

MOE HOSTS HIGH-LEVEL MEETING TO ADDRESS YOUTH VIOLENCE

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Emergency meeting convened to discuss youth violence

Director of Education Clare Browne will convene a high-level meeting today to address the rise in youth violence in Antigua and Barbuda.

Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney, and Chief of Defence Staff, Colonel Telbert Benjamin, are expected to be in attendance.

They will be joined by school principals, representatives from the National Parent Teachers' Association, counsellors, the Ministry of Education and Sports' Truancy Department, the Antigua and

Barbuda Union of Teachers (A&BUT) and other stakeholders.

While the agenda items are unknown, it is believed that gang violence among students will be discussed at length.

The recent increase of teenage boys being viciously attacked by their peers has sparked public debate with many calling for the police, the Ministry of Education and Sports and other government agencies to crack down on the worrying development.

Over several months, a number of teens have been



attacked and sustained injuries inflicted by cutlass-wielding young men.

It is believed that the attacks are coordinated and are being carried out by members of at least two gangs populated by teenagers.

The police have not yet issued a comment on the veracity of these widely held allegations.

Stakeholders at today's meeting are expected to arrive at a solution to stamp out the burgeoning problem.

Meanwhile, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda has issued an appeal for parents to provide greater supervision to their children.

The statement is in relation to the attacks being carried out by teens on their peers.

The RPFAB posited that the recent upsurge in violent youth behaviour is partly due to some par-

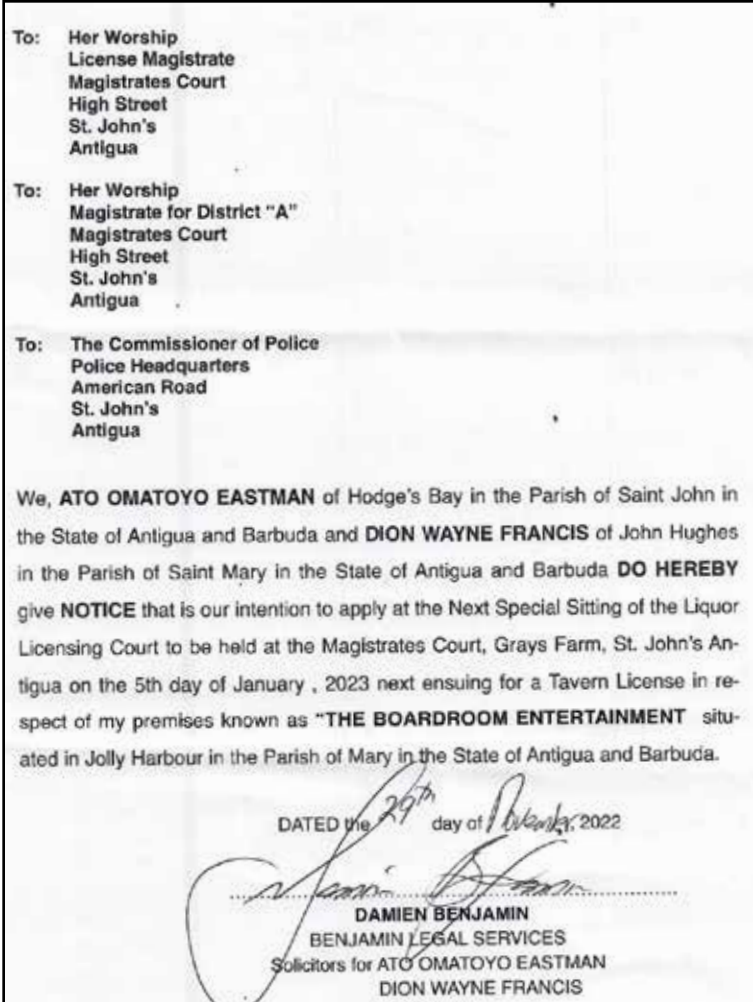
ents' failure to adequately support and nurture their children.

"This lack of involvement on the part of some parents in the lives of our youths is reprehensible, and should no longer be tolerated.

"In an effort to have the matter properly addressed, the police will be collaborating with the Ministry of Education and other stakeholders, including some of the parents, to assist our youths in fulfilling their potential to become positive citizens in Antigua and Barbuda.

"Members of the public are also asked to get involved and report any suspicious gatherings or disorderly behaviour among young people to the police without delay.

"The police will be expecting the full cooperation of everyone going forward," the statement concluded.



Sippy cups recalled over lead poisoning risk

The Prices and Consumer Affairs Division is notifying the general public of a product recall on Green Sprouts stainless steel Straw Bottles, Sippy Cups and Sip & Straw Cups.

The recalled products may contain lead, posing a poisoning hazard to children the department advised.

According to the manufacturer, the recall involves 6 oz and 8 oz Green Sprouts stainless steel cups and bottles.

The recalled dou-

ble-walled stainless-steel bottles were sold in aqua, pink, green, and navy colours with one of three closure options: A silicone sippy spout with a coloured plastic lid, collar and handle, Silicone sippy spout and a straw spout with a coloured plastic lid, collar and handle, or a silicone straw with plastic screw-on flip cap.

The recalled bottles and cups were sold from January 2020, through September 2022. The division is advising consumers who may

have purchased the products to discontinue use and return them to the place of purchase for a full refund.

According to the manufacturer, the recalled stainless steel bottles and cups' bottom

base can break off, exposing a solder dot that contains lead that is hazardous to children. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.

Members of the public can contact the Prices and Consumer Affairs Division for more information on the latest product recall at 462-4347 or email consumeraffairs@ab.gov.ag.



The tracking numbers are printed on the bottom base of the bottles.		
Size	Description	Tracking Number(s)
6 oz	Stainless Steel Sippy Cup	29218V06985 or 35719V06985
6 oz	Stainless Steel Sip & Straw Cup	33020V06985
8 oz	Stainless Steel Straw Bottle	29218V06985 or 35719V06985

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NCD Coordinator calls for “sugar tax” to be implemented

As the fight to reduce Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs) by 2025 presses on, Antigua and Barbuda’s NCD Coordinator, Nurse Valerie Williams, is calling for the implementation of a tax on sugar sweetened products.

Nurse Williams made the call earlier this week as she addressed the increase in the number of people in Antigua and Barbuda who are living with NCDs.

