

THURSDAY 12TH JANUARY 2023 | VOLUME 4 ISSUE 8 | [WWW.POINTVILLE.AG](http://WWW.POINTVILLE.AG)

# ABEC PROCESSING THOUSANDS OF TRANSFERS, CARD REPLACEMENTS

*Story on Page 2*



**ELECTION  
WATCH**

# Local News



## ABEC: Close to 2,000 lost card, transfer requests processed

The Antigua and Barbuda Electoral Commission (ABEC) has been busy over the past days processing the requests of people who are seeking constituency transfers and replacement cards ahead of next Wednesday's polls.

ABEC's public relations officer, Elisa Graham, said over the last week and a half, the office has processed an average of two

hundred requests daily from people who want their voter ID cards replaced or who need to be transferred from one constituency to another.

"We have had to extend our hours of operations up to 6:00pm at both the head office as well as at the registration units in order to facilitate the deluge of requests from voters," she stated.

Graham explained that

the units in all constituencies are able to process the collection of voter identification cards for first-time voters as well as phase one of the request for replacement cards and transfers.

The final stages of those processes are handled at ABEC's head office.

The ABEC PRO noted that there is a fee of \$100.00 for replacement voter ID cards. Applicants must also present valid, government issued ID when collecting the new voter ID card.

Pensioners and applicants who present a letter from the police are exempted from paying the fee.

Meanwhile, Graham explained that anyone seeking constituency transfers at this late stage is unlikely to have this completed in

time for the elections next Wednesday.

Additionally, people who register to vote at this time will not be able to participate in next week's elections as there is a process, which includes a period of claims and objections, before voters' names are placed on the final Register of Voters.

This process, according to Graham, takes more than a month to complete.

Meanwhile, ABEC has reported that its visit to Barbuda on Tuesday went off without a hitch.

Sixteen people were transferred to the island-constituency's voter register, while ten people who reported lost cards had their requests for replacements processed.

PROBATE FORM P7

Rule 15

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

In the Matter of the Estate of EVERARD LLEWELLYN a.k.a. EVERADE EDMUND LLEWELLYN a.k.a. EVERADE E. LLEWELLYN a.k.a. EVERARD LLEWELLYN late of All Saints Road, St. John's, Antigua, Deceased

**ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT  
2<sup>ND</sup> PUBLICATION**

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by **RON CLIFTON LLEWELLYN** of 218-14 Sawyer Avenue, Queens Village, N.Y 11427 for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the son of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November, 2020.

Any person having an objection to the application for the grant of Letters of Administration shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 28 day of Dec 2022

*Lenworth Johnson*  
Lenworth Johnson  
Attorney-at-Law for the Applicant

Filed by **JOHNSONGARDINER**, Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant whose address for service is 51A St. Mary's Street, St. John's, Antigua



## ABEC: No immediate changes to manual ballot counting

Election officials do not anticipate an end to manual ballot counting during general elections anytime soon despite calls for the implementation of a more advanced process.

At the end of each election, countless hours are spent carefully sorting and counting ballots at designated stations until a winner is declared. Often, recounts occur which increase the exhaustive nature of the exercise.

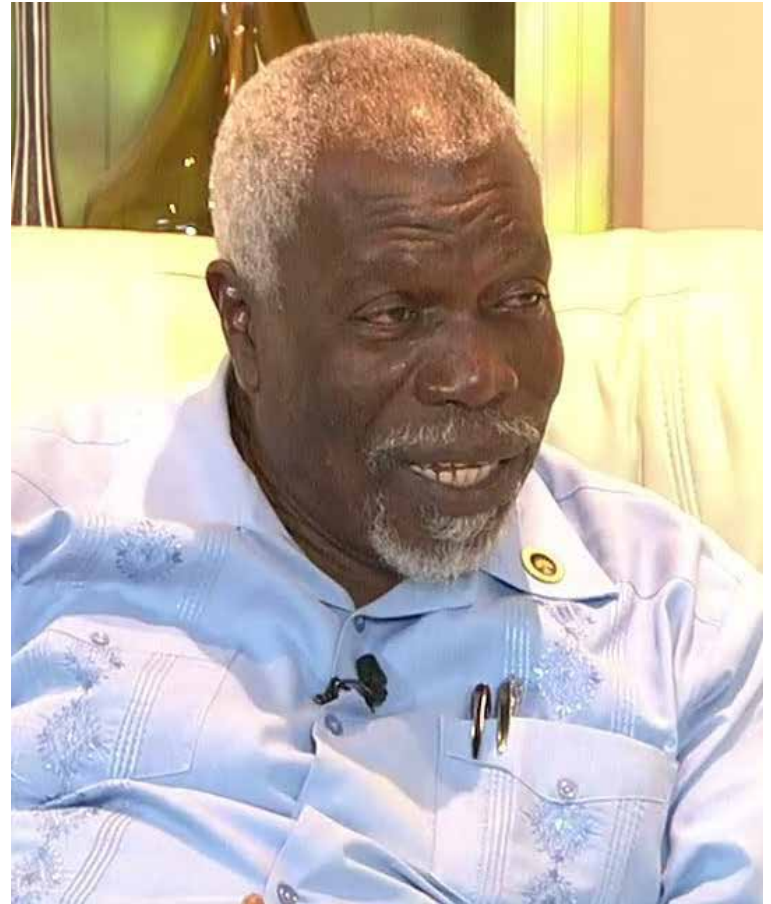
Despite the recommendations of international observers that both the voting and ballot counting processes be modernised using technology, no changes are imminent in Antigua and Barbuda.

Chairman of the Antigua and Barbuda Electoral

Commission (ABEC), John Jarvis, said the existing culture in the country makes it difficult for changes to be made and he has predicted that the introduction of electronic voting and ballot counting are unlikely in the near future.

“The psyche of the Antiguan public [is] we don’t trust each other when it comes to elections. Some of us are mortally afraid of the technology, so it’s going to take the youngsters coming up to lead the charge in this regard,” Jarvis stated.

“Waiting up until 7 o’clock the following morning to hear a result in a constituency is no easy task, and this time around, it will be later because of the system that presently



Chairman of ABEC, John Jarvis

exists,” the ABEC chairman said.

Meanwhile, Supervisor of Elections, Dame Lorna Simon, believes counting ballots at polling stations instead of transferring ballot boxes to specific locations to be counted should be the first change imple-

mented.

This suggestion has been advanced by ABEC in the past, however it has not been adopted.

ABEC’s spokesman, Ian Huges, told Pointe Xpress earlier this month that this change would require changes to the laws which cover the conduct of elections.

