is slated to come into effect on January 1, 2023.

This was stated by Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Marsha Smith, who also advised that the proposed increase of paid maternity leave from 40 days to three months will commence on January 1.

She was speaking at the Civil Service Week Public Forum at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel on November 22. The forum was held under the theme 'The Public Sector: Forging Ahead with Determination'.

The changes are coming out of the current public-sector compensation review and will be facilitated by updating the Public Sector Staff Orders of 2004.

The compensation review is intended to overhaul the structure of salaries and other emoluments in the public service.

"This is an opportunity for other Jamaicans who have the capacity and the ability to take on fostering to foster a child. If you are a public servant, you are going to be given that opportunity to get those weeks to settle that child in before you go back to work fully. This is



Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Marsha Smith, addresses the Civil Service Week Public Forum at The Jamaica Pegasus hotel on November 22. The forum was held under the theme 'The Public Sector: Forging Ahead with Determination'. (Photo: JIS)

why we are trying to modernise the public sector in real ways to meet the ways of public servants, not just in terms of compensation but also in overall quality of life," she said.

Smith said the aim is to ensure that public servants are compensated in ways that are competitive with the local private as well as the international markets.

"These changes will ensure that we are able to retain the talent locally, which will ensure an efficient, simplified public sector," she said.

Meanwhile, she indicated that the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service has reached an agreement with several trade unions representing public-sector workers on the restructured

public-sector compensation system.

"I was very happy last week when the Ministry of Finance, together with its union partners... were able to sign several memoranda of understanding, and these... cover approximately 60,000 employees, and we are well under way to seeing the entire public sector being transformed," Smith noted.

"The minister of finance... is committed to ensuring that we implement a public-sector compensation that is fair, transparent and sustainable.

"He is determined to ensure that each and every public sector worker is better off financially. To all public-sector workers, I say

be patient; there is always some shifting around when there is transformation, but in the end, everything eventually settles down," she said.

Smith applauded all the unions that have passionately represented their members through the process, "and I acknowledge the trust they have shown in the Government by signing this agreement".

"For those who have not yet signed, I encourage you to do so. I am confident that this is a step in the right direction as we continue to change the various aspects of public-sector transformation," she said.

The public forum formed part of events to observe Civil Service Week 2022.

Bolsonaro contests Brazil election loss, wants votes voided

AP - More than three weeks after losing a reelection bid, President Jair Bolsonaro on Tuesday blamed a software bug and demanded the electoral authority annul votes cast on most of Brazil's nation's electronic voting machines, though independent experts say the bug doesn't affect the reliability of results.

Such an action would leave Bolsonaro with 51% of the remaining valid votes — and a reelection victory, Marcelo de Bessa, the lawyer who filed the 33-page request on behalf of the president and his Liberal Party, told reporters.

The electoral authority has already declared victory for Bolsonaro's nemesis, leftist former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, and even many of the president's allies have accepted the results. Protesters in cities across the country have steadfastly refused to do the same, particularly with Bolsonaro declining to concede.

Liberal Party leader Valdemar Costa and an auditor hired by the party told reporters in Brasília that their evaluation found all machines dating from before 2020 — nearly 280,000 of them, or about 59% of the total used in the Oct. 30 runoff — lacked individual identification numbers in internal logs.

Neither explained how that might have affected election results, but said they were asking the electoral authority to invalidate all votes cast on those machines.

The complaint characterized the bug as “irreparable non-compliance due to malfunction” that called into question the authenticity of the results.

Immediately afterward, the head of the electoral authority issued a ruling that implicitly raised the possibility that Bolsonaro's own party could suffer from such a challenge.



Electoral Court employees work on the final stage of sealing electronic voting machines in preparation for the general election run-off in Brasilia, Brazil, Oct. 19, 2022, ahead of the Oct. 30 second round vote. Valdemar Costa, president of the ruling Liberal Party, is calling on the electoral authority to annul votes cast on more than half of electronic voting machines used in the Oct. 30 election, citing a software bug. (AP Photo/Eraldo Peres, File)

Alexandre de Moraes said the court would not consider the complaint unless the party offers an amended report within 24 hours that would include results from the first electoral round on Oct. 2, in which the Liberal Party won more seats in both congressional houses than any other.

Creomar de Souza, political analyst of Dharma Political Risk and Strategy, said the wording of de Moraes' ruling indicates the electoral court is likely to reject the appeal.

The bug hadn't been known previously, yet experts said it also doesn't affect results. Each voting machine can still be easily identified through other means, like its city and voting district, according to Wilson Ruggiero, a professor of computer engineering and digital systems at the Polytechnic School of the University of Sao Paulo.

Diego Aranha, an associate professor of systems security at Aarhus Uni-

versity in Denmark, who has participated in official security tests of Brazil's electoral system, agreed.

“It does not undermine the reliability or credibility in any way,” Ruggiero told The Associated Press by phone. “The key point that guarantees correctness is the digital signature associated with each voting machine.”