She was particularly concerned over the alarming number of obese children in the country.

NCDs such as heart disease, cancer and diabetes,



claim the lives of 41 million people each year accounting for a staggering 74 percent of all deaths globally, ac-

ording to the World Health Organization.

Medical experts say these figures have markedly increased since the start of the pandemic.

According to the Pan American Health Organization, the number of cases of diabetes in the Americas has tripled during the last 30 years, and of that figure, 13 percent of the population in Antigua and Barbuda is diagnosed with diabetes.

A sugar tax is a key recommendation of the World Health Organization (WHO) in the global attempt to raise awareness and combat chronic noncommunicable diseases like hypertension, stroke, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Williams believes that the implementation of this tax will serve to deter consumers from purchasing these items and opt for cost friendly, healthy products.

"I really want to see us

implementing our tax on sugary sweetened beverages.

"Research has shown that once persons start thinking, 'I have \$5 or \$10; can I afford to buy a soda and not have enough money to buy something to eat?' then it deters them.

"Also, because we are doing the awareness and education, and with the information about the dangers of sugary sweetened beverages, what we are expecting is persons will make better choices.

"The cost is a deterrent for most persons and we are seeing that from certain models. Once costs go up, consumption rates fall. Some people may say well, whatever the cost is, I need it, I buy it but that's not 100 percent of your population. Not everyone has the same finances," Williams said.

Consultations on imple-

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| Maintenance Supervisor | Maintenance Officers |
| Spa Therapist | Pool Technicians |
| Accounts Clerks | Activities |

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

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menting this tax first began in 2017 when health minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, revealed that the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) had been commissioned to conduct a study to guide the process a year earlier in 2016.

In addition to the tax, the government's plan was to simultaneously reduce the cost of healthier foods to encourage consumers to make healthier food and beverage choices.

This will both improve the health of the nation and also reduce the government's multimillion dollar annual bill on the treatment and care of the local population living with NCDs.

Last year, Sir Molwyn disclosed staggering statistics.

Over the past five years, more than

\$131 million has been spent to "provide medication for the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and hypertension".

\$37 million was spent, via the Medical Benefits Scheme, on diabetes medications.

Meanwhile, Nurse Williams said educational campaigns in schools and across the island will continue.

"The thing is you have to continuously be engaging the young people. We can't just go into the schools once, have that discussion and it ends there. It is something that has to be continuous.

"I think we can go a step further by implementing some of this curriculum in the schools because the more the kids learn about it, the better the chances

are of them doing the things that they are being taught and at that early age, the teacher has one of the greatest influences on children.

"We have to work with the teachers as well to get these messages across to the children," Williams explained.

To this end, school tours educating youngsters about NCDs and other health topics are continuous.

The nurse appealed to the public to "take care of their health, know the risk factors and work on minimising your risk".

For those with NCDs, she implored them to abide by their health care providers' instructions.

"Learn about your diseases and how you can better control it," Nurse Williams urged.

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Final preparations in progress to welcome P&O Arvia

Tourism and port authorities are making final preparations to welcome P&O cruise lines' Arvia come January.

The Arvia is one of the vessels that will begin home porting from Antigua and Barbuda in the new year.

A notice issued by St. Maarten's tourism office last week indicated that the Arvia is due to make its inaugural call to that country on 17th January.

This confirms the statements made by Antigua and Barbuda's tourism minister, Charles Fernandez in July that final arrangements were being made to seal the home porting deal with P&O, which is part of the Carnival Corporation & PLC.

This was to have been finalised when executives of the cruise line visited Antigua and Barbuda in October.

"This means the cruise will start and end in Antigua. Passengers will have to come in by air so there is an obvious benefit already. Taxi operators will make money by transporting them from the airport to the quay.



P&O cruise lines' Arvia

It opens the opportunity for us to benefit in so many areas – in fuel, removal of garbage ...," Fernandez said in an interview at the time.

Antigua and Barbuda has been keen to the lucrative home porting arrangement ahead of St. Maarten which also had intentions of courting the ocean liner.

Antigua Cruise Port's general manager, Dona Regis-Prosper, confirmed Antigua and Barbuda's success when she indicated in an interview with an on-line cruise industry website in October that the Arvia

would home port in Antigua and Barbuda from January to March 2023.

The Arvia is one of the world's largest cruise ships.

Built by the German shipbuilding company Meyer Werft, Arvia measures more than 180,000 gross tonnes, is 344.5 metres long, 42 metres wide, has 2,614 cabins for 5,200 passengers and is identical in construction to her sister ship Iona, which was delivered in 2020. Both ships are equipped with the cleanest propulsion system currently available to the shipping

industry, a liquefied natural gas (LNG) propulsion system.

According to the St. Maarten Herald, "Dutch independent fuel supplier Titan concluded the first LNG delivery to cruise ship Arvia last week. The gassing up and LNG bunker operation to the Arvia was executed in Eemshaven in the Netherlands.

According to P&O Cruises' promotion, Arvia will offer new and exciting shore experiences.

The cruise line has planned many "top-secret" entertainment partnerships and activities for its passengers' enjoyment. It also offers a "new unique, immersive experience" called Mission Walk, consisting of an altitude skywalk and miniature golf.

The ship will also feature a sushi and plant-based restaurant.

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22% NE 12 mph	24% NE 11 mph	Humidity 72%	UV Index 8 of 10
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Women dominate JCI Y.E.P Awards

Women dominated the winners' row in the latest installment of the JCI Antigua Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) Awards ceremony over the weekend.

Of the ten awards presented during the ceremony held at the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI), eight of the winners were young women.

The awards were presented for their outstanding achievements in various fields.

The Senator Clovis St. Romain Phenomenal Leadership Award went to Rhoda Essien, who has been a leader at every stage of her development, from high school to university.

While at the Antigua State College, she was elect-

ed Vice President of Circle K International.

During her tenure as the External Affairs Chairman, her most outstanding achievement was her contribution to The Cancer Centre where she organised bake sales to raise funds which were donated to the centre to assist with cancer care treatments.

The Education Exemplar Award went to Delina Greene, for whom becoming a teacher was the fulfilment of a lifelong dream and ambition.