Both the ABEC chairman and supervisor of elections are optimistic, however, changes will eventually be made to the electoral system as public education campaigns continue and through the passage of legislation.

### CLASSIFIED AD

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Thu 12 | Day


81° 

Sunshine and clouds mixed. High 81F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.

 Humidity  
73%

 UV Index  
8 of 10

 Sunrise  
6:39 am

 Sunset  
5:51 pm

Thu 12 | Night

74° 


A mostly clear sky. Low 74F. Winds E at 5 to 10 mph.

 Humidity  
78%

 UV Index  
0 of 10

 Moonrise  
10:39 pm

 Moonset  
10:29 am

 Waning Gibbous



## Serpent's brother endorses Dean Jonas

The younger brother of Algernon "Serpent" Watts, the United Progressive Party's (UPP) candidate for St. George, delivered a crushing political blow to his sibling on Tuesday night when he gave a ringing endorsement to incumbent Dean Jonas.

Dean Jonas' campaign apparel at an Antigua Barbuda Labour Party political rally in Potters, Michael Calliste said while supporting his brother may seem like the natural option, he considered other factors when making his decision.

"I am here tonight to endorse Dean Jonas," Calliste

began. "I wasn't paid to come here. I am here to endorse Dean Jonas as our representative for St. George.

"Some of you might be saying, 'Why you not working with your brother? Why you don't vote for your brother?'"

"My answer tonight is simply this to all of you who

ask the question: I only vote for integrity, honesty, transparency and decency!"

"Dean Jonas is a man who will do what he says, not make promises that he can't keep.

"Dean Jonas has proven himself time and time again. I see no other choice for St. George but Dean Jonas!"

## A&B Gov't, British High Commission sign a 3-year MoU for grant funding to establish an Aquaponics project

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development, and the Blue Economy, Joan Moses-Carrott met with the British High Commission on 6th January to sign a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for grant funding received to establish an Aquaponics project for National Vocational & Rehabilitation Center for Persons with Disabilities.

The main objectives of the MoU are:

- To support partner country ambition towards its NDC and other targets.
- To support implementation of the country's UK-funded Commonwealth Maritime Economy Plan, which highlights aquaponics as an area for growth.
- To broaden opportunities for employment of persons with disabilities and enhance their ability to contribute to their households by equipping them with skills and experience in modern agricultural techniques, while holistically tackling depleting fish stocks and the impacts of pesticides in our ground water to help re-



store our marine ecosystem and encourage food security.

- To promote sustainability within the blue economy through safer and innovative farming methods that reduce reliance on pesticides and increase fish stocks through sustainable breeding.

The signing ceremony was at-

tended by Resident British High Commissioner – Lindsay Thompson; Technical Officer in the Department of the Blue Economy – Marver Woodley; Director for Disability in Antigua & Barbuda – Regan Calliste and Field Officers / Project Focal Points – Chenneika Whyte and Rina Browne.

# Retired police woman receives Queen's Police Award

For the second time in a week, Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams, has presented the Queen's Police Medal to a retired Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda officer.

On Wednesday, Sir Rodney presented retired Superintendent of Police, Claudette Brathwaite-Mason, with the award that was first announced last June as part of the late Queen Elizabeth's official birthday celebrations.

Brathwaite-Mason joined the RPFAB in 1972 driven by a determination to serve her country and people.

During her 42 years of service to the organisation, Brathwaite-Mason made her mark on the force as an exemplary leader.

During her tenure, she managed "District 'C'" where she was instrumental in the establishment of community policing and a community watch group.

The retired officer was also active internationally in the work of the International Association of Women Police which helped to increase Antigua and Barbuda's profile within that august body. Antigua and Barbuda which is part of Region 17, was at that time coordinated by

Deputy Commissioner of Police for Trinidad and Tobago, Ann Marie Arlene.

Supt. Brathwaite-Mason also made a sterling contri-

bution to the growth and expansion of the Police Credit Union. Even after her retirement in 2014, she returned to the organisation to help im-

plement its strategic vision. She was elected president of the credit union, a position she continues to hold to this day.



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# Local News

## Dog spotted on airport runway

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority is yet to comment on an incident in which a dog was seen close to the runway at the V. C. Bird International Airport on Tuesday.

A plane spotter filmed the 46 second video which was later posted on Aviation Group @ TAPA, a social media page for airline enthusiasts.

The video showed a British Airways Boeing 777-300 aircraft taking off just

after 4PM on its way to London Gatwick (LGW).

Just a few seconds after the plane began accelerating, a dog was visible in the grass that borders the left side of the runway. The animal cowered briefly, spooked by the sound of the engines, before running away.

Animals on runways are hazardous in the aviation industry as they can lead to accidents, major damage to aircraft

and endanger lives.

The airport was not closed nor were flights diverted.

In July 2022, Trinidad and Tobago's Piarco International Airport closed briefly after two dogs were seen close to the runway.

The closure resulted in flight diversions, while other aircraft that were preparing for takeoff suffered delays while authorities took control of the situation.



**14 JAN 2023 TIME 3PM**

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**RAWDON TURNER**

**HON. E.P. CHET GREENE**

**DARYLL MATTHEW**

**SAMANTHA MARSHALL**

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## WHO urges travellers to wear masks as new COVID variant spreads

By Gabrielle Tétrault-Farber and Natalie Grover

Countries should consider recommending that passengers wear masks on long-haul flights, given the rapid spread of the latest Omicron subvariant of COVID-19 in the United States, World Health Organization (WHO) officials said on Tuesday.

In Europe, the XBB.1.5 subvariant was detected in small but growing numbers, WHO and Europe officials said at a press briefing.

Passengers should be advised to wear masks in high-risk settings such as long-haul flights, said the WHO's senior emergency officer for Europe, Catherine Smallwood, adding: "this should be a recommendation issued to passengers arriving from anywhere where there is widespread COVID-19 transmission".

XBB.1.5 - the most transmissible Omicron subvariant detected so far - accounted for 27.6% of COVID-19 cases in the United States for the week ended Jan. 7, health officials have said.

It was unclear if XBB.1.5 would cause its own wave of global infections. Current vaccines continue to protect against severe symptoms, hospitalisation and death, experts say.

"Countries need to look at the evidence base for pre-departure testing" and if action is considered, "travel measures should be implemented in a non-discriminatory manner," Smallwood said.

That did not mean the agency recommended testing for passengers from the United States at this stage, she added.

Measures that could be taken include genomic surveillance, and targeting passengers from other countries as long as it does not divert resources from domestic surveillance systems. Others include monitoring wastewater around points of entry such as airports.



