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PM BROWNE RECOMMITS TO UWI FIC

Story on Page 2



J. Pinder Finance and Development, Bonnie Floyd Ministries with support from One Desk, and Fire Phoenix Foundation have joined forces to create a brand-new playground in the heart of Cooks Extension. *Story on page 9.*

Local News

PM Browne underscores government's strong support for UWI FIC

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has again underscored his government's strong support for the continued growth and expansion of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus (UWI FIC) calling it the 'crown jewel' of his government's achievements over the past nine years.

The prime minister made the point during a courtesy call paid by the new Principal of UWI FIC, Professor Justin Robinson, on Tuesday. "Our government is committed to investing heavily in the university. The next phase is the USD80 million expansion of the campus, which should begin in the first quarter of next year to make



it one of the finest in the entire region," he stated.

PM Browne told Principal Robinson that he is taking up his new assignment at an important juncture in

the life of the campus.

"You have come at a good time when you will be able to preside over a lot of growth and development of the campus. In fact, I don't

think there is going to be a better time for a person to come and to help to form the culture of this new campus and to make it one of

cont'd on pg 3

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New UWI FIC Principal identifies his immediate priorities

The newly appointed Principal of the University of the West Indies Five Islands campus (UWI FIC), Professor Justin Robinson, has identified some of the priority areas he would wish to pursue during his tenure in office.

Prof. Robinson and a team from the university that included Director of Administration (ag), Hiram Forde and the head of the Marketing Unit, Shavar Maloney, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Gaston Browne on Tuesday.

During the discussion, Prof. Robinson outlined some of what he hopes to pursue to help make the campus an effective part of the overall UWI system.

“One of the key things that I want to push, and it was part of my portfolio before I took up this appointment, is to have a UWI shared services model. One of the things that went wrong is that each campus became a stand-alone; everybody had the full bursary, registrar, etc. We are going to be pushing this shared services model as part of us managing mainly the administration costs associated with running the university.

“This will also affect the teaching costs as well. As Principal, I will take charge of this initiative to ensure it happens,” he remarked.

According to Prof. Robinson, he has ‘a lot of capital’ within the UWI



Prime Minister Gaston Browne shakes hands with newly appointed Principal of the University of the West Indies Five Islands campus (UWI FIC), Professor Justin Robinson

system and he wants to bring this to bear on implementing the shared services model to ensure its success.

The second priority area, for the new principal is promoting the idea of a self-financing campus that will reduce its dependence on subvention from the government. He added that he sees this as the future of all the campuses within the UWI system. “We want to get there in an intentional manner rather than to get there through a crisis as has happened before. At Mona, Jamai-

ca, the government funds 40 percent of the university and the campus itself is responsible for the remaining 60 percent. This is the future for all of us,” he declared.

Prof. Robinson said the idea is to begin developing this self-financing model. “From the outset, we want to have those self-financing programmes such as research grants, partnerships, and similar type relationships that are sources of additional revenues for the university.

cont'd from pg 2

the best in the region,” he added.

He assured the principal that he can always count on the support of his government. “In terms of the support of the government, we are not only going to be there in terms of

advocacy but financial support, we are totally committed,” he declared.

As a measure of his government’s commitment to the UWI FIC, PM Browne revealed that the government is prepared, if that is what is required, to introduce tax measures

solely to fund the university.

“This is a very important exercise for us; it’s a developmental programme for us and we are going to go the extra mile to ensure that it works,” he emphasized.

The Prime Minister

however added that his government wants to see an efficiently-run campus and not to be a drain on the public resources. He suggested that the overall UWI system perhaps, ought to take a closer look at the financial model that it uses.

Health Minister declares war on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs)

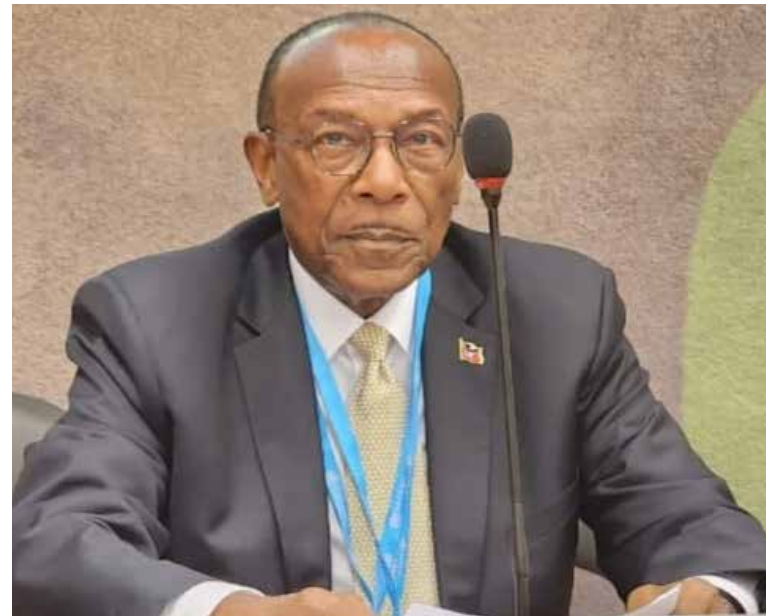
Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph, has declared war on non-communicable diseases which, combined, are the leading causes of death in Antigua and Barbuda.

Speaking at the launch of a national STEPS Survey, which is a Non-Communicable Diseases Risk factor population-based survey, he shared that NCDs create a severe strain on the country's healthcare system and that getting them under control will have a beneficial effect on the entire society.

"The top five leading causes of death in Antigua and Barbuda for 2020 were all NCDs and includ-

ed cancer, hypertension, diseases of the respiratory system, diabetes, and acute myocardial infarction. The biological risk factors for NCDs such as raised blood glucose, blood pressure, and cholesterol; being overweight and obese; and the modified risk factors such as tobacco use; harmful use of alcohol; physical inactivity, and unhealthy diet, all contribute to the high burden of the main NCDs," Sir Molwyn reported.

Additionally, the minister noted that during the COVID-19 pandemic, those who were at higher risk for severe disease and death from COVID-19 were those



Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph with NCDs.

These factors, according to Sir Molwyn underscore the importance of the prevention, management, and control of NCDs as well as the associated risk factors. "This, however, is no easy feat. Antigua and Barbuda, like many other countries in the region, faces many challenges in the prevention, management, and control of NCDs. One such challenge is that there is no well-structured surveillance system for monitoring the main risk factors for NCDs and health trends," he remarked.

Sir Molwyn disclosed that the Ministry of Health has as a high priority the prevention and control of NCDs and the strengthening of the Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit. This STEPS survey is critical to the achievement of these two priorities as it will give

vital information to facilitate the development and implementation of policies and interventions aimed at tackling NCDs.

Sir Molwyn Joseph has always said that the health of the nation is the wealth of the nation. Further, he has always emphasized the need for Antiguan and Barbudans to be proactive with the prevention of Non-Communicable Diseases instead of reactive and treating patients diagnosed with NCDs since NCDs can be prevented with lifestyle changes.

