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SENATE DEBATES AMENDMENTS TO REGISTERED LAND ACT

Story on Page 2



Three songs were played equally on the road on J'ouvert morning and all three artists will be sharing the Road March title. The official Carnival results named the artists Ricardo Drue (centre) with his Last Man Standing, Claudette Peters' Nat U (right), and Empress (left) with Let It Rain. *Story on page 6.*

Senate debates amendments to Registered Land Act

The Senate, on Wednesday, took up debate on an amendment to the Registered Land Act, which is designed to bring all lands in the state of Antigua and Barbuda under a common registry of lands.

Mover of the bill in the Upper House, Senator Samantha Marshall, noted that currently lands on Barbuda are not registered at the Land Registry located in St. John's. It was also noted that the Privy Council, in a recent ruling determined that the lands of both Antigua and Barbuda are registered in the crown. Sen. Marshall

said it was only prudent that the government would move to have the lands on Barbuda formally registered.

“The purpose of this bill is to make provisions for the registration of any person who is entitled to be registered as a proprietor of any land which is registered in the name of the crown. It will also prohibit any dealing of any lands until the person who should be registered as proprietor is so registered. Additionally, I believe this bill also addresses what was declared by the Privy Council that dealt with the ownership of



Senator Samantha Marshall

the lands in Barbuda and to whom those lands would be vested. It was declared that those lands are vested in the crown,” she explained.

Sen. Marshall emphasized that the new amendments to the bill make it clear that it applies to lands in the state of Antigua and Barbuda. She added that the government was only doing ‘the right thing’ to ensure that the language, as laid down by the Privy Council, is therefore reflected in the bill.

“What this has done is to make it very clear that the Registered Land Act applies to the state of Antigua and Barbuda,” she remarked.

The Barbuda Council appointee in the Senate, Sen. Fabian Jones voiced objections to the provisions of the bill noting that it will remove from the Council the authority to administer the lands on the sister island.

He said this situation

will likely cause conflict, as it appears that the Council may be unwilling to relinquish its current controls of the land. It was the Council that took the land issue to the Privy Council where it lost its case.

In her contribution, Barbudan Senator on the Government side, Senator Knacyntar Nedd described the current land distribution system in Barbuda as one based on friendship and other considerations. She gave an example of her situation where she sent an application for a piece of land over two years ago and, to date, she has not been successful. This, as other persons whose applications were tendered after hers, have been able to get multiple plots.

The Council has long been promoting the idea of landownership in Common for Barbuda, but this notion has never been successfully tried in a court of law.



National Solid Waste Management Authority
Sir George Walter Highway
Tel: (268) 562-1347/8
Email: nswma@solidwaste.gov.ag

August 9th, 2023

PRESS RELEASE

The Authority wishes to inform the public that the National Solid Waste Management Authority (NSWMA) is the agency mandated by law to collect, transport, and dispose of solid waste in Antigua and Barbuda.

In an effort to improve our services and reliability we are updating the residents in the communities below of delayed waste collection and we are working to resolve the issue promptly.

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We thank the residents in those communities for their patience.

The National Solid Waste Management Authority wishes to advise private citizens that if there is a delay or missed collection of their residential waste services, to contact the Authority via the hotline number 562-1347.

“Working In Partnership for a Cleaner Antigua And Barbuda”

 **The National Solid Waste Management Authority**

Antigua and Barbuda to deepen relations with Nigeria

Antigua and Barbuda and Nigeria have expressed a desire to strengthen the relations that currently exist between Africa's most populous country and the twin-island Caribbean state.

That was the central theme in meetings held between Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Nigeria's Director of Economics, Trade and Investment in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Akinremi Bolaji, who was in St. John's as part of the high-level delegation that just concluded a visit, arriving by air aboard the Nigerian airline, Air Peace.

Speaking with Point Express newspaper following the meeting, Ambassador Bolaji said both the Prime Minister and the Minister



PM Gaston Browne presents gifts to Ambassador Akinremi Bolaji following a meeting at the Office of the Prime Minister

of Foreign Affairs, E.P Chet Greene, with whom he met separately, were keen to have stronger ties with Nigeria.

"In our discussion, the prime minister mentioned the issue of the investment protection agreement which we need to initiate, and we

need to also get it running. He also mentioned the issue of double taxation. This, to me, was very important as the prime minister has suggested to me that when I return to Nigeria, we should begin to work assiduously to establish direct diplomatic relations between St.

John's and Abuja," he reported.

He explained that the Nigerian embassy in Jamaica currently has jurisdiction over Antigua and Barbuda. However, according to Ambassador Bolaji, the growing ties between the two countries necessitate that there be more direct links.

"Antigua and Barbuda is warming up to closer relations so it can start by having a diplomatic mission established in Nigeria and as the relationship develops, we can see about having our presence in St. John's," he stated.

Prime Minister Browne has hinted that he is open to establishing a mission in the Nigerian capital, to foster closer ties with Africa's economic giant.



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Internal review of Carnival 2023 planned

The Ministry of Creative Industries is to undertake an internal review of the 2023 Carnival festivities to get an understanding of the areas of strengths, and or weaknesses in the overall programme.

Word of this comes from the Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew, who said the post-mortem of the event is critical as the planning for Carnival 2024 must start immediately.

“We are going to have a post-mortem to carry out an analysis and an assessment of the execution of the plans for the just concluded Carnival. One thing I will say now is that the arrangement with the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority to market Carnival will strengthen in the coming months,” he stated.

Matthew explained that the ABTA staff are skilled in the area of market-



Minister of Creative Industries, Daryll Matthew

ing, as it is their job to market Antigua and Barbuda. He said the ministry will rely on their expertise to undertake the marketing of Carnival for 2024.

“Our partnership with the ABTA for the marketing of Carnival is something that brings tremendous benefit. They have a marketing strategy for Antigua and Barbuda as a destination. So we will lean on their support as well as take their counsel and their guidance where the marketing of carnival is concerned. So, for example when they travel to the World Travel Market or when they travel to these international events to market the destination, carnival will be a part of that,” he declared.

As it relates to the strategy going forward that the Ministry of Creative Industries will employ, Matthew said he prefers to wait until the post-mortem has been concluded before making any announcements.

No date has yet been set for the convening of said post-mortem.



