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# ABLP STANDS FIRM BEHIND TURNER AS ST. PETER CANDIDATE

*Story on Page 2*



*P&O Cruises Britannia departing Saint John's Harbour on Tuesday evening for the high seas, ending another day in the busy cruise tourism season. The vessel's passengers spent their time touring the island and soaking up the sun before heading to their next destination.*

# Local News



## ABLP stands firm behind Turner

The Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP), E. Paul 'Chet' Greene, says that the legitimate representation of the party in the Constituency of St. Peter is "in no way affected" by a decision of the Court on Monday in relation to Mr. Asot Michael.

The ABLP chairman stated that the party's candidate remains Rawdon Turner "who enjoys the full support of the party". Mr. Greene explained that "while the decision of the Court is fully respected, the reality is that the Party has already taken all the necessary steps to handle



*Rawdon Turner*

the matter, concerning Mr. Asot Michael, in accordance with its internal arrangements", adding that "In this sense, events have

overtaken the proceedings of the case, and Mr. Michael has won no victory and the ABLP's decision on its candidate cannot be

overturned".

Referring to the Court's remarks in relation to the testimony of Mr. Lionel Hurst, Mr. Greene said that "any perceived reticence by Mr. Hurst was a result of the decision by the party's Executive not to contest, Mr. Michael's claim, and to proceed with validating Mr. Turner as the ABLP candidate in St. Peter".

The chairman made it clear that no one, other than the ABLP, can decide its candidate, and the country and the people of St. Peter can rest assured that the ABLP's candidate is validly Mr. Rawdon Turner.

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## Anthony Armstrong to stand trial on fraud charges

The attorney representing embattled Director of Public Prosecutions Anthony Armstrong has failed in his bid to get a court in Jamaica to throw out a case brought against his client who is charged with several counts of fraud.

Hugh Wildman, who maintains that his client is innocent of wrongdoing, had petitioned Parish Judge Venice Blackstock-Murray in the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court to dismiss the charges and stay the proceedings, citing an abuse of process.

According to the Jamaica Gleaner, Wildman argued that there was a long delay in his client being charged, lack of or nonexistent evidence and prosecutorial misconduct, which were all grounds for the matter to be thrown out.

But Judge Blackstock-Murray yesterday ruled, "All the grounds proffered by the defense team had failed."

Tuesday's judgment paves the way for Anthony Armstrong to stand trial on the charges leveled against him.

A former client of Armstrong has accused him of selling three properties while he was incarcerated in the United States of America between 1999 and 2002, but the DPP contends that the proceeds of the sale were

given to the complainant's father who acted as an agent for the incarcerated man.

The complainant alleged Armstrong made payments to him from Antigua and Barbuda in the amount of US\$15,450.00 between September 2006 and April 2007.

The defense has pointed a finger at the complainant's cousin, Shelly Ann Campbell, who has also been charged, arguing she was behind the sale of the disputed properties.

Attorney Wildman also argued that his client had been vindicated of the allegations that he had acted inappropriately in respect of the sale of the disputed properties by the disciplinary committee of Jamaica's General Legal Council (GLC).

He submitted that while the council's disciplinary committee found Armstrong guilty of professional misconduct for witnessing a document for a client who

was not present, it had not found him guilty of any wrongdoing in connection with the sale of the properties.

The judge, however, ruled that the court could not consider the GLC's ruling as it is duty bound to act independently and without influence of external factors, according to the Gleaner.

She concluded that there are issues that must be ventilated in a trial where the facts can be determined.



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# Local News



## FM Greene in Cuba for ALBA meeting

Cuba is hosting a top-level meeting of the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of Our America – People's Trade Treaty (ALBA-TCP) which marks its 18th anniversary this week.

Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, will represent Antigua and Barbuda at the meeting of member countries of ALBA in Havana which opens today.

The meeting will reaffirm the members' commitment to strengthen ALBA-TCP as an instrument of union of the peoples of the group based on the principles of solidarity, social justice, cooperation and economic complementarity, resulting from the political will of its founders, Commanders Fidel Castro Ruz and Hugo Rafael Chávez Frías.

The one-day meeting will also highlight the need to strengthen the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as a genuine political coordination mechanism gathering the 33 States of Our America based on the principle of unity in diversity.

The delegations are also expected to reiterate their commitment to the development and welfare of their nations and the defence of national sovereignty, without foreign interference.

Also, the leaders are likely to reject the colonialist and interfering postulates of the Monroe Doctrine used to justify destabilising and interventionist practices in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Greene's address to the meet-



Foreign Affairs Minister, E. P. Chet Greene, he is expected to recommit Antigua and Barbuda to the principles of the rights of a people to determine their own path towards development and non-interference in the affairs of other nations.

Delegations will also condemn the unjust and unilateral imposition of the 60-year-old US trade, economic and financial embargo against the Cuban people.



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## City South MP flays opponent for campaign style

The incumbent Antigua Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) candidate for St. John's City South has criticised his United Progressive Party (UPP) opponent's style of campaigning which he deems in poor taste.

Franz DeFreitas is seeking to unseat Steadroy Benjamin, who relishes the challenge, but the MP has taken issue with his challenger's strategy.

"We have this year quite strangely, an individual, who has been obnoxious to many and all and sundry. I've run in the past first against Dr. Terry, then the great Vaughn Walter, Lenworth Johnson, Michael Burton, Mervyn Richards, all great persons from the Ovals community.

"Never once was there



*Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin*

any rancour, never once was there any name calling, never once was there any hatred, spewing rubbish on the radio station. This time, the tides have turned," Benjamin stated.

The attorney general and minister of public safe-

ty expressed that anyone seeking to serve the people of Antigua and Barbuda must possess exceptional qualities of which his opponent is lacking.

"In politics, one has got to be sincere, one has got to be genuine, one has got to

be true. One doesn't wait until election time to show love and understanding," the St. John's City South MP stressed.

As general elections draw closer, the veteran politician is determined to secure another win for the ruling party, and this time, he plans to do so by an even greater margin.

"When I started back in 1994, I started with 60 [plus] percent and every election after that I have increased the volume of persons who supported me, the records will show, and I am determined this time around, even more than ever, to make certain that the victory which the party will enjoy and my personal victory, will be greater than ever before."



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# Antigua and Barbuda's chairmanship of AOSIS ends

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson assembled his team of AOSIS leaders and advisors for a show of gratitude and to say farewell to many of them at the end of Antigua and Barbuda's very successful two-year period as Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

Joining the ceremony via teleconference were the Minister of Foreign Affairs, E. P. Chet Greene and Minister of Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph.

Sir Molwyn used the opportunity to advocate for Antigua and Barbuda to remain at the vanguard of the fight against the deeply troubling effects of climate change following the encouraging outcomes of COP27.

He heaped praise on the team of experts and advisors lead by Ambassador Webson for their sterling efforts at the recently concluded climate summit in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt.

The chairmanship, which is rotational, will now see Sa-

moa lead the charge against climate change on behalf of island nations on the climate front.

Sir Molwyn said Antigua and Barbuda must remain engaged at all levels and give Samoa its full support to ensure the recently acquired gains are maintained.

While the entire team was praised, the environment minister singled out Climate and Finance Legal Advisor, Michai Robertson, for the inspirational role he played in keeping the ambition for Loss and Damage on track, even while under a great deal of pressure.

"Michai emerged as one of the foremost authorities on the issue of Loss and Damage, so when the developed countries can look in the direction of Antigua and Barbuda for guidance because we have one of our young and brilliant minds, an Antiguan and Barbudan, who can stand up with the best in the world, it makes us all proud," Sir Molwyn stated.