The Antigua and Barbuda STEPS survey is the first nationally representative survey to collect comprehensive information on NCDs in Antigua and Barbuda. It will provide essential information on key indicators for non-communicable diseases for persons aged 18-69 years.

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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
Instagram: [tts_auction_antigua](https://www.instagram.com/tts_auction_antigua)
Facebook: Auction Antigua



Minister of Agriculture E.P. Chet Greene poses for a photo with members of the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperatives

Bee-keepers move to brand locally produced honey

Several moves are afoot to expand and further develop the apiculture or bee-keeping industry in Antigua and Barbuda.

President of the Antigua Beekeepers Cooperatives (ABKC), Brent Georges, disclosed a meeting Tuesday with Agriculture Minister, E.P. Chet Greene to discuss matters to strengthen the industry.

“Antigua and Barbuda is moving towards trademarking its honey, so things are getting better. Currently, there are more beekeepers on both islands, and this represents an increase over even three years ago. We have also seen the entry into the sector of more females and young people being trained to play their part in this sector,” Georges reported.

The ABKC president revealed that there are approximately one hundred beekeepers in Antigua with

an additional ten operating in Barbuda. He said most beekeepers engage in the sector on a part-time basis.

On the issue of the trademarking of the honey, Georges said this is an important step for the local apiculture industry.

“Trademarking is branding the honey that comes out of Antigua and Barbuda. This will allow the honey producers to sell the product at a higher price and establish the uniqueness of the brand internationally. Once persons adhere to certain production standards, they would be able to access the trademark and by extension access a higher price for their products,” he stated.

According to Georges, there is a strong demand for Antigua and Barbuda honey as it has a distinct taste that sets it apart from honey produced in other Caribbean territories.

“We have people calling from as far away as Japan asking for the Antigua and Barbuda honey because of the taste. Here in Antigua, we have logwood, and the concentration of logwood far surpasses that found in any other territory.

“There is a special taste that comes from the logwood as well as a special taste, hence the reason for the demand for locally produced honey,” he declared.

He explained that the diversity of flowers, the nectars from which are used by bees to make honey, also adds to the unique taste of Antigua and Barbuda honey.

Georges said the cooperative is working with the Intellectual Property Rights department to brand the Barbuda Logwood Honey and the Antigua and Barbuda Wildflower Honey.

Local News



Antigua and Barbuda ranked second in investment in tourism across the Caribbean

The World Travel & Tourism Council's (WTTC) Travel & Tourism Economic Impact 2023 Global Trends Report, has revealed an encouraging resurgence in travel and tourism investment, overcoming pandemic setbacks and signaling a strong return to growth.

In a report WTTC said from 2010-2019, investment grew steadily at 4.3% CAGR, growing from \$754.6 billion in 2010 to

\$1.1 trillion in 2019, or 4.5% of all economy-wide investment. COVID-19 hit hard, leading to a 24% decline in 2020 and a further 8% in 2021.

However, 2022 marked a turning point.

Spurred by the global phenomenon of pent-up demand, travel & tourism investment surged to \$856 billion, up 11.1% from the previous year.

Although this was 22.5% short of 2019 levels,

this was still 53% higher in 2022, than it was in 2000.

The WTTC said the Caribbean has seen substantial growth in attracting vital investments in tourism during this period with Antigua and Barbuda fully amid this growth.

"Island destinations led the top spots for travel & tourism investment as a total percentage share of their economies in 2022.

"The U.S. Virgin Islands led the way channel-

ing 35% of total economic investment into travel & tourism, followed closely by Antigua & Barbuda at 34% and Aruba at almost 32%," the report stated.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has said that Antigua and Barbuda has led the way in terms of investments in tourism based on its per capita.

Led by the billion-dollar investment in Barbuda by PLH, PM Browne said other investments in the sector have come from a deliberate policy by his administration to attract more investments and to create an enabling environment within which these investments may thrive and grow.

"Investment in travel & tourism is not just a numbers game; it is the heartbeat of global connectivity and economic revival," said Julia Simpson, president/CEO, of WTTC.

"Despite the setbacks from the pandemic, 2022's growth is a promising sign of what's to come.

"Investment in travel & tourism is integral to the world's recovery and growth.

"The sector's resilience and potential for innovation continue to drive us forward. We remain confident, yet vigilant, in our pursuit of a brighter, more connected global future."

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Police continue to probe murder and shooting

The police are continuing investigations into the circumstances surrounding the death of 66-year-old Dennis Edwards.

The victim, originally a resident of Bolans, was found motionless on Lower All Saints Road with what appeared to be puncture wounds to his upper body.

It is alleged that he was involved in an altercation with an unknown assailant before the incident. A medical doctor arrived on the scene and pronounced him dead at 9:06 pm.

The alleged incident occurred shortly after 8 pm on Monday, August

21.

Meanwhile, investigations are ongoing into a shooting incident at Briggins that left a 33-year-old man nursing gunshot wounds.

The circumstances surrounding the incident remain under investigation.

The man is said to be in stable condition at the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center. The incident occurred around 11 pm on Monday, August 21.

The Police are appealing to anyone with information surrounding both incidents to contact the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913 or call Crimestoppers Hotline at 800-8477.



Dennis Edwards

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Community Activist honours outstanding students

Two students from the Nelvie N Gore Primary School (formerly Willikies Primary) were the recipients of tablets for their outstanding achievement in the nationally held, Grade Six Assessment Examinations.

The students - Felia Charles who scored 363 points and Kahalia James, 323 points – were presented with the tablets by the area's community activist, Randy Baltimore.

They were presented with a Feonal10 inch Android 32GB tablet to assist with their studies at their new high school the Antigua Girls High School.

During the brief presentation exercises, Baltimore encouraged the students to continue on the same path

to excellence during the secondary school stage of their growth and development.

Baltimore said a third child - Michael Francis Jnr. from the Newfield Primary School will also receive a tablet for his outstanding performance. Francis will receive his tablet on his return from an overseas trip.

A fourth tablet was also presented, but due to religious reasons, the child's name has not been disclosed.

Baltimore has been making donations to the Nelvie N Gore Primary School for the past several years. He was very instrumental in helping with the formation of a steel band for the school and helped to raise donations from other sources to the educational institution.



Talk-show host Bruce Arrindell has died



Bruce Arrindell

Radio personality Bruce Arrindell died on Monday evening following a brief period of illness.

A social media post revealed he passed away "at approximately 11:45pm on August 21st, 2023".

Bruce Arrindell at the time of his passing, was host of an interactive programme on ZDK Liberty Radio called 'Open Forum with Bruce Arrindell'.

The radio station offered its commiseration on Monday, saying "The Management & Staff of ZDK Radio would like to express condolences on the passing of one of our very own BRUCE ARRINDELL. You Will Be Greatly Missed. R.I.P".