With 16 years of experience as a trained teacher, she found her niche in laying the foundation in the elementary school system.

The Villa Primary School educator is also pursuing a degree in Early



Odelia Deazle of Barbuda is the Enterprise through Entrepreneurship Award winner

Childhood Education at the UWI Five Islands Campus.

The first of the two men in the winner's row was Jovier Martin who secured the Action in Agriculture Award.

Martin, the owner of Ash Organic Farming, is a past student of the St. Anthony's Secondary School.

His love for farming developed about three years ago when he was inspired by his grandmother's passion for backyard gardening.

Martin saw farming as an opportunity to generate additional revenue and support a healthier lifestyle within his family.

The Courage to Care Award's winner was Tanya Ambrose who was described as a compassionate and dynamic public health professional seasoned in

clinical care and public health customer service.

She is the founder and CEO of Scrub Life Cares, a nonprofit organisation dedicated to serving women and girls in underserved communities.

The Mental Health & Wellness Advocate Award went to Monifa St. John, an aspiring author, motivational speaker, entrepreneur, and mental health advocate who lived in Wuhan, China, for over 11 years until the pandemic occurred.

Drawing from her experience as a guidance counsellor and mentor, St. John had the foresight to found Mental Health Talk Antigua, an online resource platform.

The Sporting Prowess Award recipient was Joella Lloyd who completed her tertiary education at

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The Lester Jonas Musical Maestro Award winner is Maurisha Potter

Local News



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the University of Tennessee.

Lloyd is a national athlete who holds the national record in the 60 metre, 100 metre and 200 metre sprint events.

The Culinary Excellence Award went to Mellissa Beharry.

As a chef, she has always had a passion for the culinary arts which she inherited from her family.

She initially pursued business studies in college, however she quickly realised that this was not her passion and shifted focus to her natural talent, cooking.

The Lester Jonas Musical Maestro Award winner was Maurisha Potter who has 18 years of experience playing the steel pan.

This began at the Christ the King High School in 2004, under the guidance of Stafford Joseph of Hells Gate Steel Orchestra.

She is a soloist, arranger, tutor, and an excellent representation for upcoming

pannists.

Odelia Deazle of Barbuda was the Enterprise through Entrepreneurship Award winner.

In 2018, she founded her business, Ayurveda Beauty268 and formed a sub-company in 2021 named Barbuda Emblem.

Barbuda Emblem is a lucrative homemade jewellery business which uses the famous Barbuda pink sand to design unique and bespoke necklaces and bracelets.

The Media Trailblazer Award winner was Sydney Codrington.

The 29-year-old entrepreneur, founder of the Sharefold Media company, is a graduate of the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology.

Having operated his business for five years now, Codrington said while he has experienced his fair share of challenges, his company is now on a steady path of growth and development.



Sydney Codrington is the Media Trailblazer Award winner

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Guyana in talks to establish visa-free travel to Canada

The governments of Guyana and Canada are holding discussions to remove the visa requirement for Guyanese travellers.

This was disclosed by Canadian High Commissioner Mark Berman to members of the media last evening on the sidelines of a welcome reception for a Canadian trade delegation in Georgetown.

“It is something we are looking at and we will make a decision,” Berman said.

Additionally, several Canadian airlines are being engaged to offer service to Guyana. Currently, Caribbean Airlines is the only company with a direct service between Georgetown and Toronto. Guyanese citizens have visa-free or visa-on-arrival access to 88 countries



and territories.

The United Kingdom recently removed its visa requirement for Guyanese travellers wishing to stay in the country for up to six months once they meet specific requirements, which include having access to enough funds to support their stay.

Yesterday, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Hugh Hilton Todd and Fabrizio Nicoletti, Non-resident Ambassador-Designate of the Republic of Italy to the Co-operative Republic of Guyana, held talks regarding removing the visa requirement for Guyanese.

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Tips for communicating with your teen

Keeping the parent-child relationship strong during a tricky age

By Rachel Ehmke

The teenage years have a lot in common with the terrible twos. During both stages our kids are doing exciting new things, but they're also pushing boundaries (and buttons) and throwing tantrums. The major developmental task facing both age groups is also the same: kids must pull away from parents and begin to assert their own independence. No wonder they sometimes act as if they think they're the centre of the universe.

This makes for complicated parenting, especially because teens are beginning to make decisions about things that have real consequence, like school and friends and driving, not to speak of substance use and sex. But they aren't good at regulating their emotions yet, so teens are prone to taking risks and making impulsive decisions.

This means that having a healthy and trusting parent-child relationship during the teenage years is more important than ever. Staying close isn't easy, though. Teens often aren't very gracious when they are rejecting what they perceive to be parental interference. While they're an open book to their friends, who they talk to constantly via text messages and social media, they might become mute when asked by mom how their day went. A request that seemed reasonable to dad may be received as a grievous outrage.

If this sounds familiar, take a deep breath and remind yourself that your child is going through his terrible teens. It is a phase that will pass, and your job as parent is still vitally important, only the role may have changed slightly. Here are some tips for navigating the new terrain:

1. Listen. If you are curious about what's going on in your teen's life,



asking direct questions might not be as effective as simply sitting back and listening. Kids are more likely to be open with their parents if they don't feel pressured to share information. Remember even an offhand comment about something that happened during the day is their way of reaching out, and you're likely to hear more if you stay open and interested — but not prying.

2. Validate their feelings. It is often our tendency to try to solve problems for our kids, or downplay their disappointments. But saying something like "They weren't right for you anyway" after a romantic disappointment can feel dismissive. Instead, show kids that you understand and empathise by reflecting the comment back: "Wow, that does sound difficult."

3. Show trust. Teens want to be taken seriously, especially by their parents. Look for ways to show that you trust your teen. Asking them for a favour shows that you rely on them. Volunteering is a privilege that shows that you think they can handle it. Letting your kid know you have faith in them will boost their confidence and make them more likely to rise to the occasion.

4. Don't be a dictator. You still get

to set the rules, but be ready to explain them. While pushing the boundaries is natural for teenagers, hearing your thoughtful explanation about why parties on school nights aren't allowed will make the rule seem more reasonable.

5. Give praise. Parents tend to praise children more when they are younger, but adolescents need the self-esteem boost just as much. Teenagers might act like they're too cool to care about what their parents think, but the truth is they still want your approval. Also looking for opportunities to be positive and encouraging is good for the relationship, especially when it is feeling strained.