Without the efforts of the talented and hardwork-



*Ambassador Conrod Hunte*

ing team of mainly young Antiguan and Barbudans, Sir Molwyn said the goal of attaining agreement on Loss and Damage compensation at this year's COP would not have been achieved.



"It was quite evident that Antigua and Barbuda played more than a pivotal role in achieving the Loss and Damage Fund," Sir Molwyn stated.

Minister Greene, under whose portfolio the New York Mission of Antigua and Barbuda falls, also praised the stewardship of the Permanent Mission during Antigua and Barbuda's chairmanship of AOSIS. He noted the outstanding work of the

office, under the leadership of Ambassador Webson, which served as the AOSIS headquarters for the past two years. Greene applauded the team for moving some of the most critical issues affecting island nations to the forefront of a lengthy list of priorities on the global agenda.

He too paid tribute to the work of Deputy Permanent Representative, Ambassador Conrod Hunte, who led the Climate Team this year.

Ambassador Hunte leaves his post in the foreign service after 40 years for a new assignment as a Member of the United Nations Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The team depended on Ambassador Hunte's sound and erudite leadership during COP27. Minister Greene expressed the gratitude of the Government and People of Antigua and Barbuda for Ambassador Hunte's outstanding tenure of service to the country's diplomatic and international affairs.

Wed 14   Day		Wed 14   Night	
<b>82°</b>		<b>74°</b>	
21% ENE 11 mph		24% E 9 mph	
Intervals of clouds and sunshine. High 82F. Winds ENE at 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy. Low 74F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.	
Humidity <b>73%</b>	UV Index <b>8 of 10</b>	Humidity <b>85%</b>	UV Index <b>0 of 10</b>
Sunrise <b>6:28 am</b>	Sunset <b>5:35 pm</b>	Moonrise <b>11:07 pm</b>	Moonset <b>11:20 am</b>
		Waning Gibbous	



## Water-Energy Food Nexus Approach highlighted during CARICOM Energy Month Activities

The important and inseparable link between the water, energy and food sectors was a key message at the recent Sensitization Talk on Renewable Energy in Agriculture, held on 28 November in commemoration of The Caribbean Community (CARICOM)'s Energy Month.

The event, hosted in collaboration with 'Addressing the Water-Energy Nexus in Agriculture' (WEF) sub-project of the Mexico-CARICOM-FAO Initiative "Cooperation for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience in the Caribbean", or Resilient Caribbean Initiative in short, and Antigua and Barbuda's Ministry of Public Utilities, Civil Aviation and Energy focused on raising awareness on sustainable energy through the theme "Energy Consumption and encouraged Energy Saving Actions".

Funded by the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) and implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in 14 CARICOM countries, the Resilient Caribbean Initiative supports Small Island Developing States (SIDS) using an integrated Water-Energy-Food nexus approach in Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda, Jamaica and Saint Kitts and Nevis.

This approach is particularly useful for SIDS like Antigua and Barbuda as it seeks to build social, economic and climate resilience. As the effects of climate change become more evident with sea levels rising and rainfall patterns changing, freshwater availability and quality is decreasing while the frequency and severity of droughts increases.

Coupled with inefficiencies in the use of water, this particularly affects agricultural production, which is in strong



*Attendees at the Sensitization Talk on Renewable Energy in Agriculture. Photo Credit: Mali Barnes*

competition with other sectors for water resources.

FAO National Project Coordinator for the WEF Sub-project and featured speaker, Mali Barnes emphasised the benefits of improving the efficiency of water resources to increase agricultural productivity, sharing how the project is using technological innovations, such as solar-powered (micro) irrigation systems to improve water efficiency and management, and access to clean, climate-smart energy to increase agricultural water productivity.

The sub-project is also supporting twenty farmers in Antigua and Barbuda with the provision of climate-smart technologies like those mentioned.

The talk provided an opportunity for participants, which included farmers, extension officers, representatives from the Department of the Environment and other key stakeholders to learn about the usefulness of the Water-Energy-Food Nexus approach, which highlights the interdependence and synergies between the water, energy, food security and natural resource sectors and its practical applications for Antigua and Barbuda.

Other speakers included Energy Officer at the Ministry of Energy, Ita Jah Simmons, and Owner of OWIA Solutions, and solar photovoltaics installer, Daryl Jackson.

District Officer from the Extension Division and participant, Victor Wade, said, "Considering the conditions Antigua and Barbuda is facing, being one of the driest countries in CARICOM and now coming out of a severe drought, the Water-Energy Nexus in Agriculture sub-project is very timely.

"This project combines innovations in climate smart technology to promote water sustainability, food security and renewable energy in agriculture. These are all critical areas for resilience building, we are grateful for FAO's support through this project."

In promoting climate-resilience and awareness of climate-smart technologies in agriculture, the WEF sub-project is commencing additional capacity-building activities in early 2023, which will seek to train farmers and extension officers in the various concepts and practical approaches behind climate resilient and sustainable agriculture.

# Workplace

## How do you prefer your HR – strategic or operational?

Today we share with you an article recently posted by HRPAB honorary member Joan H. Underwood on [utdsinc.com](http://utdsinc.com). Ms. Underwood is also currently serving as president of the Human Resource Management Association of Barbados (HRMAB).

I hope that you recognized our article title for the trick question that it is. Why? Because for the best results – whether you are an employer, an employee, or a human resource (HR) practitioner – you need an HR department that is both strategic and operational. Let's define both terms to understand why this is the case.

Strategic HR management focuses on the organisation's vision, mission and strategic objectives and identifies how the HR function can contribute to the successful execution of the overall business strategy. This aspect of HR has a long-term and big picture orientation.

In contrast, operational HR management focuses on the management of the day-to-day issues and ensuring compliance with the legal requirements of employing people.

ASQ, a global organisation devoted to helping individuals and organisations achieve excellence through quality, explains the difference in functionality of strategic level and operational level leadership this way:

"Strategic leadership defines the overall vision and mission of an organization, develops strategies, systems, and structures to achieve the vision and mission, creates both technical and social systems that are effectively integrated, and which address the needs of both customers and employees.

Operational leadership ensures that organizational processes are effectively carried out on a day-to-day basis, monitors performance, addresses constraints, ensures that employees understand what is to be done and are provided with the authority, knowledge, and skills to do it".

By now, I hope that it is even more evident that strategic and operational HR management are best viewed as interconnected and mutually reinforcing.

While the rationale for pursuing both strategic and operational HR management is evident, it is more often aspirational rather than de facto. HR practitioners continue to yearn to be embraced as strategic business partners who have a critical role to play in the C-Suite.

However, far too often rather than having a seat at the table, figuratively speaking, we are outside the room where the decisions about vision, mission and strategy are made and then are marshalled to help ensure that the

job gets done.

In a recent episode of Let's Talk HR with HRMAB, the importance of HR having both a strategic and operational focus was explored. In a deep dive into this topic, it was brought out that as HR practitioners there are certain skills that we need to possess to be effective strategic partners.

For instance, we should be able to understand the business model and the mandates of our respective organizations and how they contribute to the national agenda. We must be able to speak the language and be business savvy especially while discussing the bottom line and those factors that affect the bottom line.

In this way, we can have proper alignment of plans with what happens operationally. We must also be able to clearly state how people issues can and will affect organizational goals such as customer satisfaction, revenues and profits.

