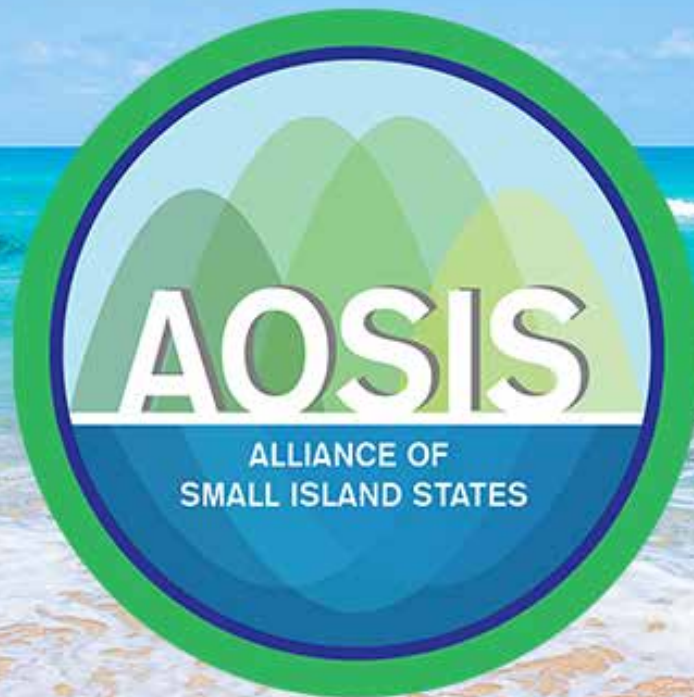


# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA HELPED 'LIFT THE PROFILE' OF AOSIS

*Story on Page 2*



## Antigua and Barbuda helped 'lift the profile' of AOSIS

Antigua and Barbuda's recent joint chairmanship of the Association of Small Islands States (AOSIS) within the United Nations framework helped the organization 'lift the profile,' thereby giving it a bigger voice in international fora.

That is the view of Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dr. Aubrey Webson, whose comments came during an interview with the Morning Point radio programme.

Asked to identify the country's greatest achievement during its co-chairmanship of AOSIS, Dr. Webson said, the level of advocacy brought to bear on the work of the organization, took a big leap forward during that period.

"I think Antigua and Barbuda in

many ways has lifted the profile significantly of AOSIS, making it much stronger and powerful within the UN system. This was most noticeable with our advocacy, working along with our Cabinet ministers in St. John's, in particular the Prime Minister and the Minister of Health, on the issue of climate change to address the issue of Loss and Damage and to get that onto the agenda when no one thought we could," he observed.

He explained that when Antigua and Barbuda assumed the organization's co-chairman, no one thought it would happen. "In COP 26 in Scotland, we got some room and some movements, and by last year in Egypt, it got onto the agenda and was formalized with a working committee where Chief Environment Officer, Ambassa-



*Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Dr. Aubrey Webson*

dor Diane Black-Layne is a member, has been a strong step forward," he suggested.

Antigua and Barbuda continues to be seen as a leading voice on environmental issues especially in the area of plastic pollution and the oceans. "We have become very prominent in the area of the ocean. Here, we are again working with the ministry back home, with my office here at the UN, as well as the AOSIS office. Working together, we have become quite strong in the discussion on plastics and the removal of plastics from the ocean floor that are infesting our waters and becoming a danger to us human beings," he declared.

Ambassador Webson noted that Antigua and Barbuda's advocacy extended beyond matters having to do with the environment and climate change, but also the system by which SIDS are assessed for aid.

"In the area of finance and development, we started a push during the COVID years 2020-21, when we began to knock on the doors very loudly

*cont'd on pg 3*

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## Women give training a ‘thumbs up’

A workshop specially designed for female entrepreneurs in the agro-processing space has just concluded with participants giving the training an enthusiastic ‘thumbs up.’

Workshop Coordinator, Craig Thomas, of the International Institute for Cooperation in Agriculture (IICA), said they catered for twenty women agro-processors and five youth entrepreneurs, but more than twenty women attended.

One participant, Didi Russell whose business, The Salt Patch, utilizes Barbudan sea salt to produce several items, said she has been utilizing the sea salt for years, but got the inspiration to utilize it in other products. Her products include seasoning, candles, sea salt, soaps, and body scrubs.

According to Russell, the module dealing with marketing was for her, the most important one. “As explained to us, the population of Antigua and Barbuda was just 100,000, but we receive more than 600,000 visitors a year, and that is also part of my market. So, my focus now is to move beyond the local market to tap into this



Participants listening attentively at workshop

larger market of visitors to the country,” she emphasized.