6. Control your emotions. It's easy for your temper to flare when your teen is being rude, but don't respond in kind. Remember that you're the adult and they are less able to control their emotions or think logically when they're upset. Count to ten or take some deep breaths before responding. If you're both too upset to talk, hit pause until you've had a chance to calm down.

7. Do things together. Talking isn't the only way to communicate, and during these years it's great if you

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Volcano begins to erupt in eastern El Salvador



Clouds and gases surround the Chaparrastique volcano in San Jorge, El Salvador, Monday, Nov. 28, 2022. Authorities in El Salvador are warning residents near the Chaparrastique in the eastern part of the country to be alert as the volcano has shown signs of increased activity. (AP Photo/Salvador Melendez)

Authorities in El Salvador on Monday warned residents near the Chaparrastique volcano in the country's east to be alert after it began to erupt.

The Environmental Ministry's observatory reported explosions in the central crater of the volcano located about 83 miles (135 kilometres) east of the capital.

It said the eruption's intensity was a 1 on a scale from 0 to 8.

The eruption began Sunday when the volcano launched rock and ash to

areas surrounding the crater. There were no reported injuries.

Civil Defense Director Luis Alonso Amaya said three municipalities were on alert.

Authorities were preparing 26 shelters that could accommodate more than 10,000 people and installing a command post to provide the most current information on the volcano's activity.

The safety zone was extended to a radius of 3.7 miles (6 kilometres) from the crater.

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can spend time doing things you both enjoy, whether it's cooking or hiking or going to the movies, without talking about anything personal.

It's important for kids to know that they can be in proximity to you, and share positive experiences, without having to worry that you will pop intrusive questions or call them on the carpet for something.

8. Share regular meals. Sitting down to eat a meal together as a family is another great way to stay close. Dinner conversations give every member of the family a chance to check in and talk casually about sports or television or politics. Kids who feel comfort-

able talking to parents about everyday things are likely to be more open when harder things come up, too. One rule: no phones allowed.

9. Be observant. It's normal for kids to go through some changes as they mature, but pay attention if you notice changes to their mood, behaviour, energy level, or appetite. Likewise, take note if they stop wanting to do things that used to make them happy, or if you notice them isolating.

If you see a change in your teen's daily ability to function, ask them about it and be supportive (without being judgmental). They may need your help and it could be a sign they need to talk to a mental health professional.

Puerto Rico ex-cop sentenced in historic firearms robbery

AP - A former Puerto Rican police officer found guilty of masterminding the U.S. territory's biggest firearms robbery in history has been sentenced to 20 years in prison, the U.S. Attorney's Office said Tuesday.

José Padilla-Galarza was convicted in May after authorities accused him of recruiting other suspects to help steal 125 firearms from a police shooting range in October 2010.

The suspects dressed up in fake uniforms pretending to be policemen, used a vehicle with fake police de-

cals to enter the shooting range and assaulted and tied up the officers on duty before stealing the weapons, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office in Puerto Rico.

Authorities said Padilla-Galarza had visited the shooting range multiple times in one year to become familiar with the personnel, their shifts and the facility's layout ahead of the robbery.

Padilla-Galarza and his co-conspirators then sold the stolen weapons, which included 49 pistols, 40 AR-15

rifles and 24 shotguns, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office.

The former police officer was previously sentenced in October 2018 to 19 years in prison in an unrelated case in which authorities accused him of masterminding a bank robbery near the capital of San Juan. Padilla-Galarza and his fellow suspects were found guilty of stealing more than \$64,000 and using decoy explosives.

Padilla-Galarza will serve that sentence consecutively with the new one, plus five years of supervised release.

Guyana police probe murders of grandmothers in two separate incidents

CMC - Police in Guyana are investigating the death of an 85-year-old grandmother, whose body was found with multiple stab wounds at her home on Monday, her birthday.

Police in West Coast

Berbice said are investigating the death of Sumintra Shaw called "Aunty Betty" as a possible robbery/murder case, even as media reports quote sources as saying that nothing had been stolen.

Shaw's body was discov-

ered during the early hours of Monday by a relative who served as the caretaker.

Meanwhile, police are also probing the death of a 73-year-old grandmother, Agatha Gamell of Charity, Essequibo Coast. Police are

questioning her 22-year-old granddaughter. The police said they found a pair of scissors at the scene which the suspect reportedly used to stab the woman to death.

A motive for the killing has not been disclosed.



Jamaica's government and opposition continue spat over state of emergency

CMC - The Jamaica government says it will consider imposing states of emergency (SOE) in seven parishes across the island, even as the main opposition People's National Party (PNP) insists there is no reason for the government to suspend the basic human rights of half the Jamaican population where states of emergency have been declared.

Government failed last Friday to get support in the Senate for extending the SOEs in the seven parishes that will expire at midnight on Monday.

Prime Minister Andrew Holness, speaking at a central executive meeting of the ruling Jamaica Labour Party (JLP) on Sunday, said the question has been asked, 'Why not call another State of Public Emergency?'

"That has to be considered carefully. I would say it is not off the table, but we will consider it very carefully. If circumstances give rise to it, if we see that our resources are stretched, if we see a spike in buffering, if actions are taken or threatened to be taken that will substantially create a threat to public order and lives, this government will act," Holness said.

The prime minister told supporters that the SOEs have been achieving the purpose, noting that there



Prime Minister Andrew Holness, right, and Opposition Leader Mark Golding.

had been a significant decline in murders in the first week of the measures being implemented.

Holness said there were no murders recorded last Thursday and the security forces "are terribly disappointed" at the prospect that they will no longer have the extraordinary powers of detention with which SOEs endow law enforcers.

More than 300 people detained, without charge, will be released.

"We're going to do our best, in addition to keeping track of those we did not get into custody, keep this murder rate down this Christmas season, so that every Jamaican can enjoy the season, and at the same time, maintain public order in our squares, in our commercial districts, around our banks and other financial institutions, around our markets, and in our

urban and rural township centers," he said.

But Opposition Leader, Mark Golding, Sunday re-emphasized that there is no reason for the SOEs to deal with approximately 300 alleged violence producers.