In moving from the aspirational to the actual, we need to understand our roles as HR

practitioners and realize that we serve both the business leaders and the employees and any decision made must serve the interests of both sets of stakeholders. Being effective strategic partners means that we must figure out a way to translate strategy in a way that adds value to both sets of interests.

*The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organisations as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at [hrpro.ab@gmail.com](mailto:hrpro.ab@gmail.com) or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.*





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# Bali's water crisis threatens local culture, UNESCO sites

By Victoria Milko and Andi Jatmiko

Far from Bali's beaches and hotels, farmer I Ketut Jata stands on a mountain-side, staring at terraced land that is too dry to grow the rice his family has long relied on for food and income.

"It is no longer possible to work in the fields as a farmer," he says.

Bali's water crisis is worsening from tourism development, population growth and water mismanagement, experts and environmental groups warn. Water shortages already are affecting UNESCO sites, wells, food production and Balinese culture and experts say the situation will deteriorate further if existing water control policies are not enforced across the island.

A tropical, volcanic island in the centre of Indonesia's archipelago, Bali relies on water from three main sources: crater lakes, rivers and shallow groundwater. A unique traditional irrigation system, called the "subak," distributes water through a network of canals, dams and tunnels.

The subak, made a UNESCO site in 2012, is central to Balinese culture, representing the Balinese Hindu philosophy of "Tri Hita Karana"—harmony between people, nature and the spiritual realm.

"This is one of the very



*A farmer works in a field with a traditional terrace irrigation system called a "subak" in Jatiluwih in Tabanan, Bali, Indonesia, Monday, April 18, 2022. Bali faces a looming water crisis from tourism development, population growth and water mismanagement, experts and environmental groups warn. While water shortages are already affecting the UNESCO site, wells, food production and Balinese culture, experts project these issues will worsen if existing policies are not equally enforced across the entire island. (AP Photo/Tatan Syuflana)*

special cases of living landscapes in Asia," said Feng Jing, who works with UNESCO in Bangkok.

Pressures are severely straining the subak and other water resources, says Putu Bawa, project manager for the Bali Water Protection program, led by a Bali-based nongovernment organisation, the IDEP Foundation.

The island's population jumped more than 70% from 1980 to 2020, to 4.3 million people, according to government census data. Tourism growth has been even more explosive: Less than 140,000 foreign visitors came to the island in 1980. By 2019, there were more than 6.2 million foreign and 10.5 million do-

mestic tourists.

With the tourism boom, Bali's economy has prospered — at a cost. Rice fields the subak once coursed through have been turned into golf courses and water parks, while forests that naturally collect water and are vital to the subak have been felled for new villas and hotels, Bawa said.

Stroma Cole of the University of Westminster, who has researched tourism's impact on Bali's water supplies, says another issue is that the water table is dropping because of Bali's residents and businesses rely on unregulated wells or boreholes for clean water, instead of government-owned piped supplies.

"At the moment, it is the

cheapest source of water for people to use," Cole said. "So why wouldn't you use that?"

In less than a decade, Bali's water table has sunk more than 50 metres (164 feet) in some areas, according to data provided by IDEP. Wells are running dry or have been fouled with salt water, particularly in the island's south.

Bali does have regulations — such as water licences and taxes on water used — that are meant to manage the island's water supplies, but there's no enforcement, Cole said.

"The rules which exist are excellent rules, but they are not enforced" she said.

Bali's municipal water agency and Bali's department of public works did not respond to requests for comment.

The dire impact of the water crisis can be seen in Jatiluwih, in northwestern Bali, where farmers tend to the island's largest rice terraces.

For generations lush green rice terraces have relied on the subak system for irrigation. But in the past decade, farmers have had to import and pump water through white plastic pipes to irrigate the fields.

Back in central Bali, Jata said he tried planting cloves, which require less

*cont'd on pg 11*



## New study aimed at decreasing obesity, cardiovascular disease in the Caribbean

A new study has found that adoption of front-of-pack nutrition warnings can help decrease obesity and cardiovascular disease in the Americas, including the Caribbean.

The study, by researchers at the University of Nevada, Reno and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), notes that the adoption of best practice front-of-pack nutrition labelling can also help reduce poor-nutrition related non-communicable diseases (NCDs), including type-2 diabetes, high blood pressure and some cancers in the region.

The study, published in the Lancet Regional Health Americas, examined the evolution of these policies within the PAHO/World Health Organization Region of the Americas (AMRO).

PAHO said improvements to front-of-pack nutrition labelling (FOPNL) included larger warning labels, contrasted background for better noticeability, use of “excess” instead of “high in” to improve understanding, and adoption of PAHO’s nutrient profile model “to better define nutrient thresholds.”

“FOPNL systems aim to aid a population’s understanding of nutritional content in a product, reduce consumption of ultra-processed and processed food products high in fats, sugars and/

or salt, and ultimately help consumers make healthier choices,” PAHO said.

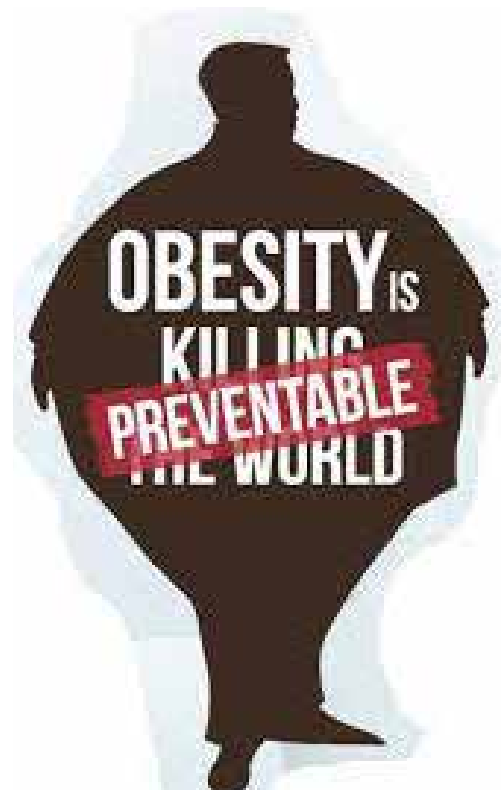
Co-author of the study and associate professor in the university’s School of Public Health, Dr. Eric Crosbie, said, “the progress of front-of-pack nutrition warning labels in the Americas illustrates that the diffusion of best practices in the region have been shown to improve the nutritional quality of purchases and have been associated with improved diet quality, which in turn is associated with reduced risk of NCDs.”

In the Americas region, PAHO said all 35 member-states have discussed FOPNL, 30 countries have formally introduced FOPNL, eleven have adopted FOPNL and seven have implemented FOPNL.

“Front-of-pack nutrition labels have evolved in the Americas to provide the best options to populations,” said Dr. Fabio Da Silva Gomes, co-author of the study and advisor of nutrition and physical activity at PAHO.

“The accumulated lessons and evidence have driven countries to reach regulatory excellence by adopting octagonal warning labels along with PAHO’s nutrient profile model to protect and promote healthy eating and public health,” he added.

According to PAHO, the study



finds that improved FOPNL gradually expanded its presence in the region, “gaining momentum in the past few years and evolving to align with evidence and PAHO’s best-practice policies.”

Researchers recommended that governments still discussing and waiting to implement FOPNL “should follow such practices to improve the uptake and impact of the policy to help reduce poor-nutrition related NCDs in the Americas.”