The talk show host was a graduate

of Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University-Prescott and was the project manager who oversaw restoration work of one of the nation's landmarks, the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine.

The Cathedral of St. John the Divine is described by engineers and contractors as a "church within a church" and Bruce Arrindell led the major renovation that was undertaken, by first restoring the wooden structure, before focusing on the external structure (stone work).

Back then, Mr. Arrindell had expressed satisfaction with the work that was carried out on the cathedral, made possible through donations from citizens and residents, the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and other benefactors.

New playground brings joy and unity to Cooks Extension neighborhood

J. Pinder Finance and Development, Bonnie Floyd Ministries with support from One Desk, and Fire Phoenix Foundation have joined forces to create a brand-new playground in the heart of Cooks Extension. This collaborative effort aims to enhance the quality of life for the community's children while fostering a sense of unity and camaraderie among its residents.

The newly constructed playground, located in the Eldeana R. Martin Recreational Community Park, is now open and ready to bring endless hours of fun and excitement to the children of Cooks Extension. Equipped with state-of-the-art play structures, slides, and interactive games, the playground offers a safe and stimulating environment that encourages physical activity and imaginative play.

The vision behind this project was to create a space that not only provides recreational opportunities but also promotes inclusivity and community engagement. J. Pinder Finance and Development, a prominent local real estate company, recognized the need for such a facility and generously



donated 6 Acres of land to create the Eldeana R. Martin Recreational Community Park which houses the playground. Their commitment to community development and investment in Cooks Extension has been crucial to the success of this venture.

Bonnie Floyd Ministries, a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting underprivileged communities, through their partnership with One Desk, lent its expertise to funding the purchase of the playground. They were also integral in mobilizing a team of volunteers from abroad to construct

the playground. Their invaluable guidance in creating an inclusive space ensures that children of all abilities can enjoy the playground without limitations.

Fire Phoenix Foundation, known for its commitment to social empowerment and youth development, offered its on-the-ground logistical support and funding to cover the local costs associated with the completion of the playground.

The playground's grand opening was celebrated with a lively event attended by community members, local leaders, and representatives from J. Pinder Finance and Development, Bonnie Floyd Ministries, One Desk, and Fire Phoenix Foundation. The event featured engaging activities, and entertainment for all attendees to enjoy and concluded with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

This collaborative effort has not only provided Cooks Extension with a much-needed recreational space but has also brought the community together, fostering a sense of pride and ownership. The playground will serve as a catalyst for friendship, laughter, and shared memories for generations to come.



Commentary

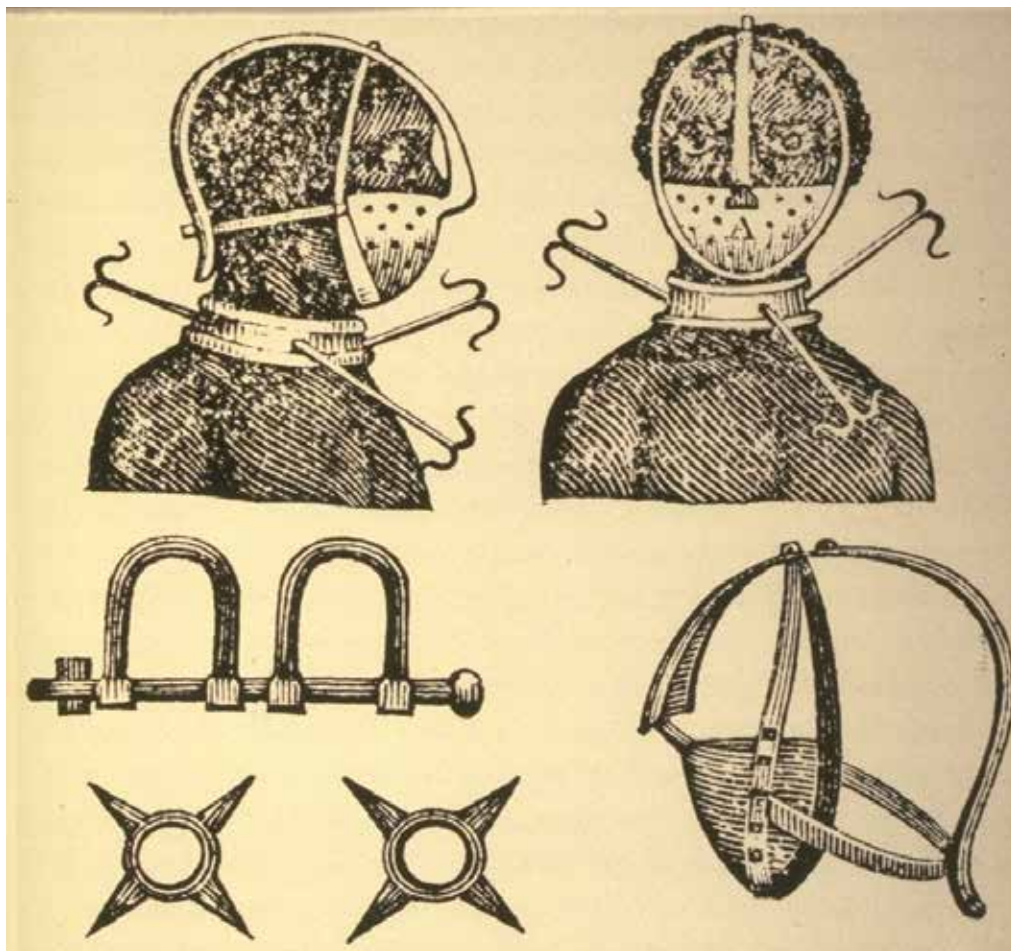
International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition: A reflection

By Dorbrene O'Marde

Today – August 23 - is recognized since 1998 as the International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition as designated by UNESCO - to memorialize the European transatlantic slave trade. The date marks the birth of the Haitian revolution in 1791 which not only led to the creation of the first Black independent nation in our hemisphere but also played a major role in the abolition of the crime against humanity that trafficked African human bodies between Africa, Europe, the Americas, and the Caribbean.

The European transatlantic slave trade was a major international commercial operation, with great financial investments by and profits to Governments, royal families, and thousands of private entrepreneurs. It is estimated that of the approximately 2.3 million enslaved Africans who were disembarked in the British Caribbean between the 17th and early-19th centuries, only six hundred and sixty-five thousand (665,000) could be counted at abolition in 1834. Here in Antigua, only twenty-eight thousand (28,130) of the one hundred and forty thousand (140,000) transported here remained in 1834. Commemoration of this day forces us to reflect not only on the inhumanity of the trade and slavery itself but on the obvious genocide committed against African peoples as revealed in the major reduction in African populations.