Speaking to reporters after the PNP's national executive council meeting, Golding said a legal procedure can be developed and enacted quickly whereby law enforcement can apply to the Supreme Court for an ex parte order providing supporting affidavit of credible intelligence that justifies immediate detention of presumed high-risk criminals.

He said that a pre-charge detention order could be sought to protect the public against a credible risk of serious violence.

"I am of the view that pre-charge detention is warranted in Jamaica's

present context in relation to known violence producers who have been identified by credible intelligence as posing a realistic danger of imposing serious violence on one or more individuals or the community," Golding said.

He told reporters that the ex parte order, once granted, will allow seven days' initial detention along with provision for a further 14-day extension and up to 42 days. At each interval, law-enforcement agencies would need to satisfy the court that progress was being made in building a case that supported criminal charges.

Golding said the procedure should be limited in time so after 49 days from the initial detention, criminal charges must be laid or the person must be released. He also called for a specific case-management judge be assigned to this process.

"In my view, this is a proportionate response to protect Jamaica's free and democratic society from the chronic and worsening problem of serious crimes and murders," Golding said, accusing the government of disrespecting and showing open aggression to the Opposition for standing up for the rights of the Jamaican people and upholding the Constitution.

PM Skerrit urges Dominicans to vote despite opposition boycott

CMC - Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit is urging Dominica to go out and cast their ballots in the December 6 general election that he has called two years ahead of the constitutional deadline, even though the main opposition parties continue to urge their supporters to stay away.

Speaking at a public meeting of his ruling Dominica Labour Party (DLP), Skerrit, 50, who has been prime minister here since 2004, said that “not voting cannot be a choice in this election.

“We want to ensure that we get a resounding victory on December 6. As I have said on many occasions, not voting cannot be an option in this election. Voting is a choice each of us must make, but we always have to make the right choice.

“We cannot sit back and say Labour has won and I am not voting. It is absolutely important that every vote is counted in this constituency and that the entire constituency says to Fenella Wenham you have our support,” Skerrit told the rally in Portsmouth, north of here on Monday night.

Wenham is among the new DLP candidates contesting the elections in place of Trade and Industry Minister Ian Douglas.

Skerrit, one of six DLP candidates who had been nominated uncontested for the December 6 poll, said it was therefore important for Dominicans to go out and vote and ensure the party’s victory for control of the 21 seat Parliament. In the 2019 general election, the ruling DLP won 18 of the 21 seats in the Parliament with the remaining three going to the United Workers Party (UWP).

“It is very important and we are counting on this great constituency to come out in large numbers to vote for Fenella,” he said, promising that the



Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit

constituency would be home to a new medical offshore university that would replace the Ross University that transferred its operations to Barbados in 2019 after 41 years here.

Last weekend, the main opposition (UWP) elected economist Dr. Thompson Fontaine as its new leader, vowing to continue the party’s position on electoral reform through legal means including civil disobedience

Thompson, who urged the membership to join hands with the new team to establish “a just and ethical system of governance in Dominica,” said in the coming days, the party will spread the message of unity throughout the island by “knocking on every door and going to every settlement to consult with the residents about the best course of action.

“Now is the time to set aside our political differences. And let us unite over free and democratic elections and ensure that there is peace in the land and ensure that democracy is restored to Dominica.”

The UWP is boycotting the December 6 general election that Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit called two years ahead of the constitutional dead-

line, insisting that electoral reform, including voter identification cards and a new voters list, must be dealt with prior to holding the polls.

“As a political leader, together we will continue to champion electoral reform. Again as part of that process, we will again appeal to the President of Dominica (Charles Savarin) to exercise his executive authority under section 53 of the Constitution and suspend those elections until there is electoral reform,” said Fontaine, who is on EC\$75,000 bail, on a charge of inciting violence and obstruction of justice, dating back to 2017.

The UWP, as well as the other major opposition party, the Dominica Freedom Party (DFP) have been urging citizens to boycott the elections until Sir Dennis Byron, the former president of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) completes his assignment as the sole commissioner advancing the efforts towards electoral reform.

Sir Byron had proposed presenting the first phase of his report by the end of November with the Parliament tabling the Register of Electors legislation in December and the plan to enact it in January 2023.

NATO renews membership vow to Ukraine, pledges arms and aid

AP - NATO doubled down Tuesday on its commitment to one day include Ukraine, a pledge that some officials and analysts believe helped prompt Russia's invasion this year. The world's largest security alliance also pledged to send more aid to Ukrainian forces locked in battle with Russian troops.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met with NATO foreign ministers in Romania to drum up support for Ukraine as Russia bombards energy infrastructure ahead to the frigid winter. Russia cannot stop the alliance's expansion, NATO leaders said.

"NATO's door is open," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said before chairing the meeting in the capital, Bucharest.

He highlighted that North Macedonia and Montenegro had recently joined NATO, and said that Russian President Vladimir Putin "will get Finland and Sweden as NATO members" soon. The Nordic neighbours applied for membership in April, concerned that Russia might target them next.

"Russia does not have a



United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken attends the first day of the meeting of NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs, in Bucharest, Romania, Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022. (AP Photo/Andreea Alexandru)

veto" on countries joining, Stoltenberg said. "We stand by that, too, on membership for Ukraine."

When they met in Bucharest in 2008, NATO leaders said that Ukraine and Georgia would join the alliance one day.

Some officials and analysts believe that move — pressed on the NATO allies by former U.S. President George W. Bush — was partly responsible for the war that Russia launched on Ukraine in February. Stoltenberg said NATO expansion would not be hindered.

"President Putin cannot deny sovereign nations to

make their own sovereign decisions that are not a threat to Russia," the former Norwegian prime minister said. "I think what he's afraid of is democracy and freedom, and that's the main challenge for him."

Even so, Ukraine will not join NATO anytime soon. With the Crimean Peninsula annexed, and Russian troops and pro-Moscow separatists holding parts of the south and east, it's not clear what Ukraine's borders would even look like.

Many of NATO's 30 allies believe the focus now must solely be on defeating Russia, and Stoltenberg

stressed that any attempt to move ahead on membership could divide them.

"We are in the midst of a war and therefore we should do nothing that can undermine the unity of allies to provide military, humanitarian, and financial support to Ukraine, because we must prevent President Putin from winning," he said.