Passengers walk through the International arrivals area of Terminal 5 in London's Heathrow Airport, Britain, August 2, 2021. REUTERS/Peter Nicholls

### NEW VARIANT

XBB.1.5 is another descendant of Omicron, the most contagious and now globally dominant variant of the virus that causes COVID-19. It is an offshoot of XBB, first detected in October, itself a recombinant of two other Omicron subvariants.

Concerns about XBB.1.5 fuelling a fresh spate of cases in the United States and beyond are on rising amid a surge of COVID cases in China, after the country pivoted away from its signature "zero COVID" policy last month.

According to data reported by the WHO earlier this month, an analysis by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention showed a predominance of Omicron sublineages BA.5.2 and BF.7 among locally acquired infections.

The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on Tuesday issued recommendations for flights between China and the European Union including "non-pharmaceutical measures to reduce the spread of the virus, such as mask-wearing and testing of travellers,

as well as monitoring of waste water as an early warning tool to detect new variants."

The agencies recommend "random testing may also be carried out on a sample of arriving passengers" and "enhanced cleaning and disinfection of aircraft serving these routes."

Last week, the EU's Integrated Political Crisis Response group (IPCR), a body made up of officials from the EU's 27 governments, also recommended all passengers on flights to and from China should wear face masks and random testing of passengers arriving from China.

Many scientists - including from the WHO - believe China is likely under-reporting the true extent of its outbreak.

The WHO is aware that the case-definition of what counts as a COVID-19 death in China is narrow and "not necessarily the case definition that WHO has recommended countries adopt," said Smallwood.

More than a dozen countries - including the United States - are demanding COVID tests from travellers from China.



## Political vacuum in Haiti deepens as senators' terms expire

By **Dánica Coto And Evens Sanon**

AP — Haiti awoke Tuesday stripped of its last democratically elected institution — this time, its Senate — an alarming development that solidifies what some call a de facto dictatorship nominally in charge of a country wracked by gang violence.

While only 10 senators had been symbolically representing the nation's 11 million people in recent years because Haiti had failed to hold legislative elections since October 2019, their terms expired overnight, leaving Haiti without a single lawmaker in its House or Senate amid a spiralling political crisis. Organised crime groups have been running virtually unchecked since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, who himself had been ruling by decree.

"It's a very grim situation," said Alex Dupuy, a Haitian-born sociologist at Wesleyan University, "one of the worst crises that Haiti has had since the Duvalier dictatorship."

The bloody regime of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who fled the country in 1986, marked the last time Haiti lacked elected officials.

The Parliament building in downtown Port-au-Prince remained deserted on Tuesday, with only security guards at the gate. Similar scenes were evident outside Haiti's non-functioning Supreme Court and electoral commission.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who assumed leadership of Haiti with the backing of the international community after Moïse was killed, has failed to hold general elections despite multiple pledges over the last year and a half to do so.



*A police convoy escorts fuel trucks filled with gas as they drive from the Varreux fuel terminal, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Nov. 8, 2022. U.N. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed, speaking to the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2022, urged countries to urgently consider Haiti's request for an international armed force to help restore security in the country troubled by gang violence. A U.N. special envoy said intentional killings and ransom kidnappings have increased sharply, armed gangs control the main roads entering or leaving the capital, the police force is shrinking, and a third of schools are closed. (AP Photo/Odelyn Joseph, File)*

His latest promise, on Jan. 1, was that the Supreme Court would be restored and a provisional electoral council tasked with setting a reasonable date for elections.

But Henry offered no timeline, even as he asked Haitians to trust each other and "take me at my word when I speak of my government's desire to do everything possible to reconstitute our democratic institutions."

"There are no powers to check his decisions," Dupuy said. "As long as that situation continues, Henry is going to be behaving like a dictator."

A spokesman for Henry's office declined to comment.

The U.N. has warned that security in Haiti needs to improve before elections are held. Reported kidnappings soared to more than 1,200 last year, double what was reported the previ-

ous year, according to the U.N., and at least 280 killings were reported in November alone, the highest monthly record.

Briefing the U.N. Security Council in December, Helen La Lime, who was appointed Haiti's U.N. special envoy in October 2019, described what she called "alarmingly high levels of gang violence" in Haiti, which has fewer than 9,000 active police officers nationwide.

The gangs increasingly rely on kidnappings to fund their operations, with experts estimating that they control about 60% of Port-au-Prince.

"We are scared to step out of our houses," said Daniel Jean, 25, who sells phone chargers and other equipment in the capital. "We are cornered: kidnapping, extortions. Gangs are

*cont'd on pg 10*

# The World Around Us



*cont'd from pg 9*

killing people because we don't have ransom."

Haitians have lost all trust in the democratic process, Jean said, adding that he won't vote if the same politicians and parties appear on the ballot: "They have more influence than the gangs. They control all the gangs."

"This is why the country is not going to move forward until the international community ... comes in to help," he said.

Henry requested the immediate deployment of foreign troops in October af-

ter the most powerful gang seized control of a key fuel terminal, cutting off supplies to hospitals, schools, businesses and homes.

But the United States and Canada, among others, have responded only by implementing sanctions, not sending troops.

"Haiti needs stability," decried Andrea Marcele, 29, who sells yams, lemons, carrots and other goods in the streets of the capital after migrating from the northern region of Grand-Anse.

"The country has no president ... no elected of-

ficials," she said. "Everybody is hungry for power. We are paying the consequences."

As the situation worsens, Haitians increasingly flee by plane or aboard rickety boats, desperately risking their lives to reach some safety and economic security. Many aim for the Bahamas, or Florida. President Joe Biden's administration intercepted tens of thousands last year, sending them back to Haiti.

Rodelie Kator, 49, sells rice, beans and other goods, hoping to send her 18-year-old son to Chile or Brazil,

popular destination points for Haitians who then try to reach Mexico and cross into the United States.

"I'm hoping for a better life for my son," she said. "I don't want to witness him being killed."

Kator said she wishes he could stay in Haiti because she has seen in the news "what my brothers and sisters have to go through to get to Mexico. ... being treated like animals."

But Haiti holds no promise for her son, even as Biden announced last week that his administration would immediately turn away Haitians and other migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Haitian economist, Enmy Germain, tried to use this moment, with zero elected officials in Haiti, to encourage his countrymen.

"This date will have marked the beginning of the end of a political class without vision — without regard for the common good and without balance — if you good people get involved," he tweeted. "Know that tomorrow will not be better without you."

But even if elections were to be held, many Haitians wonder whether any candidate will be worthy of their support as they fear for their life.

