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DNA TESTS TO IDENTIFY HUMAN REMAINS

Story on Page 2



Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene (right) shares a light moment with new Italian Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, Fabrizio Nicolette. Minister Greene is seeking exposure for local fashion designers to the fashion industry in Italy. *Story on page 4.*

Local News



DNA tests will be used to identify human remains

The identity of the individual whose human remains were discovered near Diamond Estate on Monday will likely take some time before it is fully established.

That is because the police will have to turn to DNA

and other forensic tests to help them in their investigations into the identity of the individual, and the cause of death.

Police spokesman Inspector Frankie Thomas reported that the human re-

mains are believed to be that of a male, but that the exact identity of the individual must wait until the completion of full forensic examinations including DNA tests. These tests are likely to be done abroad, as these capabilities are not available locally.

Inspector Thomas said the police were alerted on Monday about the presence of the human remains and immediately a team of investigators converged on the scene. He described the body as being in an advanced state

of decomposition, as only the skeletal remains were present.

He shared that this indicates that the person had died 'for some time' before the remains were discovered.

Meanwhile, the police spokesman also reported that an autopsy has been completed on the Syrian businessman who was allegedly shot to death earlier this month and that the body has been released to the family in preparation for burial. He did not disclose the results of the autopsy.

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Defense makes 'no-case' submission in the Bruce Greenaway murder case

The attorneys representing the four defendants in the Bruce Greenaway murder case have entered no case submissions on the grounds that the prosecution failed to prove its case.

On Tuesday, the prosecution closed its case after calling some 34 witnesses. The Learned Judge Colin Williams, then entertained 'no case' submissions from Defense Attorneys, Lawrence Daniel and Sherfield Bowen as well as Wendel

Robinson and Mr. Andrew Okola.

The Defense, in essence, argued that the prosecution fail to prove even prima facie their case against the 4 defendants, three males and a female from the security services.

The court heard that the circumstantial evidence does not reach the standard of leading to any inescapable conclusion that the defendants are culpable.

The submissions were made in absence of the

jury. The prosecution will respond today.

The incident that led to Greenaway's death happened during the COVID-19 pandemic when a curfew was in effect in the country. The prosecution has alleged

that the four picked up Greenaway on the grounds that he violated the rules of the curfew. He was taken away and was never seen alive, again. His family reported him missing and some days later his body was discovered.

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Local News

Trade minister wants local fashion designers to get exposure in Italy

Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene, is seeking exposure for local fashion designers by making arrangements for them to have interactions with the fashion industry in Italy, one of the most prestigious fashion capitals in the world.

Greene made the intervention when he welcomed the new Italian Ambassador, Fabrizio Nicolette to Antigua and Barbuda on Tuesday. He noted that local fashion designers made an impact at the last installment of CARIFESTA in Barbados, where they were able to interact with Italian designers who were present. Now he wants to take that exposure further.

“It is one of the areas that I would want, as you settle in to look at critically, in terms of providing assistance to the Antigua and Barbuda fashion design sector. Fashion continues to morph and to change and Italy contin-

ues to be a leader in this sphere and I would want our fashion designers exposed to that industry. Our young people are very trendy and would take advantage of these types of opportunities,” he remarked.

Greene, who also holds the Foreign Affairs portfolio, thanked the Italian government for the assistance it offered to the country in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma which caused major destruction to Barbuda.

Both Minister Greene and Ambassador Nicolette expressed concerns at the growing threat of climate change which they both agree affects their countries in different ways.

For example, Greene noted that Antigua and Barbuda is now under threat of a tropical storm which he noted, is an annual experience for the country. Ambassador Nicolette said Italy is ‘very committed’ to fighting



Trade Minister, E.P Chet Greene (right) makes a presentation to new Italian Ambassador, Fabrizio Nicolette.

climate change and sees Antigua and Barbuda as an ally in this regard.

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National Services Sector survey now taking place

A survey to determine the scope and composition of the services sector of Antigua and Barbuda is currently taking place.

Trade Policy Analyst in the Ministry of Trade, Varecia Smith, said the survey is now at the half-way point and its main aim is to find out who the service providers are, in the country.

“We have had several new services coming into being over the past few years and we want to use this survey to get a sense of who they are. During the pandemic, we saw many new businesses, especially in the delivery area. These are in addition to the more traditional services available in sectors such as tourism and construction,” she stated.

Other service areas include health and wellness, fashion design, and the beauty sector. For example, she noted that during the carnival season, there is a huge services sector built around

fetes, from hairdressing, nail technicians, make-up artists, personal care, and clothing design. She added that even the fete promoters are providing a service.

The survey combines a number of methodologies with some face-to-face interviews and interactions via social media.

Smith said the survey concludes on July 17 and there is no definitive timeline as to when the results will be available. However, she noted that the data will be analysed to determine what the critical needs are of the services sector and to develop a plan on how each sub-sector may be supported by the relevant ministries, with appropriate policies and programmes.

“The Ministry of Trade needs to design its policies to help develop the broad swath of services to build capacity and competitiveness of the sectors,” she stated.



Trade Policy Analyst in the Ministry of Trade, Varecia Smith

Disaster personnel sharpen logistics skills at workshop

Disaster personnel in Antigua and Barbuda are engaged in a workshop designed to sharpen their logistics skills with the hurricane season now underway.

Representatives from the National Office of Disaster Services (NODS) and some of its local partners are taking part in an ‘Emergency Humanitarian Logistics Workshop’ at the Antigua Air Station, in Coolidge.

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) and the Caribbean

Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) are delivering the four-day training workshop jointly, intending to enhance the national and regional capacity in disaster preparedness and response.

During the workshop, participants will be exposed to essential training, around logistics in emergency response operations.

They will also develop an understanding of how logistics fit into the larger CDEMA humanitarian aid frame-

work, to maximize its effectiveness in the region.

The workshop complements logistics training, which was done in several islands last year, including Antigua and Barbuda.

Other countries in the region will benefit from these emergency humanitarian logistics workshops.

The World Food Programme works with regional and national partners in the Caribbean to facilitate rapid, effective, and coordinated responses to shocks.