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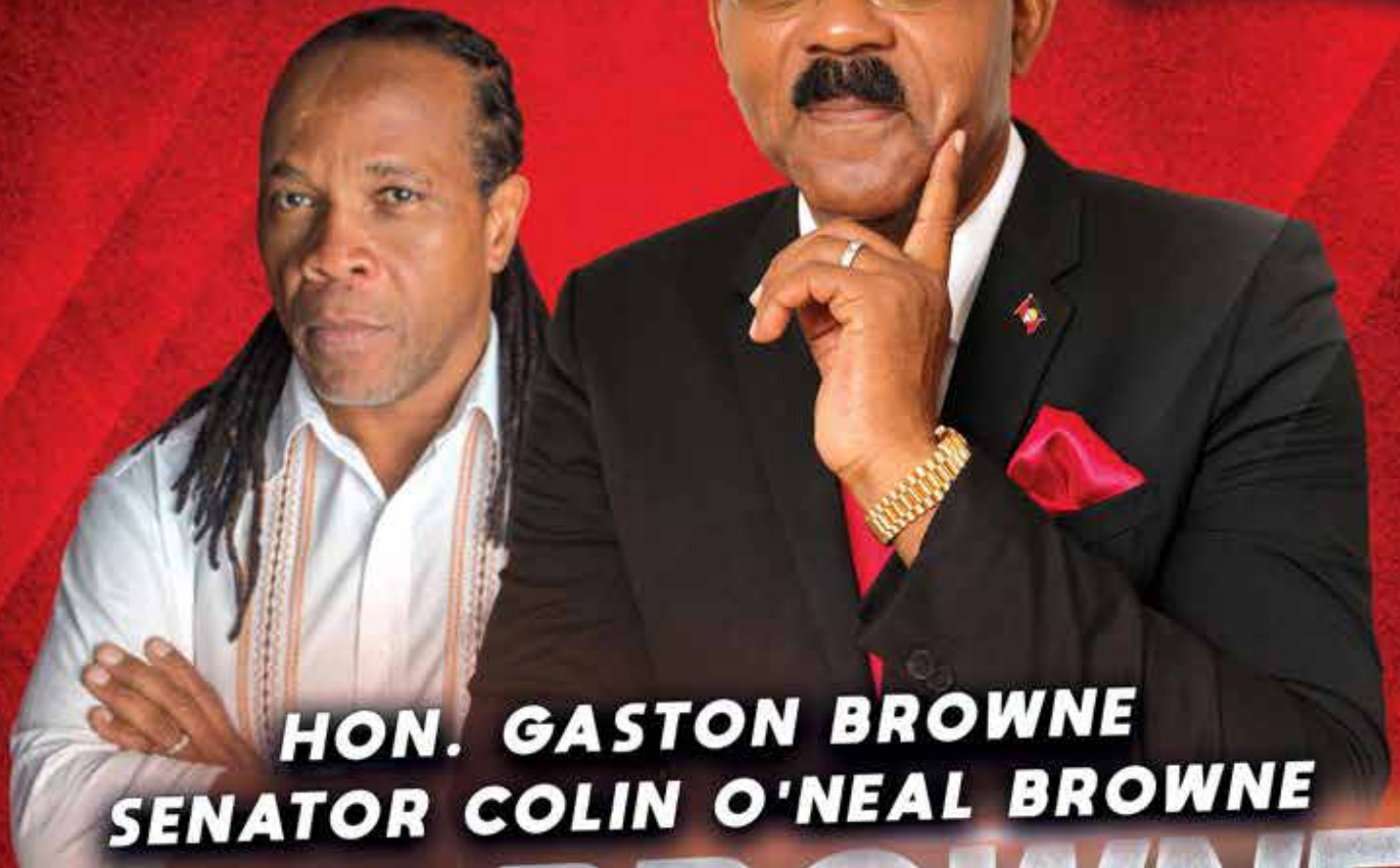
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WE ARE GETTING STRONGER

Women's under-representation in parliament a concern at regional conference

The under-representation of women in parliament continues to be a concern as regional parliamentarians concluded a meeting recently in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The occasion was the 45th annual conference of the Caribbean Americas and Atlantic Region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association held from the 21st to 28th of July under the theme "Building a Resilient Region in the Face of Global Challenges."

President of the Senate, Alinecia Williams-Grant who led the Antigua and Barbuda delegation, presented a report of the conference to a sitting of the Senate on Wednesday.

"The conference brought women parliamentarians together for the first time since COVID to discuss the underrepresentation of women in parliament which persists in our region, the role women caucuses can play in addressing this, as well as gender-related issues and challenges women face in leadership and tackling national issues with a more inclusive perspective.

"The conference also discussed the topic of youth crime in our region and

called on Women parliamentarians to play a greater role in interventions, amendments to policies and legislation, and working with organizations on collecting the necessary data to inform decision-making on this issue that is impacting our region, and now involving our young girls and women," she reported.

According to President Williams-Grant, the business meeting of the Caribbean Women Parliamentarian's caucus held as part of the CAA regional conference looked at the current operating guidelines of the network and its constitution, resulting in a few changes to be looked at over the course of the next year for consideration, review, and adoption at the next regional and annual conference next year.

It was noted that the Jamaican women parliamentarians successfully held a regional workshop on July 12th under the theme "Empowering Women in Politics and Parliament." It was held in a hybrid format.

She said participants included women parliamentarians, clerks of



Speaker of the House of Assembly Turks and Caicos, Gordon Burton, in symbolic hand shake with President of the Senate Alinecia Williams Grant.

parliament, and other invited guests. The delegates came from Bermuda in the North and Guyana in the South, Belize to the West, and Barbados in the East.

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation also included acting Clerk of Parliament, Rosemarie Weston.

Three-way tie for Road March and other results

It was a rare occurrence for Antigua Carnival, following the introduction of local songs for the Road March title back in the early 1970s, that there has ever been a result like the one that transpired on J'ouvert morning this year.

Three songs were played equally on the road on J'ouvert morning and all three artists will be sharing the Road March title. The official Carnival results named the artists Ricardo Drue with his Last Man Standing, Claudette Peters' Nat U, and

Empress with Let It Rain.

According to the results, the songs were played a total of twenty-five times as the bands passed the designated judging points.