ABRSC calls on our peoples to also reflect on the reasons for the abolition of both slavery and the slave trade and to recognize the pivotal role played by our rebelling and revolting



ancestors against their bondage. It is estimated that – on average – there was one major revolt every two years in our region. Chairman of the CARICOM Reparations Commission, Sir Hilary Beckles conceives of the period between 1638 and 1838 as the ‘200 Years War’ - one protracted struggle of revolts and plots launched by Africans and their Afro-West Indian progeny against slave owners’

We note also that here in the Caribbean the mass enslavement of Africans was preceded by genocide against indigenous populations. Today – the global struggle for reparatory justice demands more than the remembrance suggested by UNESCO and calls for both European repentance for and re-

pair of the immense inter-generational damage inflicted on African peoples - whether on the continent or in the diaspora, and the indigenous peoples of our region.

Today is not a day of celebration. It is one which calls for collective recognition and solemn reflection on the immense historical wrongs committed by Europe. It is one which calls for commitment to the struggle for reparations and reparatory justice that must, as far as possible, wipe out all the consequences of the illegal acts of the genocide of indigenous people, the slave trade, and slavery. It is a call for our right to unimpeded development

Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC)

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Technology



Microsoft makes new bid to unblock Call of Duty deal

Microsoft has made a new bid to buy Call of Duty-maker Activision Blizzard in the latest twist in the tale of what would be the biggest deal of its kind in the gaming industry.

Its original \$69bn (£59bn) deal was blocked by UK regulators.

Microsoft's president Brad Smith said the new offer was "substantially different" and should be approved.

The UK Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) will review the deal but said: "This is not a green light."

The offer, if approved, would end a tumultuous 18 months for Microsoft.

Since it announced plans to buy Activision Blizzard in January last year, the proposed merger has split regulators around the world, some of whom fear it could stifle choice for gamers.

The CMA will make a decision on Microsoft's revised bid by 18 October - without its approval the deal cannot go ahead globally.

Microsoft hopes the merger will boost demand for its Xbox console and its gaming subscription business.

Under the new offer Microsoft has agreed to transfer the rights to stream Activision games from the cloud to Ubisoft, a video games publisher, for 15 years.



Mr Smith said: "Microsoft will not be in a position either to release Activision Blizzard games exclusively on its own cloud streaming service - Xbox Cloud Gaming - or to exclusively control the licensing terms of Activision Blizzard games for rival services."

So far, it said its initial offer for Activision has been approved in 40 countries including the European Union and China.

The US Federal Trade Commission is continuing to try to block the deal in America but has been overruled several times by the courts.

However, the CMA blocked the tie-up in April, warning it would harm innovation and choice for gamers in the fast-growing cloud gaming business.

The move sparked an angry reaction from Mr Smith, who said it was "bad for Britain" and marked Microsoft's "darkest day" in its four decades of working in the country.

It was also a blow for the UK government, which wants the country to become a tech powerhouse.

Under the revised terms, Microsoft said that Ubisoft would supply Activision's content "to all cloud gaming service providers including to Microsoft itself".

Activision boss Bobby Kotick said the deal had been "a longer journey than expected" but that "nothing substantially changes" under the new bid.

"We will continue to work closely with Microsoft and the CMA throughout the remaining review process,

and we are committed to help Microsoft clear any final hurdles as quickly as possible," he said.

Microsoft wants to buy Activision to add more titles to its Xbox Game Pass streaming service.

Members pay a subscription fee to access a catalogue of games from the cloud.

However, rivals such as Sony have objected to the deal, concerned that Microsoft could stop major games being available to its own PlayStation business.

Modern Warfare 2, the latest instalment in the Call of Duty series, made \$1bn in its release weekend, and more than half of all copies sold in the UK were for PlayStation.

For the Microsoft-Ac-
cont'd on pg 13

Listeria outbreak: Three die after drinking contaminated milkshakes

By Brandon Drenon

Three people have died, and three others are in hospital after drinking milkshakes contaminated with listeria bacteria in the US state of Washington, health officials say.

Investigators found the bacteria in the ice cream machines at Frugals, a popular burger and milkshakes restaurant in Tacoma.

The restaurant in a statement said it was “deeply saddened” by the news.

Listeria can affect people up to 70 days after consuming contaminated food.

Health officials said the ice cream machines at the Tacoma restaurant were not cleaned correctly resulting in a foodborne listeriosis outbreak.

Six people were sent to the hospital between 27 February and 22 July, the Washington State Department of Health said. Genetic fingerprinting of bacteria in the milkshakes shows it was the same strain of Listeria.



The CDC estimates 1,600 people get Listeria infections annually in the US.

Two of the three who survived said they had a milkshake from the same Frugals restaurant before feeling symptomatic.

In a statement, Frugals said: “We are heartbroken and deeply regret any harm our actions could have caused.”

“We are committed to making any changes deemed necessary to maintain our high standard of operations and prevent this from happening again.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates about 1,600 Americans get the infection every year, and some 260 die.

Symptoms of Listeria infection include fever, muscle aches, confusion and seizures. For those who are pregnant, symptoms can also include pregnancy loss or premature birth.

However, most people who eat Listeria-contaminated foods will not get sick, according to health

officials, except for older populations, those who are pregnant, and the immunocompromised.

No other Frugals restaurants are believed to have the bacteria, officials said.

At least one lawsuit has been filed in the case, reported by local media, on behalf of a woman who claimed her husband suffered neck and arm pain until his death after drinking a Frugals milkshake.

Food safety lawyer Bill Marler representing the family of Charles Roberson said: “This is a really sad situation. You know, a husband and wife married for 45 years.”

“You can’t undo a death, but what you can do is make everything transparent so we can learn from this unfortunate incident,” he said.

cont’d from pg 12

tivision merger to work, it has to be approved by regulators in the UK, the US and the EU.

If the new bid goes ahead, it would also be a win for the CMA, which would have a fresh opportunity to approve the deal.

It has faced criticism for blocking the tie-up.

Sarah Cardell, chief executive of the CMA, said Microsoft’s new offer was

“substantially different from what was put on the table previously”.

“We will carefully and objectively assess the details of the restructured deal and its impact on competition, including in light of third-party comments,” she said.

“Our goal has not changed - any future decision on this new deal will ensure that the growing cloud gaming market continues to benefit from open and effective competition driving innovation and choice.”

Regional News



Barbados to develop national schools safety policy

CMC – A senior Barbados education official says a national schools' safety policy, expected to be rolled out from next term in September, will seek to address safety and security issues in schools across the island.

"The School Safety Policy is expected to generate a greater sense of awareness among our stakeholders, so that we clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of each...[and] create that safe school environment," said Deputy Chief Education Officer, Joy Adamson.



She said that when completed the policy will address four key pillars –

safety, security, health and ongoing maintenance.

"Safety is a full-time

job and not a part-time practice," she said, adding

cont'd on pg 15

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Belize: Police detain seven alleged hit men from Mexico

CMC – Police in Belize say they have detained seven Mexican nationals whom they believed had been sent to the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country by a Mexican cartel to carry out a hit on a well-known drug dealer.