Local News



ABTA launches Romance Campaign in Barbuda

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority launched its romance campaign in Barbuda, in honor of June – The Month of Romance. The Love and Wanderlust campaign which was launched back in June of 2022 has now evolved to include the tagline “The World’s Greatest Love Story,” in keeping with the campaign’s goal to position the destination as the perfect backdrop to any love story. The Barbuda launch included a short ceremony with both Antigua and Barbuda tourism officials in attendance and a billboard unveiling.

In addition, the Barbuda Codrington Airport, which serves as one of the gateways to Barbuda, was transformed into a romantic haven, complete with a beautiful pull-up banner and pink and white decor that set the tone for the “Greatest Love Story.” The welcoming atmosphere at the airport provided a glimpse of the enchantment that awaits couples who arrive on beautiful Barbuda.

The highlight of the launch was the unveiling of a stunning Billboard at the Fisheries Complex - a prime location on Barbuda. The 16x8 Billboard revealed for the first time, local Barbudan couple Jahmeel George and Christoph Greaux and highlights their love story at different ro-



mantic locations on the island. The billboard is a lens into their journey, filled with moments of joy, passion, and discovery. The striking billboard shows images of the Barbudan couple in an enchanting proposal at the caves, enjoying a romantic boat ride to the Frigate Bird Sanctuary and walking hand in hand along the pink sand beach of Barbuda. The campaign’s leading couple who was also in attendance at the launch were gifted with a honeymoon stay from Barbuda Cottages as they make preparations for their nuptials on July 2.

“This initiative aligns

perfectly with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority’s goal to promote not just Antigua, but Barbuda as an exclusive romantic retreat for all couples seeking unique, romantic experiences where they can share their love. Together, with the Barbuda Council, we hope to captivate the hearts and minds of couples and entice them to explore the island’s natural beauty while creating unforgettable and lasting romantic moments,” says Shermain Jeremy, Special Projects and Events Manager and romance pillar lead.

“Barbuda promises an outstanding intimate ex-

perience for honeymoons, anniversaries, or simply a romantic escape to reconnect, and we look forward to welcoming all couples to our beautiful shores,” says Anreka Geness Tourism Marketing Officer for the Barbuda Council, attached to the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the Barbuda Council are excited to invite couples from all corners of the globe to embark on an unforgettable journey of romance and love in Barbuda where the world’s greatest love stories begin...

Jennings Primary top performers win cash prizes from MP

Parliamentary Representative for St. Mary's North, Sir Molwyn Joseph donated a total of \$4000 to the top performers within the last four years of the Jennings Primary School. The money is to assist them in their preparations for secondary school.

The presentation was made on Tuesday at the school's graduation ceremony, held at the Cedar Hall Moravian Church.

It has been a staple for Sir Molwyn to donate \$1000 to the top-performing student for the academic school year, however, COVID-19 prevented him from doing so between 2019 and 2022.



Parliamentary Representative for St. Mary's North, Sir Molwyn Joseph

He, therefore, presented the top performers of the institution for the school years 2019-2020, 2020-2021,

2021-2022, and 2022-2023 with cheques of \$1000 each.

In addition, the Parliamentary Representative promised an increase in the amount from \$1000 to \$1500 for the next academic school year.

During his remarks, Sir Molwyn reflected on his journey noting that he was not born into riches, but that at an early age, he was determined to make a success of his life's journey.

He shared that today, he is the Minister of Health because of the decisions he made in his formative years and the discipline he practiced that was necessary to achieve his success.

Antigua burial for Syrian shooting victim

The funeral service for shooting victim Rhoudi Shmaly who was shot and killed inside Pick N Mix Mart on Desouza Road last month, will be held today.

The Syrian community is expected to gather in large numbers to pay their final respects to the 25-year-old, who was managing the superette and the adjoining business Chicken Hub when he met his demise at the hands of a teenager.

Shmaly's funeral will be held at The Marcilas Antiochian Orthodox Church, located in Blue Waters at 3 PM, after which, his body will be interred at the St. John's Public Cemetery.

A source said the lengthy process of finalis-

ing arrangements, coupled with the cost associated with repatriating the body of Rhoudi Shmaly back to his home country of Syria, led to the decision that he will be buried in Antigua.

According to reports, it would have cost US\$50,000 for the return of the body to Syria.

Instead, it was decided that the deceased man's family will be supported financially.

On 22nd May 2023, a gunman entered Pick N Mix Mart and held up the cashier. The 25-year-old victim, who was reportedly inside the second business Chicken Hub, rushed over, where he met face-to-face with the bandit.

Rhoudi Shmaly was



Rhoudi Shmaly

shot at point-blank range. He was rushed to hospital and pronounced dead on arrival, making him Antigua and Barbuda's first homicide victim for 2023.

A 16-year-old was subsequently arrested and charged with his murder.

The minor is currently on remand at His Majesty's Prison.

Education

Short courses or a degree: Which one should you do first?

By Adeola Matthew,
Recruitment Officer, UWI
Five Islands Campus

The age-old question has been asked across generations, “Which came first – the chicken or the egg?” depending on whom you ask and their perspective or mindset, most persons offer a definitive answer that is supported by a logical justification. The question, though simple, is quite profound primarily

because it is cyclical – after all, chickens come from eggs and eggs come from chickens!

In my role as Recruitment Officer at The UWI Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC), I have been asked a similarly cyclical question by many prospective students: “Should I take short courses first and then try for a degree; or should I complete my degree then take short courses?” Like the chicken and egg ques-

tion, no fixed answer will be true for everyone. Indeed, perspective, mindset and motive play a central role in assessing what should come first.

In some regards, degree programmes and short courses are similar. Both provide avenues for learners to tap into new bodies of knowledge. Additionally, short courses and degree programmes are pathways for students to attain credentials.

Taken together, gaining new knowledge and certification satisfy the basis for which people enrol into education programmes in the first place.

Differences, however, exist in the functions that short courses and degree programmes serve. Let us consider two offerings at the UWI FIC: Bachelor of Science in Nursing (degree programme) and Digital Transformation of the Health Care Sector (short course). Both courses will provide new knowledge and credentials in the broad area of healthcare.