While the machines don't have individual identification numbers in their internal logs, those numbers do appear on printed receipts that show the sum of all votes cast for each candidate, said Aranha, adding the bug was only detected due to the efforts by the electoral authority to provide greater transparency.

Bolsonaro's less than two-point loss to da Silva on Oct. 30 was the narrowest margin since Brazil's 1985 return to democracy. While the president hasn't explicitly cried foul, he has refused to concede defeat or congratulate his oppo-

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Twin blasts shake Jerusalem, killing teen and wounding 18

AP - Two blasts went off near bus stops in Jerusalem at the height of morning rush hour on Wednesday, killing a Canadian-Israeli teenager and injuring at least 18, in what police said were suspected attacks by Palestinians.

The first explosion occurred near a typically crowded bus stop on the edge of the city. The second went off about half an hour later in Ramot, a settlement in the city's north. Police said one person died from their wounds and at least three were seriously wounded in the blasts.

The victim was identified as Aryeh Shechopek, a



People look at the scene of an explosion at a bus stop in Jerusalem, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022. Two blasts have gone off near bus stops in Jerusalem, killing one person and injuring a dozen of people, in what Israeli police said were suspected attacks by Palestinians. (AP Photo/Mahmoud Illean)

teenager who was heading the blast went off, according to a Jewish seminary when his death. Shechopek was **cont'd on pg 18**

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nent — leaving room for supporters to draw their own conclusions.

Many have been protesting relentlessly, making claims of election fraud and demanding that the armed forces intervene.

Dozens of Bolsonaro supporters gathered outside the news conference on Tuesday, decked out in the green and yellow of Brazil's flag and chanting patriotic songs. Some verbally attacked and pushed journalists trying to enter the venue.

Bolsonaro spent more than a year claiming Brazil's electronic voting system is prone to fraud, without ever presenting evidence.

The president's son, federal lawmaker Eduardo Bolsonaro, repeated that concern at a conference in Mexico last week.

"We always distrusted these machines. ... We want a massive audit," the

younger Bolsonaro said. "There is very strong evidence to order an investigation of Brazil's election."

Brazil began using an electronic voting system in 1996 and election security experts consider such systems less secure than hand-marked paper ballots, because they leave no auditable paper trail. But Brazil's system has been closely scrutinized by domestic and international experts who have never found evidence of it being exploited to commit fraud.

The Senate's president, Rodrigo Pacheco, said Tuesday afternoon that the election results are "unquestionable."

Bolsonaro has been almost completely secluded in the official residence since his Oct. 30 defeat, inviting widespread speculation as to whether he is dejected or plotting to cling to power.

In an interview with newspaper O Globo, Vice President Hamilton Mourão chalked up Bolsonaro's absence to ery-

sipelas, a skin infection on his legs that he said prevents the president from wearing pants.

For its audit, the Liberal Party hired the Legal Vote Institute, a group that has been critical of the current system, saying it defies the law by failing to provide a digital record of every individual vote.

In a separate report presented earlier this month, the Brazilian military said there were flaws in the country's electoral systems and proposed improvements, but didn't substantiate claims of fraud from some of Bolsonaro's supporters.

Analysts have suggested that the armed forces, which have been a key component of Bolsonaro's administration, may have maintained a semblance of uncertainty over the issue to avoid displeasing the president. In a subsequent statement, the Defense Ministry stressed that while it had not found any evidence of fraud in the vote counting, it could not exclude that possibility.

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also a Canadian citizen, according to Canada's Ambassador to Israel Lisa Stadelbauer. There were conflicting reports over Shechopek's exact age.

Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have been surging for months, amid nightly Israeli raids in the occupied West Bank prompted by a spate of deadly attacks against Israelis that killed 19 people in the spring. There has been an uptick in recent weeks in Palestinian attacks.

The violence occurred hours after Palestinian militants stormed a West Bank hospital and carried out an Israeli citizen seeking treatment there after a car accident, according to the young man's father. That incident could further ratchet up tensions.

Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid said Israel would track down the attackers.

"They can run, they can hide — it won't help them," he said in a statement. "We will punish them to the fullest extent of the law."

The developments took place as former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is holding coalition talks after national elections and is likely to return to power as head of what's expected to be Israel's most right-wing government ever.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, an extremist lawmaker who has called for the death penalty for Palestinian attackers and who is set to become the minister in charge of police under Netanyahu, said the attack meant Israel needed to take a tougher stance on Palestinian violence.

"We must exact a price from terror," he said at the scene of the first explosion. "We must return to be in control of Israel, to restore deterrence against terror."

Police, who were searching for the suspected attackers, said their initial findings showed that shrap-

nel-laden explosive devices were placed at the two sites. The twin blasts occurred amid the buzz of rush hour traffic and police briefly closed part of a main highway leading out of the city, where the first explosion went off.

