



ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT CELEBRATED IN GRAND STYLE

Story on Page 2





Historic achievement celebrated in grand style

Thousands of people converged on the Antigua Recreation Grounds (ARG) on Thursday to be part of the celebrations marking the historic event of two Antigua and Barbuda nationals,

a mother and daughter duo, as they journeyed into space aboard the Virgin Galactic 2 spacecraft.

The atmosphere was reminiscent of the events that took place days earlier

at the same venue; Antigua Carnival 2023.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority organized a ‘Watch Party’ for thousands, including hundreds of students from some of the nation’s schools to watch as Keisha Schahaff and her daughter Anastatia Mayers of Antigua and Barbuda journeyed into space and back.

It was quite a celebration with the events attracting the Governor General Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams, members of the Cabinet, including Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Minister

Maria Browne, members of parliament as well as special guests, Sir Vivian Richards and owner of the Virgin Group, Sir Richard Branson.

The activities, parts of which were broadcast LIVE around the world, included performances from several local artists. Among the artists were Menace XL, Claudette Peters, and Tizzy Sebastian, as well as an appearance by the three Antigua Island Girls who recently returned from rowing across the Pacific Ocean, Samara Emmanuel, Christal Clashing, and Kevinia Fran-
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AUCTION NOTICE

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Instructed by **ACB MORTGAGE AND TRUST COMPANY LIMITED**, I shall sell by **PUBLIC AUCTION** on Tuesday the 15th day of August 2023 at 11:00am the above residential property at Potters.

The property is under the ownership of **EUSTACE M. DANIEL JR.** The land is a 0.15 acre plot with a single storey concrete apartment building with 2-2bedroom units.

The property is in residential development with a gentle slope.

The Auction shall be held on site.

Details of the Auction may be obtained from **Mr. Trevor Santos, Public Auctioneer** at telephone numbers: 562-7653 and 464-7653.

Dated this the 21st day of July 2023

Trevor Santos
Licensed Auctioneer





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 cis.

Another special guest at the Watch Party was American astronaut, Christopher Huie, who provided live commentary and also interviewed Antigua's Prime Minister on what this unique occasion meant to the twin-island nation. The resonance of this monumental feat reverberated globally, serving as a beacon of inspiration and a source of unity that transcended borders.

In a brief address, PM Browne urged, "Let the courage of Keisha and Ana fuel the dreams of our youth and propel our citizens to follow their cosmic destinies.

"Today, Antigua and Barbuda will be forever remembered among the stars

and, here on earth, as a transformational small island state striving to become an economic powerhouse. There are no limits to what we can achieve when Antiguan and Barbudans dare to reach for the unfathomable.

"Keisha and Anastatia have given tangible expression to the phrase - reach for the stars. Therefore, we should never limit our ambition for great achievements."

Tourism Minister, Charles "Max" Fernandez, also shared in the excitement, stating, "Keisha and Ana's historic journey beckons the world to experience the wonders of Antigua and Barbuda, where boundless horizons meet pristine landscapes. Their voyage embodies the spirit of adventure



that defines our nation."

As LIVE commentary was provided by the Virgin Galactic Global Livestream from the launch facility in New Mexico, USA, there were cutaways to the ARG to show thousands of spectators waving the National Flag in joyous celebration of the moment. They also helped to portray Antigua and Barbuda as a fun destination where visitors are sure to have a good time.

For Keisha and Anastatia, while their actual time in space was for several minutes, the memories of the event are expected to last a lifetime. Pictures from inside the aircraft during weightlessness showed the pair along with a third passenger,

floating around as they experienced this new sensation.

Upon her safe return to Earth, Keisha had this to say, "...that was the most amazing thing I've ever done, ... Antigua went to space! A childhood dream has come true. I've been to space and back with my daughter... everyone delivered exactly what they said it would be, and if anyone was wondering — Earth is round!"

In an era distinguished by the relentless pursuit of progress, Keisha and Ana have etched their legacy among the stars. Their voyage radiates as a testament to the fortitude of the human spirit, igniting hope and inspiring generations to explore uncharted territories.



Five people honoured for service to the nation

Four people were named as the latest recipients of the Governor General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Awards, while one person received the Halo Foundation Hero Humanitarian Award at a function held at Government House on Thursday.

The Governor General, Sir Rodney Williams conferred the awards on Carmen Antonio (Service Medal Award – Gold), M.D Vincent Benjamin (Service Medal Award - Silver), Superintendent of Police, Lisborn Michael (Service Medal Award – Silver), and Hilson Joseph (Service Medal Award – Bronze).

The Halo Foundation Hero Humanitarian Award was sent to Romancia Edwards – Tertiary.

Sir Rodney said by presenting the awards to the recipients the nation celebrates and pays tribute to exceptional individuals who have demonstrated unwavering dedication, selflessness, and a profound commitment to our beloved nation, Antigua and Barbuda.

“This ceremony is a momentous occasion as we recognize the extraordinary achievements and contributions of



five remarkable individuals who have touched the lives of countless others in remarkable ways. Among the esteemed honourees are four outstanding individuals who are being presented with the Governor General's Faithful and Meritorious Service Awards. Their collective years of service, passion, and dedication have left an indelible mark on our society, embodying the very essence of what it means to serve with pride, honor, and dignity,” he remarked.

In extending the nation's heartfelt congratulations, Sir Rodney urged the recipients to continue serving God and country ‘with the same passion, dedication, and spirit that have brought you this well-deserved recognition.’

Carmen Antonio, her Citation noted among other things, that she was honoured for her outstanding work on behalf of the APUA Credit Union, as under her stewardship and guidance it grew and expanded both in membership and deposits. Some ascribe the good saving habits of many APUA employees to the encouragement of the first APUA Credit Union Manager. To get a true sense of Mrs. Antonio's contribution, one only needs to know that as the first Manager of the APUA Credit Union, she was able to single-handedly grow the organization from 70 to 300 persons as the sole staff member, while maintaining her job as an accountant with the statutory body.

Melvin Dalton Vincent Benjamin was honoured for his contributions in the field of education. Benjamin has spent all his working life, over 40 years, in public service. His unblemished re-

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cord in the public sector and the positive influence that he has had on the lives of many he encountered, is a testament to his commitment to service, his love for country, and his fellow men. Mr. Benjamin was the Headmaster of four secondary schools including the All Saints Secondary, Clare Hall, Jennings, and Princess Margaret Schools.

Superintendent of Police Lisborn Wendel Christopher Michael was singled out for his service in national security. He is a dedicated and accomplished law enforcement professional with over thirty-four years of service in the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda. His career began in 1989 with a posting to the Special Patrol Group. Over the years, his posting included the Criminal Investigations Department with a specialization in financial crimes.