She added that the area of standards was also very informative as the importance of producing safe products for final consumption, as well as the need to ensure that the process of producing the products is at a high level.

One of the youth participants, Jahliah Jackson, of the Young Antigua and Barbuda’s Entrepreneurs Stewardship Group, started her business in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her products are lip gloss and similar products utilizing natural ingredients and local fruits. She said marketing and the pricing of products



Jahliah Jackson

were two key areas for her.

“I think that this is really important, because as young entrepreneurs we would just throw any price out there and say that’s the price. However, you must account for the price of the ingredients and your input when setting the prices for your products,” Jackson observed.

Nekima Williams of



Didi Russel

Kima Delectable Treats also shared her observations about the workshop. She described it as ‘very informative,’ noting that she too gained much knowledge and new insights from attending the training. “For us, the more than twenty ladies who attended the workshop, it was a good learning exercise and I hope that it is something that continues not only for female agro-processors but for others in this space,” she added.

The workshop was funded by the UN Trust Fund, UN Women, and the International Labour Organisation and implemented by IICA.

**cont’d from pg 2**

for opportunities for SIDS and in particular, middle-income SIDS who were being further pushed out, due to no fault of their own, and moving the multi-vulnerability discussion with the prime minister as the co-chair alongside the former prime minister of Norway. We have moved that to where we will now have an MVI that will

be included in the Secretary General’s report and sent to the finance committee for finalization. We will now have an MVI that will be part of the economic assessment landscape,” he reported.

The General Assembly of the UN starts on September 19. Antigua and Barbuda is expected to send a high-level delegation to attend.

## Antigua and Barbuda to benefit from UK's commitment to tackle climate change

Antigua and Barbuda and other Small Island Developing states are expected to benefit from continued access to climate financing, following a major announcement from UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

At a recent gathering of G20 leaders in India, Prime Minister Sunak announced the UK's largest-ever single financial contribution to helping the world's most vulnerable people adapt to and mitigate the impact of climate change.

The UK will contribute £1.62 billion (USD\$2 billion) to the second replenishment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF), covering the period 2024 to 2027. The GCF is the largest global fund, dedicated to supporting developing countries to reduce global emissions and helping communities adapt to the effects of climate change.

The pledge is part of the delivery of the UK's commitment announced at COP26 to spend £11.6 billion (USD 14.5 billion) on international climate finance between 2021 and 2026. It represents a 13% increase on the UK's previous contribution to the GCF for the period, 2020 to 2023.

The scale of the climate crisis requires finance to be delivered with even greater speed and the UK will work with the GCF to ensure it



UK PM Rishi Sunak with Indian PM Modi

accelerates action to deliver for those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, such as Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

Addressing G20 leaders during the 10-11 September meeting, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said: The UK is stepping up and delivering on our climate commitments, both by decarbonizing our own economy and supporting the world's most vulnerable to deal with the impact of climate change.

This is the kind of leadership that the world rightly expects from G20 countries. And this government will continue to lead by example in making the UK, and the world, more prosperous and secure.

Antigua and Barbuda is among Caribbean countries that have benefitted from GCF funding, implement-

ing programmes geared towards improving the hurricane resilience of community buildings, homes, and businesses, and through flood prevention measures. A national of the country also sits on the GCF Board.

The GCF Board member for AOSIS countries, Ambassador Diann Black-Layne, welcomes the increase in commitment of the UK government and looks forward to additional support from the Fund for all AOSIS as well as Antigua and Barbuda.

Meanwhile, Resident Commissioner to Antigua and Barbuda, Ms Lindsay Thompson said, "This announcement reaffirms the UK's commitment to supporting vulnerable countries like Antigua and Barbuda."

Thompson assured, that with representation in the Caribbean, the UK con-

tinues to listen to governments' concerns on climate and environmental issues and responds.

Unlocking climate finance in the Caribbean region is a key priority for the UK, which is why last week the UK's Minister for the Caribbean signed an agreement worth £2.7m (USD\$3.4m) with the Caribbean Community Climate Change Centre (5Cs) to help CARICOM Member States address the challenges they face in accessing and delivering climate finance.

In Jamaica earlier this year, the UK announced a £7m (USD\$8.7m) contribution to the taskforce which is piloting practical new approaches for accessing climate finance, with the eventual aim of replicating this model across the region to support national plans to address climate change.

## FA Minister Greene travels to Cuba for G-77 meeting

Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene, is traveling to Cuba today for a meeting of the G-77 countries that opens in Havana on Friday which is being held under the theme On Current Development Challenges: The Role of Science, Technology and Innovation.

The Group of 77 (G-77) was established on 15 June 1964 by seventy-seven developing countries signatories of the “Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Developing Countries,” issued at the end of the first session of the United Nations Conference on Trade



Foreign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene

and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.