Video from shortly after the initial blast showed debris strewn along the sidewalk as the wail of ambulances blared. A bus in Ramot was pocked with what looked like shrapnel marks.

"It was a crazy explosion," Yosef Haim Gabay, a medic who was at the scene when the first blast occurred, told Israeli Army Radio. "I saw people with wounds bleeding all over the place."

While Palestinians have carried out stabbings, car rammings and shootings in recent years, bombing attacks have become very rare since the end of a Palestinian uprising nearly two decades ago.

The U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem condemned the violence, as did EU Ambassador to Israel Dimitar Tzantchev.

The Islamic militant Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip and once carried out suicide bombings against Israelis, praised the perpetrators of the attacks, calling it a heroic operation, but stopped short of claiming responsibility.

"The occupation is reaping the price of its crimes and aggression against our people," Hamas spokesman Abd al-Latif al-Qanua said.

Israel said that in response to the blasts, it was closing two West Bank crossings to Palestinians near the West Bank city of Jenin, a militant stronghold.

In Jenin late Tuesday, militants entered a hospital and removed the Israeli teen wounded in a car accident. The young man, 17, was from Israel's Druze minority.

His father, who was in the hos-

pital room with him, said the militants disconnected him from hospital equipment and took him while still alive. The Israeli military said the young man was already dead when he was taken.

"It was something horrendous. It was something that was inhumane," Husam Ferro, the teen's father, told Israeli news site YNet.

"He was still alive and they took him in front of my eyes and I couldn't do anything."

A Druze community leader told YNet talks were underway on the body's return to the family. Palestinian militants have in the past carried out kidnappings to seek concessions from Israel. Lapid said the militants would "pay a heavy price" if the body was not returned.

Palestinian officials either declined to comment or did not respond to requests for comment.

More than 130 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli-Palestinian fighting in the West Bank and east Jerusalem this year, making 2022 the deadliest year since 2006.

The Israeli army says most of the Palestinians killed have been militants. But stone-throwing youths protesting Israeli army incursions and others not involved in confrontations have also been killed.

At least eight Israelis have been killed in the most recent wave of Palestinian attacks.

The Israeli military said Wednesday that Palestinian gunmen opened fire on forces escorting worshippers to a flashpoint shrine in the West Bank city of Nablus overnight. The troops fired back and the Palestinian Health Ministry said a 16-year-old was killed in the incident.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war, along with east Jerusalem and Gaza. The Palestinians seek the territories for their hoped-for independent state.

Monsoon rains force halt in Indonesia quake rescue efforts

AP - Searchers in Indonesia on Wednesday rescued a 6-year-old boy who was trapped for two days under the rubble of his house, which collapsed in an earthquake that killed at least 271 people, as heavy monsoon rains lashed survivors in makeshift shelters and forced a suspension of rescue efforts.

The death toll was likely to rise with many people still missing, some remote devastated areas still unreachable and more than 2,000 people injured in Monday's 5.6 magnitude quake. Hospitals near the epicenter on densely populated Java island were already overwhelmed, with patients hooked up to IV drips lying on stretchers and cots in tents set up outside awaiting further treatment.

It was the most deadly earthquake in Indonesia since a 2018 earthquake and tsunami in Sulawesi killed about 4,340 people.

Many of the dead in this week's earthquake were public school students who had finished their classes for the day and were taking extra lessons at Islamic schools when the buildings collapsed, West Java Gov. Ridwan Kamil said.

More than 12,000 army personnel were deployed Wednesday to bolster search efforts by police, the search and rescue agency and vol-



Rescuers search for victims under the rubble of a building collapsed during Monday's earthquake in Cianjur, West Java, Indonesia, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022. More rescuers and volunteers were deployed Wednesday in devastated areas on Indonesia's main island of Java to search for the dead and missing from an earthquake that killed hundreds of people. (AP Photo/Rangga Firmansyah)

unteers, said Suharyanto, chief of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency.

Suharyanto, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, said aid was reaching thousands of people left homeless who fled to temporary shelters, where supplies were being taken by foot over the rough terrain.

He said rescuers recovered three more bodies Wednesday and rescued a 6-year-old boy, who was found alive next to the dead body of his grandmother under the rubble of his house.

Police, soldiers and other rescue personnel used jackhammers, circular saws,

farm tools and their bare hands to desperately dig in the worst-hit area of Cijendil village, where a landslide left tons of mud, rocks and trees.

The government appeared to be focused on finding bodies, and wherever possible, survivors. Authorities struggled to bring tractors and other heavy equipment over washed-out roads to villages hit by landslides.

Residents, however, complained the government was too slow.

Muhammad Tohir, 48, was sitting in his living room with his family in Cijendil when the catastrophe

struck. He and his family managed to escape, but his sister and her two children were crushed by a landslide a few kilometers (miles) from his house.

"When I came to my sister's house, I was devastated by what I saw," Tohir said. "Dozens of houses had been buried by landslides. ... It felt like doomsday." He said at least 45 people had been buried alive under tons of mud.