Meanwhile, it was an Insane carnival as the mas troupe wrapped up win-

ners in most major categories. The Insane band won T-Shirt Mas, Monday Wear, and the coveted Band of the Year titles.

The official carnival results for Junior Carnival and Monday and Tuesday are published on the next page.



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 ROAD MARCH

FINALISTS RESULTS

WINNER: 3 WAY TIE PLAYED 25 TIMES BETWEEN RICARDO DRUE (LAST MAN STANDING) CLAUDETTE PETERS (NAT U) AND EMPRESS(LET IT RAIN)



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 T-SHIRT MAS

FINALISTS RESULTS

WINNER: INSANE CARNIVAL

1ST RUNNER-UP: MYST CARNIVAL

2ND RUNNER-UP: ICONS



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 BAND OF THE YEAR - SMALL

FINALISTS RESULTS

WINNER: FUZE CARNIVAL

1ST RUNNER-UP: WAAC

2ND RUNNER-UP: CHINESE ASSOCIATION OF ANTIGUA



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 JUNIOR CARNIVAL - PRE-SCHOOLS

FINALISTS RESULTS

WINNER: EXCELSIOR AND VILLA PRIMARY SCHOOL

1ST RUNNER-UP: BEEHIVE LEARNING CENTRE

2ND RUNNER-UP: LA PETITE LEARNING CENTRE



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 JUNIOR CARNIVAL – MARCHING BANDS

FINALISTS RESULTS

WINNER: WADADLI ISLAND MAJORETTES

1ST RUNNER-UP: EXPLOSION CHEERLEADERS

2ND RUNNER-UP: UPRISING DANCE GROUP

Ms. Denise Gardiner
Judges Subcommittee Chair
Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

JOUVERT MORNING 2023

RESULTS

1ST BAND ON THE ROAD: HIGH VOLTAGE

1ST TROUPE ON THE ROAD: CAUTION

SWEETEST SOUNDING JAM BAND: REVO

MOST ORGANISED JOUVERT TROUPE: WADADLI BREWMASTERS



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 BAND OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM

FINALISTS RESULTS

HONOURABLE MENTION

SECHUNS



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 BAND OF THE YEAR - LARGE

FINALISTS RESULTS

WINNER: INSANE CARNIVAL

1ST RUNNER-UP: MYST CARNIVAL

2ND RUNNER-UP: X-KLUSIVE CARNIVAL



MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SPORTS AND **CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

2023 MONDAY WEAR

FINALISTS RESULTS

LARGE BANDS

WINNER: INSANE CARNIVAL

1ST RUNNER-UP: MYST CARNIVAL

2ND RUNNER-UP: X KLUSIVE

HONORABLE MENTION

MEDIUM BAND – SECHUNS

SMALL BAND- FUZE CARNIVAL AND CHINESE ASSOCIATION

Ms. Denise Gardiner
Judges Subcommittee Chair
Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**

CC: Minister - Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries
Parliamentary Secretary – Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**
Permanent Secretary - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**
National Festivals Director - Ministry of Education, Sports and **Creative Industries**
Chairperson – Antigua and Barbuda Festivals and Culture Commission
Sub-Committee Chair – 2023 Parades Sub-Committee

Watch parties for historic space journey

Excitement is building on both islands as Antigua and Barbuda's, Mother and Daughter duo Keisha Schaff and Anastasia Mayers, will embark upon their

voyage to space on Thursday morning, making them the first astronauts from Antigua and Barbuda.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority (ABTA) has organized, two watch parties described as 'this incredible and historic occasion.' One of the watch parties takes place at the Antigua Recreation Grounds in St John's, and the second takes place at the Holy Trinity School in Barbuda.

The ABTA is advising those attending the watch party at both venues, that entry begins at 9:00 am while the launch itself is set for 10:00 am.

"The watch party in Antigua will feature visiting guests Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Galactic, and Christopher Huie, a Jamaican-American, who earlier this year became the 19th Black astronaut," the ABTA said in a statement.

In addition to being part of the countdown and witnessing the exciting launch of the Galactic 02 spaceflight from Spaceport America, New Mexico, live on screens in Antigua and Barbuda, persons attending the public event will enjoy entertainment and activities in celebration of the occasion.

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MOTHER-DAUGHTER DUO
KEISHA SCHAHAFF AND ANASTASIA MAYERS'

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WATCH PARTY

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9AM		Recreation Ground		Holy Trinity Primary School

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Guyana, Dominican Republic ink historic cooperation agreements

By Dillon De Shong

Guyana and the Dominican Republic have signed six Memorandums of Understandings (MOU) to expand cooperation on energy, agriculture, infrastructure, tourism and security.

The cooperation agreements were signed yesterday during a ceremony held in the Ambassadors Hall of the National Palace in the Dominican Republic.

Guyanese President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali and a delegation are visiting the Spanish speaking country for a two day state visit.

One agreement would see the Dominican Republic fund an oil refinery that can process at least 50,000 barrels of oil per day.

The DR would own 51 per cent of the refinery's shareholdings.

Another MOU looks at the fea-



sibility of the Dominican Republic operating one of Guyana's lucrative offshore oil blocks.

In agriculture, both countries are

looking to establish a plant to produce urea to meet their needs. Added to that, both sides have agreed to invest in poultry, corn and soybean production to help guarantee food security.

Dominican Republic President, Luis Abinader, hailed the agreement as a historic development for both countries.

"Dominican and Guyanese ties are strengthened through these opportunities and today both Guyana and the Dominican Republic are making history and it is a milestone of collaboration for the Caribbean region that is unprecedented," Abinader said in brief remarks after the MOUs were signed.

A statement from Abinader's office said Ali expressed confidence that the MOUs will place both countries in a strong position to combat global challenges.

The statement noted that Ali highlighted the agreements are a win-win for the private sectors of both countries as it allows entrepreneurs to fill gaps that exist in each economy.



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Minister defends safety law on messaging apps

By Zoe Kleinman

The technology secretary has defended a controversial section of the Online Safety Bill which would force messaging apps to access the content of private messages if requested by the regulator Ofcom.

She said it was a sensible approach in order to protect children from abuse.

But some tech firms, including WhatsApp and Signal, have threatened to leave the UK if forced to weaken their messaging security.

The Bill is due to be passed in autumn.