A person who is hoping to start a career in a particular industry, in this case, nursing, will require extensive exposure to content and technical skills on offer, during a degree programme.

On the other hand, for persons who are already nurses but want to differentiate themselves in the workplace by extending their knowledge about digitization in healthcare, the short course would be more beneficial.

Previous knowledge about the field is also key in deciding which should be done first. Consider the offerings Coding for the 21st Century (short course) and Bachelor of Science in Computer Sci-

cont'd on pg 9



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cont'd from pg 8

ence (degree programme). In my experience, many prospective students have limited knowledge about what is entailed in computer-based programmes at the university level and find themselves surprised soon after enrolling.

Taking a related short course, in preparation for a degree programme can be very helpful, especially for younger students who may still be trying to settle on their areas of interest and passion. In contrast, a person who knows exactly what computer science entails, through on-the-job experience, may be better served to dive directly into a degree programme and use short courses to update skills later on in their career.

Short courses are also a useful way to explore knowledge that is outside of your professional sphere but within your scope of interest. Courses such as Grant Proposal Writing and Crisis and Risk Management may provoke curiosity and interest, but you may not desire to pursue a degree in them.

Another consideration as to which should be done first is how much time and money you have to commit to these studies. Short courses at the UWI FIC generally cost about EC\$675 per course and vary in length from ten to thirteen weeks. Conversely, degree programmes range in price from

US\$1800 to US\$5000 annually and will take three to four years to complete.

Ensuring that you are a lifelong learner should be a top priority for everyone, and being credentialed in your new knowledge is just as important. In Antigua and Barbuda, the presence of The UWI Five Islands Campus has made

completing a university degree a more achievable goal now, more than at any other time in our Nation's history. Every household should aspire to have at least one university graduate within the next five years.

But a degree does not need to be the starting point nor the ending point

of learning. Short courses offered by the Lifelong Learning Unit at The UWI FIC provide a conduit for prospective students to get a taste of what a field of study is about before doing a degree, as well as a pathway for degreed persons to up-skill in their chosen field of work or area of interest.



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Business



Carlos Ghosn sues Nissan for \$1bn in defamation suit

BBC - Former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn has reportedly sued the carmaker for more than \$1bn.

The filing marks Mr Ghosn's latest effort to clear his name after he was ousted from the firm in 2018 and arrested in Japan on financial misconduct charges.

Mr Ghosn has said the claims were aimed at derailing his plans for a merger between Nissan and Renault.

He fled Japan in a box while awaiting trial and now lives in Lebanon.

The lawsuit, filed in Lebanon, accuses Nissan, two other companies and 12 people of crimes including defamation and libel, according to Bloomberg and Reuters. A hearing has been scheduled for September.

Nissan declined to comment.

The damages that Mr Ghosn is seeking represent more than 5% of the company's roughly \$16bn market value.

Mr Ghosn once ran the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi Alliance, one of the biggest car-making groups in the world.

Credited with reviving Nissan from near bankruptcy in the early 2000s, Mr Ghosn was appointed chief executive of French carmaker Renault in 2005,



Former Nissan boss Carlos Ghosn

becoming the first person to run two global Fortune 500 companies simultaneously, according to his official biography.

Mr Ghosn says his pursuit of a full merger between Nissan and Renault led to his downfall, alarming some who feared French influence over the Japanese carmaker.

He was arrested in Japan in late 2018, on a number of charges, including claims he deliberately misreported his earnings and used company money to fund his own lifestyle.

Mr Ghosn has denied wrongdoing and called the Japanese justice system "rigged". He is currently unable to leave Lebanon, as

he is the subject of an Interpol Red Notice issued by Japan.

His escape from the country, in which he disguised himself to go unnoticed through the streets of Tokyo and was hidden in a large music equipment box, grabbed global headlines.

In 2021, an American father and son were extradited from the US and sentenced to prison in Japan for helping Mr Ghosn flee.

In 2022, French authorities issued an arrest warrant for Mr Ghosn, after an investigation into whether he had diverted company funds for personal use.

At the time, he said he was confident he could prove his innocence should

any charges emerge.

Lebanon, where Mr Ghosn spent part of his childhood, does not extradite its citizens.

In the filing, Mr Ghosn said the claims would "linger in people's minds for years" and that he would "suffer from them for the remainder of his life, as they have persistent and lingering impacts, even if based on mere suspicion", Bloomberg reported.

Nissan and Renault, meanwhile, have been working to finalise an agreement announced earlier this year aimed at "rebalancing" their partnership, which would reduce Renault's voting power over Nissan.

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- Manages and assists the CFO or their nominee with the preparation of the monthly performance reports;
- Assists with the preparation of annual budgets;
- Services brokers, provides quotations on personal lines and commercial business and direct commercial business;
- Conducts competitor analysis exercises and advises on most appropriate counter strategies;
- Liaises with relevant industry officials, organisations and government bodies;
- Assists with policy signing;
- Reviews staff performance;
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Taiwan kindergarten druggings spark alarm among island's parents

By Derek Cai

Investigations into the drugging of preschool children in Taiwan have sparked widespread alarm on the island.

Teachers at a kindergarten in New Taipei City have been accused of sedating students with cough syrups containing drugs like phenobarbital and benzodiazepines.

Police have been investigating for weeks and say it's not clear why the children were fed the addictive syrups.

But the scandal has sparked family protests outside government buildings.

Hundreds joined a demonstration in New Taipei City on Sunday calling for greater transparency from the police investigation, with many criticising authorities for their lack of public disclosure.

On Monday, a separate case also emerged concerning a medical practice in the southern city of Kaohsiung, on the other end of the island.

The local health department there



Five teachers at a preschool in Taiwan have been accused of drugging students.

found four doctors guilty of misconduct and improper use of phenobarbital on about 20 children. They were ordered to suspend their practice for six months, and were fined 1.4m Taiwanese dollars (£35,989, \$46,121).

Amid growing public concern, Taipei City Hospital has also begun offering free blood tests for preschool children to check for traces of sedatives.

The measures come after the scandal first emerged in May, when parents at a private preschool in New Taipei City accused staff of feeding their children "unknown drugs".