Tohir and other residents searched for the missing using farm tools and managed to pull out two bodies. Two days later, rescue personnel arrived to help in the search.

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"The government was too slow in responding to this disaster," Tohir said.

He said he would not give up until they could pull his sister and nieces out of the mud.

In several hard-hit areas, water, food and medical supplies were being distributed from trucks, and authorities deployed military personnel carrying food, medicine, blankets and field tents.

Volunteers and rescue personnel erected temporary shelters for those left homeless in several villages in Cianjur district.

About 6,000 police, sol-

diers and volunteers dug through the debris with their bare hands, shovels and hoes as heavy rain hindered their efforts.

Arif Yulianto, a search and rescue coordinator, said they were forced to halt their efforts Wednesday afternoon because the rain made the landslide areas unstable. He said the search would resume early Thursday.

Suharyanto said 2,043 people were injured, including more than 600 who were still receiving treatment for serious injuries, and that nearly 62,000 survivors had been moved to shelters.

Most sought protec-

tion under makeshift shelters that were lashed by the downpours. Only a few were lucky to be protected by tarpaulin-covered tents. They said they were running low on food, blankets and other aid, as emergency supplies were rushed to the region.

About 40 people remained missing, Suharyanto said at a news conference. Rescue operations were focused on about a dozen villages in Cianjur where people were believed trapped.

More than 56,230 houses in Cianjur were damaged and more than 170 public buildings were destroyed, including 31 schools, he

said.

About 100 of the 271 confirmed deaths were children, Suharyanto said.

"We are saddened by this earthquake, especially because children have been disproportionately affected," said Yacobus Runtuwene of Wahana Visi Indonesia, a Christian humanitarian group concerned with child welfare.

The magnitude of Monday's earthquake, 5.6, would not typically be expected to cause serious damage. But the area is densely populated, and experts said the shallowness of the quake and the lack of earthquake-resistant infrastructure contributed to the damage.

More than 2.5 million people live in rural, mountainous Cianjur district, including about 175,000 in its main town, which has the same name.

President Joko Widodo visited Cianjur on Tuesday and pledged to rebuild its infrastructure and provide assistance of up to 50 million rupiah (\$3,180) to each resident whose house was damaged.

The country of more than 270 million people is frequently struck by earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and tsunamis because of its location on the arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin known as the "Ring of Fire."

A powerful Indian Ocean quake and tsunami in 2004 killed 230,000 people in a dozen countries, most of them in Indonesia.

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Magnitude 5.9 earthquake hits northwest Turkey, 68 injured

AP - A magnitude-5.9 earthquake hit a town in northwestern Turkey early Wednesday, causing damage to some buildings and widespread panic. At least 68 people were injured, mostly while trying to flee homes.

The quake was centered in the town of Golkaya, in Duzce province, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) east of Istanbul, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said.

It struck at 4:08 a.m. (0108 GMT) and was felt in Istanbul, in the capital Ankara and other parts of the region. Dozens of aftershocks were reported, including one with a magnitude of 4.3.

The quake woke people from their sleep and many rushed out of buildings in panic in the province that experienced a deadly earthquake 23 years ago.

At least 68 people were treated in hospitals for injuries in Duzce and nearby regions, mostly sustained during the panic, including from jumping from balconies or windows. A 28-year-old Afghan was in serious condition after suffering a brain hemorrhage, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said.

Schools in the region were closed as a precaution.

"Although the earthquake caused damage to



Damaged shops in Duzce, Turkey, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022, after a magnitude 5.9 earthquake hit a town in northwest Turkey early Wednesday, causing damage to some buildings and widespread panic. At least 68 people were injured, mostly while trying to flee homes. The earthquake was centered in the town of Golkaya, in Duzce province, some 200 kilometers (125 miles) east of Istanbul, the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

many buildings in Golkaya, fortunately, we did not experience any serious destruction or loss," Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said in an address to his ruling party's legislators.

The quake demolished the exterior cladding and parts of the roof of a courthouse in Duzce, HaberTurk television reported.

Among other damage, a two-story shop collapsed on a narrow street, it said. A mosque in the village of Saridere, near the epicenter, also sustained damage and was closed down, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Many people were

camping outdoors too afraid to return to their homes.

Like most other Duzce residents, Sebahattin Ozturk, 64, was asleep when the quake struck.

"There were a lot of sounds like explosions and then my wife started shouting," he told The Associated Press. "Bottles and flowerpots fell over and the doors of our wardrobes slammed."

To Ahmet Cevat Algun, it was a frightening reminder of the quake that struck in 1999.

"I guess it took 40-45 seconds, like the 1999 earthquake," Algun said. "We were so afraid we didn't know what to do. We

went through the same thing again."

Around 800 people were killed in the powerful earthquake that hit Duzce on Nov. 12, 1999. In August of that year, 17,000 people were killed by another powerful temblor that devastated nearby Kocaeli province and other parts of northwest Turkey.