Beginning with the first “Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 in Algiers (Al-

geria) from 10 – 25 October 1967, which adopted the Charter of Algiers”, a permanent institutional structure gradually developed,

which led to the creation of Chapters of the Group of 77 with Liaison offices in Geneva (UNCTAD) Nairobi, Nairobi (UNEP), Paris, Rome Vienna and the group of 24 (G-24) (UNESCO), Rome (FAO/IFAD), Vienna (UNIDO), and the Group of 24 (G-24) in Washington, D.C. (IMF and World Bank).

FM Greene will bring greetings on behalf of Antigua, and he is expected to touch on several of the subjects that are of interest to Antigua and Barbuda during his remarks at the conference on Friday.

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## New principal appointed at St. John's Catholic Primary School

The St. John's Catholic Primary School (SJCPS) has announced the appointment of a new Principal, Verlyn Amina Anika Richards.

The announcement from the Board said Richards, who has been a teacher at SJCPS for the past 22 years, is a trained teacher holding a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics Education from the University of the West Indies.

The Board said it believes that Richards' years of teaching experience and management are qualities that will be effective in advancing the holistic development of our students at St. John's Catholic Primary.

For over twenty-two years Richards has molded the young minds of students in all grades at SJCPS and has worked with her colleagues in producing scores of top students in



*Verlyn Amina Anika Richards*  
the Grade Six National Assessment.

Richards, a devout Catholic, believes in the words of Pope John Paul II who stated that the Catholic school is characterized by its unique reference to the human person, since every

person, with their material and spiritual needs, is at the centre of Jesus' teaching; therefore, the promotion of the human person forms the objective of a Catholic school.

The Board thanks former principal, Sister Marie Voltaire, for her impeccable years of service to St. John's Catholic Primary School and wishes her the very best in her continued formation as a Missionary Sisters - Servants of the Holy Spirit congregation.

The Board welcomes Richards to the leadership role of the SJCPS and it pledges to continue to work with the administration to foster greater cooperation between parents, pupils, administration, and teachers.

"We look forward to the continued support of our parents and benefactors as we holistically develop the students entrusted to us," it stated.



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# Suriname prepares for its first offshore oil project

Suriname for the first time in its history will see offshore oil drilling in its waters after French company TotalEnergies on Wednesday announced a \$9 billion project expected to boost the impoverished country's economy and ease austerity measures imposed by the International Monetary Fund.

CEO Patrick Pouyanné said previous exploration suggests the two sites where the company would drill could yield close to 700 million barrels, with first production expected by late 2028. TotalEnergies is the operator of the oil block and equal partner with Texas-based APA Corp., an energy company.

The announcement was celebrat-



ed by Suriname President Chan Santokhi, who pledged that the people of the South American country would benefit from the investment.

"Suriname is going through a

challenging economic period," he said. "This announcement provides the much-needed outlook toward positive developments for our na-

*cont'd on pg 10*



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## Nine-year-old boy dies of dengue in The Bahamas

A nine-year-old boy died after contracting dengue fever in The Bahamas.

This was the first death recorded since a dengue outbreak began nearly a month ago.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Pearl McMillan confirmed the child's death at a media conference on Tuesday afternoon.

"He would have presented with a viral type illness but did not continue with the care that was provided. Unfortunately, he succumbed to the illness," McMillan said.

The Bahamas has recorded approximately 88 cases of dengue.

Health Minister Dr Michael Darville revealed most cases are in New Providence.

However, they are spreading to the Family Islands, which are a hotspot for leisure travel.



Darville said dengue cases on the Family Islands were detected in persons who travelled from New Providence.

Despite the mosquito-borne virus' spread, McMillan said the island is still in the outbreak stage, as their data has not concluded that dengue has become endemic.

Meanwhile, Darville has responded to former Health Minister Dr Duane Sands' lobbying for the government to implement a dengue

vaccination program to help curb the virus' spread.

Darville told reporters that officials have reached out to the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) to inquire about accessing vaccines.

"The Bahamas is not endemic for dengue. We reached out to PAHO to give us advice on the possibility of vaccines. And based on what's being discussed, we believe not being an endemic area sort of excludes The Bahamas from a national

vaccination programme for dengue," Darville said.

The Environment Ministry has launched a nationwide campaign to curb the spread of dengue.

The public information and response campaign is titled "Fight The Bite".

Insect Vector crews will be spraying insecticides in various communities nightly and special attention will be paid to tyre shops to ensure they are disposing of old tyres according to the law.

*cont'd from pg 8*  
tion."