Hilson Glanville Joseph received his award for faithful service to the nation, particularly in the development of national pride. Known as 'The Flag Man', as a proud Antiguan and Barbudan, Joseph has exhibited his love and devotion



for his homeland in such a consistent manner that it has virtually become his lifestyle.

A typical example is his remarkable feat during the most recent Queen's Baton Relay, where he tirelessly carried the Antigua and Barbuda flag through the streets of the capital city and across the island for 12 hours.

Romancia Edwards From an early age, Romancier had a heart of com-



passion, selflessness, and care, not only for her family and friends but even for strangers she would meet from time to time.

She started her humanitarian work by assisting an individual or family in need every month in various ways. She also mentors and tutors youths within the community whom she believes should be given a chance despite their background.

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Police seek legal backing to impose 'limited' state of emergency

The police have asked the government to pass legislation that will give them the right to impose a 'limited' state of emergency in particular areas should the situation on the ground re-

quire such intervention to maintain public safety.

The disclosure comes from Police Commissioner Atlee Rodney who said the proposed legislation has been presented to parlia-

ment with debate expected anytime soon. He added that the police sought to have the proposed legislation include several provisions that will assist with their crime-fighting efforts.

"One of the things that we don't have in Antigua and Barbuda is this 'limited' state of emergency measure so that if there is a problem in a particular area you could impose that and deal with the situation in that specific area. We do not have that legislation here," he revealed.

According to the commissioner, the legislation is already in effect in several Caribbean jurisdictions. These include Belize, where it was used recently, Barbados, Jamaica, and several others.

"These are some of the changes that we are asking for in our legislation that is up for review by the parliament. That would assist us in dealing with a problem in a particular area," he reported.

Additionally, the commissioner said the police also want the legislation to allow them to use new modern crime-fighting tools such as mace, and taser guns.

"The use of non-lethal weapons is the way to go, as there are a number of situations that you can de-escalate with non-lethal weapons, so we want the legislation to assist us with that," he stated.

He added that the legislation could also cover the use of body-cams by officers, and for such evidence to be admissible in a court of law.


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King Young Destroyer heads to Anguilla for regional Calypso Competition

Newly-crowned Calypso Monarch Leston Jacobs, better known by his stage name 'Young Destroyer' is in Anguilla, where he will make his debut representing Antigua and Barbuda in the Leeward Islands Calypso Competition.

According to his writer/producer and father, Ogliver Jacobs (Destroyer Senior) the Antigua and Barbuda Monarch will sing two of his most popular songs during the competition; Back of de Bus and Defending My Flag.

He explained that the competition in Anguilla does not require participants to sing new material but to present their best songs thus giving each contestant a real shot at winning the title.

King Young Destroyer copped the

local calypso crown at Carnival City last Friday during Antigua and Barbuda's annual Carnival celebrations.

The Leeward Islands Calypso Competition has been the 'next stop' for the winner of the Calypso Monarch competition here in Antigua and Barbuda, for several of the nation's former Calypso Monarchs.

Past winners from Antigua and Barbuda include De Bear, Zacari, Thalia, Ivena, and the late Eddie Mellow.

Commenting on his son's victory last Friday night, Destroyer Senior's reaction was simply; "It's about time. Young Destroyer should have won the competition at least four times in the past.

"Unfortunately, people were judging him, the person, and his lifestyle,

and not what he presented on stage. If you have a reputation of always being in trouble, that happens sometimes," he observed.

Young Destroyer has one of the better records of any calypsonian from Antigua. He won the Junior Calypso crown four times.

He has won twice in Trinidad and Tobago; one for the Caribbean Junior Calypso Competition and the other time for the CARIFESTA Calypso Competition where he outperformed many calypso heavyweights from T&T. He last won the Independence Calypso competition held two years ago.

Destroyer Senior said Young Destroyer has as good a chance as any to win the competition slated for Saturday night in Anguilla.



Weekend Vibes

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A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Dwayne's journey to a better St. Mary's South

By A. Gittens

In the vibrant constituency of St. Mary's South, a new wave of political transformation is unfolding as Dwayne George, an esteemed community activist, sets forth on a remarkable journey. For over two decades, Dwayne has dedicated himself to the welfare and progress of St. Mary's South, standing as a beacon of hope for its residents.

April 2023 marked a turning point when constituents began expressing deep regret in their choice of Kelvin Simon, the representative from the United Progressive Party. They yearned for a true advocate and leader who could bring meaning-

ful change to their lives.

Amidst the clamor and demands for action, Dwayne George emerged as a popular option for the people's choice, their unwavering belief in his ability to uplift and develop the constituency ringing loud and clear. Their spirits ignited, and they implored Dwayne to step forward as he had done countless times before.

Enthused by the outpouring of support and propelled by his lifelong commitment to the community, Dwayne George made a significant decision that would shape the political landscape of St. Mary's South. He believed that the path to true growth and development lay in



Dwayne George, right, with Governor General Sir Rodney Williams.

aligning with the ruling party, the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

For Dwayne, the move to the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party was not about personal gain or ambition; it was about pushing St. Mary's South to the New Level of progress and prosperity. He understood that a vote for Kelvin Simon, who would find himself in the opposition, would do little to address the challenges faced by the constituency.

This move was a fulfilling promise to Dwayne's late grandmother, a staunch supporter of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party. Before her passing, she urged him to return to the party that held her heart. Honoring her memory and driven by a genuine desire to uplift his community, Dwayne embraced the wisdom of his grandmother's wish.

As Dwayne George em-

barks on this new chapter, he carries with him the weight of high expectations and the genuine hope of a better future for St. Mary's South. He stands as a symbol of unity, resilience, and the unwavering power of community-driven leadership.

With the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party as his political home, Dwayne George offers a renewed sense of purpose and determination. St. Mary's South can now look forward to a representative who not only understands their needs but also possesses the experience and vision to transform their dreams into reality.

In this journey of empowerment and progress, Dwayne George promises nothing short of a revolution for the forgotten corners of St. Mary's South, illuminating its potential and leading the way toward a brighter future for all.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
A.D. 2023

AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Instructed by the **ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA DEVELOPMENT BANK** of 27 St. Mary's Street, in the City of Saint John, in the State of Antigua and Barbuda, I will sell by public auction on Tuesday 31 August 2023 at 11:00 a.m. on site, the under mentioned property.

The property is located at Dyett Street in Villa, St. John's, Antigua and consists of a parcel of land of an area of approximately 2,178 sq. ft./ 0.05 acre, with a 514 sq. ft. single storey, two (2) bedroom, one (1) bathroom wooden dwelling thereon.

The service lines for potable water, electricity and telephone which are provided by A.P.U.A are accessible to the property.