*cont’d from pg 10*

water. But the land — which is ideal for rice — and a lack of subak water thwarted that plan.

“In the past, when the subak was active, the water was still good,” Jata said. “But so far there have been no results ... all the cloves are dead.”

Other Bali farmers say

they can only get one rice harvest instead of two or three a year due to water disruptions, according to Cole’s research. That could reduce food production on the island.

When Indonesia closed its borders at the height of the pandemic, Bali’s tourism dropped drastically. Environmentalists hoped

the closure would allow the island’s wells to recharge. IDEP is currently installing sensors in wells across the island to better research and monitor water levels.

But development across the island has continued, including a new government-backed toll road that activists say will further disrupt the subak system.

New hotels, villas and other businesses are adding to demand.

Tourism is key to Bali but there also should be better enforcement and increased monitoring to protect the island’s water resources, Bawa said. “We need to do this together for the sake of the survival of the island.”

## Commonwealth SG urges countries to honour pledge to deal with impact of climate change

Commonwealth Secretary General, Patricia Scotland, has pledged the support of the 56-member grouping in helping members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) secure the US\$100 billion committed by major carbon-emitting nations to combat the worst impacts of climate change.

“We have to make sure that when people promise they actually deliver. And so, there’s a lot of work to do.” Scotland told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) after attending the two-day 10th OACPS Summit of Head of States and of Governments that ended last weekend.

“And we in the Commonwealth, linking hands with everyone with the Organization of African Caribbean states, with CARICOM, with the African Union, with the Pacific Island Forum, with the UN with the World Bank, with Dr. Tedros [Adhanom Ghebreyesus] of WHO, we are linking hands with all of our partners, because we have to deliver this,” she said.

“The clock is ticking. And we know that if we don’t move, then there will be millions of those we love who will lose their homes, their lives and their livelihoods,” she added.

At the start of the OACPS summit, the Caribbean and the Pacific flagged climate change among the major challenges affecting their development and Scotland told CMC “So it’s on us to push to deliver and to make sure that those who are not listening, actually get to feel what it means for them to ignore those who are suffering.

“So, we’re all raising our voices. I was delighted to be here. Delighted



Commonwealth Secretary General Patricia Scotland (File Photo)

to hear the strong statements coming from all over the African, Caribbean, Pacific region. And we are one and we will remain one until this is done.”

She said the Commonwealth has a real role to play in terms of supporting the sustainable agenda and the delivery of the climate change agreement made in Paris in 2015.

Scotland noted that it was the Commonwealth, back in 1981, before the first United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP) was held in Langkawi in Malaysia, had identified that climate change poses an existential threat.

“And the reason the Commonwealth highlighted that issue is, of the 42 small states in the world, the majority of them, 33, are in our Commonwealth. So, it’s really critically important that our Commonwealth countries in the Pacific, in the Caribbean are literally drowning as the sea rises...” Scotland told CMC.

She said also it was at the Commonwealth meeting in Rwanda this year that 54 leaders came together and

agreed that they would put loss and damage on the global climate talks agenda.

“It’s in our communique; in paragraph 53. And when our leaders went from Kigali to Sharm el Sheikh (Egypt where COP27 held in 2022), which was the first African COP, they all insisted that loss and damage should be on that agenda. And you know, we fought for it and we got lost and damage agreed.”

Scotland told CMC, however, that just agreeing to have the money is not the same as getting the money, noting that in 2009, developed countries pledged US\$100 billion to help developing countries adapt to climate change.

“They promised to give US\$100 billion. Even now, today, that US\$100 billion hasn’t been delivered. So, it’s not just the saying, it’s the doing and the Commonwealth has created the climate finance access hub, which puts climate finance advisors in countries to help them to really get at that money.



## Dominica's opposition UWP plans street protest over electoral reform

CMC - Dominica's opposition United Workers Party (UWP) has told supporters to be prepared to take to the streets "in the not-too-distant future" to demand that electoral reform takes place in Dominica and renewed calls for fresh general elections on the island.

The UWP, along with the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) boycotted the December 6 poll that Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit called two years ahead of the constitutional deadline in support of their demands that electoral reform should have taken place before any fresh general election.

Skerrit's Dominica Labour Party (DLP), which had enjoyed an 18-3 majority in the last Parliament, increased its majority in the Parliament by one with the other two seats going to independent candidates.

Speaking at a UWP rally in Salisbury on the west coast on Sunday night, UWP leader Dr. Thompson Fontaine defended the decision to boycott the election, reminding supporters that the demands for electoral reform were not new.

"Given the behaviour of the prime minister, we must be prepared to fight and to fight hard for electoral reform. There may come a time in the not-too-distant future when we will have to call upon you to



take to the streets in mass protests.

"There may come a time in the future if we do not get electoral reform that to take it we will have to take to the streets. We, in the leadership of the party, we are prepared to lead that fight, but you must be prepared to join in.

"This fight ladies and gentlemen has to do with our survival as a democratic country and that of our party," said Fontaine, an economist, who is on EC\$75,000 (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) bail, on a charge of inciting violence and obstruction of justice, dating back to 2017.

Fontaine recalled that the party had evidence of a bloated electoral list that he had said had been used in the 2019 general election.

"We had the evidence, we had the list of persons who came down illegally,

we had the list of dead persons voting. In most countries the conduct of the

2019 election, any court worth its salt would have overturned those results, but not so in Dominica and you expect us to keep on fighting a losing battle.

"At the end of the day, the observers heard us," he said, adding that the UWP had for the first time in its history boycotted a general election here "because we were certain it would be fraudulent and rigged based on our past experiences.

Prime Minister Skerrit is expected to name his new Cabinet on Monday.

### LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7 Rule 15

#### THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA (Probate)

**In the Estate of DENISE ROSMOND MCRAE, late  
of Herberts, St. John's, Antigua, Deceased**

#### ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by GORDON ANTHONY MCRAE, of Herberts, St. John's, Antigua for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant, who is the husband of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 21st day of November, 2021.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

DATED the 8th day of December, 2022  
CUMBERBATCH & ASSOCIATES  
Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant

# Regional News



## Venezuela's Maduro to fully open border with Colombia

AP - Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday announced his intention to fully open the border crossings with Colombia starting Jan. 1, a measure repeatedly postponed following the restoration of diplomatic and commercial ties between the South American neighbours.

Relations between the countries were broken off in 2019, but Maduro has said the environment is conducive to improved ties with

the election of Gustavo Petro as Colombia's first leftist president. The neighbours resumed diplomatic relations in September.

"I am going to announce that we will be completely opening the border, for all of western Venezuela with Colombia, for the passage of vehicles, motorcycles, trucks" as of Jan. 1. Maduro said on state television.

"We are preparing everything to comply with what we announced, to fulfil



Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro speaks during a press conference at Miraflores presidential palace in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Nov. 30, 2022. (AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

what was promised to President Gustavo Petro," he

said.

Petro has recognized Maduro as the legitimate president of Venezuela. His predecessor, Iván Duque, along with dozens of other countries, had said Maduro was returned to power in 2018 in fraudulent elections.

Petro also promoted the reopening of the countries' shared border on Sept. 26. Symbolically, the crossing of trucks from both sides of the border was allowed while restrictions remained on private vehicles and buses.

In the first week of November, the first commercial flight by a Colombian airline in years arrived in Venezuela. For now, only the small Colombian state airline Satena and the Venezuelan Turpial and Laser have permission from the Venezuelan authorities to operate the route.

Maduro did not mention if that would change in the near future.