About 70 per cent of the country's roughly 640,000 inhabitants live below the poverty line and are struggling with an inflation rate that has risen 60 per cent in the past year.

In February, protesters stormed Suriname's Parliament to decry the end of government subsidies that sparked a rise in the cost of power, fuel and water. Demonstrators in March once again took to the streets and demanded that Santokhi resign.

Annand Jagesar, CEO of the state-owned Staatsolie oil company that produces some 17,000 barrels a day from on-shore drilling, praised the upcoming deep-water project.

"This development, aided by good governance, should lift Suriname to a stage where poverty is totally eradicated," he said.

Pouyanné said the company expects to extract some 200,000 barrels of oil a day.

"TotalEnergies is committed to the authorities of Suriname to de-

velop this project in a responsible manner, both by ensuring benefits in terms of job creation and economic activities for Suriname and by using the best available technologies to minimize greenhouse gas emissions," he said at a press conference.

The waters off Suriname and neighbouring Guyana are believed to be rich in gas and oil deposits.

Guyana, which has become one of world's biggest offshore oil producers, opened bids for additional oil blocks late Tuesday.

## Grenada: Police probe into murder of foreign national continues

CMC - Grenada police on Tuesday said they were not ruling out the possibility of cross border criminal activities after a 51-year-old St Vincent and the Grenadines national was shot and killed as he sat in his vehicle on Monday.

The newly appointed head of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Superintendent Esau Pierre told a news conference with regards to the murder of Dexter Chance, "that because Grenada has porous borders, one can never eliminate the possibilities and movement of persons connected to the underworld.

"And as such we will always up our guard... with respect to cross border criminality. With respect to this particular case we continue our investigations and we will determine where the assailants originated from.

"But our investigations will reveal the information subsequent. But I cannot at this stage venture to say whether it is local or regional, but it is a concern for us where the criminality is imported and like the firearms, firearms are imported," Pierre told the news conference.

Police said that Chance, was shot and killed in Woburn, on the outskirts of the capital, St George and a photograph circulating



on social media showed his bloody body in the driver's seat of the vehicle.

Chance, along with Grenadian Bernard Spann, 46, and Jamaicans Ian White, 53, and Alrick Reynolds, 48, were arrested in August 2019 in connection with the seizure of 40 kilos of cocaine at Dr. Grooms in Point Salines.

He was denied bail then as the prosecution told the court that they believed that Chance's arrest had helped in cracking a major drug ring in the Caribbean.

However, in January 2020, he was granted bail, the conditions of which included reporting to police twice weekly, surrendering his travel documents and obtaining permission of the court to leave Grenada.

Chance remained in Grenada after being freed

of the charges last July.

"This is a current active case and as such it would be foolhardy of me to venture into any area that may compromise the present investigations," Pierre said.

In 2011, Chance, along with fellow Vincentians Gareth McDowall and Carlos Sutherland, had been extradited to Tortola to stand trial along with three other people in connection with a 2008 drug bust.

The men were charged after the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force said they found 61 kilos of cocaine onboard a chartered catamaran.

The cocaine had an estimated street value of one million US dollars.

On July 3, 2012, Chance and the other Vincentians were sentenced to six years in prison for im-

porting drugs into the Virgin Islands. However, five years later, the Vincentian men were released after the Court of Appeal quashed the convictions for drug importation, on the ground that the then judge erred in law in relying on a certificate of analysis not bearing the name of the defendants.

There have been reports here that the Chance's killing could have been linked to the murder of Delvon Thomas, 30, who was shot during the Carnival celebrations here last month.

In the past, the police have made it clear that the murder was unrelated to the island's Carnival activities and a newspaper in Trinidad and Tobago reported that the killing had been a hit ordered by a notorious gang leader from behind

*cont'd on pg 12*

# Regional News



*cont'd from pg 11*

prison walls in Port of Spain that spilled over into neighbouring Grenada.

The newspaper said that the intended target escaped, but one man is dead and another injured and that the killers have disappeared without a trace.

“As you know we have made some arrests in this matter, there’s still a large bit of information still to be done, we are continuing the investigations, we are not satisfied that all of the participants in this crime have yet been brought to justice or have been arrested and charged and so we continue to work this matter,” said the Assistant Commissioner of Police with responsibility for Crimes, Vannie Curwen.

“We will not rest until we get to the bottom of not only this but all of the outstanding matters that we are

currently investigating,” he added.

Pierre said that he has already taken steps to ensure close inter-agency cooperation and that he has spoken with his drug squad counterpart and “so we will be looking at what we can do in order to gel the intelligence and our efforts going forward.

“We do not want to work in isolation of each other...in order to deal with the possibility of the cross border criminality,” he added

Curwen however announced that the police had been able to make breakthroughs in some outstanding murder cases.