Police said that the men, who are being held in an undisclosed location, claim to be consultants entering the country to work on a road construction project.

Police Commissioner, Chester Williams said that law enforcement officials were on operations within the northern districts, particularly Corozal, when their attention was drawn to a group of Mexican persons.

“I’m not going to disclose which station they are currently at because

you would know again, that that may pose some threat to police officers working within that particular station. “But again, for their personal safety and the safety of the police officers, we moved them to an undisclosed location at this time where they are currently being interviewed.

“We have seen a number of information coming out of the Mexican press involving these individuals and I can assure you that we are working tirelessly to try and confirm or deny this information, but again we will remain vigilant along our northern borders, as we continue to have incursions with Mexicans, and likewise, the influences that the Mexican cartels may have on our locals within the northern districts,” Williams told re-



porters.

Asked whether the men had come here to carry out a hit on a well-known drug personality, Williams responded by saying that the men claim that they are involved in “some road con-

sultancy.

“They allege that they own a construction company and are engaged in road consultancy. Those information we are yet to confirm. I don’t want to go ahead of myself to say things that we will not be able to substantiate later on.

“So I will just end it by saying that the information coming out of the press in Chetumal is something we are looking at to ascertain if in fact they came for a particular individual and if either of them were recently involved in a shooting incident in Mexico, and finally, to see if they are members of the Caborca cartels that operate in the Quintana Roo area of Mexico,” Williams added.

cont’d from pg 14

that the ministry was currently meeting with stakeholders inclusive of the unions, principal associations, police and the fire service to ensure that all areas were covered.

Adamson noted that they wanted to engender a community approach to safety and further develop a culture of drills at the nursery, primary and secondary levels.

She said fire prevention in schools started with good fire safety awareness and education, and it was important to continue educating staff and students about the fire hazard.

She also commended the Barbados Fire Service for extending the Fire Cadet

Programme .

Adamson said that schools have developed and implemented a School Safety Plan which includes a Fire Safety Plan.

“These plans require the schools to conduct regular fire drills, have well-maintained fire alarm systems and to keep exits clear. These plans will be renewed annually by the schools’ Health and Safety Committee.

“School safety is the foundation of effective learning. Once students feel safe they will learn; so we need to ensure that our schools are safe, and that we have all the measures in place so we don’t have any hazards as it relates to fires,” she added.



CAL says services are operating as scheduled

CMC - The state-owned Caribbean Airlines Tuesday said its domestic and international flights were operating as scheduled, less than 48 hours after it was forced to cancel more than 60 flights due to a sick out by pilots on Sunday.

In a brief statement, CAL said that the “regular operation is working in parallel with recovery flights, some operated by charters on behalf of the airline to accommodate any remaining displaced passengers.

“The company continues to contact affected customers by phone. E-mails and SMS notifications with updated information are also being sent to passengers,” it said.

On Monday, the Industrial Court of Trinidad and Tobago granted an ex-parte injunction to the airline against the Trinidad and Tobago Airlines Pilots Association (TTALPA), preventing its president, executive members as well as their servants or agents from “taking or continuing to take and/or participating howsoever in industrial action within the meaning of the Industrial Relations Act...

including calling in sick en masse”

The Court has also ordered that TTALPA direct “forthwith” to instruct or direct CAL workers who are its members to “immediately report for duty as rostered and as they are required to do in the normal course of their employment”.

Meanwhile, Chief Secretary of the Tobago House of Assembly, (THA), Farley Augustine, said that the performance of the air bridge between Trinidad and Tobago being operated by CAL is worse than during the pre-COVID-19 period.

Commenting on the industrial action by the pilots that led to thousands of passengers being stranded on the two islands, Augustine said that over the past year, the THA has been calling for the resumption of CAL’s usual flight count, but that nothing has been done.

“It is ridiculous that people will have to spend months trying to get a flight to Tobago and when they do there is inconsistency on the air and sea bridge. This is 2023 and the air and sea bridge now is more inconsis-

tent than it was pre-COVID.

“That could never ever be a hallmark of success,” Augustine said, adding that there is also a need to address the monopoly that exists on the air bridge by CAL.

He said there was a need also to address the monopoly “across the airline industry in the country. We need to just open up our market to airlines from all over the world to come and do the work that is necessary to bring visitors to and from the island.

“More than that Caribbean Airlines need to understand that they have a duty to the nation first before any other country.

“It is the taxpayers of this country that pays them and bails them out every single time and yet we are all treated with scant courtesy by Caribbean Airlines.”

Augustine, who apologised to those passengers affected by the industrial action, said it was also important for a THA representative to be included on the board of directors of the state-owned airline.

Tropical Storm Harold makes landfall in Texas



By Brandon Drenon

Tropical Storm Harold has made landfall on the south-east coast of Texas, bringing more heavy rain and high winds to the southern US.

Multiple flash flood and tornado warnings are in place on Tuesday and expected to last into the afternoon.

National Weather Service officials predict 1-3in (2.5-7.6cm) of rainfall in under an hour in some regions.

The Texas deluge arrives a day after historic amounts of rain flooded parts of the US southwest.

California and Nevada are cleaning up on Tuesday after parts of each states saw historic amounts of rain from Storm Hilary, which caused widespread flooding along with mudflows, downed powerlines and trapped cars.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is also tracking two additional tropical storms moving west towards the US.

On Tuesday, around 10:00 local time (16:00 BST), Tropical Storm Har-

old made landfall on Texas' Padre Island in the Gulf of Mexico.

Tropical storm warnings have been issued from the Rio Grande river - along the state's southern boundary - to roughly 250 miles (400km) north, to the community of Port O'Connor.

More than one million people are under tropical storm warnings in the Lone Star state. Scattered instances of flash flooding will be possible, the NWS warned.

Wind speeds reached up to 50mph (80km/h), prompting the NWS to issue a tornado warning for counties in south-central Texas. Residents there have been cautioned by officials to stay indoors as "flying debris will be dangerous".

By Tuesday afternoon, 2-4in of rain had fallen in some south-eastern Texas counties, with up to 6in forecast to fall in some isolated areas.

A couple of tornadoes are possible across south Texas through Tuesday afternoon.

The storm is expected to continue to carry rain, wind and hail further inland as it tracks westward across the hot and dry Texas landscape.

As Texans endure the deluge, weather officials have warned of yet another tropical storm - Tropical Storm Franklin - currently some 230 miles east off the coast of the Dominican Republic.

Up to 6in of rain from Franklin is predicted to fall in Puerto Rico beginning on Wednesday.

The impact of climate change on the frequency of storms is still unclear, but we know that increased sea surface temperatures warm the air above and make more energy available to drive hurricanes, cyclones and typhoons. As a result, they are likely to be more intense with more extreme rainfall.

The world has already warmed by about 1.1C since the industrial era began and temperatures will keep rising unless governments around the world make steep cuts to emissions.