The land is registered under the Registered Land Act, 1975 as follows:-

REGISTRATION SECTION: Villa
BLOCK: 62 1693F
PARCEL: 37

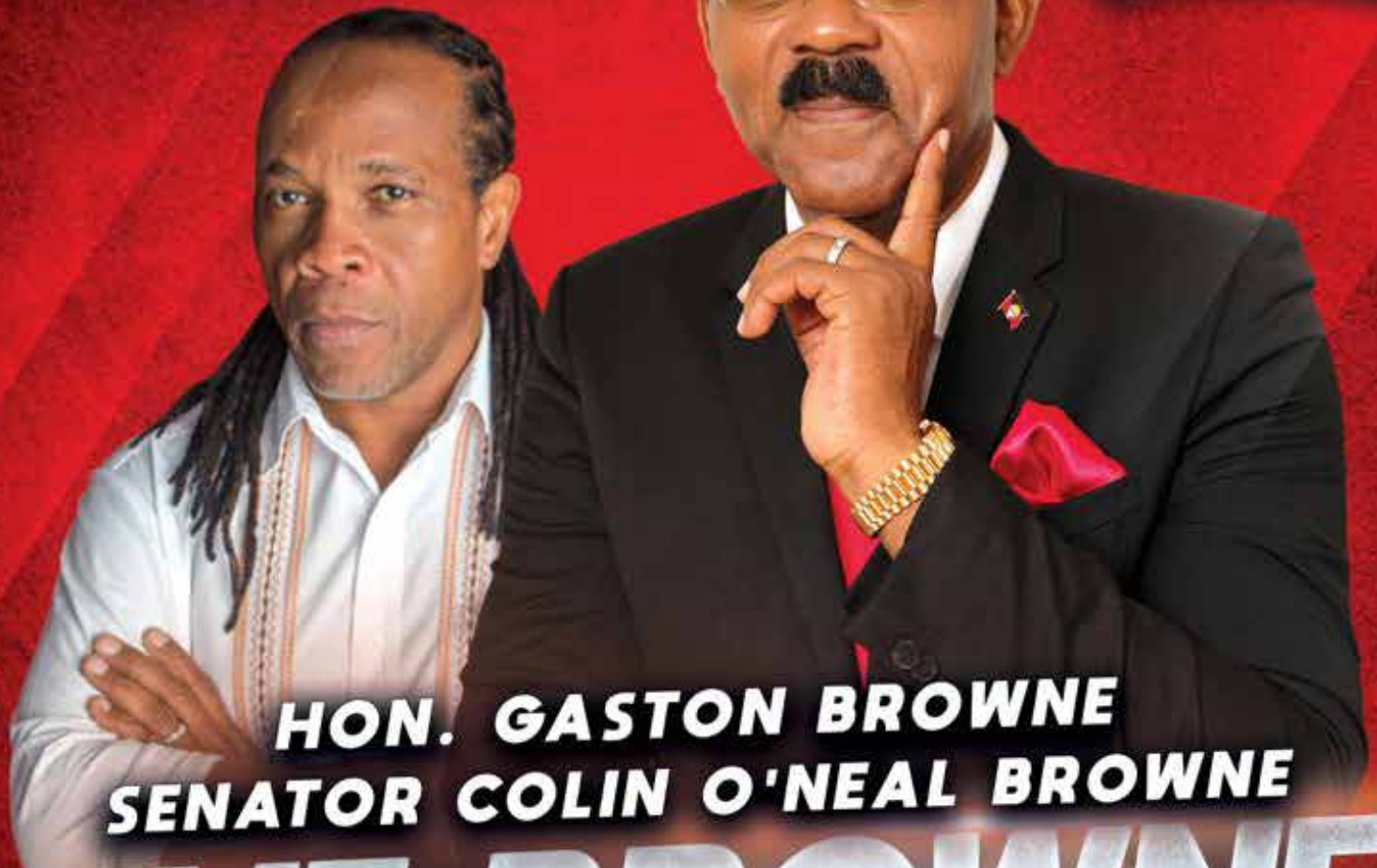
Parcel No. 37 of Block No. 62 1693F is bounded by the following:

- On the North by: Parcel 35;
- On the South by: Parcel 39;
- On the East by: Public Road;
- On the West by: Parcel 36

Particulars of the sale can be obtained from:

Mr. Trevor 'Teddy' Santos
Licensed Auctioneer
Office: (268) 562-7653
Cell & WhatsApp: (268) 464-7653
Email: info@go-going-gone.com
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Antigua and Barbuda to observe World Steel Pan Day, August 11, 2023

Antigua and Barbuda will mark the observance of the United Nations World Steel Pan Day today, with the staging of a Block-o-Rama in St. John's this afternoon.

The announcement from the Cultural Unit within the Ministry of Education, and Creative Industries will host the Block-o-rama to commemorate World Steel Pan Day 2023 on August 11th, from 12 noon to 2 pm on Redcliffe Street between Corn Alley and Market Street.

“At the 77th UN General Assembly, a resolution was passed with a co-sponsorship from 27 member states to adopt and declare August 11th as World Steelpan Day and will be annually observed on the UN's calendar.

“This resolution is due to the historical significance of the steelpan movement which created and cemented linkages to the arts, tourism, culture, education, as well as the science, technology, and engineering sectors.

“It has become a musical instrument with substantive cross border recognition throughout the world contributing to sustainable development, as the playing of the steelpan can positively impact on gender equality, mental health and wellbeing, youth empowerment, socio-economic development, and sustainability,” the document said.

Antigua and Barbuda shares a long history with Trinidad and Tobago and the steelpan community the

world over.

This relationship commenced in the middle 1940s and since then the steelpan has become an integral aspect of the Antiguan and Barbudan cultural identity.

Pan enthusiasts and other spectators will be treated to sweet pan music from some of the best steel orchestras from across the country.

The steel orchestras include West Side Steel Orchestra, Panache Steel Orchestra, Halcyon Steel Orchestra, CUB Hells Gate Steel Orchestra, Pan-nist Amarni Gomes, and much more.

This event will be streamed live via our Instagram page @antiguafestivalsofficial in collaboration with Miami Carnival @miabrocarnival platform.



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Commentary



Summary of the Consensus arising from the deliberations of the Special Meeting of the Permanent Council to receive the Report of Secretary General Luis Almagro on his fact-finding Mission to Guatemala regarding the electoral process and adherence to democracy

By Sir Ronald Sanders

Colleagues, I thank the delegations which have contributed to this Council's deliberations today.

Full note has been taken of the many important statements that have been made, and they will all form part of the record of this meeting.

Now I would like to summarise today's meeting and to set out what appears to be a consensus, arising from it.