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## Supporters of Brazil's defeated Bolsonaro attack police headquarters

Reuters - Supporters of far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro on Monday attempted to invade the federal police headquarters in the capital Brasilia, in a flash of post-election violence on the day the president's electoral defeat was certified.

Reuters witnesses saw Bolsonaro supporters, many in their trademark yellow national soccer jerseys or draped in Brazilian flags, confronting security forces at police headquarters. Police fired stun grenades and tear gas to disperse the crowd. Nearby buses and cars were set on fire.

Federal police said "disturbances" near the headquarters were being handled with support from capital security forces.

The violence unfolded after a Bolsonaro supporter was detained for allegedly organising violent "anti-democratic acts," according to the judge who ordered his arrest.

Earlier on Monday, the federal electoral court (TSE) certified the Oct. 30 election victory of Bolsonaro's leftist rival, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, as president. After months of baseless suggestions that Brazil's voting system is vulnerable to fraud, Bolsonaro has neither conceded defeat to Lula nor has he formally blocked the handover of power.

But some of the president's most diehard support-



*Members of the military police ride in the back of a vehicle as supporters of Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro protest after supreme court justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered a temporary arrest warrant of indigenous leader Jose Acacio Serere Xavante for alleged anti-democratic acts, in Brasilia, Brazil, December 12, 2022. REUTERS/Adriano Machado*

ers have blocked highways in protest and camped out in front of army barracks, calling for a military coup to bar Lula from office.

Hundreds of Bolsonaro supporters gathered outside the presidential residence on Monday afternoon with banners calling for "military intervention." The president joined them for a public prayer but did not address the crowd.

"There's not going to be an inauguration," said Jose Trindade, 58, one of the Bolsonaro supporters in the crowd. "Bolsonaro was re-elected, but they stole it. So only the army can put things in order."

The conspiracy theories and subsequent violence have rekindled memories of the January 2021 invasion of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of former U.S. President Donald Trump. It also raises

security concerns about Jan. 1, when Lula takes office in a public ceremony in Brasilia.

Senator Randolfe Rodrigues, a key Lula aide, said there were concerns about the physical safety of Lula and Vice President-elect Geraldo Alckmin, as protesters had surrounded the hotel where he is staying in Brasilia. Lula's team denied reports that Lula would be removed from the hotel by helicopter.

Brasilia's public security officials said they had secured the area around Lula's hotel, and urged motorists to avoid the centre of the city where many roads had been closed.

The violence in Brasilia came after Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes, who has led probes into Bolsonaro and his allies, on Monday ordered the temporary arrest of José Acácio

Serere Xavante for allegedly carrying out anti-democratic acts.

Xavante, an indigenous leader, is among the Bolsonaro supporters who have protested in defiance of the Oct. 30 election result.

"I cannot accept criminals reigning in Brazil," Xavante tweeted last month. "Lula cannot be certified."

Last week, Bolsonaro broke weeks of post-election silence to say that his situation "hurts my soul."

"Who decides where I go are you. Who decides which way the armed forces go are you," Bolsonaro told his supporters at the gates of the presidential residence on Friday.

In a statement, the Supreme Court said Moraes "decreed the temporary arrest, for 10 days, of the indigenous José Acácio Serere Xavante, due to evidence of the commission of crimes of threat, persecution and violent abolition of the Democratic State of Law."

It said Xavante had led protests across Brasilia and had used "his position as chief of the Xavante people to enlist indigenous and non-indigenous people to commit crimes," threatening Lula and Supreme Court justices.

Xavante had "expressly summoned armed people to prevent the certification of elected" politicians, the statement added.

## Far-right murderer takes two prison guards hostage in Germany



Wall and gate of Burg Prison, Germany, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. In the prison near Magdeburg, a hostage situation has ended. On the evening of December 12, 2022, a 30-year-old prisoner had temporarily taken two staff members into his power, the Ministry of Justice announced early Tuesday morning. According to the report, the perpetrator was overpowered by other correctional staff inside the prison. (Klaus-Dietmar Gabbert/dpa via AP)

AP - A convicted far-right murderer temporarily took two prison guards hostage in eastern Germany during an attempted jailbreak before he was overwhelmed by other guards.

The hostage taker, who was convicted to life in prison for fatally shooting two people after he tried to storm a synagogue in the eastern German city of Halle in 2019, took two guards hostage at the Berg high-security prison near the city of Magdeburg in eastern Germany on Monday night.

In under an hour, eight other guards freed their colleagues and overwhelmed the attacker, 30-year-old Stephan Balliet, who was injured during the incident. The two hostages were not injured.

State security officials in Saxony-Anhalt, where the prison is located, said the prisoner used a “device” to force the two prison guards to take

him out of his cell. They refused to describe the object due to the ongoing investigation.

Based on what the prisoner can be heard saying on surveillance footage, the officials said they assume Balliet was trying to escape from the prison.

In 2020, while he was still on trial, Balliet tried to escape from another prison.

He climbed over a 3.40-meter-tall (11-feet-tall) fence during a yard exercise and spent five minutes looking for ways out of the prison complex before guards caught him, German news agency dpa reported.

After Monday’s incident, Balliet was placed in a special security room where he is under constant surveillance, and he may soon be transferred to another high-security prison, said Franziska Wiedinger, Saxony-Anhalt’s state minister for justice.

Germany’s top security official called on the country’s prison operators to review their security measures.

“This worries me, of course,” Interior Minister Nancy Faeser told Welt Television. “This calls on those who are responsible for prisons in Germany to take another very close look. Especially with someone like the assassin from Halle, who we know already tried to escape during the trial, there needs to be special attention.”

Balliet attacked the synagogue in Halle on Yom Kippur, Judaism’s holiest day, in 2019. He was armed with multiple firearms and explosives. When he didn’t succeed in entering the building, he killed a passer-by and a man inside a nearby kebab store.

The attack was one of the most violent and overtly antisemitic acts in postwar German history. Balliet was sentenced to life in prison in 2020.



## China urges citizens to leave Afghanistan after Kabul attack

AP - China on Tuesday advised its citizens in Afghanistan to leave the country “as soon as possible,” following a coordinated attack by Islamic State militants the previous day on a Chinese-owned hotel in the heart of Kabul.

The Chinese advisory appeared to be a setback for Afghanistan’s Taliban rulers who seek foreign investments in hopes of halting the downward spiral of the Afghan economy since their takeover of the country more than a year ago.

The militant Islamic State group — a key rival of the Taliban — claimed responsibility for the attack Monday afternoon on Kabul Longan Hotel, which left three assailants dead and at least two hotel guests injured as they tried to escape by jumping out of a window.

Plumes of smoke rose from the 10-story building in the central Shar-e Naw neighbourhood, according to images posted on social media as the attack unfolded. Residents reported explosions and gunfire.

Taliban forces rushed to the area and blocked all roads leading to the site. Khalid Zadran, the Taliban-appointed spokesman for the Kabul police chief, said the attack lasted several hours, followed by a clean-up operation.



*A hotel building sits charred after an attack in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. The militant Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for a coordinated attack on the Chinese-owned hotel in Afghanistan's capital that left three assailants dead and at least two of the hotel guests injured as they tried to escape by jumping out from a window. (AP Photo/Siddiqullah Khan)*

On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin called the attack “egregious in nature” and said China was “deeply shocked.”

Beijing demanded a “thorough investigation” and urged the Taliban government “to take resolute and strong measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens, institutions and projects in Afghanistan,” Wang said.