Mike, a father of a five-year-old child, told BBC Chinese that parents had noticed what appeared to be withdrawal symptoms in their children

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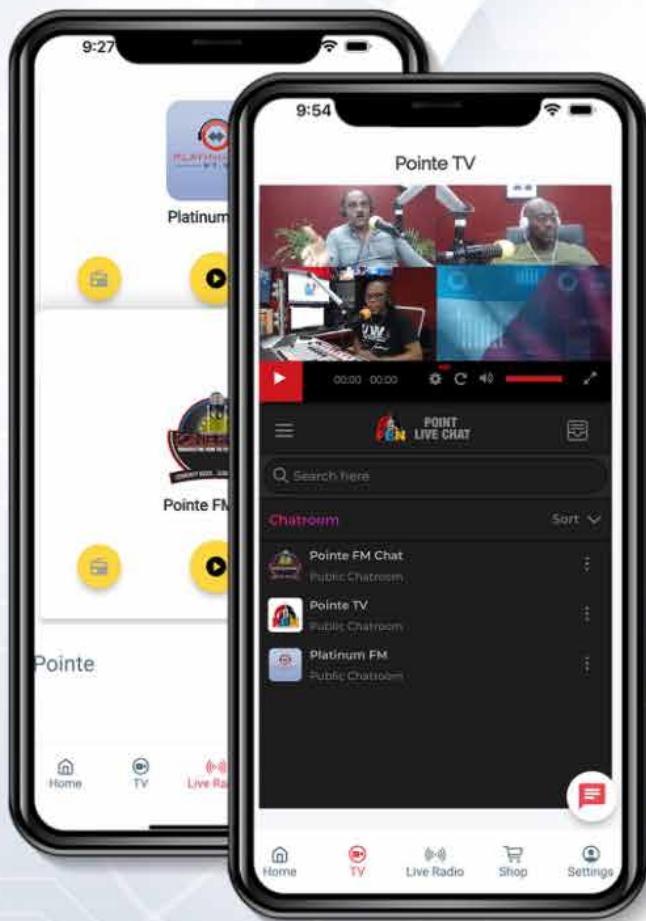
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Technology

TerraUSD: South Korea 'cryptocrash king' Do Kwon jailed

By Peter Hoskins

Do Kwon, the cryptocurrency boss behind the \$40bn (£31.3bn) collapse of the terraUSD and Luna tokens, has been sentenced to four months of jail in Montenegro.

Mr Kwon was found guilty of forging official documents.

He was arrested in March as he tried to board a flight to Dubai at Podgorica Airport, in the country's capital.

Mr Kwon also faces charges in the US and South Korea over the collapse of the two digital tokens last year.

The former finance officer of Mr Kwon's company Terraform Labs, Han Chang-joon, was also sentenced to four months in prison after being found guilty of the same charges.

Mr Kwon and Mr Han pleaded not guilty at their first court hearing in May.

The sentences will include the time that Mr Kwon and Mr Han have already spent in detention after being arrested in March, the court said in a statement.

They will also be able to appeal the verdict within eight days of receiving written notification from the court.



Do Kwon arriving at court in Montenegro.

In February, US regulators charged Mr Kwon and his company Terraform Labs with "orchestrating a multi-billion dollar crypto asset securities fraud".

"We allege that Terraform and Do Kwon failed to provide the public with full, fair, and truthful disclosure as required for a host of crypto asset securities, most notably for Luna and TerraUSD," US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) chairman Gary Gensler said in a statement.

Last year, a South Korean court is-

sued arrest warrants for Mr Kwon and five other individuals connected to the case.

Prosecutors said they believed that Terraform Labs, which is registered in Singapore, had violated capital market rules.

Montenegro does not have extradition treaties with the US or South Korea.

The collapse of the terraUSD stablecoin and the associated Luna token rocked cryptocurrency markets in May 2022.

cont'd from pg 12

over the long Lunar New Year holiday period in February.

"Some parents found their children, over the vacation, had become irritable, restless and screamed when sleeping, and even cried out with leg cramps," he said.

After speaking to the children, parents learnt that their teachers had fed them an "unknown potion". Complaints were filed with police in April and May.

Following more complaints from parents in June, local authorities launched an investigation, and found at least eight children with trace amounts of phenobarbital and benzodiazepines - a class of psychoactive drugs - in their system.

The kindergarten at the centre of the controversy, a franchise of the Kid Castle Educational Institute, was ordered to shut down on 12 June. Its directors have been fined 150,000 Taiwanese

dollars (£3,800 \$4,872).

The principal and five teachers were arrested and questioned by police but have since been released on bail. A criminal investigation is underway.

Local media reported that the staff said the parents had consented to a list of medicine provided by the school but some parents in response questioned the medicines used by the school.

A Taiwanese pharmacist told local media that, al-

though rare, some cough and gastrointestinal medicine contain phenobarbital.

Drugs containing phenobarbital are mostly used in the treatment of epilepsy and or used as surgical anaesthesia, and are difficult to obtain. Benzodiazepines are a class of depressant drugs most commonly used to treat severe anxiety.

The drugs are highly addictive, and overdose may lead to drowsiness and shortness of breath.

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Regional News



SVG: Dominican national found dead in vehicle outside school

Loop - Police in St Vincent and the Grenadines are investigating the discovery of a partially decomposed body which was found in a vehicle parked outside the Kingstown Preparatory School.

The deceased has been identified as Gregory Linton, 43, of Dominica/Glen. He was an Agricultural Engineer and worker with the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI).

The Royal St Vincent and the Grenadines Police Force says a post-mortem examination will be conducted on the body to ascertain the cause of death.

Meanwhile, the Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (CARDI) says it is left in shock and deep sadness over the passing of their dear colleague Gregory Linton.

The Institute in memoriam says Greg, a Dominican national, served as the CARDI Representative in St Vincent and the Grenadines, since 2017. He was a qualified Agricultural Engineer specialising in Agricultural Parasitology and a Plant Health Specialist by training.

Before being promoted to the role of CARDI Representative, Greg was employed as a Research Assistant at CARDI Dominica, working primarily under the Black Sigatoka project, evaluating banana and plantain accessions tolerant to black Sigatoka disease (BSD), as part of an Integrated Management Framework for black Sigatoka disease.