Greece wildfires: Eighteen bodies found in Greek forest

Eighteen bodies have been found in a forested area of northern Greece hit by wildfires for the past four days, the Greek fire service says.

Initial reports suggest those who died may have been migrants. A coroner and investigation team are heading to the scene near the Dadia forest.

The Evros region of north-eastern Greece, not far from the Turkish border, has been ravaged by fires.

A hospital in the city of Alexandroupolis had to be evacuated.

Newborn babies and intensive care patients were among those moved to a ferry at the port.

Fires are raging across several fronts in Greece, whipped up by high winds and temperatures which climbed above 40C in several places on Tuesday.

Flames are thought to have spread rapidly since Monday in the large wooded Dadia national park to the north of Alexandroupolis. Emergency services sent mobile text messages to the surrounding areas asking people to leave.

Before the latest grim discovery, an initial death believed to have been of a migrant was reported in the area.

Eighteen more bodies were found on Tuesday near a hut outside the village of Avantas, reports said, when the fire brigade inspected the charred remains of a building.

Fire service spokesman Yiannis Artopios said the possibility that the victims had entered Greece illegally was being investigated, given that there had been no reports of missing residents.

Unconfirmed reports said the bodies were discovered in two groups and there were fears that the number of casualties could increase. The fire ser-



Little was left of the village of Avantas on the northern outskirts of Alexandroupolis.

vice said investigations were continuing throughout the area where the fire had spread.

The Evros region has become one of the most popular routes for Syrian and Asian migrants crossing the River Evros from Turkey into the European Union. The Dadia forest is also known to be a route favoured by migrants.

Yiannis Artopios stressed that emergency messages had been sent to all mobile phones in the area, including foreign networks.

Migrant support group Alarm Phone said it had been in contact with more migrants who needed rescuing from the fires. One group of nine people had already crossed the border while another 250 people were stranded on two small islands in the River Evros, it said.

In the past three days 380,000 acres of land has burned in the Evros region alone, according to the National Observatory of Athens' Meteo unit.

Firefighters are having to respond to major outbreaks in other parts of Greece too. The fire brigade has urged tens of thousands of people to leave parts of the north-west Athens suburb

of Ano Liosia.

A few kilometres to the north, 50 nuns were reported trapped when a fire broke out near a historic monastery on the slopes of Mt Parnitha.

Several villages have also been evacuated on the island of Evia and in Boeotia in central Greece.

A fiery, red glow was visible on the fringe of Alexandroupolis in the early hours of Tuesday and satellite images showed several regions of Greece covered in thick smoke.

During the night residents in eight nearby villages were told to leave their homes and head for safety in the city. Later on Tuesday a stream of cars could be seen heading there as vegetation along the coast burned.

Flames were seen entering the grounds of the university hospital while the operation was taking place to evacuate the site on the north-east fringe of Alexandroupolis. Greek officials ordered a fleet of ambulances and buses to take some 115 patients away.

While some of the patients were moved to other hospitals in the city, as many as 90 were taken to a ferry, the

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Mexico bus crash: 15 migrants killed as bus collides with trailer

By Bernd Debusmann Jr

At least 15 migrants are dead and 36 others injured after a bus crash in central Mexico, local authorities said.

The migrants, mostly from Venezuela, were traveling in the state of Puebla when the crash took place early on Tuesday morning.

Local authorities believe the bus struck a trailer while on a highway.

Migrants are often transported by bus from Mexico's southern border with Guatemala as they head north to the US.

Puebla's state government confirmed the crash on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

Images shared on X by Mexico's National Guard show officers near two severely damaged vehicles at a steep curve on the highway in a hilly and mountainous area.

According to Mexican media outlets, the highway is frequently used by human smugglers.

Salomón Jara, the governor of the nearby state of Oaxaca - from where the migrants were believed to be traveling - said he had instructed authorities to provide support to the injured.

"We're sending a hug and our con-



The migrants involved in the accident are believed to be mostly from Venezuela.

dolences to the families of those who perished, to whom we will also offer all our support," Mr Jara said.

The injured, which include both men and women, were transported to three hospitals in the city of Tehuacán.

Hundreds of thousands of migrants fleeing poverty and violence in Central America try to cross through Mexico each year in a bid to reach the US.

Many of them pay smugglers, who illegally transport them in crowded and dangerous trucks on the long jour-

ney, and road accidents are common.

In July, for example, at least 29 people were killed when a bus fell into a ravine in Oaxaca.

In a separate incident in February, 17 migrants from Colombia and Venezuela were killed in an accident in Puebla.

In 2021, 56 migrants were killed when an overloaded vehicle carrying 160 people overturned on a highway in the city of Tuxtla Gutierrez in the southern state of Chiapas. The victims were primarily from Guatemala.

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Adamantios Korais, which has been requisitioned to look after intensive care patients and new-born babies.

West of Athens, several warehouses became engulfed in flames in an industrial area in Aspropyrgos and close to the Attica Highway the sky darkened with acrid smoke.

Two Albanian workers told the BBC that if helicopters had arrived in time they

would have been able to put the fire out.

Around midday on Tuesday a second large fire broke out on the opposite side of the highway in the village of Fyli. Half an hour later residents received a mobile phone message from the 112 emergency number to evacuate the area.

Meanwhile, France endured its hottest ever day on Monday after the mid-August holiday, according to

weather service Météo-France.

Temperatures on Monday soared as high as 42.4C in the Drôme area of south-eastern France but the record refers to Monday's daily average temperature of 26.63C, recorded in 30 weather stations across France.

In Switzerland, the high temperatures have pushed the "zero-degree isotherm" - the height where tem-

peratures fall below freezing point - to a record altitude. MeteoSwiss said the limit had now increased to 5,298m (17,381ft).

The point is shifting steadily higher, mainly because of global warming induced by humans, the Swiss met office says.

The increased height of the zero-degree isotherm has been accelerating since the 1970s, especially in spring and summer, it says.

CFU collaborates to raise awareness to period and poverty as barrier to girls' participation in football

The Caribbean Football Union (CFU) has formed a partnership with A.S. Bryden, agents for Kotex, the Calvin Ayre Foundation (CAF), Kelesha Antoine, and FIFA & Rexona to provide personal care packages to each player of the 20 teams contesting the 2023 CFU Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series, which is currently taking place in Antigua and Barbuda.

The collaboration hues to the CFU's initiative to raise awareness about menstruation and period poverty as barriers to girls' participation in football.

This programme runs concurrent to another CFU initiative, in conjunction with UN Women under the Spotlight Initiative Small Grant Programme, examining barriers to women and girls' participation in football and creating advocacy strategies in each of the 31 member associations.

Each package includes sanitary napkins and panty liners, period underwear, deodorant, lip balm, affirmations, and information that will raise awareness of the matter.

Issues around menstruation - including cultural norms, which make discussion taboo to economics, with families not having money to provide feminine products, to efficiency of the products, with spills and stains causing shame and withdrawal from the sport - are some of the many barriers to participation female players face.