Beyond Ukraine's immediate needs, NATO wants to see how it can help the country longer-term, by upgrading its Soviet-era equipment to the alliance's modern standards and providing more military training. Slovak Foreign Minister Rastislav Kacer said the allies must help Ukraine so that "the transition to full membership will be very smooth and easy" once both NATO and Kyiv are ready for accession talks.

In a statement, the ministers vowed to help Ukraine rebuild once the war is over, saying: "we will continue to strengthen our partnership with Ukraine as it advances its Euro-Atlantic aspirations."

Ukraine, for its part, called for more supplies of weapons to defend itself with, and quickly.

Spanish coast guard finds stowaways on ship rudder

BBC - Three stowaways have been found sitting on the rudder of a ship after it completed an 11-day voyage from Nigeria, Spanish authorities say.

A photo shared by the coast guard shows the men sitting on the rudder

at the oil tanker's stern, their feet less than a metre away from the water.

They were taken to hospital at the tanker's destination in Gran Canaria and treated for moderate dehydration.

It's unclear if they spent the entire

journey perched on the rudder.

The Maltese-flagged Althini II arrived in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria, from Nigeria's largest city Lagos - a journey of more than 2,700 nautical

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Thai monks fail drug tests leaving temple empty

BBC - A small Buddhist temple in Thailand has been left without any monks after they were all dismissed for failing drug tests, local officials have said.

Four monks, including the abbot, tested positive for methamphetamine in the northern province of Phetchabun, an official told news agency AFP.

Boonlert Thintapthai said the monks were subsequently sent to a health clinic to undergo drug rehabilitation.

The raid comes amid a national campaign to tackle drug trafficking.

The monks were reportedly removed from the temple after police administered urine tests on Monday, which saw all four men fail. Officials did not say what had brought the temple to the attention of police.

Mr Thintapthai told AFP that the "temple is now empty of monks and nearby villagers are concerned they cannot do any merit-making".

Merit-making is an important Buddhist practice where worshippers gain a protective force through good deeds



- in this case by giving food to monks.

But Mr Thintapthai said that regional officials had sought the assistance of the local monastic chief, who had promised to assign some new monks to the temple in the Bung Sam Phan district in a bid to address the concerns of worshippers.

In recent years, methamphetamine has become a major issue in Thailand, with seizures of the drug reaching an all time high in 2021, according to the UN's Office on Drugs and Crime.

The country is a major transit point

for methamphetamine. The drugs flood into the country from Myanmar - the world's biggest producer of methamphetamine - via Laos.

The pills are then sold on the streets with a value of around 50 Baht (£0.47).

Last month, Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha ordered a clamp-down on drugs after a former police officer who had been dismissed from the force for methamphetamine possession killed 37 people during a shooting at a nursery.

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miles - according to data collected by maritime tracking websites.

The men were seen by medics at the dock where they were found, and were taken to hospital soon after, the Spanish news agency EFE said.

This isn't the first time stowaways have been found on rudders, which are large blade-like fins found under ships and used for steering.

A 14 year-old boy who also travelled from Lagos to Gran Canaria in 2020 told the paper El Pais that he spent the entire 15 day journey on the rudder of a huge fuel tanker. He was



Three people were found perched on the rudder blade on an oil tanker in Spain

hospitalised upon arrival, after surviving on salt water and taking turns sleeping in a hole above the rudder with the other men he was travelling with.

"We were very weak. I never imagined it could be this hard." he said.

In another incident the same year, four men were found on the rudder of the Norwegian oil tanker, Champion Pula, after it had travelled from Lagos to Las Palmas. Reports at the time said the men hid in a room behind the rudder during its 10 days at sea.

The number of migrants crossing on boats from west Africa to the Spanish-owned Canary Islands has risen significantly in recent years.

The journeys are long, hazardous and deadly. In 2021, the UN's International Organization for Migration (IOM) recorded 1,532 deaths on the route.

Tiger Woods doesn't 'have much left in this leg' to compete

AP - Tiger Woods painted an uncertain picture about how much golf he can play, saying Tuesday that "I don't have much left in this leg."

He also doesn't have much hope the PGA Tour and the Saudi-funded rival league can get along unless Greg Norman is out as LIV Golf's leader.

"Not right now. Not with their leadership. Not with Greg there and his animosity toward the tour itself," Woods said. "I don't see that happening."

Rory McIlroy also said in Dubai two weeks ago that Norman needs to "exit stage left" before there can be any meaningful discussions between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf.

Woods artfully skirted around other questions on Tuesday, such as details on two unexpected surgeries he had last year and whether the 20-man field at the Hero World Challenge should be getting points toward the world ranking.

He was forceful on the effect of LIV Golf, referring to friction the rival league has caused and how lawsuits stand in the way of any reconciliation.

Phil Mickelson was among 10 players who filed an antitrust lawsuit against the PGA Tour in August, a lawsuit since taken over by LIV Golf. Bryson DeChambeau, Peter Uihlein and Matt



Tiger Woods, of the United States, stands on the 11th hole during the first round of the British Open golf championship on the Old Course at St. Andrews, Scotland, on July 14, 2022. Woods was out before he was officially back, withdrawing Monday, Nov. 28, 2022, from his Hero World Challenge with plantar fasciitis in his right foot. (AP Photo/Alastair Grant, File)

Jones are the only players still involved as plaintiffs. The PGA Tour has since filed a countersuit. A trial date is tentatively scheduled for January 2024.

Woods said the lawsuits would have to be settled — he used the word "stay" on more than one occasion — or there is no way forward.

Woods is at Albany Golf Club strictly as the tournament host. He had to withdraw on Monday because of plantar fasciitis in his right foot that makes it too difficult to walk over 72 holes, even on a relatively flat course for a holiday event.

Woods said he was posting low scores at home in Florida while riding in a cart. And his next two events — a made-for-TV match over 12 holes on Dec. 10, and the PNC Championship with his son the following week-

end — allow for carts.

"I can hit the golf ball and hit whatever shot you want," he said. "I just can't walk."

He said the plantar fasciitis was related to injuries he suffered in the Los Angeles car crash in February 2021, which ended any hope of him playing on a regular basis.