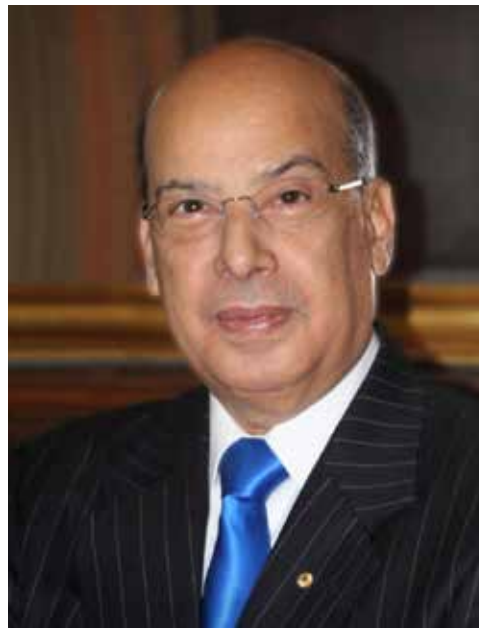
We convened today to receive and discuss the report submitted by Secretary-General, Mr. Luis Almagro.

At the invitation of President Alejandro Giammattei of Guatemala, the Secretary-General undertook a mission to evaluate the integrity of the electoral process, particularly regarding the run-off Presidential election on August 20th, and the overarching commitment to democratic principles by Government institutions and others.

On behalf of the Council, I commend Secretary-General Almagro for his thorough engagement with diverse sectors of Guatemalan society, including the two candidates contending for the presidency of the country – Sandra Torres and Bernardo Arévalo.

The assurances received from the Government and other State authorities about the forthcoming run-off elections being conducted with transparency and fairness are encouraging.

So, too, is the assurance that they will accept the result of the elections, including the run-off presidential elec-



Sir Ronald Sanders

tions, and that there will be an open and transparent transition of power.

We are grateful for the reaffirmation of these assurances by the Foreign Minister of Guatemala, during our meeting today.

The invitation of President Giammattei, for the OAS Elector Observation Mission to continue its role, not just for the run-off elections, but until the inauguration of the new president on January 14th, 2024, is very encouraging.

However, members of this Council remain concerned about actions of the Public Ministry in relation to the work of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, including 13 cases, or even more, which have been brought against the Tribunal.

These include requiring information about causal workers employed

to carry out data entry during the elections of June 25th, 2023.

The Council has taken good note of the Government of Guatemala's assurances that it wishes to ensure a democratic and transparent process from now, through the August 20th run-off Presidential elections, and up to and including the installation of the new President in January.

Member states this morning have expressed their support for the ongoing work of the General Secretariat and for the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report.

That work should include supporting the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in its efforts to carry out a free, fair and transparent process.

Conscious that we are now only 10 days away from the run-off presidential elections and desirous of contributing to a peaceful, free and fair process, this Council agrees that the OAS, through its strengthened and bolstered electoral observer mission, will accompany the process including the installation of the new President, with vigilance and keen attentiveness.

Further, the Council will meet as soon as possible thereafter to receive a report on the run-off elections, when it will further review the situation in Guatemala, in the context of adherence to the OAS Charter and the Inter-American Democratic Charter.

Unless there is any objection, I believe this summary accords with the Council's consensus.

(No objection. Adopted)



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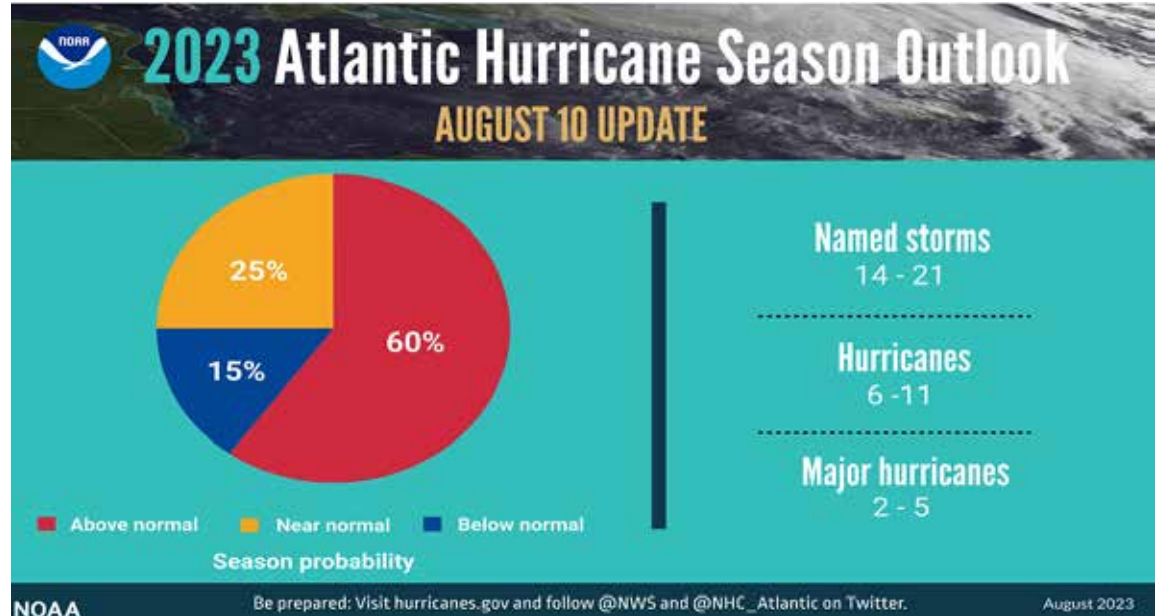
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NOAA increases Atlantic hurricane season prediction to ‘above normal’

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has increased its prediction for the ongoing 2023 Atlantic hurricane season from a near-normal level of activity to an above-normal level of activity.

An update was issued today.

Forecasters believe that current ocean and atmospheric conditions, such as record-warm Atlantic Sea surface temperatures, are likely to counterbalance the usually limiting atmospheric conditions associated



with the ongoing El Nino event.

NOAA forecasters have

increased the likelihood of an above-normal Atlantic hurricane season to 60

per cent (increased from the outlook issued in May, which predicted a 30 per cent chance).

The likelihood of near-normal activity has decreased to 25 per cent, down from the 40 per cent chances outlined in May's outlook.

This new update gives the Atlantic a 15 per cent chance of seeing a below-normal season.

NOAA's update to the 2023 outlook — which covers the entire six-month hurricane season that ends on November 30 — calls for 14 to 21 named storms (winds of 39 mph or greater), of which 6 to 11 could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or greater).

Of those, 2 to 5 could become major hurricanes (winds of 111 mph or greater). NOAA provides these ranges with a 70 per cent confidence. These updated ranges include storms that

cont'd on pg 15

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Rust armourer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed pleads not guilty over on-set death of Halyna Hutchins

By Paul Glynn

Hannah Gutierrez-Reed, the armourer and weapons supervisor on the set of the Alec Baldwin film *Rust*, has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter and evidence tampering charges.

Her plea comes ahead of a jury trial on 6 December looking into the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins.

Ms Hutchins was killed, aged 42, after a gun Mr Baldwin had been rehearsing with went off on set in 2021.