Officials said around 80% of the buildings in the area were rebuilt or fortified following the 1999 earthquakes, which helped minimize damage.

Turkey sits on top of major fault lines and is frequently shaken by earthquakes.

Sports News



Justin Langer: Ex-Australia coach says some players were 'cowards'

CMC - Ex-Australia coach Justin Langer says some of his former players were "cowards" for making complaints about him in the media.

Reports in Australia suggested unnamed players were unhappy with Langer's leadership style.

He resigned in February having been offered a six-month contract extension despite winning the T20 World Cup and beating England 4-0 in the Ashes.

"Everyone was being nice to my face," Langer, 52, told the BackChat podcast.

"But I was reading about this stuff and half of it, I swear to God and on my kids' lives, I could not believe that is what was making the papers.

"A lot of journalists use the word 'source'. I would say, change that word to 'coward'.

"Because what do you mean 'a source says'? They've either got an axe to grind with someone and they won't come and say it to your face, or they're just leaking stuff for their own agenda. I hate that."



Justin Langer (front, centre) coached Australia from 2018 to 2022

Cricket Australia CEO Nick Hockley responded by saying he wanted to "correct inaccuracies" in Langer's account.

"I am disappointed by Justin's comments unfairly criticising some of our players," Hockley said.

"Regular formal and informal opportunities to provide and receive feedback took place throughout his tenure, which is consistent with a high-perfor-

mance environment.

"Following a comprehensive process, Justin was offered a short-term contract extension, which he rejected."

In May Langer criticised Richard Freudenstein, then acting chairman of Cricket Australia, for his lack of support.

Australia, now coached by Andrew McDonald, start a two-Test series against West Indies on 30 November in Perth.

David Johnson: Former Liverpool and Everton striker dies aged 71

BBC - Former England striker David Johnson, the first man to score for both Liverpool and Everton in the Merseyside derby, has died aged 71.

Johnson, who scored six goals in eight appearances for England, had been suffering from throat cancer.

He had two spells at Everton in between playing for Ipswich Town under Bobby Robson and Liverpool for Bob Paisley.



David Johnson won three league titles with Liverpool as well as the European Cup in 1981

In six years at Anfield three league titles and the from 1976 Johnson won 1981 European Cup.

Ex-Liverpool forward David Fairclough led the tributes to his former teammate, writing on Twitter: "So sad to hear my great friend and Liverpool legend David Johnson has passed away today.

"Shared so many great moments and memories with 'Jono'. Today is a very sad day. Condolences to all Dave's family. RIP 'Doc'."

Everton confirmed the *cont'd on pg 23*

Japan gets 2 late goals to beat Germany 2-1 at World Cup

AP - Another World Cup day, another World Cup shock.

Substitutes Ritsu Doan and Takuma Asano scored late goals Wednesday to give Japan a come-from-behind 2-1 victory over Germany at the World Cup.

Both Doan and Asano play for German clubs.

Ilkay Gündogan had given four-time champion Germany the lead with a first-half penalty. But Doan, who plays for Freiburg, pounced on a rebound to equalize in the 76th minute after Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer blocked a shot from Takumi Minamino.

Then Asano, who plays for Bochum, sprinted clear of Nico Schlotterbeck and beat Neuer from a narrow angle in the 83rd minute of the first competitive meeting between the two nations.

The match was played a day after Argentina's 2-1 upset loss to Saudi Arabia.



Japan players celebrate after Takuma Asano scored his side's second goal during the World Cup group E soccer match between Germany and Japan, at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022. (AP Photo/Eugene Hoshiko)

Before Wednesday's game, Germany's players covered their mouths during the team photo in an apparent rebuke to FIFA following its decision to stop plans to wear armbands to protest discrimination in host nation Qatar.

Nancy Faeser, Germany's sports minister, attended the match at the Khalifa

International Stadium and was sitting beside FIFA president Gianni Infantino while wearing the same "One Love" armband that FIFA had outlawed with its threats of consequences.

It was only the third time Germany had lost its tournament-opening game after defeats against Algeria in 1982 and Mexico in

2018. In the other World Cup openers for Germany, the team had won 13 matches and drawn four.

Germany outplayed Japan for much of the match with 24 attempts on goal compared to Japan's 11. Despite giving away the penalty, Japan goalkeeper Shuichi Gonda made a string of saves.

Germany next faces Spain on Sunday, while Japan takes on Costa Rica.

Germany's buildup was fraught by protests and political statements because of Qatar's human rights record and its treatment of migrant workers and members of the LGBTQ community.

Germany was playing at the World Cup for the first time since its shocking group-stage exit as defending champion in 2018, while Japan is appearing in its seventh straight World Cup and is looking to reach the quarterfinals for the first time.

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news with a statement that read: "Everyone at Everton football club is saddened to learn of the untimely passing of David 'Doc' Johnson at the age of 71. Our thoughts are with David's family and friends at this time."