"It feels like we're heading toward a civil war," said Marcele. "You're walking with a coffin under your arm."



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## Bolsonaro eyes return to Brazil as US stay pressures Biden

AP - The Biden administration is under growing pressure from leftists in Latin America as well as U.S. lawmakers to expel Jair Bolsonaro from a post-presidential retreat in Florida following his supporters' brazen attack on Brazil's capital over the weekend.

But the far-right ex-president may preempt any plans for such a stinging rebuke. On Tuesday, he told a Brazilian media outlet that he would push up his return home, originally scheduled for late January, after being hospitalised with abdominal pains stemming from a 2018 stabbing.

"I came to spend some time away with my family but these weren't calm days," Bolsonaro told CNN's Portuguese-language affiliate in Brazil. "First, there was this sad episode in Brazil and then my hospitalisation."

Bolsonaro arrived in Florida in late December, skipping the Jan. 1 swearing-in of Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who became the first elected Brazilian president not to receive the presidential sash from his predecessor since democracy was restored in the 1980s. Bolsonaro is reportedly staying at the Orlando-area home of Brazilian mixed martial arts fighter Jose Aldo, a fervent supporter.

His visit to the Sunshine



*Resort security officers speak to journalists gathered outside the home where former Brazil President Jair Bolsonaro has been staying, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023, in Reunion, Fla. As Brazil reels from mobs of rioters swarming its seats of power, its former leader has decamped to a Florida resort, where droves of supporters have flocked to cheer on their ousted president. (AP Photo/Rebecca Blackwell)*

state went largely unnoticed in the U.S. until Sunday's attack by thousands of die-hard supporters who had been camping for weeks outside a military base in Brasilia, refusing to accept Bolsonaro's narrow defeat in an October runoff. Their invasion of Brazil's congress and presidential palace left behind shattered glass, smashed computers and slashed artwork.

Almost from the moment the images of destruction were broadcast to the world, Democrats voiced concern about Bolsonaro's continued presence on U.S. soil, drawing parallels be-

tween the rampage in Brazil and the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection by allies of Donald Trump who stormed the Capitol to try to overturn the U.S. presidential election results.

Among those calling for President Joe Biden to give Bolsonaro the boot was Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez.

"Nearly two years to the day the U.S. Capitol was attacked by fascists, we see fascist movements abroad attempt to do the same in Brazil," the New York City lawmaker said. "The U.S. must cease granting refuge to Bolsonaro in Florida."

It should be a no brain-

er for the White House, experts say.

Biden has never had a close relationship with Bolsonaro, who made common cause with Trump's top allies on the far right. And any action to expel him is likely to play well in Latin America, where Biden is courting a crop of new leftist leaders who have risen to power in places like Chile and Colombia expressing similar concerns about threats to democracy.

"It's one thing to make statements about support for democracy," said John Feeley, a longtime U.S. dip-

*cont'd on pg 12*

# Regional News



## Coast Guard rescues Haitians stranded by smugglers

CMC - The United States Coast Guard says it rescued 19 Haitians who were left abandoned by smugglers on the uninhabited natural reserve of Monito Island, Puerto Rico.

It said the rescue was part of ongoing multi-agency efforts in support of Operation Caribbean Guard and the Caribbean Border Interagency Group (CBIG).

The US Coast Guard said it had received a communication from the cutter Joseph Napier last Thursday indicating that 19 migrants were stranded on the rocky cliffs of Monito Island located just off Mona Island, Puerto Rico.

"Heavy sea-state conditions delayed rescue efforts until Sunday when condi-



tions improved and allowed the cutter Joseph Napier's Over the Horizon boat to approach Monito Island," the US Coast Guard said.

"Once the cutter small

boat was in position, each person on the cliff put on a lifejacket and took their turn jumping into the water from where they were safely recovered by the small boat

crew," it added.

"The small boat crew's thorough assessment of the situation and their actions led to the safe rescue of *cont'd on pg 13*

*cont'd from pg 11*

lomat in Latin America who resigned as ambassador to Panama in 2018 over differences with the Trump administration.

"It's another to actually take action in your own home, where you have sovereign control, with someone who is clearly in league with the same folks who brought you Jan. 6," Feeley said.

But so far the Biden administration has proceeded cautiously.

On Monday, State Department spokesman Ned Price, while side-stepping questions about Bolsonaro's presence, said anyone entering the U.S. on a so-called A-1 visa reserved for sitting heads of state would have 30 days to either leave the country or adjust their status with the Department

of Homeland Security at the conclusion of their term of office.

Biden's national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, was similarly circumspect, saying only that any request from Brazil's government related to Bolsonaro would be evaluated, taking into consideration legal precedent. Typically, the U.S. is reluctant to discuss visa issues out of privacy concerns.

Feeley said the longer the Biden administration waits the weaker its support for democracy will be perceived in the region.

One place Bolsonaro apparently isn't going is Italy. The former president is the descendant of 19th-century immigrants from northern Italy and Brazilian media had speculated for

months that he and his children would seek Italian citizenship out of fear he could be prosecuted in Brazil for corruption or his mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic.

But Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani told state radio on Tuesday that Bolsonaro has never requested citizenship — despite being bestowed honorary citizenship in 2021 by the small town where his great-grandfather was born.

"There are laws that address who gets citizenship," Tajani said, emphasizing his far-right-led government's strong condemnation of the raid on Brazilian government institutions by Bolsonaro supporters.

"It is not a political, discretionary choice."



## Three Belize police officers charged in connection with death of detainee

CMC - Belize Police Commissioner Chester Williams says the police force will not shield any member involved in misconduct after three police officers appeared in a magistrate's court late on Monday in connection with the death of 25-year-old Andrew McDougal in December last year.

"It serves us no good to do so. Police officers are

trained to preserve life, not to take life. We are trained to be civil to the people we serve, not to beat up on them. So, when police officer behaves in a matter, as they did with the McDougal matter, they ought to be held responsible," Williams told reporters.

McDougal succumbed to injuries he sustained after being thrown into a police vehicle while being detained



on December 3. His mother, Desiree McDougall, said the police brutalised her son after they caught him smoking marijuana, and they are claiming he was disorderly.

As a result, police formally arrested and charged 29-year-old John Lucas, Jameel Lewis, 25, on charges of manslaughter while 23-year-old Tessa Stuart was charged for perverting the course of justice.

All three officers appeared at the Independence Magistrates Court, where Stuart pleaded not guilty and

was offered bail in the sum of BDZ\$1,000 (One Belize dollar=US\$0.49 cents). Lucas and Lewis did not enter a plea and were remanded until March 27.