Prosecutors say Ms Gutierrez-Reed acted recklessly when loading the gun.

They said she failed to ensure that dummy bullets were loaded into the weapon that killed Ms Hutchins, and that the armourer handed the gun to Baldwin, having not checked that all the bullets were dummies.

Ms Gutierrez-Reed de-



Cinematographer Halyna Hutchins was killed on the set of the film.

nies this.

In June, prosecutors alleged she was likely to have been hungover on the day of the fatal shooting, accusing her of drinking alcohol and smoking marijuana in the evenings during filming.

In response, her lawyer said prosecutors had mishandled the case and resort-

ed to “character assassination”.

Ms Gutierrez-Reed submitted her not guilty plea on Wednesday, waiving her right to an arraignment and preliminary hearing which would have decided if there was cause for the case to go to trial.

Judge Mary Sommer

last week declined to dismiss the case, rejecting arguments from Ms Gutierrez-Reed’s team that prosecutors had tainted the investigation so a fair trial - set to run 6-15 December - was no longer possible and that her due process rights had been violated.

Baldwin, the star and producer of the western, was charged with two counts of involuntary manslaughter over the incident, but the charges were dropped in April. Filming resumed later that month.

He can still be charged, however, with prosecutors investigating whether the revolver he was holding was modified to fire without a pull of the trigger.

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have already formed this season.

The Atlantic basin experienced an active start to the hurricane season with five storms that have reached at least tropical storm strength, including one hurricane already.

An average hurricane season produces 14 named storms, of which seven become hurricanes, including three major hurricanes.

Matthew Rosencrans, lead hurricane

season forecaster with NOAA’s Climate Prediction Centre stated: “The main climate factors expected to influence the 2023 Atlantic hurricane activity are the ongoing El Nino and the warm phase of the Atlantic Multi-Decadal Oscillation, including record-warm Atlantic sea surface temperatures.”

He added: “Considering those factors, the updated outlook calls for more activity, so we urge everyone to prepare now for the continuing season.”

GFS assesses Guyanese schools following deadly Mahdia dorms blaze

By Dillon De Shong

Education Minister Priya Manickchand announced that the Guyana Fire Service (GFS) is currently assessing schools across the country to ensure they have the necessary fire prevention and safety mechanisms in place.

Manickchand gave the update yesterday while speaking in the National Assembly as they considered adding GYD\$3.4 billion to the Education Ministry's budget. The ministry plans to use the additional funds to upgrade and rehabilitate some school buildings as

cont'd on pg 17



Scene of Mahdia Secondary School fire.

The Bahamas: US woman accused of plotting to kill husband gets bail



Robert and Lindsay Shiver.

By Dillon De Shong

American Lindsay Shiver, who is accused of conspiring with her alleged lover and another man to kill her husband, was granted \$100,000 bail when she appeared before a Bahamian Supreme Court justice on Wednesday.

Under the bail conditions set by Justice Cheryl Grant-Thompson, Lindsay, 36, was outfitted with an electronic monitoring device and must comply with an 8 pm to 6 am curfew.

Lindsay's alleged co-conspirators, Terrance Adrian Bethel, 28, and Faron Newbold Jr, 29, had previously been released on \$20,000 bail.

Bethel and Newbold were also outfitted with electronic monitoring devices and have to report to the Marsh Harbour Police Station three times per week.

Lindsay, of Thomasville, Georgia,

is accused of plotting with the two Bahamian natives to kill her estranged husband Robert Shiver, who was vacationing at his family's luxury property on the Abaco Islands.

The murder plot was discovered after police allegedly found WhatsApp messages on Bethel's cellphone as they investigated a break-in at the bar in Guana Cay, Abaco where he worked.

The Shivers, who had been married for over a decade, had filed divorce proceedings in April after Robert allegedly discovered his wife's affair with Bethel.

US media reported Robert accused his wife of "adulterous conduct" in the divorce filing while Lindsay countered that her insurance executive husband was abusive.

Lindsay's next court appearance is set for October 5.

Opposition suggests help needed to solve Jonty Robinson's murder

Leader of His Majesty's Opposition in Grenada, Dr Keith Mitchell, has written to Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell recommending that Grenada seek assistance from foreign experts to solve the murder of Josiah 'Jonty' Robinson.

Dr Mitchell made the appeal in a letter dated August 10 entitled 'The Investigation into the Death of Josiah Robinson.'

On June 18, 2023, the lifeless body of Josiah "Jonty" Robinson, was found on BBC Beach. Shortly after discovering the body, an autopsy was conducted, and it was reported that the young man died from accidental drowning. The deceased's family commissioned another postmortem performed by forensic pathologist Professor Hubert Daisely, the findings of which revealed that Josiah "Jonty" Robinson's death was not caused by drowning but by manual strangulation,



Josiah 'Jonty' Robinson.

which indicates that he was murdered.

The opposition leader notes this homicide has attracted widespread regional and international attention to Grenada, bringing to the attention that in a media posting, it has been reported that world-renowned film director and actor Tyler Perry stated, about the deceased, that "... he was a young, gifted singer who was murdered because he was gay..."

Dr Mitchell says Grenada-

dians are concerned about these statements and their potentially damaging effects on their beautiful nation and reputation.

He is suggesting that the Prime Minister, who is also the Minister of National Security, should update the nation on the progress of the investigation along with representatives from the Royal Grenada Police Force.

"Grenadians at home and the world at large must see the efficiency and transparen-

cy of the process. It has been almost two months without any discernible progress by the RGPF in this murder investigation. Meanwhile, concerns and suspicions are growing locally as three other homicides remain unsolved. The necessary support must be given to the Criminal Investigation Department to manage the task on their hand amidst the many different challenges and demands they face during this time of year."

The opposition leader has also strongly recommended that the Government of Grenada seek assistance from experts in the International community, such as the US Federal Bureau of Investigations or the British Scotland Yard of the Metropolitan Police, to ensure an independent, transparent and thorough inquiry into this particular murder case as a matter of priority guaranteeing no possibility of any lapses or cover-up.

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well as purchase additional supplies.

"We are working with the Guyana Fire Service. They are assessing schools and then saying to us 'This is what you need', and that is how we are going to attend to those schools for fires," the minister stated.

She revealed assessments have been completed on all school dormitories and the ministry is looking to make the changes that were highlighted by the GFS.

The assessment follows the May 22, 2023 fire at the Mahdia Secondary

School's girls' dormitory, which killed 20 children.

A resident of the dorm is facing 20 counts of murder before the court.

Manickchand and President Dr Mohammed Irfaan Ali had pledged to improve school safety protocols to ensure another tragedy does not occur.

The government will hold a Commission of Inquiry into the Mahdia fire.

Members of the commission will be sworn in today by Ali.

Meanwhile, Manickchand told parliament that the girls' dorm at the

Mahdia Secondary School will not be rebuilt.