He told reporters that seven days after his burial, the authorities have arrested a 26-year-old man in connection with the death of school teacher, Kendon Berkeley whose lifeless body was discovered at his home in the rural parish of St Andrew on July 14 this year.

In addition, the police have also arrested another man in the death of Troy Daniels, who was shot and killed on the weekend.

Curwen said both suspects will make their first court appearance later this week.

He said that another outstanding matter may soon be solved because the Director of Public Prosecution has the file regarding the death of 24-year-old Josiah “Jonty” Robinson, whose body was found on a beach on June 18, this year.

According to local media reports, an autopsy report stated he died from manual strangulation.

“That file has been submitted to the Director of Public Prosecution for his legal opinion, we have not yet settled on this matter, when we do, we will come back to the public and provide an update as to where we are with this matter,” Curwen said.

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## CDPMN: Significant drought in the region should be eliminated by November

CMC - The Barbados-based Caribbean Drought and Precipitation Monitoring Network (CDPMN) Wednesday said despite the normal to below normal rainfall outlook there should still be enough rainfall to eliminate a significant drought threat by the end of November.

In its Caribbean Drought Bulletin for the month of September, the CDPMN said that the normal to below rainfall for the southern half of the eastern island chain would be for the three-month period to November.

“But being amongst the wettest three-month periods of the year, there should still be enough rainfall to eliminate a significant drought threat by the end of November. It is, however, recommended that interests in the vicinity of St Maarten and St Vincent should monitor their water reserves,” the CD-



PMN said.

It said interests in the southeast of the region, in particular, should look out for an update on the situation at the end of September to make sure there is no change as the end of the wet season approaches at the end of November.

According to the bulletin, long-term drought is possible in St Barts, Sint

Maarten, St Martin, and St Vincent.

It said areas ending up in long-term drought by the end of November “are likely to experience lower than usual water levels in large reservoirs, large rivers and ground water”.

However, it advised “all stakeholders to keep monitoring their environment for signs of drought”.

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## Emma Coronel: El Chapo Guzmán's wife released from prison

By **Vanessa Buschschlüter**

Emma Coronel, the wife of jailed Mexican drug lord Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán, has been released from jail in the US.

She pleaded guilty to drug trafficking charges and was sentenced to three years in jail in November 2021, a sentence which was later reduced.

The Federal Bureau of Prisons confirmed her release.

It is believed the 34-year-old left a halfway house in California, where she was moved from federal prison in June.

Her husband is serving a life sentence in a supermax jail in Colorado.

Last month, he sent a handwritten letter requesting his wife and their two daughters be allowed to visit him in the maximum security prison.

El Chapo Guzmán, 66, was found guilty in 2019 of running the Sinaloa cartel.

The Mexico-based transnational criminal organisation is estimated by US law enforcement officials to have smuggled more than 1,000 tonnes of cocaine, marijuana, methamphetamines and heroin into the US.

The cartel's hitmen kidnapped, tortured and killed members of rival gangs to consolidate its power.

The Sinaloa cartel also bribed police officers and high-ranking politicians in Mexico and across Central



*Emma Coronel attended both the pre-trial hearings against her husband and his trial.*

America to turn a blind eye to drug shipments or even tip the cartel off about impending raids.

Emma Coronel first met Guzmán when she was 17 years old and competing in a local beauty pageant.

Her father, Inés Coronel, was a high-ranking member of the Sinaloa cartel who is currently serving a 10-year sentence in Mexico for drug smuggling.

Guzmán was running the cartel from various hideouts in northern Mexico after he had escaped from prison in a laundry cart in 2001.

They formalised their relationship in a ceremony when Emma Coronel was 18 - although it is not clear if their marriage was ever officially registered with the Mexican authorities.

Coronel, who holds dual US-Mexican nationality, travelled to California in 2011 to give birth to the couple's twin daughters, a move which means the children have US citizenship.

In 2014, Guzmán was arrested after a 13-year manhunt and sent to the Altiplano maximum security jail in Mexico. It only took Guzmán 17 months to escape again, this time through a tunnel complete with ventilation shafts and a motorcycle on rails which led from his cell to a nearby warehouse.

At her trial, prosecutors said Coronel had played a key role in her husband's escape.

She was also accused of having acted as a messenger for her husband both during his time on the run and behind bars, relaying orders to his cartel lieutenants and to his sons with his previous wives, who are known as the Chapitos (Little Chapos).

After his 2015 tunnel escape, Guzmán managed to evade capture for six months

before Mexican special forces finally captured him outside Los Mochis, in his home state of Sinaloa.

He was extradited to the US a year later and put on trial in New York.