Michelle Donelan was speaking to the BBC on a visit to University College London where she announced £13m in funding for Artificial Intelligence projects in healthcare.

Both the tech sector and the cyber security community have criticised the government's proposal that the content of encrypted messages should be made accessible if there is deemed to be a risk to children within them.

Currently messages sent in this way can only be read by the sender and the recipient, and not by the tech firms themselves.

Several popular messaging services including Meta's Whatsapp and Apple's iMessage use this popular security feature by default.

But once there's a way in, it's not only the good guys who will use it, is the argument, and some firms are saying they will pull their services from the UK altogether rather than compromise on security.

Ms Donelan claimed the government was not anti-encryption and access would only be requested as a last resort.



Michelle Donelan MP, Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology.

"I, like you, want my privacy because I don't want people reading my private messages. They'd be very bored but I don't want them to do it," she said.

"However we do know that on some of these platforms, they are hotbeds sometimes for child abuse and sexual exploitation.

"And we have to be able access that information should that problem occur."

She also said the onus would be on tech companies to invest in technology to solve this issue.

"Technology is in development to enable you to have encryption as well as to be able to access this particular information and the safety mechanism that we have is very explicit that this can only be used for child exploitation and abuse".

The current frontrunner for this is known as Client Side Scanning - it involves installing software onto devices themselves which can scan content and send alerts if triggered. But it has not proved popular: Apple halted a tri-

al of it following a backlash, and it has been dubbed "the spy in your pocket".

Ryan Polk, Director of Internet Policy at the Internet Society, a global charitable non profit focused on Internet policy, technology, and development, is sceptical that the technology is ready.

"The government's own Safety Tech Challenge Fund, which was supposed to find a magical technical solution to this problem, failed to do so," he said.

Mr Polk said scientists from the UK's National Research Centre on Privacy, Harm Reduction and Adversarial Influence Online found severe problems with the proposed technologies, "including that they undermine the end-to-end security and privacy necessary for protecting the security and privacy of UK citizens." "If the UK government can't see that the Online Safety Bill will in effect ban encryption, then they are wilfully blinding themselves to the dangers ahead."

The legislation is expected back in the House of Commons in September.

Fewer than 5,000 steps a day enough to boost health - study

By Annabel Rackham

It has long been touted that 10,000 steps a day is the magic number you need to stay fit and healthy - but a new study shows fewer than 5,000 may be enough to see a benefit.

The analysis of more than 226,000 people around the world showed 4,000 was enough to start reducing the risk of dying prematurely of any cause.

Just over 2,300 is enough to benefit the heart and blood vessels.

The more you do, the more health benefits are seen, researchers said.

Every extra 1,000 steps beyond the 4,000 reduced the risk of dying early by 15% up to 20,000 steps.

The team from the Medical University of Lodz in Poland and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in the US found the walking benefits applied to all genders and ages, regardless of where they lived.

However, the biggest benefits were seen among the under-60s.

Prof Maciej Banach, from the Lodz university, said that while the number of advanced drugs for treatment was growing, they were not the only answer.

"I believe we should always emphasise that lifestyle changes, including diet and exercise, which was a main hero of our analysis,



Walking is key to reducing the risk of premature death, according to a new study.

might be at least as, or even more, effective in reducing cardiovascular risk and prolonging lives," he said.

According to World Health Organization data, insufficient physical activity is responsible for 3.2 million deaths each year - the fourth most frequent cause worldwide.

Honey Fine, a personal trainer and instructor for global fitness company Barry's, emphasises the problems that come from sitting down too much.

"It can slow your metabolism and affect muscle growth and strength, which can cause aches and pains," she tells the BBC.

"Sitting down for too long can also cause all

sorts of back problems, we find this a lot with people with office jobs, that their backs are constantly put in a stressed compressed position which causes a lot more problems later on in life."

She explains the importance of non-exercise activity thermogenesis - also known as Neat, "which in simple terms is everything we do that uses energy and burns calories".

"Tasks like standing, carrying shopping, washing the floors, hoovering, pacing whilst talking on the phone - it's all the little things that make us more active that help us to burn calories more efficiently," she said.

Ms Fine says that al-

though adding regular walks into your life may be daunting, the rewards are great when it comes to your health.

"Walking can lower your blood pressure, strengthen your muscles to protect your bones, it can increase energy levels as well as giving you endorphins and it can help you maintain a healthy weight alongside healthy eating," she says.

Other benefits include boosts to your mental health and important time away from screens and other distractions.

Walking is suitable for "almost anybody" because it is low impact and easy on joints and muscles, she added.

Guyana: Probe launched into mining pit collapse that killed two miners

By Dillon De Shong

An investigation has been launched into the mining pit collapse that killed two miners at Moonlight Backdam in Region Seven, Guyana last Wednesday.

The Ministry of Labour's Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Department is investigating the incident.

OSH Officer, Naipaul Persaud visited the worksite where the accident occurred and began investigations in collaboration with the Ministry of Amerindian Affairs, the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission



OSH investigators visiting a mining pit in Region Seven Guyana.

(GGMC), and regional officials.

As part of the probe,

seven mining camps near the collapsed mine were issued a "Stop Work" notices

to allow the investigation team access to carry out a

cont'd on pg 15

Bahamas MP resigns amid pending charges of sexual assault case

CMC - Prime Minister Phillip Davis says he has requested and accepted the resignation of Kirk Cornish as Parliamentary Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister.

The North Abaco Member of Parliament is due to be arraigned Wednesday on charges of sexual assault and threats of death.

Cornish has issued a statement, saying the charges are based on allegations "which are totally false".

In a statement on Tuesday night, Prime Minister Davis said that he wanted to "assure the people of North



Kirk Cornish.

Abaco that efforts to build opportunities and relief in your communities are on the way and will face no interruptions".

He said that an independent Director of Public Prosecutions has determined that there is sufficient evidence

to bring charges against the legislator.

"It is now up to our judicial system to resolve the outcome, so I will not be providing additional comment except to say that my prayers are extended to all who are suffering because

of this matter," Davis said.

In his statement, Cornish said: "I am fully confident that the facts which emerge during the judicial process will prove my innocence.

"I look forward to ending this nightmare. The facts will show that this was a break up that was manipulated and exploited for political reasons – and nothing more," he added.

Police launched an investigation into allegations against Cornish by a woman earlier this year.