The Chinese Embassy in Kabul sent its team to the site to help with the rescue, treatment and accommodations for the victims of the attack, Wang added.

“In view of the current security situation in Afghanistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs once again

advised Chinese citizens and institutions in Afghanistan to evacuate from Afghanistan as soon as possible,” Wang said.

The Taliban swept across the country in August 2021, seizing power as U.S. and NATO forces were in the last weeks of their final withdrawal from Afghanistan after 20 years of war.

Since their takeover, the international community has balked at extending official recognition to the former insurgents who have broken promises of pursuing a more moderate path forward, including reopening schools to girls beyond the sixth grade and safeguarding minority rights.

The Taliban government has recently also made statements saying it intends to implement Islamic law, or Sharia, as it did when the Taliban previously ruled Afghanistan in the late 1990s. In the past weeks, the Taliban have carried out executions and public floggings on several occasions of those convicted in Taliban courts of crimes such as murder and adultery.

China has economic and mining interests in the country though those familiar with past talks between the Taliban and Chinese officials say Beijing wants Taliban commitments to prevent China’s Uyghur opponents from setting up operations in Afghanistan.

Chinese firms, with strong government backing, have tentatively sought to pursue opportunities in exploiting Afghanistan’s vast, undeveloped resource deposits, especially the Mes Aynak mine that is believed to hold the world’s largest copper deposit.

In October, Taliban-appointed government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid highlighted China as a key part of Afghanistan’s economic development. China has also revealed its aspirations to play a leading role in Afghanistan fol-

*cont’d on pg 18*

# Netanyahu inches closer to power with new parliament speaker

AP - Israel's parliament on Tuesday elected a new speaker closely allied to the country's likely next prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, setting the stage for a flurry of contentious new legislation to appease the former leader's expected coalition partners.

Lawmaker Yariv Levin's election as speaker comes as Netanyahu continues negotiations to forge a coalition government after elections were held last month. With his religious and ultranationalist partners, Netanyahu is set to lead what is expected to be Israel's most right-wing government ever.

Netanyahu's partners have made demands that critics say give too much power to extremist lawmakers and could imperil the country's democratic fundamentals, including sweeping reforms to the



Israeli Prime Minister designate Benjamin Netanyahu, right, and Yariv Levin, left, wait as lawmakers vote on Levin as Speaker of the Knesset, Israel's parliament, in Jerusalem, Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. (AP Photo/ Maya Alleruzzo)

country's justice system.

As speaker, Levin, a close Netanyahu confidante, is set to clear the way for votes in the coming days on crucial legislation seen as necessary to make the coalition coalesce.

Among these is a vote to change a law that would pave the way for Netanyahu's key coalition partner,

Aryeh Deri, to become a cabinet minister.

Under the law, Deri is legally barred from doing so because of a conviction on probation this year for tax offences. Critics say the move bends the rules to accommodate a convict and could encourage corruption among politicians.

Two other pieces of legislation will pave the

way for two other likely coalition partners — ultranationalists Bezael Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir — to be granted greater powers over the West Bank Jewish settlement enterprise and the police, respectively.

Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption in a series of scandals involving powerful media moguls and wealthy associates, has been generous toward his political allies because they support major legal reforms that could freeze or dismiss his trial.

Critics say such moves will endanger Israel's democratic foundations. Netanyahu denies wrongdoing.

Netanyahu's Likud Party and its ultra-Orthodox and far-right partners captured a majority of seats in the Knesset, or parliament, in Nov. 1 elections, putting them in position to form a new government.

*cont'd from pg 17*

lowing the withdrawal of U.S. forces — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at a regional conference recently led calls for the United States to unfreeze Afghan assets held abroad and end sanctions on the Taliban government.

There was no information on the identities of the injured Chinese guests at the Kabul hotel or what they were doing in Afghanistan.

The IS statement, carried by one of the militant Telegram channels used by the group, said two of its

members targeted the hotel because it is frequented by diplomats and owned by "communist China."

It further claimed IS attackers detonated two bags with explosives that were left in the hotel earlier, including one in the main hall, and set fire to a part of the hotel. The militant group offered no proof for its claims.

There were conflicting reports as to the casualty numbers. Taliban officials said three assailants were killed; the IS claim said only two of its members took part in the attack,

identifying them by name and posting their photographs. According to Mujahid, the Taliban government spokesman, two foreign residents were injured when they jumped out of hotel windows.

However, the Emergency Hospital in Kabul said in a tweet Monday that it received 21 casualties, including the bodies of three people.

The IS regional affiliate — known as the Islamic State in Khorasan Province — has increased its attacks since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021.



## CWI congratulates Sir Clive Lloyd on award from University of Guyana

CMC - West Indies (CWI) has congratulated Sir Clive Lloyd on being awarded an Honorary Doctorate from The University of Guyana.

The legendary former West Indies captain received the honour for being an exemplar in the field of sport, management and leadership during the university's graduation ceremony in Georgetown on Friday.

Ricky Skerrett, President of CWI said, "We want to congratulate Sir Clive on this well-deserved honour bestowed on him by the University of Guyana.

"Sir Clive's leadership



*Sir Clive Lloyd (centre) being awarded an Honorary Doctorate from The University of Guyana.*

style brought unity and pride to his team. His vision and passion for the game and his respect and trust for his

colleagues were the driving forces behind his immense success as he drove the West Indies to become a sporting

dynasty.

"We celebrate with Sir Clive as he receives this valued award for his service to Guyana and West Indies cricket."

Sir Clive was captain of the West Indies team during a period of unprecedented dominance, which included winning the Cricket World Cup in 1975 and 1979.

He played 110 Test matches between 1966 and 1985, where he scored 7,515 runs with 19 centuries.

He also played 87 ODIs and made 1,977 runs with a best score of 102 in the 1975 World Cup final against Australia at Lord's.

## Kyrgios feels 'no respect' after retired Barty wins Newcombe award

Reuters - Ash Barty's fifth Newcombe Medal as Australia's top tennis player has been viewed dimly by compatriot Nick Kyrgios, who teed off at the award on social media.

Former world number one Barty retired in March, not long after winning the Australian Open in January, which ended the country's 44-year wait for a home champion.

She was awarded the Newcombe Medal at a ceremony on Monday.

Kyrgios, who enjoyed his best season and reached the final at Wimbledon, shared a graphic compar-

ing his 2022 achievements with Barty's on Instagram with the caption: "LOL. No respect at all. I don't give a ..."

Kyrgios has previously said he feels under-appreciated in his home country despite drawing crowds and media attention whenever he plays.

He told Australian media last week it was an "easy" decision to skip Australia's recent Davis Cup campaign but he might be enticed back to the team if the country "embraced" him a bit more.

Barty told reporters she was honoured to win the



*ATP Finals Turin - Pala Alpitour, Turin, Italy - November 14, 2022 Australia's Nick Kyrgios in action during the group stage doubles match against Britain's Neal Skupski and Netherlands' Wesley Koolhof REUTERS/Guglielmo Mangiapane*

award.

"It's obviously an amazing way to cap off what has been an incredible journey," Barty told reporters.

"The journey of a lifetime, the journey of me chasing after my dreams and exploring what was possible out in the world."

# Sports News



## Moroccan World Cup 'dream' faces biggest test against France

AP - Morocco's improbable, history-making run at the World Cup is about to get its ultimate test.