Coronel made daily appearances in the Brooklyn courtroom.

Immaculately dressed and perfectly groomed, she smiled and waved to him from the public gallery.

She told the New York Times that she did not recognise the gruesome testimony given about her husband in court, instead describing him as “an excellent father, friend, brother, son, partner”.

When Guzmán was found guilty in February 2019, the couple gave each other the thumbs up.

Coronel remained free for almost another two years until her arrest at Dulles airport, near Washington DC, in February 2021.

Prosecutors said she was well aware of her husband's criminal activities and “understood the scope of the Sinaloa cartel's drug trafficking”.

She pleaded guilty to drug trafficking and money laundering.

At her sentencing, Coronel asked for leniency for the sake of her children. “I beg you to not allow them to grow up without the presence of a mother,” she told the judge.

She was sentenced to *cont'd on pg 15*

## Libya floods: 5,300 dead amid calls for humanitarian support

By George Wright

More than 5,300 people are believed to have died after floods in the Libyan city of Derna, an official has said.

“The sea is constantly dumping dozens of bodies,” Hisham Chkiouat, a minister in Libya’s eastern administration said.

There have been desperate calls for more humanitarian support as victims lie wrapped in body bags and others have been buried in mass graves.

A tsunami-like river of floodwater swept through Derna on Sunday after a dam burst during Storm Daniel.

Rescue teams are digging through the rubble of collapsed buildings in the hope of finding survivors - but hope is waning and the death toll is still expected to rise further.

Officials say at least 10,000 people are missing, while 30,000 people are estimated to have been displaced, the United Nations’ International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Libya said on Wednesday.

Morgues and hospitals have been overwhelmed with bodies.



People walk between the rubble in Derna.

Libyan doctor Najib Tarhoni, who has been working in a hospital near Derna, said more help is needed.

“I have friends in the hospital here who have lost most of their families ... they’ve lost everyone,” he told BBC Radio 4’s World at One.

“We just need people who understand the situation - logistic help, dogs that can actually smell people and get them from under the ground. We just need the humanitarian help, people who actually know what they are doing.”

There is also an urgent need for specialised forensic and rescue teams and others who specialise in recovering

bodies, the head of the Libyan doctors’ union Mohammed al-Ghoush told Turkish media.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) said an emergency team will arrive in Derna on Thursday “to assess medical needs and donate emergency medical kits to care for the wounded and body bags to the Libyan Red Crescent”.

Streets are covered in mud and rubble, and are littered with upturned vehicles.

Mr Chkiouat, a local official, said some areas of Derna have “vanished, completely disappeared”.

“So imagine a residential area has been destroyed

completely, you cannot see it, it’s not existing anymore.

“I’ve never seen anything like this before. It’s by all means a tsunami.”

Taha Muftah, a photojournalist in Derna, said experts had raised the alarm about the dam since 2011 “but nobody did anything about it”.

He told the BBC’s Newshour programme that the dam collapse sounded “like an air strike”.

“The water now has stopped and what is left is only the rubble, and the people who were taken by the flood are under the water,” he said.

A number of elite footballers have died, according to the Libya Football Federation (LFF).

It released the names of four players who were killed: Shaheen Al-Jamil, Monder Sadaqa and brothers Saleh Sasi and Ayoub Sasi.

*cont’d from pg 14*

three years in jail which were subsequently reduced, paving the way for today’s release.

Her future plans are unclear, but her husband’s letter pleading for her to be allowed to see him would suggest she may travel to

Colorado to visit him.

In the letter, Guzmán says the couple’s daughters, who are now 12 years old, are “studying in Mexico and can only travel to visit their dad during the holidays, two or three times per year at most”.

# Sports News



## Wings Sports Club to host orientation meeting

The Concerned Parents/Teachers Sports Association (CPTSA) Wings Sports Club will be holding its orientation meeting at Christ the King High

School on Saturday. The meeting, which is slated to start at 9:30 am, will focus on outlining new guidelines and adjustments that will be required

as the non-profit organization gets ready to launch its activities for the new season.

All interested persons and their parents are be-

ing requested to attend the session, which will also include new and returning athletes in the Wings Sports Club's basketball, football, track & field, and volleyball programmes.

General information will be given on the rules and regulations of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club and membership information on how to register for the commencement of the 2023-24 sports season.

Information pertaining to the sports club's upcoming activities and calendar of events will also be highlighted.

At the end of the general orientation session, the basketball, football, track and field, and volleyball units will meet individually with interested parents and athletes.

Additional information will be given at these individual sessions with the four sporting units of the Wings Sports Club.

The parents and the athletes will also be introduced to the coaches of their sporting disciplines. Information on practice days and times will also be disseminated during the sessions.