Prior to his passing Greg was involved in the implementation of the Regional Coconut and Sweet Potato projects in St Vincent and the Grenadines. Just last week he participated



Gregory Linton.

in a Regional Coconut Workshop in Grenada where he shared his experiences with managing coconut pests.

It says one of Greg's most significant achievements was being part of a team which developed a locally produced lime Sulphur base organic post-harvest treatment for dasheen. This treatment allowed farmers to successfully restart export to the lucrative European market.

At the time of his passing, he was working with local and international partners to fine-tune this treatment as well as test more environmentally friendly pesticides as post-harvest treatment options.

Greg was the face of CARDI on multi-agency teams that conducted post-disaster risk assessments for the agricultural sector following natural disasters across CARICOM.

He was involved in assessments following the passage of Hurricane Maria (Dominica, 2017), Hurricane Dorian (the Bahamas, 2019), flooding (Guyana, 2021) and the eruption of La Soufrière volcano (St Vincent

and the Grenadines, 2021).

His leadership on these missions was always efficient and highly commendable, facilitating quick decision-making, to minimise loss of livelihoods and reduced suffering.

Greg was an outstanding researcher. He will be remembered by his CARDI family as a dedicated, compassionate professional always willing to go the extra mile - many times at short notice. His sound technical insights will be missed.

Before his time at CARDI, he served as a Plant Quarantine Inspector at the Ministry of Agriculture, Dominica and completed a pre-professional internship in Mexico in a campaign against Huanglongbing (HLB) in citrus.

He graduated with a Master of Science in Plant Protection and was also qualified as an Agricultural Engineer specialising in Agricultural Parasitology (Plant Parasites) from the Chapingo Autonomous University, Texcoco, Estado de México, Mexico.

Guyana: Local Government minister released on bail

CMC - Embattled Local Government and Regional Development Minister, Nigel Dharamlal, has been placed on one million dollar station bail after he was arrested on Monday in connection with allegations of sexual assault of a 16-year-old school girl.

Police had arrested the minister, who has since gone on leave to facilitate the probe when he presented himself at the Brickdam Police Station in the company of his attorney, Nigel Hughes, where he was told of the allegation.

Hughes, a prominent civil and criminal lawyer said that his client was not questioned during the eight-hour long detention, but the allegation had been put to him.

"An allegation was put to him consequently he was a suspect so the opportunity for cooperation did not

arise," Hughes said, adding that Dharamlal is expected to return to police at 8.00 am on Tuesday at which time the defence team would provide evidence that Dharamlal did not commit the act he has been accused of.

"Through his counsel, we informed the police that we are in possession of evidence which contradicts the allegation and will be providing that to them today," Hughes said.

On Sunday, President Irfaan Ali said that he has "no problem" with a request made by Dharamlal, to proceed on leave to facilitate the investigation.

"The minister has requested leave for a full probe into the allegations and I have no problem with it. I have agreed," Ali told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) in a telephone interview.



Former Local Government and Regional Development Minister, Nigel Dharamlal.

CXC exams on unless governments order a cancellation due to Bret

Loop - As the Caribbean braces for the impending Tropical Storm Bret, if a country's Ministry of Education has not ordered a cancellation of the examinations, then Caribbean Examinations Council exams are still on in the territory.

This is the premise that CXC® will operating on for the ongoing CAPE, CSEC and CCSLC exams.

In a statement issued this evening, Tuesday, June 20, 2023, CXC® is currently monitoring Tropical Storm Bret as it approaches

the region.

The statement said:

"During and after the passage of this weather system, the safety and well-being

of all our stakeholders is paramount. We urge all stakeholders to follow the safety directives provided by each government.



"CXC® is in dialogue with ministries of education across the region as it relates to the examinations which may be affected in their country. For countries where their government has not ordered a cancellation of the examinations, all examinations are expected to be administered as normal.

Continue to remain safe and we pray that the storm will pass by with minimum damage."

CXC® promised to update as further information is provided by the region's Meteorological Services.

Hunter Biden to plead guilty to tax crimes and admit gun offence

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

US President Joe Biden's son, Hunter Biden, is expected to plead guilty to two misdemeanour tax crimes and admit to illegally possessing a gun while a drug user, after a five-year investigation.

The US Attorney in Delaware has filed papers indicating a plea agreement has been reached.

The terms of the agreement are likely to keep him out of jail.

Top Republicans have called it evidence of a "two-tiered system of justice".

In theory, the president's son still faces a maximum penalty of a year in prison on each of the tax charges and 10 years in prison on the gun charge, the justice department said in a statement.

He is expected to agree to drug treatment and monitoring as part of the proposed deal.

The final deal would need to be approved by the judge in the case, who will also determine his sentence.

It is unclear when Hunter Biden will appear in court to enter his guilty plea on the tax charges.

He will admit to felony gun possession as part of a "pre-trial diversion agreement" that is separate from the plea deal, his lawyer Chris Clark said in a statement.

"I know Hunter believes



Hunter Biden is expected to avoid jail time under a plea agreement.

it is important to take responsibility for these mistakes he made during a period of turmoil and addiction in his life," Mr Clark added. "He looks forward to continuing his recovery and moving forward."

Mr Clark told MSNBC that the conditions of his client's probation were "up to the court" but that he expected Mr Biden would be released without conditions after his court appearance.

"I think the judge is going to do what's fair and I think what's fair is my client gets on with his life," he said.

Hunter Biden, 53, has previously worked as a lawyer, and a lobbyist including abroad in China and Ukraine. He was discharged from the US Navy in 2014 after testing positive for cocaine.

The plea deal brings to an end a long-running justice department investigation into whether he properly reported his income and made false statements on

paperwork used to purchase a firearm in 2018.

The two misdemeanour tax charges stem from a failure to pay more than \$100,000 (£78,000) in taxes in both 2017 and 2018. A former justice department official told CBS, the BBC's US partner, that these amounts would lead to most clients being charged with misdemeanours, but "in the jail time range".

The gun charge stems from a 2018 possession of a firearm while a drug user.

In a 2021 book, the younger Mr Biden admitted to being a heavy user of crack cocaine at that time.