A year ago, Woods was just starting to take full swings with the driver and his ambition was to make it to St. Andrews for the 150th edition of the British Open. He wound up playing the Masters and the PGA Championship, too.

That amounted to nine rounds — four at Augusta National, three at the PGA Championship (he withdrew after the third round) and two at St. Andrews.

Woods felt he was mak-

ing progress in the months after the British Open, only to hurt his right foot while trying to prepare for a 72-hole event in the Bahamas.

"When you get plantar fasciitis, the worst thing you can do is walk, and I was walking more and more and more, trying to get my legs ready for this event, and I just kept making it worse," he said. "So I had to shut it down."

He said he would take a month or two to rest, which won't affect his golf schedule because he wasn't going to play that much, anyway.

This has been coming. Woods turns 47 on Dec. 30, and he has had roughly as many surgeries as majors he was won (15).

"The goal is to play just the major championships and maybe one or two more. That's it. Physically, that's all I can do. I told you that (at) the beginning of this year, too," he said.

"I mean, I don't have much left in this leg, so gear up for the biggest ones and hopefully, lightning catches in a bottle and I'm up there in contention with a chance to win, and hopefully, I remember how to do that."

He said he did everything to prepare for St. Andrews, only for his leg to act up on him and lead to an early departure packed with emotion. Woods does not anticipate returning to another Open at St. Andrews.

West Indies touch down on Perth turf

West Indies arrived in Perth on Sunday ahead of their first Test in the western city in over a decade. Kraigg Brathwaite and his team touched down on Sunday to the welcome sight of bright afternoon sunshine and temperatures in the high 20s.

Following two weeks of intense preparations in Canberra as they prepare for the two-match Test Series against Australia.

While in the nation's capitol city, West Indies had two warm-up matches against the ACT/NSW XI and the Australia Prime Minister's XI.

On Sunday, they flew in from the south-east to the west coast and will now have two days in the nets under the guidance of head coach Phil Simmons, ahead of the start of the first Test at the Perth Stadium on Wednesday.

They will also have gym and fitness sessions with Ronald Roger, the strength and conditioning coach. On Monday afternoon skipper Brathwaite joined Aussie skipper Pat Cummins for the official unveiling of the Frank Worrell trophy – named in honour of the legendary West Indies captain.

Speaking ahead of arrival in Perth, Simmons said: "The two weeks in Canberra was great. It was exactly what we were looking for. We got what we needed from the matches there.

"In the first match at Phillip Oval, the bowlers all had a decent work out, and in the first-class match with the pink ball, the match went down to the last over and the batsman all had a good time in the middle."

He added, "Now in Perth we have to put the final elements to our preparations. The weather is a bit different, we're happy to see the sunshine and it's a bit warmer, so we will have a look at the conditions and plan accordingly."

West Indies last played a Test in Perth in December, 2009. On that oc-



casation the visitors came within 35 runs of victory on the last day. This was in large part due to a blistering century off 72 balls by skipper Chris Gayle who won the Man of the Match and Player of the Series awards.

Kemar Roach is the only member of the current touring party to have played back then.

During that match he bowled with tremendous pace and forced Aussie legend Ricky Ponting to retire hurt with a blow to the hand.

The west Indies have an overall good record in Perth. The seven previous matches in the city were all played at the WACA Ground – West Indies won five and Australia won two.

The first, back in 1975 Roy Fredericks made 169 off 145 balls while skipper Clive Lloyd added 186 balls.

This was followed by a seven-wicket haul from Andy Roberts. The most famous West Indies moment came in 1993 when Curtly Ambrose produced the famous spell of seven wickets for one run on his way to 33 wickets in the five-match series.

FULLSQUAD: Kraigg Brathwaite (Captain), Jermaine Blackwood (Vice Captain), Nkrumah Bonner, Shamarh Brooks, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Roston Chase, Joshua Da Silva, Jason Holder, Alzarri Joseph, Kyle Mayers, Anderson Phillip, Raymon Reifer, Kemar Roach, Jayden Seales, Devon Thomas

MATCH SCHEDULE

30 November to 4 December: 1st Test at Perth Stadium, Perth

8-12 December: 2nd Test at Adelaide Oval, Adelaide (day/night)

Pat Cummins: Australia captain insists teams do not contain "cowards" in response to Justin Langer comments

BBC - Captain Pat Cummins has said Australia cricket teams do not contain cowards, in response to claims by former men's national coach Justin Langer.

Langer, 52, who resigned from his role in February, previously suggested "anonymous sources" who complained to the media about his management style were "cowards".

Cummins said: "There's no cowards in an Australian cricket team, not ever."

Since making the comments, Langer has denied any rift with the players.

The former Test opener has subsequently said the players he worked with were "like my little brothers".

Fast bowler Cummins, who welcomed Langer's clarification, added: "I think it's disappointing sometimes the focus gets drawn to off-field issues, but it hasn't really affected our team.

"I think he [Langer] had a think about it and clarified it, so I thank him for that."

Langer moved to distance himself from the furore created by his "cow-



Pat Cummins became Australia captain in November 2021, working alongside Justin Langer until he resigned as head coach in February

ards" comment, writing in a column in the West Australian newspaper that "this rubbish dialogue of me fighting with the current team must stop".

He added: "They are my friends. They are like my younger brothers. Anything said to the contrary is false."

Cummins, 29, was speaking in Perth before Australia's first Test against West Indies in a two-match series.

He said he was "looking forward to

seeing" Langer, who is due to work as a pundit for the local broadcaster.

Cummins was made Australia captain in November 2021 and worked alongside Langer until he resigned as head coach in February.

Langer ended his four-year tenure after being offered only a six-month contract extension, despite winning the T20 World Cup and beating England 4-0 in the Ashes.

World Cup 2022: Andre Onana flies out of Qatar after suspension by Cameroon

BBC - Cameroon goalkeeper Andre Onana has left their World Cup squad and is set to play no further part in the tournament after being suspended by the country's football federation.

A source close to the player told BBC Sport Africa that Onana departed the team hotel and travelled to the airport on Tuesday, with Paris his initial destination

before he travels on to Cameroon capital Yaounde.

"I have put all my efforts and energy into finding solutions to a situation that a footballer often experiences, but there has been no will on the other side," Onana said in a statement posted on Twitter.