Boys and girls' athletes from age five to 18 are eligible to become members of the CPTSA Wings Sports Club, which is led by long-standing president and coach Lucaso Brumant.



**9 Teams**

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## NBA moves to ensure star players appear in more games



Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, and Milwaukee Bucks center Giannis Antetokounmpo are two of the biggest stars in the NBA. (AP)

NEW YORK (AP) - The NBA took steps Wednesday to try to ensure that its star players appear in more games, particularly nationally televised matchups and the in-season tournament that is being added this year.

The league's board of governors approved a new player participation policy that will take effect for this upcoming season, replacing the player resting policy that was implemented

prior to the 2017-18 season.

The new rules focus primarily on star players - someone who has been an All-Star or on the All-NBA team in any of the prior three seasons. There are 50 players who fit into the star category.

Increased player participation is a top priority for Commissioner Adam Silver as the league negotiates a new media rights deal. The current deal ends in 2025.

Teams will have to manage their rosters to ensure that multiple available star players aren't sitting out the same game to rest.

The league will have the ability to penalize teams that violate the policy by fining them US\$100,000 for the first infraction and US\$250,000 for the second. Each successive violation increase by US\$1 million.

The NBA also wants teams to maintain a balance between the number of one-game absences a star player has at home and on the road, as well as refrain from any long-term shutdowns where a star player stops playing games.

The league will allow teams to submit written requests in advance for older players for back-to-back

*cont'd on pg 19*

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## Basketball fraternity mourns the passing of Rowan 'Tekel' Gomes

The basketball fraternity in Antigua and Barbuda is mourning the sudden passing of former national team player Rowan "Tekel" Gomes.

Gomes, who won multiple Leeward Islands and OECS titles with the Wadadli Bulldogs during the Antigua and Barbuda senior national team's dominance of basketball in the sub-region between the late 1980s and 1990s, passed away on Monday evening.

The sport's local governing body, the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA), expressed its condolences to family and friends of the fallen national basketball legend.

According to a media release from ABBA, "The Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) and the basketball fraternity on a whole would like to express condolences to the family and friends of former national player, Rowan 'Tekel' Gomes, who passed away on Monday evening.

"Hearing the news of his passing is a shock to us

who grew up knowing the name Tekel and seeing the way he dominated around the rim. He has truly left a legacy behind and is one of the many legends who have paved the way for players now.

"We, the Executive of ABBA, would just like to send our prayers to his family and close friends at this time. 'Rest in peace, a legend and a gentle giant,'" said ABBA President Michael Freeland.

Gomes will be fondly remembered as a soft-spoken, gentle giant with a quiet personality.

Gomes went to Hampton University and was drafted by the Denver Nuggets in 1987. Although he did not see his dream of playing in the NBA materialize, the Clare Hall resident did play professionally in Spain and Australia.

Nationally, Gomes would have played an integral role in the dominance of the Bulldogs in the late 80s and early 90s alongside greats like Noel "Nia" Roberts, Wayne "Doc" Harris, Carl "Bowlie" Knight, Richie Francis, and Eus-



Rowan 'Tekel' Gomes. (ABBA Media)

face 'Spud' Davis.

On the local scene, Gomes played for Lester's Flyers and the Deputy Quakers. In 2016, the

Division I leading block shot award was renamed in Gomes' honour.

Two years later, he briefly took the mantle as the head coach of the Potters Steelers. It was not his first coaching stint, as Gomes coached the Foster Jonas Hawks to an undefeated season where they won the Division III title in 1983.

*cont'd from pg 17*

games.

This is for a small pool of stars who are either 35 or older at the start of the season or have played in over 34,000 regular-season minutes or 1,000 games in their careers.

LeBron James, Kevin Durant and Stephen Curry all fit in that category.

Teams will be able to make other requests to have players miss games that include personal reasons, player's prior injury history and end-of-season flexibility.



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## ABNDA to resume domestic season with three-hand pullarama

The Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association (ABNDA) will resume its domestic competitions this evening (Thursday).

Following a break to allow the national team, the Wadadli Warriors, to participate in the 19th World Council of Domino Federation (WCDF) Championship in Guyana last month, the ABNDA will resume action on the domestic scene by staging a three-hand pullarama competition at its headquarters in Ottos Newtown tonight.

Players from all clubs affiliated with the ABNDA are expected to participate in the three-hand pullarama contest.

Among them will be players from the AS Bryden & Stingray City Bolans Revellers, who won the first Team Three-Hand competition of the 2023 domestic season.

Players from the Everyday Service Station Double Six Diamonds, which won the second domestic Team



Players compete in a domestic domino competition at the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's headquarters in Ottos earlier this year. (File photo)

Three-Hand competition, will also be competing.