Carol Richards, Product Manager at A.S. Bryden, said, "Collaborating with the Caribbean Football Union on this project is a way to highlight an issue preventing our girls from realizing their full potential in football.

"It brings the conversation from the sidelines into the open, and we



Some of the officials in attendance at the Referees Development Seminar prior to the start of the 2023 CFU Girls' Under-14 Challenge Series in Antigua and Barbuda from August 18-27, 2023. (CFU Media)

think this is a great way for us to engage with and show our support for girls from across the region. This also allows us to build brand awareness with a young demographic."

Jamilla Kirwan said CAF is excited to join the partnership. "We have a sound track record supporting youth in sports. This small project will have a big impact, as it looks beyond a single event to a long-term goal of retaining girls in the sport. This aligns with our ethos concerning the greater good, and we are happy to be a partner."

Kelesha Antoine, the only Caribbean female CONCACAF/FIFA Referee instructor, knows intimately about facing and surmounting barriers.

She said, "Investing in our girls is sometimes as small as a modest donation coming from amongst us to support us. If each of us gives what we can of our time, resources, experience and advocacy, this will create an un-

stoppable force that will dismantle barriers and make a way for young female footballers and match officials."

"The CFU is pleased to present this initiative. We are grateful to the partners and excited that they have joined us. This is not just about presenting some personal care items. This is about normalizing discussions about a natural body function and removing the shame and stigma from menstruation. The packages are practical and the program's intent is achievable, CFU General Secretary Camara David said.

Twenty teams are participating in the 2023 tournament, which runs from August 18-27 at the ABFA's Technical Center in Antigua and Barbuda.

They are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba; Barbados, Bermuda, Bonaire, Cayman Islands, Curacao, Dominica, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Ja-

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Spain's acting prime minister criticizes federation head for kissing player from World Cup champs

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) - Spain's acting prime minister said it was "unacceptable" that the Spanish soccer federation president kissed a player on the lips without her consent, as pressure builds on Luis Rubiales to resign for tarnishing the team's Women's World Cup championship.

Pedro Sánchez praised the team during an audience at the presidential palace on Tuesday and later joined the growing criticism of Rubiales.

"What we saw is unacceptable," Sánchez said. "And the apologies offered by Mr. Rubiales are not sufficient, I would call them inappropriate, so he must continue taking further steps to clarify what we all saw."

Gender equality and women's rights have been cornerstones of Sánchez's leftist government. But Spain's Women's World Cup success has been marred by the forced kiss Rubiales gave to player Jenni Hermoso during the medal ceremony following Spain's 1-0 victory



President of Spain's soccer federation, Luis Rubiales, left, stands next to Spain Head Coach Jorge Vilda after their World Cup victory at La Moncloa Palace in Madrid, Spain, Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023. Moments after Spain won the Women's World Cup, the man who leads the country's national soccer federation took some unwanted attention away from the celebrating players. Criticism from the Spanish government and the soccer world rained down Monday on Luis Rubiales for his inappropriate conduct while reveling in Spain's 1-0 win over England in Sunday's final in Sydney, Australia. (AP)

on Sunday in the final against England in Sydney, Australia.

After claiming that those who criticized his kiss were "idiots and stupid people," Rubiales was forced to apologize on Monday.

Rubiales accompanied the team and staff to the meeting with Sánchez, who greeted him with a handshake.

The forced kiss caused an

immediate outcry both inside Spain and abroad. Deputy Prime Minister Yolanda Díaz said Rubiales "has harassed and assaulted" a woman and called for his resignation.

The country's equality minister said it was an act of "sexual assault." Under a new sexual violence law, the unsolicited kiss, during which Rubiales grabbed Hermoso's

face before giving her a kiss on the mouth, could potentially be pursued as a crime.

Immediately after Spain's victory, Rubiales had also grabbed his crotch in a victory gesture. That occurred with 16-year-old Princess Infanta Sofía and Queen Letizia of Spain standing nearby.

The country's leading opposition party has joined in denouncing Rubiales' behavior, leaving him without any support from major public or political figures. Asked if Rubiales should go, Sánchez said that it was not his call to make because the Spanish soccer federation is not controlled by the government. But Sánchez did say Rubiales "has yet to be clear and compelling in his apologies."

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maica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Instituted in 2018, the CFU Under-14 Challenge Series is a holistic developmental competition that caters to boys and girls in alternating years.

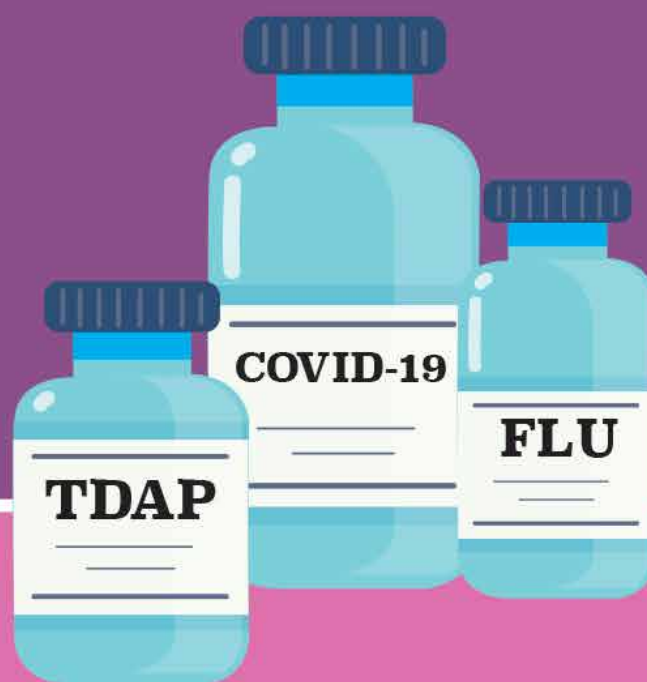
The Challenge Series is the introduc-

tion to international competition and exposure for players. It hews to CFU's developmental agenda and FIFA's focus on further developing grassroots football in the region.

The Challenge Series is also a pivotal component of the CFU's Next Generation Referee Course. It affords regional match officials who possess the requisite skills to advance to the FIFA International Refereeing List technical and practical training.

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The Flu Vaccine Pregnant women who get a flu shot are also helping to protect their babies from flu illness for the first several months after their birth, when they are too young to get vaccinated.

The COVID-19 vaccine protects against the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. Your baby cannot get this vaccine until they're 6 months old.

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Empire and Hoppers to clash in Parham Super League

Empire and Greenbay Hoppers will clash in a Gray's Green derby when the Parham Super League resumes this weekend.

Both sides will clash in the first game of a Group B double-header to kick off the third round of matches at the Parham playing field on Saturday, August 26th.

Empire will take on Hoppers at 5 pm, while Group B leaders SAP will oppose bottom team Swetes in the second encounter at 6:30 pm on Saturday.