Speaking after the court appearance, Williams said the office of the Director of Public Prosecution had given the go-ahead to charge the police officers.

"We want to be as transparent as we can to show the public we are serious about our own when they step out of line," Chester Williams added.

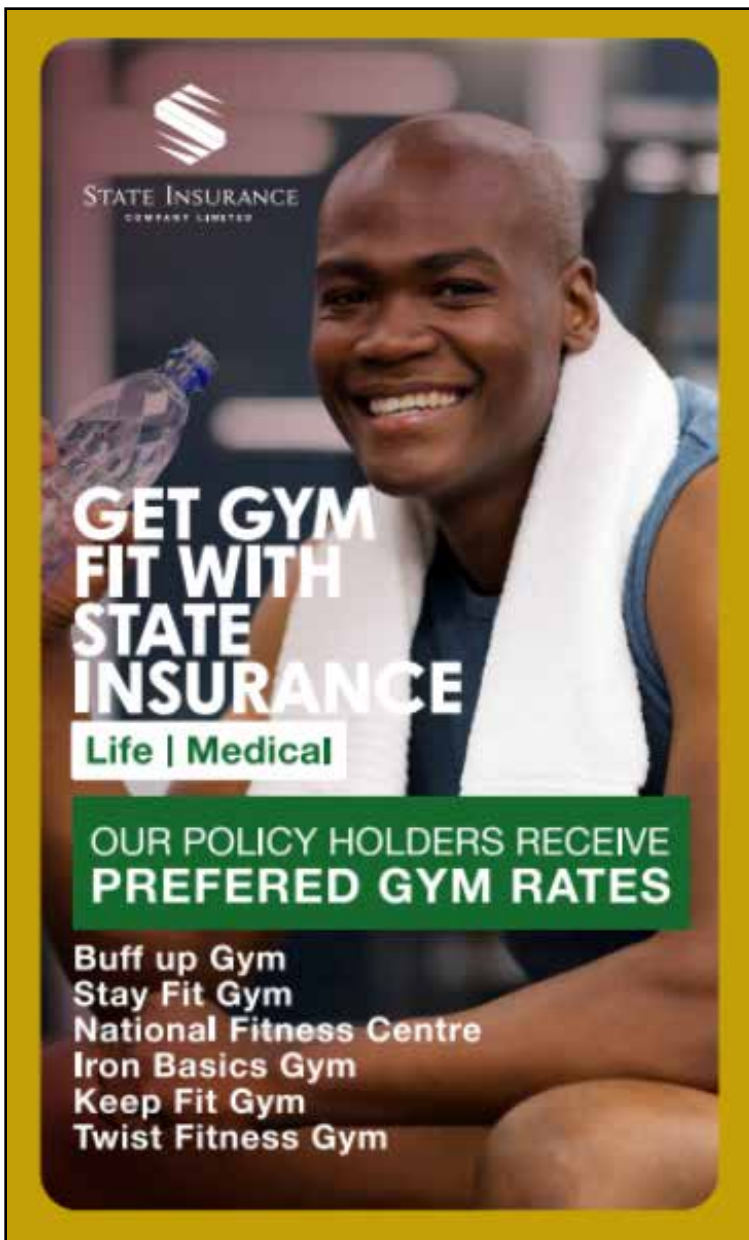
*cont'd from pg 12*

all 19 survivors," said Lieutenant Devonte Weems, Coast Guard Cutter Joseph Napier commanding officer.

"People are risking their lives and the lives of their loved ones at sea without realising how dangerous these voyages can be."

The US Coast Guard said the survivors, ten men, and nine women, were transferred to Ramey Sector U.S Border Patrol agents in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Since October 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, the US Coast Guard said it has carried out 14 illegal voyage interdictions in the Mona Passage and waters near Puerto Rico, detaining 419 non-US citizens, including 327 Dominican Republic nationals, 91 Haitians and one of unknown nationality.



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# Policeman burned to death amid anti government unrest in Peru

AP - A police officer on patrol was attacked and burned to death by protesters in the Peruvian region of Puno as the death toll from demonstrations in the wake of the ouster of former President Pedro Castillo rose to 47, authorities said Tuesday.

José Luis Soncco Quispe, 29, was on patrol with a fellow officer in Juliaca, a city near the border with Bolivia and Lake Titicaca, on Monday night when they were attacked by a mob that later set fire to their vehicle, according to police reports.

Soncco's partner in the patrol car, Ronald Villasante Toque, said the men were "detained and physically attacked by some 350 protesters," according to the reports.

Villasante was taken to a hospital in Lima with multiple head injuries after being beaten. He said he was unaware of what was happening to his partner.

Prime Minister Alberto Otárola confirmed Soncco's death in a session of Congress, saying the men were attacked by protesters.

"Police arrived at the scene and found that one officer had been beaten and tied up, and the other, Luis Soncco Quispe, unfortunately had died," he said. "He was burned alive in his



Residents surround coffins during a vigil for the more than a dozen people who died during the unrest in Juliaca, Peru, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2023. At least 17 people died Monday in southeast Peru as protests seeking immediate elections resumed in neglected rural areas of the country still loyal to ousted President Pedro Castillo. (AP Photo/Jose Sotomayor)

patrol car."

Otárola announced a three-day curfew from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. in Puno, and a day of mourning for the fallen on Wednesday.

Peru's Ombudsman's Office said that since the protests began in early December after Castillo's dismissal, 39 civilians had been killed in clashes with police and another seven had died in traffic accidents, as well as the fallen police officer.

The police officer's death came after the killing of 17 people Monday in Juliaca as protests seeking immediate elections resumed in neglected rural

areas of the country still loyal to Castillo.

The unrest began following Castillo's removal and arrest following a widely condemned attempt to dissolve Congress and head off his own impeachment.

Castillo's successor, his former running mate Dina Boluarte, has supported a plan to push up to 2024 elections for president and congress originally scheduled for 2026. She's also expressed support for judicial investigations into whether security forces acted with excessive force.

But such moves have so far failed to quell the un-

rest, which after a short respite around the Christmas and New Year's holidays have resumed with force in some of Peru's poorest areas, where support for Castillo's unorthodox rule had been strongest.

Castillo, a political novice who lived in a two-story adobe home in the Andean highlands before moving to the presidential palace, eked out a narrow victory in elections in 2021 that rocked Peru's political establishment and laid bare the deep divisions between residents of the capital, Lima, and the long-neglected countryside.