But he reportedly said "no" on a federal form asking if he was "an unlawful user of, or addicted to, marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, narcotic drug or any other controlled substance". Lying on these forms can lead to jail time.

The deal comes as some Republican lawmakers and presidential candidates have accused Joe Biden of "wea-

ponising" the justice department against political opponents.

Hunter Biden has long been a target of scrutiny from conservatives, who have alleged that his dealings overseas indicate a pattern of corruption.

News of the plea deal was met with swift and strong criticism from Donald Trump and his campaign, as well as senior congressional Republicans.

Karoline Leavitt, a spokeswoman for the pro-Trump Make America Great Again Inc, called the agreement a "sweetheart deal" that allows the justice department to "turn a blind eye" to corruption. Mr Trump, for his part, called the deal a "mere traffic ticket".

House majority leader Kevin McCarthy told reporters on Capitol Hill that the deal was evidence of a "two-tier" system of justice and vowed that the case would "enhance" a separate Republican investigation into Hunter Biden.

Prominent Democrats have remained largely quiet on the case. David Brock, a former right-wing investigative reporter turned pro-Democrat operative, said in a statement that the case should now be considered closed since "Hunter will not be charged with any of the unfounded and outlandish issues Republicans

cont'd on pg 19

Japan sterilisation law victims included nine-year-olds

By Derek Cai

Two nine-year-olds were among the 25,000 people forcibly sterilised in Japan under its post-World War Two eugenics law, a parliament report has revealed.

The law, in place for 48 years, forced people to undergo operations to prevent them having children deemed “inferior”.

Many of them had physical or cognitive disabilities, or mental illness.

The law is widely recognised as a dark chapter in Japan’s post-war recovery and was repealed in 1996.

On Monday, parliament released a long-awaited 1,400-page study, based on a government investigation which began in June 2020.

It acknowledged that about 25,000 people had been subjected to operations - more than 16,000 of which were performed without consent.

Some people were told that they were undergoing routine procedures like ap-



The families of those who have been forcibly sterilised demand compensation.

pendix operations, the report disclosed. Local governments at the time had the power to arbitrarily assign the surgery.

The two nine-year-olds who were sterilised were a boy and a girl, the report said.

An 80-year-old victim, who was forced to have the surgery at 14, told local media the report was proof the government had deceived children.

“I would like the state not to shroud the issue in the darkness but take our sufferings seriously soon,” said the victim who wished to be known as Saburo Kita.

Critics of the report say it does not address why it took nearly 50 years for the law to be scrapped, nor explain the reason behind the creation of the law.

The report’s wider findings have drawn outrage on social media.

One Twitter user said it was sickening to find out that children as young as nine were sterilised.

Another criticised the government for being too slow to repeal the eugenics law, while expressing hope that Tokyo would also look at laws that limit the rights of women and LGBTQ persons.

Tokyo apologised in 2019 and agreed to pay each survivor 3.2 million yen (\$28,600; £22,100).

Then Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in the official apology that the eugenics law caused “great suffering” to its victims.

Other countries that have had forced sterilisation policies include Germany, Sweden, and the US. They have also apologised and paid reparations to surviving victims.

cont’d from pg 18

and right-wing media have used to smear him with for years”.

In a brief statement, the White House also said that Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden “love their son and support him as he continues to rebuild his life. We will have no further comment”.

While the younger Mr Biden has detailed a troubled life and “massive drug addiction”, he long denied engaging in illegal activity.

He first admitted knowledge of an investigation into him in December 2020.

In a statement at the time, he said that he was “confident that a professional and objective review of these matters will demonstrate that I handled my affairs legally and appropriately, with the benefit of professional tax advisers”.

Mr Clark has said he believes the investigation is now “resolved”, but the justice department in its statement said that the probe is “ongoing”.

Andrew Tate charged with rape and human trafficking

BBC - Controversial influencer Andrew Tate has been charged in Romania with rape, human trafficking and forming an organised crime group to sexually exploit women.

His brother Tristan and two associates also face charges. All have denied the allegations.

The Tate brothers were first arrested at their Bucharest home in December.

In March, they were moved from custody to house arrest following a ruling by a Romanian judge.

The indictment deposited with the Bucharest court says that the four defendants formed an organised criminal group in 2021 to commit human trafficking in Romania, but also in other countries including the US and the UK.

It names seven alleged victims who it says were recruited by the Tate brothers through false promises of love and marriage.

The alleged victims were later taken to buildings in Ilfov county in Romania where they were intimidated, placed under constant surveillance and control and forced into debt, according to a statement from Romanian prosecutors.



Andrew Tate, left, and his brother Tristan were first arrested at their Bucharest home in December.

The defendants allegedly then forced the women to take part in pornography which was later shared on social media.

One defendant is accused of raping a woman twice in March 2022, the statement adds.

The trial will not start immediately and is expected to take several years.

A Romanian judge now has 60 days to inspect the case files before it can be sent to trial.

The media team for the Tate brothers said: "While this news is undoubtedly predictable, we embrace

the opportunity it presents to demonstrate their innocence and vindicate their reputation."

It added that the indictment "allows us to present a comprehensive body of evidence, diligently collected and prepared over time, which will undoubtedly substantiate the brothers' claims of innocence".

There are also separate charges still under investigation which could lead to a separate indictment, including money laundering and trafficking of minors.