Cornish has not resigned as the Member of Parliament for North Abaco.

Haiti: Kidnapped American nurse and toddler released

CMC - The US-based Christian aid group, El Roi Haiti, Wednesday confirmed that an American nurse and her child kidnapped in Haiti on July 27, have been released.

“It is with a heart of gratitude and immense joy that we at El Roi Haiti confirm the safe release of our staff member and friend, Alix Dorsainvil and her child,” El Roi leaders said in a blog posted on their website.

“We are so thankful for everyone who joined us in prayer and supported us during this crisis,” they added in a statement.

The statement gave no indication as to whether or not a ransom had been paid for releasing the pair.

Dorsainvil was living in Haiti with her husband Sandro, who is the director of El Roi Haiti. She was working as a nurse at the organisation’s school when she and her daughter were



Alix Dorsainvil.

kidnapped on July 27.

El Roi Haiti said it would “continue to release information as appropriate on our website” regarding the release of the nurse.

The US State Department welcomed the reports of the release of the couple but declined to provide any information on the circumstances or their condition.

“As you can imagine, these individuals have been through a very difficult or-

deal, both physically and mentally. We express our deepest appreciation to our Haitian, and US interagency partners for their assistance in facilitating their safe release,” a State Department spokesman said in a statement.

Earlier this week, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said persistent violence in Haiti remains a significant concern for the safety and welfare

of its most vulnerable citizens, especially women and children, citing reports of an “alarming spike” in kidnapping and other crimes.

According to UNICEF, nearly 300 confirmed cases were reported in the first six months of 2023, almost matching the total number documented over 2022 and close to three times the number in 2021.

“The stories we are hearing from UNICEF staff and partners on the ground are shocking and unacceptable,” said Gary Conille, UNICEF Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Last month, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed to the UN Security Council and major potential contribution countries to act fast to create the conditions for the deployment of a multinational force to Haiti.

cont’d from pg 14

thorough inspection of their respective working environment to provide a safe and healthy workplace for workers.

Two of the mines were allowed to resume operations while the remaining camps must complete several remedial works before they can resume operations. A follow-up visit is planned to ensure the recommendations were completed.

The men, who died in the mine collapse, have been identified as 38-year-old Trayon Hastings of Kamarang Landing, Upper Mazaruni; and his employee,

20-year-old Rocky Norton of Isseneru Village, Middle Mazaruni.

Preliminary reports from the incident revealed, Hastings and Norton were working at around 10:30 pm when the mine suddenly collapsed.

A miner, who was in a nearby camp, noticed the mining pit caving in and raised an alarm.

A search party was immediately organised, and with the help of two excavators, the motionless bodies of the two men were finally retrieved several hours later.

Hawaii wildfires: Six deaths confirmed as blazes engulf Maui

BBC - Six people have died and more have been injured by wildfires sweeping the Hawaiian island of Maui, officials say.

Thousands are without power or cell phone service due to fires that are being fuelled by winds from a nearby hurricane in the Pacific Ocean.

Several blazes are also burning on the Big Island, also known as Hawaii island, a neighbouring island to Maui.

Officials say search and rescue efforts are still ongoing. But they warn that the death toll may rise.

Authorities have evacuated neighbourhoods, closed roads, and opened shelters to host thousands of evacuees.

An emergency order has been signed discouraging people from coming to Maui, which is a popular



Parts of Lahaina were destroyed or severely damaged by the blaze.

tourist destination.

“We have shelters that are overrun, we have resources that are being taxed, we are doing whatever we can” for local residents, the state Lieutenant Governor Sylvia Luke said during a news briefing on Wednesday morning local time.

On Maui, about 4,000 visitors are trying to leave the island, said state transportation official Ed Sniffen.

Thousands there are also without cell service, due to about 29 power poles collapsing. The full scale of the damages to homes and businesses is not yet clear,

officials say.

Maj Gen Kenneth S Hara, who is in charge of the emergency response, said the priority at the moment is “saving lives, preventing human suffering, and mitigating great property loss”.

More than 12,000 people in the state of Hawaii are currently without power, according to Power-Outage.Us.

Much of the destruction has taken place in the Maui island town of Lahaina. Parts of the town were destroyed or severely damaged by the blaze. One local resident told media that every boat in the town harbour was burning.

The US Coast Guard said it had rescued 12 people after reports of residents fleeing into the water to escape the fires.



Officials say they have yet to determine the full scale of the damage from the wildfires.

cont'd on pg 17

Candidate in Ecuador's presidential election shot dead

A candidate in Ecuador's upcoming presidential election has been shot dead.

Fernando Villavicencio, a member of the country's national assembly, was attacked after an event in the northern city of Quito on Wednesday.

A member of his campaign team told local media Mr Villavicencio was about to get into a car when a man stepped forward and shot him in the head.

The death was confirmed on social media by current president Guillermo Lasso.

The presidential election is scheduled to take place on 20 August.

Mr Lasso said he was "outraged and shocked" by the killing and pledged that



Presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio speaks to journalists on Tuesday.

"this crime will not go unpunished".

"Organized crime has come a long way, but the full weight of the law is going to fall on them," he said.

A recent rise in violent crime, fuelled by the grow-

ing presence of drug cartels in Ecuador, has been a central issue in the presidential campaign.

Last week, Mr Villavicencio, a former journalist, said he and his team had been threatened by the lead-

er of a gang linked to drug trafficking.

His killing follows that of Agustín Intriago, mayor of the city of Manta, in July and Omar Menéndez, candidate for mayor in the city of Puerto López, in February.

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Maui County Mayor Richard Missen confirmed the six fatalities, but said he was not yet able to provide further details.

There were also at least 20 injuries, including a firefighter who suffered smoke inhalation. Three patients are in critical condition.

He warned the total number of fatalities could rise as emergency responders conduct search and rescue operations as well as evacuations.

A full assessment of the damage could take "months," Ms Luke said in Wednesday's briefing. She also said that "there are concerns about potential riots" in the aftermath.

The Lahaina fire is one of at least seven ongoing in Hawaii. About 13,000 people live in the city situated

on the western part of the island of Maui.

Local resident, Dustin Kaleiopu, told Hawaii News Now that his house was among those destroyed in the fire.