## Scandal-hit EU assembly set to move on anti-corruption plan

AP - Spurred into action by a major corruption scandal, the European Parliament president wants to prevent former lawmakers from lobbying on behalf of businesses or governments soon after they leave office and to make public the names of current members who break assembly rules, a parliamentary official said Wednesday.

Parliament President Roberta Metsola also seeks tougher checks on lobbyists and the public listing of any meetings that lawmakers may have with them, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the measures haven't yet been endorsed by parliament.

The plans were divulged just a month after Belgian authorities arrested four people on charges of corruption, money laundering and participation in a criminal organisation. Lawmakers and officials concede that it may be the biggest corruption scandal to have hit the European Union.

Those charged include a member of the parliament, Eva Kaili, and her boyfriend Francesco Giorgi, an assistant there. They are accused of working with former EU lawmaker Pier Antonio Panzeri who, according to an arrest warrant, "is suspected of intervening politically with members working at the European Parliament for the benefit of Qatar and Morocco" in exchange for payment.

Belgian justice authorities also want parliament to lift the immunity of two other serving EU lawmakers, Italian Andrea Cozzolino and Belgian Marc Tarabella. Both deny involvement. The fourth person currently facing charges is Niccolo Figa-Talamanca, head of the charity group No Peace Without Justice.



Lawyers for former European Parliament Vice-President Eva Kaili, Michalis Dimitrakopoulos, centre right, and Andre Risopoulos, centre left, speak with the media at the courthouse in Brussels, on Dec. 22, 2022. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola on Monday, Jan. 2, 2023 launched an urgent procedure for the waiver of immunity of two lawmakers following a request from Belgian judicial authorities investigating a major corruption scandal rocking EU politics. (AP Photo/Olivier Matthys, File)

"There are not only procedures but very serious laws that have been broken," the official said. "We understand that the trust that has been placed in the European Parliament has taken a hit, around Europe amongst citizens."

The measures, to be debated Thursday among political group leaders, are an attempt "to rebuild that trust," the official said. He described it as "the biggest shake-up when it comes to ethics, when it comes to accountability, when it comes to integrity of the European Parliament" in years.

The official said the plans would introduce spot checks on lawmakers' financial disclosures and links to non-EU countries. They would strip former members of special access badges and oblige them to go through a fast-track process to enter parliament. Other visitors would face more scrutiny.

The centrepiece is an unprecedented measure meant to stop the parliament being used as a "revolving door" by lawmakers once their term has ended. Currently, they are entitled to an allowance for up to two years to help them as they transition to other jobs. Metsola wants to stop them from lobbying for a substantial amount of time, or forfeit their allowance.

In an attempt to change the behaviour of lawmakers unfazed by modest fines but concerned about their image, the official said Metsola wants to set up a page on the parliament's website where the public can see what kind of sanctions their elected representatives might face for misbehaviour.

The measures, some of which Metsola believes could be enacted within weeks, are sure to be met

*cont'd on pg 16*

# International

AROUND THE WORLD



## UK police investigating uranium-tainted cargo at Heathrow

AP - British counterterrorism police are investigating after border officers seized cargo contaminated with uranium at London's Heathrow Airport.

The Metropolitan Police force said Wednesday that "a very small amount of contaminated material was identified after routine screening within a package incoming to the U.K." on Dec. 29.

It said the force's Counterter-

rorism Command is investigating. There have been no arrests.

The BBC reported that the uranium was in a shipment of scrap metal.

The Sun, which first reported the story, said the shipment originated in Pakistan and arrived on a flight from Oman.

Police Commander Richard Smith said the amount of contaminated material was "extremely small

and has been assessed by experts as posing no threat to the public."

He said it "does not appear to be linked to any direct threat," but the investigation continues.

"We will of course, follow every avenue to see what the background to this was and satisfy ourselves that there's no further threat," he said.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's spokesman declined to comment on an ongoing police operation.

*cont'd from pg 15*

with some objections from members of the 705-seat assembly from around the 27-country EU who might

oppose the added burden of obeying new rules about who they talk to.

German Green parliamentarian Daniel Freund,

the assembly's negotiator working on establishing an independent EU ethics body, said that the proposals "are going in the right

direction."

"However, the reform package still falls short. Disclosure of (lawmakers') assets at the beginning and end of the legislature is perhaps the strongest incentive against accepting bribes," Freund said in a statement. He also said that lawmakers' staff and other officials "must be better protected as whistleblowers."

The corruption scandal hit the spotlight as Qatar hosted the soccer World Cup. The small, energy-rich Gulf nation has seen its international profile rise as Doha used its massive offshore natural gas fields to make the country one of the world's richest per-capita, and to power its regional political ambitions.

The EU assembly has halted work on files involving Qatar as it investigates what impact the cash-and-gifts-for-influence bribery scandal might have had. Qatar and Morocco deny involvement.

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## Collins, Kvitova advance to Adelaide International QFs

AP - Last year's Australian Open finalist Danielle Collins needed seven match points but advanced to the Adelaide International quarterfinals on Wednesday with a 6-3, 7-6 (2) win over Swiss qualifier Jil Teichmann.

Collins never lost serve in the first set against Teichmann, although she saved two break points in the eighth game. But she came from 3-1 down in the second set, and won four straight games.

She failed to serve out the win, which set the stage for the match's most dramatic game. From 0-40 down. Teichmann saved five match points on her serve to level the second set at 5-5, after six deuces.

Collins, who lost the 2022 Australian Open final to Ash Barty, later won six of the first seven points of



*Petra Kvitova of the Czech Republic celebrates after defeating Germany's Laura Siegemund in their Group C match at the United Cup tennis event in Sydney, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 1, 2023. (AP Photo/Mark Baker)*

the tiebreaker.

In an earlier match, two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova kept her perfect 2023 record intact after an injury-forced early end to her

match against Zheng Qinwen.

After coming from 5-3 down in a 71-minute opening set, and saving three set points in the ensuing tiebreaker to win it 8-6,

Kvitova moved through when Zheng retired due to a left thigh injury.

"It's not nice to end the match as we (did). I wish her all the best for the (Australian Open) which is soon," Kvitova said on court after the match.

Kvitova, who has been ranked as high as No. 2 in the world and currently sits at No. 16, beat Wimbledon champion Elena Rybakina in the first round.

In men's play, Thanasi Kokkinakis beat top-seeded Andrey Rublev 6-4, 3-6, 6-3. Local player Kokkinakis will take on Miomir Kecmanovic in the quarterfinals after the Serbian eliminated Australian Jason Kubler 5-7, 7-6 (1), 6-4.

Alejandro Davidovich Fokina beat John Millman 6-3, 6-3 to also advance to the quarterfinals.