"However, I always respect and support the decision
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Andre Onana had started all of Cameroon's games this year before being left out against Serbia

Teams to clash in Business League volleyball semi-finals tomorrow

It is now down to four teams to battle for title honours in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League Competition.

Defending champions APUA, Sandals, ICONS and the Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) have all secured their places into the semi-finals, which will be contested at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex tomorrow, Thursday, 1st December.

Sandals secured their place in the semi-finals by overcoming Police 2-1 in their final preliminary encounter. Sandals prevailed 25-21, 21-25, 15-13.

ICONS sealed their semi-final berth with a straight set 25-21, 26-24 victory over Nate's Photography.

ECAB booked their spot into the final four with a 25-23, 25-22 victory over APUA.

There were also wins for Friends and Families of Island Academy (FFIA), Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) and 77 Bus in their final preliminary round games.

Friends and Families of Island



ICONS will be one of the teams that will contest the semi-finals of the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's Business League competition at the indoor facility at the YMCA Sports Complex this weekend. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

Academy defeated the Inland Revenue Department 25-17, 25-9.

The Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology overcame Zammine Shipping 25-23, 25-20, while 77 Bus beat Treasury Department 25-8, 25-23.

Sandals will meet APUA in the first semi-final at 6:30 pm tomorrow. ICONS and ECAB will clash in the

second semi-final at 7:30 pm.

The winners of the semi-finals will clash in the final at the same venue on Saturday, 3rd December.

The final will be preceded by the playoff for third place between the two losers of the semi-finals.

Fourteen teams participated in this year's Business Volleyball League, which commenced on 13th October.

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sions of the people in charge of pursuing the success of our team and country."

Cameroon's football federation (Fecafoot) took action after Indomitable Lions coach Rigobert Song said established first-choice Onana had asked not to play their second Group G match, amid reports of a falling out between the pair in Qatar.

The 26-year-old Inter

Milan keeper was replaced by Devis Epassy for Monday's 3-3 draw against Serbia, and was not listed among the substitutes.

Onana's statement said he "was not allowed to be on the ground to help Cameroon achieve the team's goals".

"I always behaved in a way to lead the team to success in a good manner," he added.

On Monday evening Fe-

cafoot released a statement to say Inter Milan keeper Onana had been "temporarily suspended from the group for disciplinary reasons".

Onana has won 34 international caps and had started all of the Central Africans' games this year before being left out against Serbia.

Now led by Song's former team-mate Samuel Eto'o, Fecafoot expressed "its full support" for the

coach, 46, as he implemented policy "aimed at preserving discipline, solidarity, complementarity and cohesion with the national team".

There are suggestions the coach and goalkeeper have disagreed over Onana's regular venturing out of his penalty area.

Of his 61 touches of the ball during the 1-0 defeat by Switzerland last Thursday, 26 came outside the box.

PMS beat cupholders OCS in Under-14 Boys' League encounter

Princess Margaret School (PMS) snatched a 1-0 win over defending champions Ottos Comprehensive School (OCS) in the Under-14 Boys' Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Monday, 28th November.

A Shamar Walter conversion was sufficient to give Princess Margaret their victory against Ottos Comprehensive in the second match of a double header at the King George V. Ground.

Kajhry Browne also scored the only goal of the match to give Antigua Grammar School a 1-0 win over All Saints Secondary in the first encounter.

Success as well for Sir Novelle Richards Academy as they pulled off a 2-0 win against St. Mary's Secondary School in the second game of a dou-

ble header at the Potters playing field. Kendel Xavier scored both goals for the winners.

St. Joseph's Academy and Clare Hall Secondary fought to a 1-1 draw in the first encounter. Iczjaire Sebastian scored for St. Joseph's Academy, while Leon Cort scored for Clare Hall Secondary.

The secondary schools' football competition will continue with matches in the Under-14 and 20 boys' divisions today, Wednesday, 30th November.

Four under-14 boys' division matches will take place. Sir Novelle Richards Academy will face Clare Hall Secondary at 2:30 pm at the Potters playing field.

All Saints Secondary will enter-

tain St. Joseph's Academy at the Mack Pond Playing Field in All Saints at 2:30 pm.

Ottos Comprehensive will tackle St. Mary's Secondary in the first match of a double header at the Princess Margaret School playing field at 2:30 pm.

Princess Margaret School and Antigua Grammar School will clash in the second encounter at 3:15 pm.

The matches are slated to take place in the East Zone of the under-20 boys' division.

Pares Secondary will challenge Sir Novelle Richards Academy at 3:15 pm at the Potters playing field, while the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) will clash with Clare Hall Secondary at the Police Recreation Ground at 3:15 pm.

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Villa and Tryum start premier league campaigns with victories



The Villa Lions team just before their opening 2022/23 premier league encounter against Swetes FC at the ABFA's Technical Centre at Paynters on Monday, 28th November, 2022. (Photo courtesy Aston Villa FC)

Villa Lions and Tryum are the latest teams to make a winning start to their campaigns in this season's Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Premier Division League.

Both teams recorded 2-1 wins at the ABFA's Technical Centre on Monday evening to close out the opening series of first-round matches.

Eroy Gonsalves scored a 77th minute winner to seal a come from behind win for the Villa Lions against Swetes in the first game of Monday's double-header.

Vasate Daniel had earlier scored

the first of Villa's two second-half goals in the 54th minute to equalize for the Lions after trailing 1-0 at the interval.

Vashawn James had scored in first half added on time (45+2 minutes) to give Swetes a 1-0 halftime lead.

However, the men from Swetes were unable to sustain their momentum, eventually succumbing to the Lions who came roaring back with two second-half goals to take all three points.

Tryum scored on either side of halftime to secure their win against Pigotts Bullets in the second game on Monday night.

An own-goal scored by Kyanjah Henry in the 38th minute had given Tryum a 1-0 lead at halftime. But shortly after the break, Pigotts Bullets equalized via a Jamarlie Stevens' 55th minute conversion.

However, Tryum were not to be denied as Chevel Cunningham restored their lead by scoring the winner in the 66th minute.

Tryum will be in action once again when the premier league resumes at the same venue on Friday, 2nd December.

Tryum will kick-off the second series of first-round matches against Jennings Grenades at 7 pm.