Africa's first World Cup semifinalist is playing defending champion France and its star striker Kylian Mbappé, the leader of a new wave of soccer superstars coming out of an era dominated by Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

Wednesday's match has cultural and political connotations — Morocco was under French rule from 1912-1956 — and the outcome is far from the foregone conclusion many would presume by looking at the names of the players and the rankings of the teams.

Morocco has exceeded all expectations in Qatar by beating second-ranked Belgium in the group stage and then eliminating European powerhouses Spain and Portugal in the knockout phase to reach the semifinals.

No African or Arab nation has ever gotten this far.

It is one of the biggest stories in the World Cup's 92-year history and Morocco is not done yet.

"I was asked if we can win the World Cup and I said, 'Why not? We can dream, it doesn't cost you anything to have dreams,'" said Walid Regragui, Morocco's French-born coach. "European countries are used to winning the World Cup and we have played top sides, we have not had an easy run. Anyone playing us is going to be afraid of us now."

Even France?

The defending champions have just passed their own big test by coming through a tough quarterfinal match against England, on a rare occasion when Mbappé was kept quiet.

No player has scored more than his five goals and it won't be easy for Mbappé to add to that tally against Mo-



France's Kylian Mbappé celebrates at the end of the World Cup quarterfinal soccer match between England and France, at the Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor, Qatar, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2022. France won 2-1. (AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

rocco, which has yet to concede a goal to an opposition player at this World Cup — or indeed in its nine games since Regragui was hired in August. The only goal allowed was an own-goal by its defender, Nayef Aguerd, against Canada in the group stage.

Morocco might have some injuries now — Aguerd and fellow centre back Romain Saiss could be missing Wednesday — but Regragui's game plan relies on team shape and discipline more than any specific individual.

"We recovered well. We have good doctors and every day we get good news. No one is ruled out and no one is for certain," Regragui told reporters on Tuesday. "We'll use the best team possible."

The Morocco coach said his team is ready to "change the mentality" of Africa, and he's told his players not to settle for anything less than the top prize.

"We're going to fight to move on, for the African nations, for the Arab world," he said.

Regragui said defender Achraf

Hakimi is looking forward to a "nice duel" with Mbappé, his teammate at Paris Saint-Germain, but added that France doesn't just depend on its star player.

"We'll have to block Kylian, but not just him. Hakimi is super motivated to beat his friend," he said.

The key to winning the game, he said, will be Morocco's "team spirit" and the support of the crowd at Al Bayt Stadium, where French President Emmanuel Macron is set to be in attendance along with tens of thousands of green-and-red-clad Morocco fans. It will feel like a home game for Morocco's players, which might level things up even more.

"We have the best fans in the world along with Argentines and Brazilians. They're people who come from anywhere in the world to support their country," Regragui said.

"We're going to play like being at home and that's the most important thing in the world."

*cont'd on pg 21*



## Spanish court acquits soccer star Neymar in fraud trial

AP - A Spanish court on Tuesday acquitted soccer star Neymar and his fellow defendants in a fraud and corruption trial related to the Brazilian's 2013 transfer from Santos to Barcelona.

The plaintiff, Brazilian company DIS, had accused Neymar, his father, and the former presidents of Santos and Barcelona of having intentionally hid the cost of his transfer to avoid paying DIS what it was due as the partial holder of his player rights.

However, the court said in a statement that "it has not been proven that there was a false contract or that DIS was intended to be harmed."

The verdict is not a surprise following the decision by Spanish state prosecutors to drop all charges during the trial. That left only the lawyers of DIS to continue arguing their case.

DIS had initially sought a five-year prison sentence for the 30-year-old Neymar. But following the withdrawal of the state prosecutors, DIS' lawyers reduced their demands to two-and-a-half years of prison.

The legal victory for



Former FC Barcelona player Neymar who now plays for Paris Saint-Germain waves on arrival at a court in Barcelona, Spain, Monday Oct. 17, 2022. On Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, a Spanish court has acquitted soccer star Neymar and his fellow defendants in a fraud and corruption trial related to the Brazilian's 2013 transfer from Santos to Barcelona. (AP Photo/Joan Mateu Parra, File)

Neymar comes days after he and his Brazil team were eliminated from the World Cup by Croatia on penalties in the quarterfinals.

The other defendants declared innocent were Neymar's father, who goes by the same name, his mother, former Santos president Odilio Rodrigues and former Barcelona executives Sandro Rosell and Josep Bartomeu.

DIS, which owns a chain of supermarkets in Brazil, said it acquired rights in 2009 to receive 40% of a future Neymar transfer when

it paid the player's family 5 million Brazilian reals (then \$2 million). DIS claimed it only received its due percentage from the 17 million euros that Barcelona and Santos initially announced as the transfer fee between the clubs, while the real cost was about 82 million euros.

The court said that DIS had received 6.8 million euros, corresponding to 40% of the 17 million Barcelona officially paid Santos for the transfer. But it said that all the other monies that Barcelona paid to Neymar's

family business, N&N, as well as to Santos in separate contracts, were legal. Those included a 40-million-euro payment that Rosell, then Barcelona's president, negotiated with Neymar's father in 2011 to ensure he would later join Barcelona, as well as separate deals between the Spanish club and Santos for a friendly match and the right to first refusal for other Brazilian players.

Neymar joined Barcelona from Brazilian club Santos at the age of 21 amid massive fanfare, when he was already hailed as one of the world's top players. He helped the Spanish giant win a Champions League title and other trophies before he forced a move to current club Paris Saint-Germain in 2017.

Neymar's move from Santos also got Barcelona in trouble with Spain's tax office. In 2016, Barcelona paid a fine of 5.5 million euros to settle a separate case brought by authorities. In that settlement, the club acknowledged it had made "an error in the fiscal planning of the player's transfer."

### cont'd from pg 20

France starts as the big favourite, though, because of its star quality and experience. In Mbappé and Antoine Griezmann, a forward who has reinvented himself as a midfield playmaker at the World Cup, the team has two of the World Cup's leading players

while Olivier Giroud's winner against England took him to four goals — the same as Messi.

They have attacking threats from everywhere and that intangible quality of just knowing how to get the job done. France centre back Raphael Varane said there will be no danger of complacency

among his teammates in a game against the world's No. 22-ranked team.

"We have enough experience in the team to not fall into that trap," he said. "We know Morocco isn't here by chance. It is up to us, as experienced players, to make sure we are all prepared for another battle."



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## Dominatrixx extend lead in Team Three-Hand Domino Competition

Dominatrixx have extended their lead at the top of the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's (ABNDA) Accumulated Team Three-Hand Competition.

They built on their two-point lead at the end of the opening week to open up a 20-point gap during the second week of matches at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos last week.

Dominatrixx have amassed 338 points to top the standings ahead of Bolans Revellers A team in second place with 310 points, Triple Dynamite in third with 308 points and Double Six in fourth position with 307 points.

Dominatrix won their opening match last Thursday night by scoring 94 points to beat Triple Dynamite with 76 points and Bolans Revellers D team with 57 points.

Dominatrixx also won the second of the five matches that were contested last Wednesday. They scored 87 points to finish ahead of Double Six with 79 points and Bolans Revellers A team with 74 points.

Bolans Revellers A scored 89 points to win the fourth match on Thursday, with Willikies Superstars B team getting 72 points and Parham Strikers with 66 points.

Triple Dynamite won Wednesday's third game by scoring 77 points to finish ahead of Unstoppables with 75 points and Willikies Superstars B team with 62 points.

Double six won the final match on Thursday, chalking up 82 points over Ramplers with 76 points and Willikies Superstars A team with 70 points.