"Everything that we'd ever known was gone. Our church, our schools, every single memory we had on this household," he said. "Everything was gone in the blink of an eye."

"There is no Lahaina," resident Kekai Keahi told the Associated Press news agency. "Lahaina no exist anymore."

That fire is one of several in Hawaii fuelled by strong winds by Hurricane Dora hundreds of miles offshore, low humidity and dry air, according to the National Weather Service's Honolulu office.

Local officials have said that the

winds have complicated efforts to use helicopters for firefighting operations.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema) and the US Marines are assisting in firefighting and search and rescue operations, the White House said on Wednesday.

Fema is also working towards providing emergency supplies, including water, food, cots, and blankets.

On Tuesday night, Ms Luke issued an emergency declaration and activated the state's National Guard.

Fires in Hawaii are typically smaller than those which plague California and other parts of the western continental US.

Experts have warned, however, that they are often more damaging, as Hawaii's ecosystem evolved without fires before the arrival of humans.



The raid took place at property close to this road in Provo, Utah.

Man who threatened Biden shot dead in FBI raid in Utah

By Mike Wendling

A man who posted violent threats against President Joe Biden and other officials online was shot dead during an FBI raid on Wednesday.

Agents were attempting to serve an arrest warrant on Craig Robertson at his home in Utah, just hours ahead of a planned visit to the state by Mr Biden.

A criminal complaint said Robertson posted threats on Facebook against Mr Biden and a prosecutor pursuing criminal charges against Donald Trump.

The FBI declined to give more details.

The raid happened at about 06:15 local time in Provo, about 40 miles (65 km) south of Salt Lake City.

A criminal complaint outlined messages that Robertson made on

Facebook including pictures of guns and threats to kill Mr Biden and Alvin Bragg, the Manhattan district attorney leading an investigation into a hush-money payment by Mr Trump to an adult film star.

According to the complaint, other messages targeted US Attorney General Merrick Garland and New York Attorney General Letitia James.

Robertson posted on Facebook: "I hear Biden is coming to Utah. Digging out my old ghillie suit and cleaning the dust off the M24 sniper rifle."

It was just one of dozens of violent messages and photos of weapons posted on two of Robertson's Facebook accounts.

The complaint said Robertson came to the attention of federal agents in March after he posted a threat against Mr Bragg on Truth Social, the

social network owned by Mr Trump. The company alerted the FBI's National Threat Operations Center.

FBI agents then visited the suspect, who told them that the post was a "dream" and ended the conversation by saying: "We're done here! Don't return without a warrant!"

Later posts by Robertson referenced his encounter with the agents, showed him in camouflage used by snipers, and repeatedly threatened public officials.

The messages continued as late as Tuesday, when he posted: "Perhaps Utah will become famous this week as the place a sniper took out Biden the Marxist."

Mr Biden is set to make his first visit to Utah as president later, with a visit to a veterans' hospital and a fundraising event in Park City.

Five Antiguanans in Leeward Islands Under-17 squad

Five players from Antigua and Barbuda have been included in the Leeward Islands 14-member squad to contest the Cricket West Indies (CWI) Men's Rising Stars Under-17 Championship in Trinidad from August 10th to September 1st.

Among them is Jennings Tigers all-rounder Matthew Miller, who has been named captain of the team. Matthew, who was a member of last year's team, will be joined by fellow Antiguan and Combined Schools all-rounder Xaveek Toppin, who has also retained his place in the squad.

The other three Antiguanans will be making their debuts at the Under-17 tournament. They are left-arm pacer Jared Jno Baptiste of the Pigotts Crushers, Ozan Williams of the Rising Sun Spartans, and right-arm fast bowler Mekaili Tonge of the Bethesda Golden Eagles.

Three other players who were members of last year's squad have also retained their places in the team. They are Tyanick Honore, who has been named vice-captain of the team; Hosea Pluck; and Devanand Singh.

Wicketkeeper Eirette Richards, who represented the Leewards in this year's CWI Rising Stars Under-15 tournament, has also been selected in the Under-17 squad.

Two members of this



From left to right: President of the ABCA Leon 'Kuma' Rodney, Matthew Miller, Jared Jno Baptiste, Xaveek Toppin, Ozan Williams, Tanez Francis and Mekaili Tonge at the VC Bird International Airport on Monday, July 31st, 2023. (File photo)

year's Leeward Islands Under-19 squad have also been selected. They are De-Antre Drew and Zavio Henry of St. Kitts.

All the other players are first-time selections. They are Israel Morton, Jevon Manners, and Caiden Francis.

Two players who were members of this year's Leeward Islands Under-15 squad, Antiguan all-rounder Tanez Francis of Empire Nation and Jaheem Clarke, have been named as reserves. Delroy Prentice has also been named a reserve player.

Former Leeward Islands and St. Kitts player Jacques

Taylor is the team's head coach, and the manager is Darc Browne.

The squad was selected following a one-week preparatory training camp in St. Kitts.

The CWI Men's Rising Stars Under 17s Championship will take place in Trinidad between August 10th and September 1st, featuring five rounds of 50-over matches and, for the first time, three rounds of two-day red ball matches.

The championships will commence with the opening round of matches in the 50-over one-day competition on Saturday at 9:30 am.

The Leeward Islands

will launch their campaign against Jamaica at Inshan Ali Park, Barbados will take on Guyana at Gilbert Park, and Trinidad and Tobago will clash with the Windward Islands at NCC.

Full LI Squad: Matthew Miller (Captain), Jared Jno Baptiste, Mekaili Tonge, Eirette Richards, T'yanick Honore, De-Antre Drew, Xaveek Toppin, Isreal Morton, Jevon Manners, Hosea Pluck, Caiden Francis, Devanand Singh, Zavio Henry, and Ozan Williams. Reserves: Jaheem Clarke, Tanez Francis, and Delroy Prentice; Jacques Taylor (head coach); and Darc Browne (manager).

India's Yadav keen to replicate T20 form in ODIs



India's Suryakumar Yadav plays a shot against West Indies during the third T20 International cricket match at Providence Stadium in Georgetown, Guyana, Tuesday, August 8th, 2023. (AP)

GUYANA (Reuters) - Superb batting from Suryakumar Yadav has kept India alive in the T20 series against West Indies and he hopes to replicate that form in the 50-overs format where he has done less well ahead of the World Cup later this year.

stats are pretty bad," he said, attributing the problem to fewer ODI matches in the calendar.