Johnson began his career at Goodison Park and scored in the Merseyside derby in 1971 - then netted for Liverpool in the match nine years later. Only Peter Beardsley has since repeated the feat.

He moved to Ipswich in 1972, helping Robson's side win the 1973 Texaco Cup - a competition for club sides in England, Scotland and Ireland - and reach the quarter-finals of the Uefa Cup the following season.

Liverpool-born Johnson made his England debut under Don Revie in 1975, scoring twice in a 2-2 draw against Wales at Wembley.

But it was with Liverpool that he enjoyed most success, scoring 78 goals in 213 appearances after joining for a

club-record fee of £200,000 in 1976.

Johnson started the European Cup final against Real Madrid in 1981 but Ian Rush's emergence the following season saw him spend time on the bench and he re-signed for Everton in August 1982.

He signed for Barnsley in 1984 and also played for Manchester City, American side Tulsa Roughnecks and Preston North End as well as having a spell as player-manager at Barrow before retiring in 1986.

Morocco holds Modric and Croatia 0-0 at World Cup

AP — Another surprisingly strong performance by an Arab country at the World Cup in Qatar stifled the threat of Luka Modric and held 2018 finalist Croatia to a 0-0 draw.

Morocco's resilient performance Wednesday came 24 hours after Saudi Arabia sparked the first World Cup in the Middle East into life by beating Lionel Messi's Argentina in one of the biggest upsets in the tournament's history.

Tunisia followed that up with a scoreless draw against European Championship semifinalist Denmark.

Morocco managed to do enough to rein in Croatia captain Modric, who was still his team's best player in their Group F opener and had one of the best chances when his shot just rose over the crossbar in the first half. Dejan Lovran got a shot off at a corner in the second half and Sofyan Amrabat cleared off the line for Morocco to preserve the draw.

"It was a difficult game, especially in the first 15 minutes," Modric said. He said Croatia "missed something up front."

Modric didn't have nearly the same kind of impact he had throughout the last World Cup in Russia when he led Croatia to its first final before losing to France.

That was largely down to Morocco, who harassed and harried the Croatians at every turn, buoyed by their red-shirted fans, who outnumbered and made much more noise than the Croatian supporters.

"They played their hearts out. I congratulate them on that," said Croatia coach Zlatko Dalic. "They had a really energetic game and they had great support."

The 37-year-old Modric is playing in his fourth and what's expected to be his final World Cup, where he's looking to add an international title to his trophy-laden career with Real Madrid.



Croatia's Marcelo Brozovic, left, Morocco's Selim Amallah, Croatia's Dejan Lovren, vie for the ball during the World Cup group F soccer match between Morocco and Croatia at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 2022. (AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic)

He was voted best player at the World Cup four years ago to wide acclaim. When he was then announced as player of the match on Wednesday, it was greeted by an outburst of boos from Morocco fans who had chanted and whirled scarves as they jumped up and down in the final minutes at Al Bayt Stadium.

Paris Saint-Germain defender Achraf Hakimi had the best chance for Morocco with a thumping second-half shot punched away with both fists by goalkeeper Dominik Livakovic.

The result was a major confidence-booster for Morocco and coach Walid Regragui, who was only hired at the end of August — his first international coaching job — and had less than three months to prepare the team for Qatar.

"We were playing against the runners up for the last World Cup," Regragui said. "I'm so proud of the boys. I'm proud of the men."

MORE THAN MODRIC

As brilliant as he is, Modric is closer to 40 than 30 now and will need more help from his team if Croatia is going

to get to another World Cup final. Forwards Ivan Perisic and Nikola Vlasic weren't the threats they were expected to be against Morocco and Vlasic went off injured in the second half.

"We haven't come here just to compete," Modric said. "On the basis of our Russian experience we have ambitions to do the same or even better. But even before that tournament we said let's first set a primary objective of getting past the group stage."

ROOKIE COACH

There were serious concerns that Regragui's lack of international experience and time to prepare the Morocco team would result in another early exit. Morocco has only got past the group stage once at a World Cup, back in 1986. But Regragui's team was well drilled, even if Chelsea's Hakim Ziyech didn't play as well as expected on the right wing.

WHAT'S NEXT

Morocco and Regragui have another huge test in their next game against No. 2-ranked Belgium in a tough Group F. Croatia will expect a win against Canada.

Pink-ball contest 'hugely important' for Windies prep, says Simmons

CMC - Head coach Phil Simmons has described the four-day game against the Australian Prime Minister's XI starting in Australia Wednesday as "hugely important", stressing it will allow West Indies to reacquaint themselves with the challenges of the pink ball.

The touring Caribbean side will face Australia under lights in the second and final Test in Adelaide – their first pink-ball Test in four years – and Simmons expects the day/night tour match at Manuka Oval to provide vital preparation.