Occupying fifth place are Bravo with 304 points. Bravo won Thursday's second match by scoring 82 points, with Bolans Revellers C team finishing second with 75 points and Legacy with 64.



*Players compete for their respective teams during the second week of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's Accumulated Three-Hand Competition at its headquarters in Ottos last week. (Photo courtesy ABNDA)*

Bravo also won the final match on Wednesday with a score of 74 points and Legacy finished second with 73 points ahead of Bolans Revellers B team with 60 points.

Next are Willikies Superstars A team with an overall total of 303 points. They won Wednesday's opening match with 81 points over Parham Strikers with 66 points and Bolans Revellers D team with 64 points.

Bolans Revellers C Team are seventh in the standings with 299 points and are closely followed by Ramplers with a total of 293 points.

Ramplers won Wednesday's fourth game with a score of 73 points to finish ahead of Moise Eagle Warriors with 71 points and Bolans Revellers A team

with 70 points.

Willikies Superstars B team are in ninth position with 289 points and are followed by Moise Eagle Warriors with 285 points. Eagle Warriors won Thursday's third match by scoring joint 72 points along with Unstoppables and Bolans Revellers B team finished third with 60 points.

Following in the standings are Unstoppable in 11th position with 280 points, Parham Strikers with 278 points, Legacy with 274 points and occupying the cellar position are Bolans Revellers B and D teams with 251 points each.

The competition, which will last for a duration of five weekends, will resume with the third week of matches later this week.





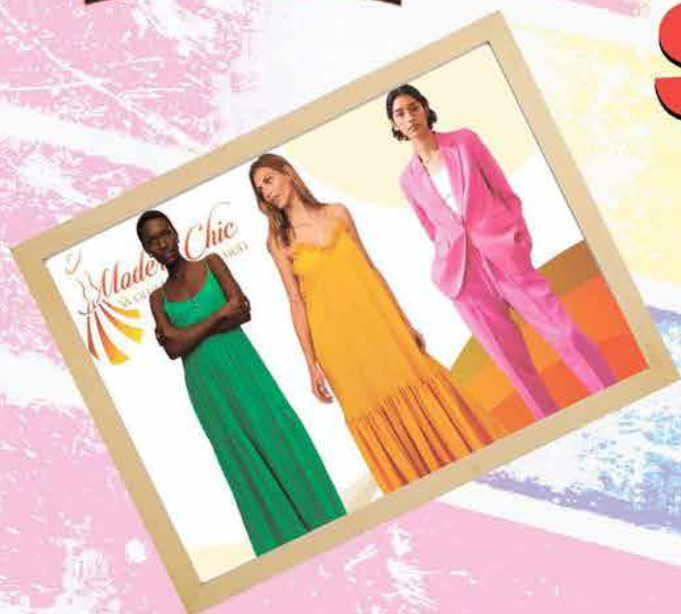
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## Clare Hall, ABICE win in schools' football league

There were wins for Clare Hall Secondary and the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Monday, 12th December.

Clare Hall Secondary cruised to a 3-0 victory over St. Joseph's Acade-

my in their Under-16 Boys' Division affair at the King George V. Ground.

Ryan James scored twice, while Leon Cort converted the other goal for Clare Hall Secondary.

The Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education prevailed 3-2 against Irene B. Williams

in their East Zone Under-20 Boys' Division affair at the Police Recreation Ground.

Shaquan Simmons scored twice and Toriltan Jarvis converted once for ABICE. Brandon Broodie and Karique Knight each scored once for Irene B. Williams.

## Rebels remain perfect in Second Division Basketball League

Rebels have maintained their perfect start in Zone 1 of the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Second Division League at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday, 12th December.

Rebels prevailed 82-75 against Old Road Daggers in the first game of a double-header to record their third win in as many outings.

Jules Williams shot a team-high 30 points and grabbed 12 rebounds, Tindale Telemaque scored 22 points and snatched eight rebounds, while Zuri Nesbitt converted 15 points for the Rebels.

Ariel Quallis shot a game-high 33 points and pulled down 12 rebounds, Kareem Jacobs sank 17 points and Ezekiel Francois grabbed 18 rebounds and scored 14 points for Old Road Daggers who were playing their first game of the season.

After losing their first two matches, New Generation Slam secured their first win of the league by romping to an emphatic 62-34 victory over Jan Serv Fearless Crew2 in the second game on Mon-

day night.

John Rolland Jr. grabbed 17 rebounds and sank 14 points, Keaddy Martin scored 12 points and Anjis Anthony chipped in with 10 points for New Generation Slam.

Takeem Martin snatched 12 rebounds and scored eight points for Fearless Crew2, who were beaten for the second time in as many appear-

ances for the season.

The second division will continue with another Zone 1 double-header at the same venue this evening, Wednesday, 14th December.

Ottos Coolers will clash with Rebels in the opening encounter at 6:45 pm, while Jan Serv Fearless Crew2 will take on Raeburn Generators United in the second game at

8:30 pm.

Cuties Ovals Young Guns will tackle the Honourable Gaston Browne Pointvill Ballers at 6:45 pm in the first game of a Zone 2 double-header tomorrow, Thursday, 15th December.

Flyers2 will clash with Young Warriors Ballers in the second encounter at 8:30 pm.



**UPDATED SCHEDULE**

**SCHEDULE UPDATE**

**TYPHOON EXPRESS**

**MONDAY**  
(FROM ST. JOHN'S)

**AB 3:45 PM**

**OVERNIGHT IN BARBUDA**

**TUESDAY**

**BA 6:00AM**

**WEDNESDAY & FRIDAY**  
(CRABBS DEPARTURE)

**AB 10:00AM**  
**BA 3:00PM**

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## Rangers get first win, more success for Lion Hill in Premier Division

Ottos Rangers secured their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division on Monday night, 12th December.

A Joylan Sinclair 42nd minute conversion was sufficient to give Rangers a 1-0 victory over Parham in the second game of a double-header at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters.

The result gave Rangers their first points in the league after losing their first two matches. It was also the first loss for Parham who had one win and a draw from their first two outings.

Lion Hill recorded their second win of the first division when they snatched a 3-2 victory over West Ham in the opening game at the ABFA's Technical Centre on Monday evening.

Jahiem Salmon put Lion Hill ahead with an 18<sup>th</sup> minute conversion and Darren Edwards scored in the 26th minute to give his team a 2-0 halftime lead.

Forward Anderson Her-



Lion Hill claimed their second win in the First Division by beating West Ham at the ABFA's Technical Centre on Monday, 12th December, 2022. (File photo)

bert then scored twice late in the second half to equalize for West Ham. Herbert scored his first in the 71st minute and got his second in the 83rd minute to level the scores in the match at 2-2.

However, West Ham's hopes of a comeback win were dashed by Casell Southwell, who snatched the winner for Lion Hill by scoring in the 86th minute.

It was the second win in

three matches for Lion Hill, while it was the second loss for West Ham from the same number of appearances.

In another recent first division encounter, an Orlando Peters 38th minute conversion gave Bolans a 1-0 win over JSC Progressors at the same venue on Friday, 9th December.

The ABFA's first division league will continue with four matches tomorrow,

Thursday, 15th December.

Bendals will host Police at the Bendals playing field at 5 pm, while the other three matches are slated to kick-off at 4:20 pm.

Potters Tigers will entertain John Hughes at the Potters playing field, Young Lions will host Green City at the Old Road playing field and Fort Road will welcome Garden Stars at the Fort Road playing field.