In 2016, Andrew Tate,

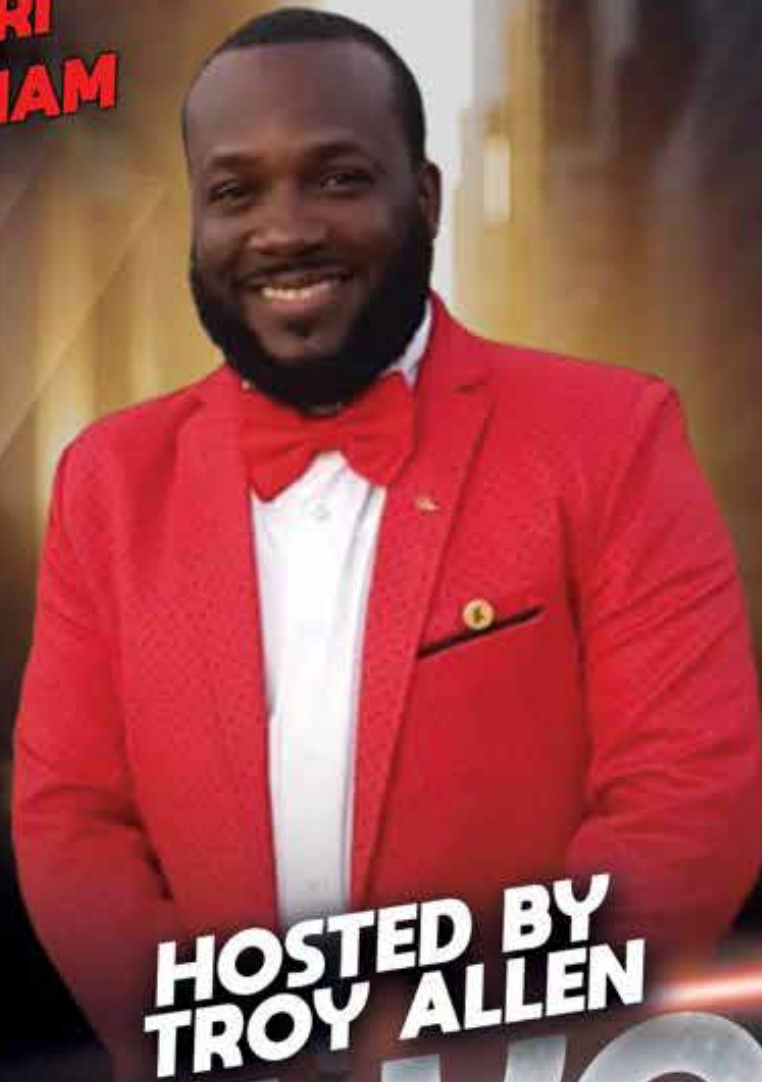
a British-American former kickboxer, was removed from British TV show Big Brother over a video which appeared to show him attacking a woman.

He went on to gain notoriety online, with Twitter banning him for saying women should "bear some responsibility" for being sexually assaulted. He has since been reinstated.

Despite social media bans, he gained popularity, particularly among young men, by promoting what he presented as a hyper-masculine, ultra-luxurious lifestyle.



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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Australia win first Ashes Test against England

BIRMINGHAM, England (AP) - Australia captain Pat Cummins led his side to a remarkable two-wicket victory yesterday (Tuesday) in the Ashes opener at Edgbaston, holding his nerve in a heart-pounding chase that left Ben Stokes and his England team distraught.

The shadow of the famous 2005 Test between the old rivals had loomed large over this final day but where England edged that one in a dramatic two-run win, Cummins exorcised some of those ghosts as he ushered the tourists home amid unbearable pressure.

Cummins made an outstanding, unbeaten 44 as he led a match-winning stand of 55 with number 10 Nathan Lyon, who clung on for 16 not out. Between them they ensured Australia successfully completed their second highest chase in England conditions, reaching a target of 281 that had seemed beyond them less than an hour earlier.

Stokes looked to have dealt the decisive blow when he landed the key wicket of Usman Khawaja for 65, defying the aches and pains of his chronic knee problems to dismiss the man who seemed to hold the result in his hands.

But the England skipper's Midas touch evaded him when he leapt to pluck an outrageous one-handed catch out of the sky, only for the ball to slip through his fingers as he fell to earth. Lyon, on two at the time, was able to breathe again and kept his captain company until the climax.

The end came in agonising fashion at 7.20pm – 80 minutes after the scheduled close due to morning rain – when Cummins steered the ball to deep third and a sprawling Harry Brook parried



Australia captain Pat Cummins celebrates after beating England during day five of the first Ashes Test cricket match, at Edgbaston, Birmingham, England, Tuesday, June 20th, 2023. (AP)

the ball for four.

England were hampered by Moeen Ali's badly blistered finger, with the first choice spinner barely able to contribute after sneaking the wicket of Travis Head in his first over.

It was a gamble England had taken when they asked a player two years into his Test retirement to step into the breach and it left them leaning heavily on Joe Root's occasional off-breaks.

More surprising was the peripheral performance of record wicket-taker James Anderson, not used at all in the final session as he watched the game slip away from the outfield.

But those questions, alongside those over Jonny Bairstow's missed chances as wicketkeeper and Stokes' day one declaration, must wait for another time.

Heavy overnight rain and morning showers kept the players in the dressing rooms until 2.15pm, more than three hours after the scheduled start, but there was still just enough time to create an Ashes classic.

The opening session was something of a false dawn, with Australia

nudging defensively to add 76 runs for the loss of two wickets.

With 54 needed and two tail-end wickets in hand, it looked too much for Australia. But they came again as Cummins hammered Root for two sixes, an abrupt end to his day's work and vitally important runs.

With 27 needed England finally unwrapped the new ball, only for Lyon to punch Broad through mid-off for four. The target dropped into the teens when Cummins flashed Robinson for four through cover – Pope briefly sensing a chance but failing to get a finger on it.

England's record wicket-taker Anderson was overlooked in the closing moments, with Stokes trusting the final moments to Broad and Robinson. With Cummins controlling the chase with commendable coolness, England were desperate to get at the more vulnerable Lyon.

When he stepped inside the line and hit Broad over mid-on, it felt like hope had gone and Cummins sealed victory, leaving England to wonder what might have been.

Club volleyball champions Da Squad and Stoneville dominate individual awards

Players of female and male division champions Caribbean Alliance Insurance Da Squad and Stoneville, respectively, dominated the individual awards in the recently concluded Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Local Club League.

The competitions ended at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday night with both teams, which won the league championship in their respective divisions, adding a second title to their collection by also capturing the President's Cup titles.

Dairyllis Cruz-Perez of Da Squad captured the Most Valuable Player (MVP) Award in the female division. Cruz-Perez also secured the awards for the Best Scorer and the Best Receiver.

D Squad's Chenoa Evans shared the award for the Best Outside Hitter with Joelle Thomas of the Jets, who captured third place in the female league competition.