The Willikies Super Stars, who won the first and second Team Four-Hand contests, will also be fielding players in the Pullorama.

Players from Dominatrixx, Moise Eagle Warriors, Legacy, Parham Strikers, and Unstoppables are also expected to compete in the event.

A number of the players

were members of the successful Wadadli Warriors, which became three-peat world domino champions last month.

After capturing the title in 2016 and 2018, Antigua and Barbuda retained their World Council of Domino Federation Championship title by winning the 19th edition of the biennial tournament in Guyana in August 2023.

The 45-member Wadadli

Warriors' team, which comprises male and female players, retained the title from a reduced field of competitors as only four teams participated in the first world championship that was being held following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Antigua and Barbuda's Zenus Williams of the Dominatrixx club was named the most valuable player of the tournament.

*cont'd from pg 22*

was fouled inside the box by defender Liam Gordon to earn the penalty kick for the Bahamas.

Omari Glasgow equalized when his corner kick fell into the netting at the far post in the 44th minute.

The 19-year-old has four goals through the first two games and has surpassed his three-goal best in the 2022-23 edition.

Stephen Duke-McKenna gave Guyana the lead in the 54th minute when the midfielder unleashed a

powerful strike from outside the box as Glasgow helped to orchestrate the build-up.

Kelsey Benjamin extended the lead to 3-1 in the 58th minute. Benjamin slotted the ball past Wheaton after receiving a pass across the goal from Glasgow.

Julmis scored his second penalty for the Bahamas in the 86th minute to complete his brace in the process.

There were also wins for St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Belize in Group C of League B on Tuesday.

Belize scored twice in a span of four minutes to obtain a 2-0 away win against French Guiana at the Dr. Edmard Lama Municipal Stadium in Cayenne, French Guiana.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines outlasted Bermuda for a 4-3 victory at the Arnos Vale Stadium in Kingstown, St. Vincent.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines are top of Group C with six points after winning their first two encounters, while Belize is in second place with three points.

## Puerto Rico trounce Benna Boys in CNL

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys suffered another heavy defeat in their second outing in Group D of League B in the Concacaf Nations League (CNL) football competition in the Bahamas on Tuesday night.

After receiving a 5-1 trashing in their opening encounter against Guyana at home in Antigua on Saturday, Gerald Diaz scored a hat-trick as the Benna Boys were hammered 5-0 by Puerto Rico in their second outing at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium in Nassau, Bahamas.

Puerto Rico took the lead in the 15th minute, thanks to a Diaz strike at the far post. A through ball from Nicolas Cardona led to a cross across from the left flank by Noeh Hernandez to create the opening goal.

Ricardo Rivera extended the lead by calmly shooting into the bottom left corner from the penalty spot in the 39th minute. Wilfredo Rivera earned the penalty after being taken down on a breakaway.

Antigua and Barbuda went down to 10 men on the following play, as Benna Boys defender Roneba Cordice was shown a red card in the 40th minute for a tackle on Wilfredo Rivera.

Ricardo Rivera got his second of the night in the 43rd minute as Puerto Rico continued their offensive effectiveness to take a 3-0 lead at halftime.

Wilfredo Rivera then set up Diaz for a fourth Puerto Rico goal in the 46th minute.



Puerto Rico's Gerald Diaz (#13) is embraced by Wilfredo Rivera, while Joel Burgos (#14) looks on, during their Concacaf Nations League Group D in League B match against Antigua and Barbuda at the Thomas A. Robinson Stadium in Nassau, Bahamas, on Tuesday, September 12, 2023. (Concacaf Media)

Antiguan midfielder Kendukar Challenger was denied by the top post in the 54th minute in what may have been the best chance for the Benna Boys to get on the scoreboard.

The mountain got harder to climb for Antigua and Barbuda as forward D'Andre Bishop picked up his second yellow card of the night, leaving the visitors with nine players at the 58th minute mark.

Diaz completed his hat-trick in the 90th minute to cap off a five-goal victory for the Puerto Ricans, who remain at the top of Group D on goal difference after their second win in as many matches.

Antigua and Barbuda fell to fourth in Group D, and they'll look to regroup for next month's matches.

Guyana also made it two wins in as many matches to remain second in Group D by snatching a 3-2 victory over The Bahamas at the National Track and Field Stadium in Leonora, Guyana, on Tuesday night.

The Bahamas goalkeeper Vance Wheaton blocked a shot on target from Omari Glasgow in the 31st minute to keep the score level.

Wood Julmis of the Bahamas converted from the penalty spot in the 39th minute to break the deadlock. Julmis

*cont'd on pg 21*