"[It will be important in] just getting accustomed to the pink ball. I think it is a little bit of a difference [to the red ball]," explained Simmons, ahead of the game scheduled to start at 2:00 pm (11:00 pm, Tuesday, Eastern Caribbean time).

"Some of the guys have played a pink ball Test or two but most of the guys haven't so it's just about getting accustomed to it.

"And it's a good thing we have this game so we can get accustomed to what it (pink ball) is going to do at different periods at different periods of day and night and just prepare ourselves for Adelaide." He added: "That's the things you have to look at; make sure we are bowling the right lengths with the ball. It's going to be different to the red ball. It's just getting accustomed to it."

The game will be West Indies' last tour match before they take on the powerful hosts in the opening Test in Perth starting November 30.

Last week, West Indies endured a strong challenge in their opening tour match – a three-day affair at Phillip Oval against a Combined New South Wales and Australian Capital Territory XI.

While they gathered 424 for nine declared against the largely inexperienced side, their bowlers found wickets hard to come by as the hosts piled up 424 for six declared, with 24-year-old Blake Macdonald (177 not out) and 22-year-old Oliver Davies (115) – neither of whom possess first class experience – hitting centuries.

Phil Simmons, who leaves the West Indies job at the end of the series, said his side's performance in the match would be an indication of their readiness.


"I think it is hugely important how we bowl and how we sharpen up as batsmen, it's going to tell a lot about how we go into the Test match in Perth, so it is hugely important," Simmons said. "We have been suc-



Head coach Phil Simmons.

cessful at Perth over the years. The carry and the pace of the pitch and batters being able to play shots freely.

"I think (here) will be a little bit different, but hopefully it won't be too much different here to Adelaide."




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
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   **MON-SAT**

Gloucestershire appoints Robbie Joseph as Lead Bowling Coach

Former Antigua and Leeward Islands fast bowler Robert “Robbie” Joseph has been appointed by English County side Gloucestershire as their new bowling coach after his arrival as a consultant towards the end of the 2022 season coincided with an upturn in results.

According to a release on the Gloucestershire County Cricket Club’s Website, Joseph, who is a native of New Winthorpes Village, has joined the club on a permanent basis as lead bowling coach following a successful stint with Gloucestershire in a bowling consultancy role.

Since last year, Joseph had returned to Antigua and Barbuda to spend some more time in his homeland. During that time, he has been involved in conducting coaching sessions with a number of the nation’s young cricketers, including Leeward Islands women’s player Shawnisha Hector in New Winthorpes.

Upon his return to England earlier this year, Joseph, who has signed a two-year deal until 2025, worked closely with the Gloucestershire bowlers at the back end of the 2022 season and the team went on to win their final two County Championship matches.

Gloucestershire’s bowling attack took 20 wickets against Warwickshire and



Former Antigua and Leeward Islands fast bowler Robert ‘Robbie’ Joseph has been appointed by English County side Gloucestershire as their new bowling coach. (Photo courtesy Gloucestershire County Cricket Club)

Yorkshire and were in a position to do the same against Somerset before a day four put washout put hopes of victory to bed.

The former Antigua and Barbudan fast bowler first played county cricket for Kent in 2005, taking 144 first-class wickets in seven seasons up to 2011.

Joseph joined Leicestershire on a short-term deal in 2012 before re-joining Kent in 2014 appearing in six championship fixtures.

In total, Joseph took 188 first-class wickets at an average of 32.40 in 69 matches and was also called into an England performance squad for a tour to India in 2008. He also had a short spell with English County side Leicestershire.

Gloucestershire’s new

coach also took 43 professional List A wickets with a best of five for 13, and 10 T20 wickets in nine matches.

On his appointment, Joseph said, “It’s an exciting prospect as there are two ends to the scale. Some guys are just coming into the side and looking to establish themselves, while others are looking for international honours and to win trophies with the club.

“It’s an interesting one for me to be a part of that mix. I hope to help everyone individually to ensure they get the best out of themselves as cricketers.”

On Gloucestershire’s newest coaching acquisition, the club’s performance director, Steve Snell, said, “I’m really pleased that

we’ve secured Robbie on a full-time basis. He made an outstanding impact at the back end of the season when he was with us for a couple of months on a consultancy basis.

“His proactivity, connection with the group, energy, and care to help players get better were all prevalent both in his consultancy role last season and during the interview process.

“I’ve got every confidence that not only will he make a big impact with the players but also grow his own skills significantly too. It’s a great fit and I know he’s going to be a superb addition to the coaching staff.”

Joseph will officially join the club in January ahead of the 2023 English County season.

PMS end AGS' perfect run in Under-16 Boys' Football League



An Antigua Grammar School defender Dennison Stevens (#17) heads the ball away from Princess Margaret School's striker Greg Williams (center in pink and grey jersey) during their Under-16 Boys' Division match in the Secondary Schools Football League at the Princess Margaret School playing field on Tuesday, 22nd November, 2022. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Princess Margaret School (PMS) ended Antigua Grammar School's (AGS) perfect record in the Under-16 Boys' Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Tuesday, 22nd November.