"I must be honest about it, and we discuss these things openly in the dress-room" *cont'd on pg 21*

Yadav smashed a blistering 83 off 44 balls, helping India chase down a 160-run victory target with 13 balls remaining in the do-or-die third T20 match in Guyana on Tuesday. The seven-wicket victory leaves India 2-1 behind in the five-match series.

"I didn't do anything different. I've been batting the same way in the last two years," Yadav, who was named player of the match, told reporters. "Everything kept falling in place for me."

The 32-year-old is currently the top-ranked T20 batter in the world averaging 45.64 and has clocked up three hundreds in the format.

His ODI numbers are less flattering with Yadav averaging 24.33 and logging a highest score of 64 in his 26 appearances.

"To be honest, my ODI



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Inzamam returns as Pakistan cricket's chief selector

ISLAMABAD (AP) - Former Pakistan captain and chief selector Inzamam-ul-Haq has returned to head the selection committee, replacing former Test batter Haroon Rasheed.

The new selection committee announced on Monday also included team director Mickey Arthur, head coach Grant Bradburn and Hasan Cheema. Its first assignment is to name the team for the three ODIs against Afghanistan in Sri Lanka later this month.

Inzamam was appointed a member of the new Pakistan Cricket Board technical committee, which is headed by Misbah-ul-Haq and also included Mohammad Hafeez.

cont'd from pg 20
ing room.”

The message to him from coach Rahul Dravid and skipper Rohit Sharma has been to take his time before playing his natural explosive game, Yadav said.

“This is a format that I don't play very often. They asked me to rethink my approach.

“They said ‘You know how much damage you can inflict in the last 10-15 overs. We just want you to go and face 45-50 balls.’

“Now the ball is in my court - how to make most of that opportunity, and bat according to team requirement.”

However, after being named as the new chief selector, Inzamam will not be part of the technical committee and the cricket board will name his replacement in due course.

Inzamam was the chief selector during the last cricket World Cup in 2019 and will also select the team for October's World Cup in India.

“I had a good run in the last tenure,” Inzamam said in a statement. “We had fa-

mous victories with the ICC Champions Trophy 2017 being the highlight, but my most important achievement is that around 70 to 80 percent of the cricketers selected back then form the core of today's sides. That team was in transition, but this team is stable and I would not face the same challenges.”

Zaka Ashraf, the chairman of the PCB's managing committee, said Inzamam impressed during his previ-

ous stint as the chief selector.

“He (Inzamam) is a legend and has served the game with dignity. Inzamam's last tenure brought us success as we not only won the ICC Champions Trophy, but also unearthed some outstanding talent that continues to serve Pakistan cricket to date,” Ashraf said.

“I have no doubt that his new innings will add to the laurels and bring more talented cricketers to light.”



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Bob Marley's daughter lauded as the 'fairy godmother' of the Jamaican women's team

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - The daughter of reggae legend Bob Marley is something of a "fairy godmother" for the Jamaica team playing in its second Women's World Cup.

Cedella Marley has been a tireless advocate and fundraiser for the Reggae Girlz and helped rescue the team after it was disbanded in 2008.

Her work has paid off as Jamaica reached the round of 16 where they were knocked out of the tournament following a 1-0 loss to Colombia in Melbourne, Australia, on Tuesday night.

"Her support has been really important to us and she's just the heart of this team," said Jamaica player Deneisha Blackwood. "She's just like our fairy godmother. We just appreciate her for everything she has done so far."

The Reggae Girlz were disbanded after failing to qualify for the 2007 World Cup and the 2008 Olympics. In 2014, Bob and Rita Marley's eldest daughter was alarmed to learn the Jamaican soccer federation had stopped funding the team.

Marley hoped to help the Reggae Girlz reach the 2015 World Cup, but the team failed to qualify. The Marley name - Bob Marley was a big soccer fan and



Jamaica's Deneisha Blackwood and Jamaica's Tiernny Wiltshire celebrate after drawing 0-0 with Brazil during the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between Jamaica and Brazil in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023. (AP)

player - spurred interest in the Reggae Girlz despite the World Cup miss - and the team made the tournament field in 2019.

"The backbone of this team, all along, has been Cedella," Jamaica coach Lorne Donaldson said. "Without her, and I can honestly say this, because when the programme was under, there was no football for the women. She was the one who pushed the start button and said, 'We need to go.'"

While the Bob Marley Foundation is among the team's sponsors, funding is still a concern for the Reggae Girlz. Ahead of the

World Cup, a GoFundMe crowdfraising campaign was set up by a player's mother. Another was set up by the Reggae Girlz foundation.

Both sites aimed to help Jamaica's women with the costs associated with the World Cup, including a training camp, travel, food, and staff support.

Those appeals came after players, including Chey-na Matthews and Khadija "Bunny" Shaw, posted a statement on social media about pay issues and other problems. The statement cited a lack of proper preparation that they hoped would be addressed by the Jamai-

can Football Federation.

"We acknowledge that things have not been done perfectly, and we are working assiduously to resolve them," the JFF responded in a statement.

It is hoped that with the team's success at this World Cup, the Reggae Girlz will finally get support.

"I think Cedella has been the most important part of our journey," Blackwood said. "I think the best thing about her is she actually sees us not just as football players, but as human beings. And I think that is just something that we've always wanted."

Former national player appointed as Head of NBA G League team

By **Carlena Knight**

Many will remember the name Ernest Scott for his significant contributions as a national player for Antigua and Barbuda's Senior Men's National team, the Bulldogs, but now, the former player turned coach has a bigger title under his belt, Head Coach of the Iowa Timberwolves.

The Iowa Wolves are an American professional basketball team in the NBA G League based in Des Moines, Iowa, and are affiliated with the Minnesota Timberwolves. The Wolves play their home games at the Wells Fargo Arena and compete in the Western Conference of the NBA G League.

The Timberwolves announced the news on Thursday morning.

Minnesota also announced the promotion of Nathan Bubes to Assistant Coach and Michael DiBenedetto to Assistant Coach/

Director of Operations for the Wolves.