## Oxford 0-3 Arsenal: FA investigating suspicious betting in FA Cup game

BBC - The Football Association is investigating suspicious betting patterns during Arsenal's FA Cup third-round tie with Oxford United.

The investigation concerns an incident involving an Oxford player during Arsenal's 3-0 win on Monday at Kassam Stadium.

The League One side said they are "aware of a specific allegation of irregular betting" around the game.

They added: "The club will cooperate fully with any investigation."



*League One side Oxford hosted Arsenal on Monday*

## Women's cricket in Afghanistan: Lack of progress 'a concern' for ICC

"It's something our board will consider at its next meeting in March," says CEO Geoff Allardice, as Afghanistan remain only Full Member without a women's team

Afghanistan's continuing lack of commitment to women's cricket has finally become a "concern" for the ICC, as the global body prepares to stage its first Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup later this week. Afghanistan are the only Full Member to not be represented at the event in South Africa, in which 16 teams are participating. Well over a year after the Taliban came to power in Afghanistan, women's cricket has not made any headway at all in the country and signs are that it won't in the near future, compelling the ICC to take up the matter at its next board meeting in March.

The global governing body had formed a working group to review cricket in Afghanistan following the Taliban's takeover of the country in 2021. The group, chaired by the ICC deputy chair Imran Khwaja, met with Afghanistan government and cricket officials in November last year, including the Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen. The government reportedly reiterated its commitment to comply with the ICC constitution, including agree-



Women's cricket in Afghanistan has been a complicated issue • Getty Images

ing in principle to support the development of women's cricket.

But in reality nothing has been done to encourage women to pick up the game, even when they made a formal effort to expand their domestic structure and take cricket to new regions. There are six tournaments across all formats for men's cricket, from age group to senior level. But as yet, there has been no investment in women's cricket, and Afghanistan is the only cricketing nation to have Full Member status without satisfying one of its basic requirements: a fully operational women's team.

And prospects have become bleaker recently, after the Taliban regime ordered an indefinite ban on university education for girls,

which, according to the ICC CEO Geoff Allardice, is concerning.

"Obviously, the recent developments [banning higher education for girls] in Afghanistan are concerning," Allardice said during a virtual press conference. "Our board has been monitoring progress since the change of regime. It is a concern that progress is not being made in Afghanistan and it's something our board will consider at its next meeting in March. As far as we are aware, there isn't activity at the moment."

Since the Taliban took over, many women have fled - or sought to leave - the country. A number of women were working in the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) headquarters

in Kabul, but are no longer coming into the office. Several have reportedly gone overseas.

"Women's cricket in Afghanistan has always been a burning issue and I don't see there is a solution right now," Asad Ullah, until recently a director with the ACB, told ESPNcricinfo. "There will be a cultural challenge and we hardly have a pool of players in the country. In fact, there has never been a women's team even before the Taliban came into power. There were a handful of girls playing cricket within their home as a recreational activity. It never made it onto the field because there was no real intent or platform.

"There hasn't been any interest at all. Definitely

*cont'd on pg 19*



## Felix joins Chelsea on loan, but extends Atletico contract

AP - Portugal forward João Félix joined Chelsea on loan from Atletico Madrid on Wednesday in a deal that will keep him at the Premier League club until the end of the season.

Felix has also extended his contract with Atletico for one more year until June 2027.

"Chelsea is one of the great teams in the world and I hope to help the team reach their objectives, so I am very, very happy to be here and very excited to play at Stamford Bridge," the player said.

Felix became the third most expensive player of all time when Atletico triggered the 126 million euro (around \$140 million) buy-out clause in his contract in 2019 to sign him from Benfica.

The 23-year-old Felix is no longer a guaranteed starter under coach Diego Simeone, but Atletico still moved to extend his existing deal.

"From Atletico de Madrid we wish João Félix every success in this new professional stage," the Spanish club said in a statement.

Felix will hope to rediscover his best form at Chelsea, which has been struggling for attacking inspiration in a poor run of recent results that has left manager Graham Potter under pressure.

Chelsea has now signed four players in January — Ivory Coast forward David Datro Fofana, Brazilian midfielder Andrey Santos and France defender Benoît Badiashile had already joined this month — but Felix is by far the most high profile.

Félix adds to the vast array of attacking options at Potter's disposal, fitness permitting, with the Portugal international — who played in four of the country's five matches at the World Cup in Qatar — competing with Raheem Sterling, Christian



Atletico Madrid's Joao Felix, right, challenges for the ball with Barcelona's Pedri, left, and Alejandro Balde during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Atletico Madrid and FC Barcelona at Civitas Metropolitano stadium in Madrid, Spain, Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023. (AP Photo/Manu Fernandez)

Pulisic, Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, Kai Havertz and Hakim Ziyech for a place in the forward line.

Félix never fully fulfilled the expectations that came along with his high-profile transfer in 2019 to replace Antoine Griezmann, who had left Atlético to join Barcelona. Then 19, Félix was considered by many in Portugal as

the successor to Cristiano Ronaldo and Atlético fans expected him to become one of the team's biggest stars.

His lacklustre first season was blamed mostly on him needing more time to adapt to playing in a top league. He won the Spanish league championship with Atletico the following season despite struggling with injuries and not having a key role in the title campaign. He has since shown spurts of greatness but hasn't played consistently at the level that fans had hoped to see from him.

His departure comes amid reports that he became increasingly at odds with Simeone, who has repeatedly denied having any problems with the player.

**cont'd from pg 18**

they can play, if they want to, but in Afghanistan, it was not an option for girls. There is a big number of girls who left the country thinking that they won't have the freedom to play sports. But are they playing sports in Australia or elsewhere? I don't think so. They left for a better future which is their right but cricket among girls in Afghanistan hasn't been popular anyway and it hasn't been encouraged either.

"It is largely because of the lack of acceptance about women going out. ICC should understand the dynamics in the country and it's not something they can enforce and government can implement at once. It takes time. Every country operates within their own law. There are certain things that aren't open as in western society."

ESPNcricinfo has written to the ACB seeking its official stance on women's cricket but has not yet received a response.

# Sports News



## Jennings, Empire get second wins in ABCA 10 Splash

Jennings Tigers and Empire Nation recorded wins in Zone B of the Antigua and Barbuda Cricket Association's (ABCA) 10 Splash Competition at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

Jennings Tigers trounced Caribbean Union Bank Bethesda Golden Eagles by 45 runs to claim their second win in three matches.

Paul Miller struck 33 off 21 balls with 2 fours and 2 sixes to guide Jennings Tigers to 90 for 7 off their 10 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Captain D'hari Francis contributed 24 off 17 balls and Nicholas Tappin was not out on 17 off four balls.