She explained that the community is opposed to building a new structure at the location.

When school reopens on September 4, the girls in Grades Nine, 10 and 11 would be transferred to President's College in East Coast Demerara.

The boys dorm will open as normal.

A new school is set to be constructed in the Amerindian village of Micobie, which was home to several of the fire victims.

Donald Trump and Walt Nauta plead not guilty to latest charges in documents case

By Sam Cabral

Donald Trump and his close personal aide Walt Nauta have pleaded not guilty to the latest allegations in the federal classified documents case.

The fresh charges accuse the two men and a third aide of conspiring to conceal surveillance footage at Mr Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort from the FBI.

The former president, 77, and Mr Nauta had already pleaded not guilty to previous charges against them.

Mr Trump is fighting on multiple fronts as he mounts his third White House bid.

The documents case is led by Special Counsel Jack Smith, who is also overseeing a separate indictment of Mr Trump over his alleged efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

Mr Smith's office on Thursday recommended to a federal court in Washington DC that Mr Trump face trial in the election case on 2 January 2024.

In June, he charged the ex-president with 37 counts, for retaining hundreds of confidential files - including about US nuclear secrets and military plans - after leaving office and for lying to investigators.

Mr Nauta, a former Trump White House military valet turned personal aide, was also charged in the indictment and accused



Donald Trump

of moving files to hide them from the FBI.

In a superseding indictment, prosecutors detailed an alleged effort between Mr Nauta and Carlos de Oliveira, the property manager at Mar-a-Lago, to obstruct the investigation.

The court document alleges the two men, at Mr Trump's request, tried to delete security footage outside the storage room where documents were being held.

That indictment added one count of wilful retention of defence information and two of obstruction against Mr Trump, bringing the total charges against him in the case to 40.

He had previously waived his right to appear in person in the Flor-

ida courtroom on Thursday. His attorney Todd Blanche entered a not guilty plea on his behalf.

Mr Nauta also received two additional charges of obstruction in the latest indictment, while Mr de Oliveira was charged with four counts, including conspiracy to obstruct justice and making false statements.

Both men were present in the room, but Mr de Oliveira was unable to enter a plea as he had not yet retained local counsel. His arraignment has been rescheduled for next Tuesday.

John Irving, a lawyer who represents Mr de Oliveira, did not immediately respond to the BBC's request for comment. He

earlier told ABC News arrangements for local counsel would soon be "ironed out".

In addition to the charges brought by Mr Smith, Mr Trump also awaits trial on 34 felony counts in a hush-money case in New York, and faces a defamation case from writer E Jean Carroll.

Georgia prosecutors are expected to bring state charges next week over the alleged effort by Mr Trump and several allies to overturn the 2020 election results there.

But Mr Trump has remained popular with Republican voters and remains the frontrunner for the party's presidential nomination next year.

Iran releases US dual nationals into house arrest, lawyer says

By Sean Seddon

Iran has released five US-Iranian dual nationals into house arrest, US officials say.

Siamak Namazi, Emad Shargi and Morad Tahbaz, who also has a British passport, were released alongside a fourth unidentified man, a lawyer for one of the men said.

A fifth American had already been released, a US national security official said.

Talks had taken place between Iran and the US to secure their release.

“While this is an encouraging step, these US citizens... should have never been detained in the first place,” said National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson.

“Of course, we will not rest until



US-Iranian Siamak Namazi is among those freed from prison under the deal.

they are all back home in the United States,” she added.

Iran’s mission to the UN confirmed the release of dual nationals from Teh-

ran’s Evin prison, according to state media.

It said the deal had been “mediated by a third country” and that as part of it, frozen funds in South Korea would be “unblocked and transferred to Qatar,” according to Reuters, citing state news agency IRNA.

US media report that the Iranian funds frozen in South Korea are worth around \$6bn (£4.7bn).

Mr Namazi’s brother Babak said: “While this is a positive change, we will not rest until Siamak and others are back home; we continue to count the days until this can happen.”

The 51-year-old was first arrested in 2015 and was sentenced to 10 years in prison on security charges.

The sister of Mr Shargi, 58, said she “has faith in the work of President Biden and government officials” to secure his release following his detention in April 2018.

Mr Tahbaz, a 67-year-old businessman and wildlife conservationist, was first arrested during a crackdown on environmental activists in January 2018.

cont’d on pg 20



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Ecuador politician murder suspects are Colombian, police say

By Ruth Comerford

The six people who have been arrested in connection with the killing of Ecuadorian presidential candidate Fernando Villavicencio are Colombian, police say.

A seventh suspect, who died from wounds in a shootout with police on Thursday, was also Colombian.

Mr Villavicencio was killed leaving a campaign event in the capital Quito.

The interior minister said a police investigation into the “abominable event” was under way.

Interior Minister Juan Zapata said officers would work to “discover the motive of this crime and its intellectual authors”.

The six detainees have been identified as Andres M, Jose N, Eddy G, Camilo R, Jules C, and Jhon Rodriguez, Mr Zapata told a press conference on Thursday.

He added that during the police raid that resulted in their arrest, officers found



a rifle, a submachine gun, four pistols, three grenades, four boxes of ammunition, two motorbikes, and a vehicle that had been reported stolen in the group’s possession.

A vocal critic of organized crime, Mr Villavicencio was one of the few presidential candidates to allege links between corruption and government officials.

President Guillermo Lasso said the assassination was an attempt to sabotage the election.

He added that voting would go ahead as planned on 20 August, despite a national state of emergency.

He said organised crime was behind the killing and has asked US federal agents to help investigate, with FBI agents due to arrive shortly.

Mr Villavicencio, a member of the country’s national assembly, had received threats from a gang calling itself Los Choneros last month and had been given a security detail.

Following his murder, a video appeared on social media in which heavily armed men wearing balaclavas claimed responsibility for the murder. The men claimed to belong to Los Lobos (The Wolves), who are rivals of Los Choneros.

However another video appeared online just hours later, in which another group of men - this time not wearing masks - claimed they were Los Lobos members and denied any role in the assassination, claiming the other video was an attempt by their rivals to set them up for the murder.

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Iran has detained and imprisoned a number of dual nationals in recent years, usually on national security charges.

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller said two of the five individuals released “wish to remain private”.

He continued: “We are in touch with the families of US citizens involved, and we continue to monitor these individuals’ health and welfare closely.”

Negotiations have been taking place for years to try to secure their release as

part of a prisoner swap with Iranians now incarcerated in American and other western prisons, as well as the easing of US sanctions on Iran.

Citing sources close to the talks, Reuters said it could still take several weeks for the US citizens to leave Iran.

The New York Times reported that Iranian prisoners in US jails could also be freed as part of the deal, but the White House has not confirmed any details of what it offered to Tehran in order to secure the prisoners’ release.