After winning their first five matches, Antigua Grammar School had to come from behind to salvage a 1-1 draw with Princess Margaret School at the PMS playing field in their sixth encounter.

Shamar Walters had scored to give Princess Margaret a 1-0 halftime lead, but striker Javere Joseph snatched an equalizer for Antigua Grammar School in the second half to ensure his team got a share of the points.

Cupholders All Saints Secondary, Irene B. Williams Secondary and Ottos Comprehensive School all recorded wins in the Under-16 Boys' Division on Tuesday.

Dejaughn Anthony scored a hat-trick as All Saints Secondary hammered Glanvilles Secondary 4-1 at the Swetes playing field.

Anthony netted in the 35th, 38th

and 58th minutes after his teammate Damien Jeremiah had given All Saints a 1-0 lead with an eighth minute conversion. Randy Thomas converted Glanvilles Secondary's lone goal in the 31st minute.

Irene B. Williams Secondary came from behind to secure a 4-1 victory over St. Joseph's Academy in the second game of a double-header at the Swetes playing field.

Ricardo Phillip scored a brace with goals in the 12th and 43rd minutes, while Antoniel Campbell netted in the 14th minute and Ralique Browne had a 23rd minute conversion for Irene B. Williams.

Ajay Joseph had scored in the 5th minute to give St. Joseph's Academy an early 1-0 lead which they were unable to maintain.

Elijah Whyte scored in the 21st and 44th minutes to give Ottos Comprehensive School a 2-0 victory over Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Radio Range playing field.

The Secondary Schools' Football League will continue with matches in

the Under-20 girls' and Under 14 and 20 boys' divisions today, 24th November.

St. Anthony's Secondary will take on Antigua State College in an Under-20 girls' division affair at St. Anthony's School playing field at 3 pm.

Three matches will take place in the East Zone of the Under-20 boys' division.

Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) will face Pares Secondary at the Police Recreation Ground at 3 pm.

Clare Hall Secondary will oppose Irene B. Williams Secondary at King George V Ground at 3:30 pm, while Sir Novelle Richards Academy will clash with All Saints Secondary at the Potters playing field at 3:30 pm.

Two matches in the Under-14 boys' division will commence at 2:30 pm. Clare Hall Secondary will challenge Antigua Grammar School at King George V Ground, while Sir Novelle Richards Academy will tackle Ottos Comprehensive School at the Potters playing field.

Travelling overseas among opportunities available to young cyclists

A chance to represent the twin island state at overseas events is among some of the opportunities that are available to young cyclists in Antigua and Barbuda.

One such opportunity is currently being undertaken by three of the nation's top young cyclists at the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships (JCCC) in the Dominican Republic, which commenced in Santo Domingo yesterday, Wednesday, 23rd November and will conclude today, Thursday 24th November.

Tahje Browne along with fellow Wadadli Cycling Academy team-mate Jaheim Telemaque and Dejaun Francis of East Side Raiders are flying the national flag of Antigua and Barbuda at the two-day event.

President of the Antigua and Barbuda Cycling Federation (ABCF) St. Clair Williams said this is why the national association continues to recruit young cyclists by staging events such as the 2022 domestic season ending race and the Schools' Invitational, which took place

at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on Sunday, 13th November.

"These are some of the opportunities that are available for young cyclists coming up in the sport. That is why we held recruitment events such as the 2022 Schools' Invitational because as long as we can identify them, we will take them, bring them into the club and start to train and develop them so that they can get to that next level," Williams said.

"That is what it is all about because what we want is continuity in the sport and we cannot have that if we do not develop the youngsters. So, right now, we are in a rebuilding process and we are hoping to continue to gather all the youngsters, sift them out, identify great talent and train them so we can have that level of continuity that we are looking forward to continue the good work that had gone before.

"In the past, we had people like Robert Peters and Robert Marsh and we had quite a few outstanding cyclists that would have gone ahead of who we have now. So, it's for



Young Antiguan and Barbudan cyclists Tahje Browne, left, and Jaheim Telemaque all set and ready to compete in the Individual Time Trial at the Junior Caribbean Cycling Championships (JCCC) in the Dominican Republic on Wednesday, 23rd November, 2022. (Photo courtesy ABCF)

them to continue the legacy that had been set in years gone by."

Williams, who is their trainer and coach, and trainer Ira Fabian, who is a former top national cyclist, accompanied the three young cyclists to the Dominican Republic.

This is the first time Jaheim Telemaque and Dejaun Francis are represent-

ing Antigua and Barbuda at an overseas cycling event.

Browne and Francis are contesting the 15 to 16 age group cadets class, while Telemaque is vying for top honours in the 17 to 18 age group junior category.

They cyclists were expected to contest the Individual Time Trial yesterday and then participate in the road race today.