Chad Walsh snapped up 2 wickets for 3 runs.

Chasing 91 to win, Bethesda could only muster 45 for 8 off their allotted overs as the Golden Eagles tumbled to their first loss in two matches.

Jedidah Martin grabbed 3 wickets for 6 runs while Kenroy Browne picked up 2 wickets for 10 runs.

Opener Anthony "I Roots" Martin top scored with 21 off 22 balls with 3 fours; Kevin Pitman contributed 12 runs from 16 balls.

Empire Nation coasted to a nine wicket victory over Massy United Combined Schools to record their second win in as many matches.

Combined Schools only managed to reach 68 for 6 off their 10 overs after winning the toss and decided to take first strike.

Yanique Watley top scored with 23 off 19 balls and opener Shamar Pereira was not out on 15 off 20 balls.

Tyrone Williams Jr. picked up 2 wickets for 4 runs and pacer Ajahrie Joseph captured 2 for 13.

Empire then secured victory by



Jennings Tigers' Paul Miller (left) accepts the Man of the Match award from the ABCA Treasurer, Radlie Baptiste, at the end of the encounter against Bethesda Golden Eagles at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium on Tuesday, 10th January, 2023. (Photo: ABCA)

cruising to 72 for 1 with eight balls to spare as Combined Schools succumbed to their third loss in as many matches.

Williams Jr., who opened the innings, struck an unbeaten 34 off 25 balls with 3 fours and a six. He shared an unbroken second wicket partnership of 59 runs with Tariq Benjamin, who made a run-a-ball 23 not out.

The ABCA 10 Splash contin-

ues with two matches in Zone B on Thursday; Empire Nation will face All Saints Pythons at 2:30pm while Free-town will take on Bethesda Golden Eagles at 5:30pm.

In a Zone A double header on Friday, Rising Sun Spartans will challenge Bolans Blasters at 2:30 while New Winthorpes Lions will clash with PIC Insurance Liberta Black Hawks at 5:30 pm.





The All Saints Secondary School senior boys team, pictured here, will face ABICE in the Under-20 Boys Division final at the ABFA Technical Center on Friday, 13th January, 2023. (Photo: Curtis Charles)

## All Saints Secondary, ABICE to clash in Senior Boys' League final

All Saints Secondary and the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE) will vie for the Under-20 Boys' Division title in the 2022 Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

The teams will seek to claim the title when they clash in the final at the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Technical Center at Paynters on Friday.

Both teams booked their places into the final by securing wins in their respective semifinal encounters at the ABFA Technical Center on Tuesday.

ABICE snatched a 1-0 win against defending champions Ottos Comprehensive School in the first semi-final encounter.

Following a goalless first half, Shaquan Simmons scored the winner for ABICE with a goal in the 65th minute.

Forward, Wilden Cornwall Jr.,

scored a brace as All Saints Secondary came from behind to overcome the Antigua State College 3 - 1 in the second semifinal.

Nadre Thomas scored in the 25th minute to give Antigua State College a 1-0 lead. Cornwall scored his first goal in the 38th minute to equalise for All Saints Secondary.

Cornwall then gave All Saints Secondary a 2 - 1 lead when he scored a second goal in the match in the 44th minute.

Steven Harriett then sealed All Saints Secondary's victory with a conversion in the 55th minute.

All Saints Secondary and ABICE will meet in the Under-20 Boys Division final at 4pm on Friday.

The final will be preceded by a playoff for third place between the losing semifinalists, Ottos Comprehensive School and the Antigua State College, at 2pm on Friday.

Meanwhile, Princess Margaret School (PMS) could secure their third title in the 2022 Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools Football League Competitions on Thursday.

The PMS Under-20 Girls' team, will seek to achieve a double by winning the Knockout title.

They will clash with the Antigua Girls High School in the Girls Knockout Final at the King George V Ground at 3pm.

PMS went unbeaten through the competition to capture the 2022 Under-20 Girls' Division League title, a feat that was replicated by the PMS Under-14 Boys in their division to win the title.

The Antigua Grammar School claimed the Under-16 Boys' Division crown while the Ottos Comprehensive School captured the Boys' Knockout title.

## Golden Grove secures its first ABFA Second Division win

Golden Grove recorded their first win in the Antigua and Barbuda Football Association's (ABFA) Second Division on Tuesday.

Golden Grove came from behind to hammer Belmont 4 - 1 at the Golden Grove playing field to claim their first win in three matches.

Iandre Hodge scored in the 7th minute to give Belmont a 1 - 0 lead, but Darryl Samuel scored an equaliser for Golden Grove in the 45th minute to ensure both teams went into the interval deadlocked at 1-1.

Golden Grove went on to score three goals in the second half to take control of the match and secure their first victory in the competition.

Justin Periera produced a 48th minute conversion to give Golden Grove a 2 - 1 lead.

Curt Francis netted in the 59th minute to extend his team's advantage and Akeem Francis scored in the 73rd minute to seal Golden Grove's victory.

It was the third loss in seven matches for Belmont who remained on 10 points.

There were wins as well for Bethesda and Freemans



*Golden Grove engage in warm up exercises as they prepare for an encounter in the ABFA Second Division at the Golden Grove playing field on 29th November, 2022. (Photo: Wings Sports Club)*

Village in the Second Division on Tuesday.

O'Shale Simon scored a brace as Bethesda romped to a 4 - 1 victory over CPTSA Wings at the St. Johnston's playing field.

Simon scored his first goal in the 11th minute to put Bethesda ahead and Chunsae Martin netted in the 34th minute to make it 2 - 0.

Rickoy Johnson scored a penalty in the 36th minute to reduce the deficit to give Bethesda a 2 - 1 halftime lead, but Orson Lloyd re-

stored Bethesda's two goal lead with a 64th minute conversion as Simon followed in the 72nd minute to score his second goal of the match and wrap up his team's victory.

It was Bethesda's third win in six matches and the fifth loss for Wings in six appearances.

Freemans Village claimed their fourth win in six matches by pulling off a 1 - 0 win over English Harbour at the English Harbour playing field.

Kahluque Kellman

scored the lone goal of the match in the 18th minute. It was the third loss in seven matches for English Harbour.

The ABFA First Division continues with four matches at 4:20pm on Thursday.

John Hughes will entertain Garden Stars at John Hughes, Police will host Fort Road at the Police Recreation Grounds, Bolans will take on Green City at Bolans and JSC Progressors will face Potters Tigers at the St. Johnston's playing field.