The players of the Antigua and Barbuda national Wadadli Warriors domino team congregate at the Wesleyan Holiness Church in Ottos for a worship service on Sunday, August 6th, 2023. (Photos courtesy the ABNDA)

Wadadli Warriors travel to defend world domino championship

A 45-member Wadadli Warriors national team, comprising male and female players, will be traveling to Guyana this weekend to defend their back-to-back titles at the 19th World Council of Domino Federation (WCDF) Championship.

The team is traveling to the South American continent on multiple flights to participate in the competition, which will be hosted at the Guyana National Stadium in Providence from August 12th to 21st.

Prior to the players' departure, the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) maintained a long-established tradition of the traveling delegation attending a church service on the last Sunday before the start of the world domino championship.

The Antiguan contingent joined the congregation at the Wesleyan Holiness Church in Ottos for a worship service last Sunday.

The national team includes several players from the AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers, who won the first Team Three-Hand competition of the 2023 domestic season.

They are Marilyn Gayle, Desiree Parker, Victoria Parker, Kaid Jarvis, and Thomas Gabriel.

A number of national players are also selected from the Everyday Service Station Double Six Diamonds, which won the second domestic Team Three-Hand competition.

They are Joanne Davis, Francine Hector, Renfield Davis, Michael Roach, Aldis Benjamin, Lionel Gomes, Dale Henry, and Trevor Scott.

Ten players are chosen from the Willikies Super Stars, who won the first and second Team Four-Hand contests.

They are Lorraine Richardson, Sharon Matthew, Natasha Edwards, Ruth Ralph, Carol-Faye Bynoe, Conrad Constant, Devon Graham, Kenny Charles, Jason King, and Mervin LeFleur.

Eight players are selected from the Dominatrixx team. They are Sheldon Gomes, Isabelle Benjamin, Shanica St. Louis, Gary Joseph, Rohan Cordice, Zenus Williams, Frank Govia, and McClean Harve.

Also selected are Natalie Heron, Amsha-Ann Eusebe, and Shashana Car-

ter of Moise Eagle Warrior, along with Bernia Richards, Albert Collins, and Joshua Michael of Legacy.

The rest of the players are Seymone Parkes, Jason Edwards, and Lenroy Richards of the Parham Strikers; Adelia John and Wayne Hallpike of the Ramblers; and Carolyn Joseph of the Unstoppables.

Teams from Anguilla, Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Grenada, the USA, and host Guyana will be participating in the world domino championship.

Participants will compete in the following eight disciplines: Team Four Hand, Female Three Hand, Male Three Hand, Mixed Pairs, Female Pairs, Male Pairs, Queen of Domino, and King of Domino.

After capturing the title in 2016, Antigua and Barbuda retained their World Council of Domino Federation Championship title by winning the 18th edition of the biennial tournament in Guyana in 2018, the last time the event was held. Barbados took second place overall, while St. Lucia came third.

Man City to begin their ascent up the mountain after 'once in a lifetime' season



Manchester City's Cole Palmer, center, celebrates with teammates after scoring his side's opening goal during the English FA Community Shield final soccer match between Arsenal and Manchester City at Wembley Stadium in London, Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023. (AP)

LONDON (AP) - For Pep Guardiola and his Manchester City players, the comedown has started from the club's greatest ever season.

"We climbed the highest mountain with what we have done," Guardiola said yesterday (Thursday), in reference to City winning the Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League for a rare treble. "The last two days, we came down the mountain."

The new season starts in earnest today (Friday)

when City opens the Premier League with an away match against Burnley, and it means a 10-month slog begins again.

Guardiola knows that too well and he pretty much acknowledges life will never be as good for City again.

"I don't think it will be possible to do again what we have done last season," he said. "It's once in a lifetime. So I said to the players, 'Forget about it.'"

"There will be a lot of difficulties," Guardiola added, "to climb as high as possible the mountain and we will see that our football, our behavior, our mentality, will dictate how the season will be. What we have done remains in our hearts, our minds. How nice it was. But it's over ... it's almost impossible to repeat."

City has more games on its schedule - the UEFA Super Cup against Sevilla takes place on Wednesday and there is the Club World Cup in Saudi Arabia in December - and there is a general feeling that City might need to strengthen its squad, especially in attack, to handle it.

Midfielder Ilkay Gundogan has gone to Barcelona and been replaced by Mateo Kovacic. Defender Josko Gvardiol has come in, most likely to replace Aymeric Laporte, who appears surplus to requirements.

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Young golfers to contest junior masters championship

The country's top junior golfers will be swinging for honours this weekend when the third annual Michael Freeland and Patricia Matthew Red Jacket Junior Masters Golf Championship gets underway at Cedar Valley.

Among the youngsters taking to the course are the defending champions, Keiohn James and Lexi Hunte, both of whom prevailed against their rivals during the 2022 event.

But for Hunte, it will be even more special, as she will be bidding for a threepeat after winning the inaugural showpiece in 2021.

Others taking part in the 36-hole event are former

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City has sold winger Riyad Mahrez to the Saudi Arabian league and he hasn't been replaced. Cole Palmer, a 21-year-old academy product, has been viewed as a potential replacement but Guardiola couldn't guarantee Palmer would still be at City by the end of the transfer window amid interest from West Ham.

Another winger seems necessary if City is to be as dangerous as last season, especially with potential title rivals Arsenal and Manchester United having strengthened during the off-season. The biggest threat to City, though, is likely to come from within.

champion Marquise George, Taj Barnes, Siyolo Joseph, Kemarley Thomas, and Katherine Woodhouse, as well as the Weatherill sisters, Nicole and Kimberlyn.

A gripping contest is in prospect. Apart from the coveted Red Jacket, trophies, medals, and other incentives will also be awarded to the outstanding performers.

The two-day event, which is also being sponsored by Newman Wynter of Eighteen Plus Restaurant



Male junior golfer Keiohn James



Female junior golfer Lexi Hunte

and Rocky's Liquor store, will take off tomorrow (Sat-

urday) before climaxing on Sunday.