From left to right: Dairyllis Cruz-Perez, Chenoa Evans, Angelina Morris-Silston and Ismay Caraballo of Da Squad.



From left to right: Delshun Welcome, Braulio Estrada, Adrian Constant, and Olson Joseph of Stoneville along with Carion Davis of Storming Lions. (Photos by Elwin Francis)

Ismay Caraballo of Da Squad and Ricka Michael of North Coast Hardware Starz Seniors shared the award for the Best Middle Blocker.

Angelina Morris-Silston of Da Squad also claimed the award for the Best Setter.

Two players from North Coast Hardware Starz Seniors, who finished in the runner-up positions in the female division of the league and President's Cup, captured three other individual awards.

Starz Seniors' Tiffany Kaladin claimed the awards for the Best Digger and Best Libero, while Gizele Azar secured the award for the Best Setter.

The Best Opposite Awards in the female division was captured by Sharon "Tessa" Payne of the Jets.

Adrian Constant of Stoneville claimed the MVP accolade in the male category. Constant also secured the awards for the Best Scorer, the Best Server, and the Best Opposite.

Braulio Estrada of Stoneville captured the awards for the Best Receiver and the Best Digger. Stoneville's Olson Joseph claimed the award for the Best Setter.

Delshun Welcome of Stoneville and Jamarie James of High Flyerz shared the award for the Best Outside Hitters.

Carion Davis of the Caribbean Alliance Insurance Storming Lions and Delron Fredericks of High Flyerz shared the award for the Best Middle Blockers. Kelroy Samuel of High Flyerz took the award for the Best Libero.



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ABNDA happy with domino players' achievements at national sports awards

The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) is proud of the accolades it received during the 30th edition of the National Sports Awards at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration on June 10th.

Players Renfield Davis and Francine Hector of the Antigua and Barbuda Domino Association were crowned Mind Sports Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year 2022 at the event.

The Public Relations Officer of the ABNDA, Carol-Faye Bynoe, said the national association is proud of the achievements of its domino players.

"Well, we are very happy about it. This will be the second time in a row or the third time that we are winning out in the mind sports segment or category," Bynoe said.

"So we are very happy about our accomplishments. Domino, in our minds, and we know for a fact, has come a long way, so we are very happy with our victory."

West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph and IFBB Elite Pro Bikini Fitness bodybuilder Ambassador Kimberly Percival were named Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year for 2022.

Swimmers Ethan Stubbs-Green and Ellie Shaw claimed the titles of Junior Sportsman and Sportswoman of the Year 2022, respectively.

It was the first time the National Sports Awards were being held since sports came to a standstill for approximately two years after being brought to a halt in Antigua and Barbuda in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Bynoe said, similar to the other sports, the domino players in Antigua and Barbuda had to play online to keep in touch with the game due to the restrictions that were imposed by the au-

thorities to control the spread of the virus during the peak of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Bynoe said similar to the other sporting disciplines, domino players are equally happy to be free to play the game without restrictions now that life has returned to the level of normalcy that they enjoyed prior to the recent pandemic.

"It was hard for a lot of people. A lot of people felt very restricted in confinement, like most of everybody else," Bynoe said.

"But all in all, I think quite a few of us downloaded domino games on our phones and so on to keep our minds sharp and our skills and techniques in check.

"But still, the physical elements were missing for the most part, and like everybody else, we are glad to be liberated from under that confinement of the pandemic."



Francine Hector, right, accepts her Sportswoman of the Year Award during the 30th edition of the National Sports Awards at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration on June 10th, 2023.



Renfield Davis, left, accepts his Mind Sports Sportsman of the Year Award from Senator Shenella Govia during the 30th edition of the National Sports Awards at the St. John's Pentecostal Church House of Restoration on June 10th, 2023. (Photos courtesy Ministry of Sports)

Golden Grove retain Primary School Cup

Golden Grove Primary School scored a hat-trick in winning the Primary School Cup football competition for the third consecutive time on Monday.

Golden Grove retained the title by beating TN Kirnon Primary 2-0 in the final at the Rising Sun playing field to win the national primary school football competition for the third successive time.

The league's top goal-scorer and most valuable player, Captain Robert Jeffery, and Keadon Sochell were the goal scorers for Golden Grove Primary.

Jeffery dominated the individual awards by also capturing the player of the match accolade and the Golden Boot title by scoring 25 goals during the competition. His team-mate Jaham Anderson claimed the best goalkeeper award.

It was also the third consecutive time that Karen Warner, a certified Conca-caf B licensed coach, had guided Golden Grove to the Primary School Cup title.

Warner said the latest title is dedicated to the faculty of Golden Grove Primary

School.

"It's a great feeling. The players wanted it, we wanted it, and we are taking it back to Golden Grove Primary School to the principal, staff, and everybody at Golden Grove Primary School," Warner said.

"They (TN Kirnon Primary) gave us more of a fight. We actually had to work for our goals in order to achieve our victory today."

Coach Nekiesha "Tiki" Samuel said nervousness at the start of the game contributed to TN Kirnon Primary's demise as they conceded two goals in the first half, but they were able to improve on their performance in the second half.

Samuel also showed some respect to Warner, whom she holds in high regard.

"We've been butting heads since I was at Potters. She was at Mary Pigott in the same final, and she won. I went to Pigotts, and she was at Golden Grove, and she won.

"Like I said, she is the better coach, and I really look up to her and every-



Captain Robert Jeffery hold the trophy after playing his part to allow Golden Grove to win the Primary School Cup football competition by beating TN Kirnon in the final at the Rising Sun playing field in St. John's, Antigua, on Monday, 19th June, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

thing like that," Samuel stated.

"But I am okay with the guys' performances; they really came a long way. I think some of them were very nervous, from the goalkeeper down to the defenders.

"We had two star players coming late, and we gave up two easy goals in the first half. But after I spoke to them in the second half, I think we came back

and gave them a better half. But I think we could have done really better."

Samuel said the players at TN Kirnon Primary will commence preparations for next season during a one-month camp this summer.

"We have to go back to the drawing board. We have a one-month camp coming up; we are going to start training, and we are going to get ready for next year," Samuel said.