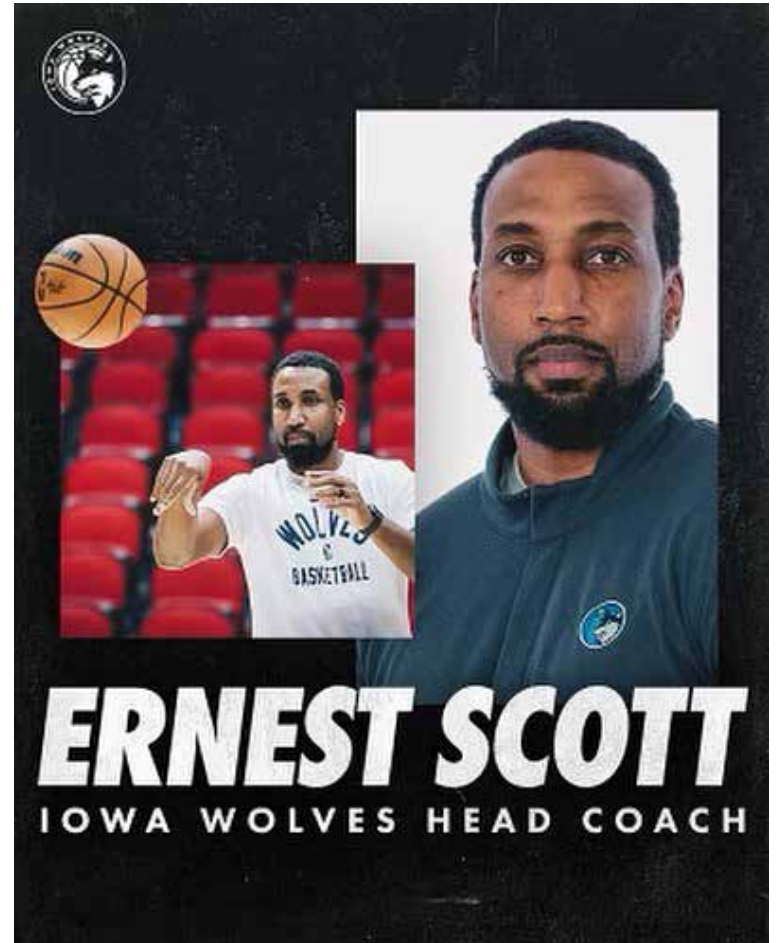
Scott is no stranger to the organization having joined the team after spending two seasons as an assistant coach with the South Bay Lakers of the NBA G League.

He boasts two seasons as an Assistant Coach with the Timberwolves.

The Georgia native who has Barbudan roots played for Valdosta State where he received first-team all-conference honors his senior season. He also played professionally for over 10 seasons in the NBA D League and across the world in countries like Greece and New Zealand.

He was also part of both the bronze medal team in 2015 in Tortola as well as the silver medalist team in 2018 for Antigua and Barbuda.

According to the Wolves press release, with his promotion, Scott and Jonathan Wallace became



the first ever G League General Manager/Head Coach duo that previously played in the league.

"I couldn't be more grateful for this opportunity.

"First and foremost,

thanks and glory to God. He took me through some stuff I wouldn't wish on anyone, but I'm starting to see why.

"All my guys who I've coached through the years. I hope I helped y'all as much as you helped me. The work continues. Forever grateful, humble, hardworking, and driven. We've only just begun," Scott posted to his social media.

He went on to thank several persons who would have helped him along the journey and the Timberwolves front office for the opportunity.

cont'd from pg 24

The results of round robin matches in the other groups in League B are as follows:

On Tuesday, August 8th, Nicaragua defeated Martinique 1-0, Bermuda took care of the Cayman Islands 4-0, Suriname downed Grenada 1-0, Aruba and St. Lucia battled to a 0-0 draw, and Guadeloupe won 2-1 against Barbados.

On Monday, August 7th, Martinique prevailed 2-0 versus Grenada, St. Lucia

cruised to a 5-0 victory against the Cayman Islands, Nicaragua and Suriname battled to a 2-2 draw, Bermuda edged Aruba 1-0, Barbados played to a 0-0 draw with Guyana, and Belize squeezed past Guadeloupe 1-0.

On Sunday, August 6th, Martinique defeated Suriname 2-1, Aruba marched to a 4-0 win versus the Cayman Islands, Nicaragua beat Grenada 4-0, St. Lucia defeated Bermuda 2-0, and Guadeloupe and Guyana played to a 0-0 draw.

Antigua advance at Under-15 tournament

Antigua and Barbuda's young Benna Boys are through to the quarter-final stage in League B of the 2023 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) Boys' Under-15 Championship, which is being hosted at two stadiums in Curacao, the Ergilio Hato Stadium and the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca, from August 6th to 13th.

Antigua and Barbuda booked their spot in the quarter-finals by pulling off a 3-1 victory over host Curacao in their last round-robin match in League B, Group H, at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca in Willemstad, Curacao, on Tuesday.

Jaeden Browne, Marco Michael, and Samuel Brazier were the goal scorers for the Benna Boys in their victory over the host nation.

But despite the result, the Antigua and Barbuda Benna Boys advance to the quarter-finals after finishing as runners-up behind League B, Group H winners Curacao.



The Antigua and Barbuda's young Benna Boys at the CONCACAF Boys' Under-15 Championship, which is being hosted at two stadiums in Curacao, the Ergilio Hato Stadium and the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca, from August 6th to 13th. (ABFA)

Both teams ended their Group H play with identical six points, with two wins and a defeat, but Curacao advanced as group winners due to a superior goal difference.

Curacao had won their first two matches by trouncing St. Kitts and Nevis 7-1 and beating Bonaire 5-0 before losing to the Benna Boys.

Antigua and Barbuda

opened their campaign with a 2-0 win over Bonaire. Both goals were scored by forward Greg Williams on either side of halftime.

The Benna Boys lost 2-1 against St. Kitts and Nevis in their second encounter, with captain Vaughn Leon Jackson scoring for the Antiguans.

St. Kitts and Nevis were beaten 3-2 by Bonaire in their last Group H encounter

on Tuesday.

Antigua and Barbuda will face League B, Group E winners Nicaragua in the quarter-finals, which will be contested at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca today (Thursday).

The semi-finals are slated to take place on Friday, August 11th, and the final will be held on Sunday, August 13th.

cont'd on pg 23