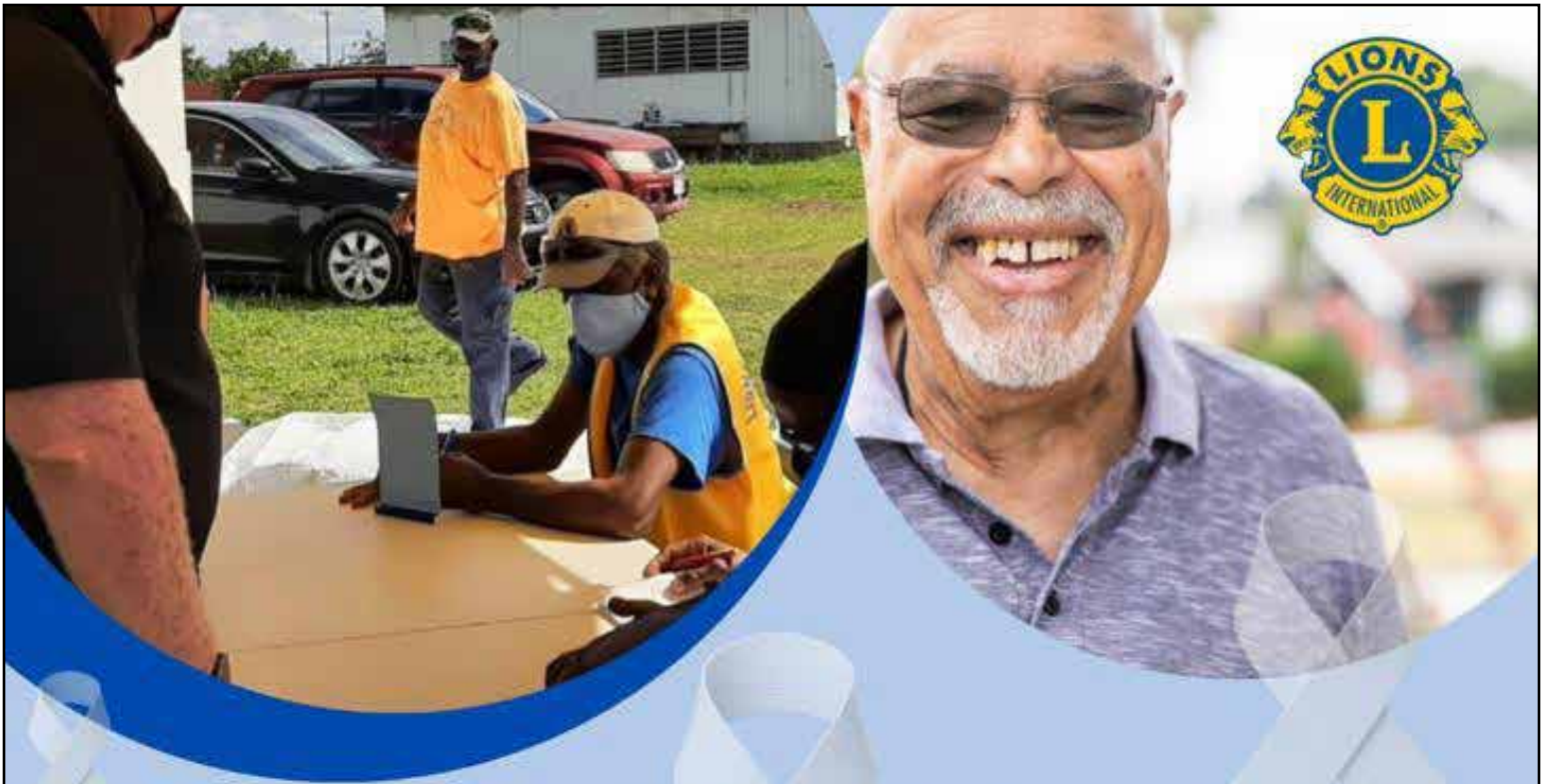
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Japan's players celebrate after winning the Women's World Cup second round soccer match between Japan and Norway in Wellington, New Zealand, Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023. (AP)

High-flying Japan's title credentials to be tested against Sweden

AUCKLAND (Reuters) - An increasingly confident Japan's status as genuine title contenders at the Women's World Cup will be tested in today's (Friday) clash with Sweden, while Spain face the Netherlands in their bid to reach the semi-finals.

Twelve years ago, 'Nadeshiko' made history by becoming the first, and so far only, Asian country to win the Women's World Cup at the 2011 tournament in Germany.

Futoshi Ikeda's side are in fine form and look on course to match the feat this year, having scored 14 goals in four games to surpass their previous goal-scoring record in a campaign.

Hinata Miyazawa has been a key part of Japan's free-flowing and attacking style of play with her tournament-leading five goals, but when asked about the threat posed by the midfielder, Sweden captain and de-

fender Magdalena Eriksson told reporters, "I think that the whole team is a threat.

"Instead of focusing on one player on this Japanese team, I think it's important to look at their whole team.

"The most impressive thing ... is that it doesn't really matter who is on the end of their attacks. They are all in sync and have such a clear style of play."

Sweden will be counting on their experience and physicality to push them to victory.

The third-ranked Swedes, who have kept three straight clean sheets, have reached the last eight of the World Cup on seven occasions and eliminated pre-tournament favourites United States in the round of 16.

"This won't be like the physical game we had against the USA. It will be a lot more technical and fast-paced,"

Sweden boss Peter Gerhardsson told reporters.

"When we get possession we will need to move the ball quickly and make the most of our physical advantage."

In Friday's other quarter-final, the Netherlands play Spain, who have beaten the 2019 runners-up in each of their last three meetings without conceding a goal.

However, Spain are playing in their first-ever World Cup quarter-finals, and despite his team's poor recent record against them, Dutch coach Andries Jonker struck a confident note.

"(We have) a lot of respect for Spain and how they have played in the past years ... but on the other hand, we are not afraid," Jonker told reporters.

"We are going to try, and we are convinced that we will succeed. It'll be a great match and we have every faith that we can pull it off."

Antigua lose in quarter-finals at Under-15 tournament

Antigua and Barbuda's young Benna Boys dramatically squandered a glorious opportunity to advance to the last four and somehow ended up missing out on a semi-final berth in League B of the 2023 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football (CONCACAF) Boys' Under-15 Championship in Curacao yesterday (Thursday).

The Benna Boys were mere seconds away from securing a 1-0 win over Nicaragua in their quarter-final match-up at the Stadion Rignaal Jean Francisca when the Central Americans scored to salvage the encounter, sending the match to be decided in a penalty shootout in which they prevailed 4-2 over the Antiguans.

Following a goalless first half, forward Vaughn Leon Jackson scored with a powerful right-footed shot early in the second period to give Antigua and Barbuda a one-nil lead.

The Young Benna Boys were able to hold on to their lead with hardly any trouble until virtually the last kick of second-half injury



A starting XI of the Antigua and Barbuda national team at the 2023 Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association of Football Boys' Under-15 Championship in Curacao. (ABFA)

time, when they conceded what appeared to be an offside goal to the Nicaraguans.

The goal was permitted and allowed Nicaragua to salvage a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation, sending the game to a penalty shootout in which the team from Central America prevailed.

Antigua and Barbuda had qualified for the quarter-finals by finishing as runners-up to Group H winners Curacao, while Nicaragua booked their spot in the last eight knockout rounds by winning Group E.

Host Curacao was also beaten in the quarter-finals yesterday. The home side was hammered 4-1 by Mar-

tinique, who finished as the runners-up in Group E.

The other two League B quarter-final matches were between Barbados and St. Lucia and Bermuda against Belize.

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