The competition will continue with another double-header at the same venue on Sunday. Group A leaders Pigotts Bullets will meet hosts Parham at 5:30 pm, while All Saints United will clash with bottom team Garden Stars at 7 pm.

Pigotts Bullets, SAP, and Greenbay Hoppers all recorded wins in the second round of matches at the Parham playing field.

Pigotts Bullets notched up their second win to move to the top of Group A with six points by prevailing 3-2 against Garden Stars.

Akeem Isaac, Kimon Harrigan, and Tyrique Thwaites each scored once for the Pigotts Bullets,

while Courtney Clarke and Karique Knight each had a conversion for the Garden Stars.

Pigotts Bullets finished the match with 10 men after losing the services of Shama Andrew, who was red-carded by the referee.

Shaquan Telemaque scored twice to lead SAP to a 4-0 drubbing of Empire

to record their second win in as many matches and advance to six points to remain at the top of Group B. Rockeem Russell and Tyrique Tonge scored the other two goals for SAP.

Hoppers claimed their first win in Group B by snatching a 2-1 victory against Swetes. Eugene Kirwan and Kendell Pen-

nyfeather were the goal scorers for the Hoppers, while Ralique Browne converted for the Swetes.

However, hosts Parham and All Saints United fought to a 2-2 draw. Kenja Benjamin and Steven Harriet scored for Parham, while Tiquan Isaac and Kwasim Theodore converted for All Saints United.



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Harden fined \$100,000 for public comments about status with 76ers

NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA has fined Philadelphia 76ers guard James Harden \$100,000 for public comments he made about his status with the team.

Harden made public comments on Aug. 14 and Aug. 17 saying he would not perform the services called for under his player contract unless he were traded to another team.

The league talked to Harden as part of its investigation and confirmed that his comments referenced Harden's belief that the 76ers would not grant his trade request.

Harden picked up his player option for next season in June, but the 76ers have not found a deal, prompting Harden's anger. Among other things, he called 76ers president Daryl Morey a liar at a promotional event in China.



Philadelphia 76ers' James Harden reacts after a play in the first half during Game 2 in the first round of the NBA basketball playoffs against the Brooklyn Nets, Monday, April 17, 2023, in Philadelphia. (AP)

"Daryl Morey is a liar and I will never be a part of an organization that he's a part of," Harden said at the event. "Let me say that again: Daryl Morey is a liar and I will never be

a part of an organization that he's a part of."

Harden has been one of the league's top players for the past decade, having won three scoring titles and the

2018 league MVP award. He led the league in assists last season. But he hasn't won an NBA title, and with him turning 34 this week, time is running out.

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deflected by Shaimaris Mercera past Dorothea to give the Benna Girls a 2-0 advantage.

With Quashie pulling the strings in midfield, a third goal was always on the cards, and it came seven minutes later. Quashie played Skepple through with a well-placed and well-weighted ball, and the forward's left-footed effort nestled in the bottom right-hand corner of the net to give Antigua and Barbuda a 3-0 halftime lead.

On resumption, Antigua and Barbuda came out of the gates flying, and Quashie was rewarded for her industry in the 36th minute.

After some slick build-up, the

diminutive player saw her initial shot cannon off the upright, but she made no mistake with the rebound, giving the host nation four goals to the good.

Skepple completed her hat-trick four minutes later, in the 40th minute, after Iressiea Allen picked her out with a cross to the back post.

Skepple capped off her scoring with her best effort of the match. Collecting calmly just inside the penalty area, she skillfully chipped substitute goalkeeper Simone Sint Jago to complete the 6-0 victory.

Antigua and Barbuda finished level on four points with Barbados after the Bajan girls lost 2-1 against Bermuda, who jumped to the top of the Tier

II Group B standings with six points.

Barbados opened the scoring in the 6th minute when Jadaé Lorde brilliantly passed the ball to Danika Antoine, who fired a low shot past the diving Bermuda custodian into the back of the net. The young Bermudans got their equalizer in the 24th minute as they leveled the score line from a corner kick, which landed on the boot of Miyari Trott, who beat the Barbadian keeper, Ukayla Dallaway.

Avery Taylor put Bermuda ahead in the 60th minute when she received a ball across the goal where she was unmarked with lots of time, and she calmly hit it past the Bajan goalkeeper into the back of the net.

Guadeloupe beat St. Lucia in CFU Girls' Under-14 contest

Bahia Elise scored a hat-trick to lead Guadeloupe to a 5-2 victory over St. Lucia in their Tier II Group C encounter in the second round of the 2023 Caribbean Football Union (CFU) Under-14 Girls' Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters yesterday (Tuesday).

Elise scored in the first minute of added time in the first half, the 46th minute, and the 59th minute. A 52nd-minute strike by Keliah Joyeux and an own-goal by Alyssa Flavius in the 65th minute were the other conversions for Guadeloupe.

St. Lucia's goals were scored by Kayla Polius in the 13th minute and Kyla Lionel in the third minute of added time in the first half.

St. Lucia prevailed 5-2 against St. Kitts and Nevis in their Tier II Group C first round encounter on Monday.

First-half strikes by Dayane Saint-Just in the 25th minute and Samira Lamy in the 33rd minute gave Martinique a 2-0 win against Curacao in their second-round Tier II Group C match Tuesday.

In another encounter, The United States Virgin Islands (USVI) beat Dominica 3-0 in their second-round Tier II Group A.

Vigga Tyson scored in the 33rd minute to give the USVI a 1-0 half-time lead. The USVI wrapped up the match with goals by Kyla Groetzinger in the 38th minute and Reagan Marshall in the 66th minute.

Anguilla prevailed 3-1 against Grenada in their second-round Tier II



Guadeloupe players converge to congratulate Bahia Elise (#15) after scoring one of her three goals against St. Lucia in their Tier II Group C encounter in the second round of the 2023 CFU Under-14 Girls' Challenge Series at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Tuesday, August 22nd, 2023. (CFU Media)

Group A match Tuesday, while Puerto Rico trounced Trinidad & Tobago 5-0 in their second-round Tier I Group A.

A Ricquanna Richards 45th-minute strike gave Jamaica a 1-0 win against Trinidad and Tobago in their Tier I Group A first-round encounter on Monday.

The Cayman Islands snatched a 3-2 victory against the Turks and Caicos Islands in their Tier I Group B first-round encounter on Monday.

Antigua and Barbuda trounced Bonaire 6-0 to move into second place on goal difference ahead of Barbados

in Group B Tier II on Monday.

Forward Keitonya Skepple led the hosts by scoring four goals for the young Benna Girls.

Skepple scored her first in the 11th minute when she raced onto a defense-splitting pass by Aliyah London to send a firmly struck right-footed shot past the Bonaire's custodian Rudzayrima Dorothea into the back of the net.

The lead was doubled soon after, courtesy of an own goal. A Nafisa Quashie cross in the 21st minute was

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