

# PM BROWNE HEADS OFFICIAL DELEGATION TO UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Border control officers from the Customs Division and the Antigua Port Authority are undergoing weeklong training in the detection and safe handling of radioactive sources and use of detection and safety equipment. *Story on page 3*

## PM Browne heads official delegation to UN General Assembly

Prime Minister the Honourable Gaston Browne is among world leaders assembled in New York City for the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly.

Prime Minister Browne is leading the Antigua and Barbuda official delegation to the 78th Session of the United Nations General Assembly – High-Level Week September 18th to 23rd 20224.

The delegation also includes Health Minister, Sir Molwyn Joseph and For-

eign Affairs Minister, E.P Chet Greene and other officials.

Antigua and Barbuda’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Dr. Aubrey Webson and his team based at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission will also participate.

The theme for this year’s UNGA is “Rebuilding trust and reigniting global solidarity: Accelerating action on the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

towards peace, prosperity, progress and sustainability for all’.

During the week, a packed agenda has been prepared for Prime Minister Browne to include bilaterals with the UK Development Minister, the H.H Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud of the Saudi Arabian Mission among others.

He will also attend joint meetings between CARICOM leaders and the Israeli Prime Minister as well as a dinner with the South Korean President.

Other important matters on his agenda is the Climate Ambition Summit

Opening which takes place Wednesday morning.

The Prime Minister will deliver the Antigua and Barbuda statement on Friday.

He is anticipated to speak sometime between 2 and 3 pm.

As this is the last UNGA before next year’s important meeting of the Small Islands development States that Antigua and Barbuda will host in 2024, there are several meetings and events associated with the conference which both Prime Minister Browne and Foreign Affairs Minister Greene are expected to be intimately involved.

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Would Mr. Nhandi Benjamin formerly of St. John’s Street, St. John’s, Antigua please get in contact with the law office at telephone number 562-5372 in connection with matters relative to the late Therese Lewis, formerly of St. John’s Street, St. John’s, Antigua who passed on 30th December, 2019.



## Border control officers undergo training in radiation safety

Border control officers from the Customs Division and the Antigua Port Authority are undergoing week-long training in the detection and safe handling of radioactive sources and use of detection and safety equipment.

Comptroller of Customs, Raju Boddu, explained that the training forms part of a project that was initiated prior to the COVID-19 pandemic for which specialized equipment was donated by the People's Republic of

China. He noted that the pandemic delayed some aspects of the implementation such as the training necessary for handling some of the equipment.

"Some of the equipment have been put to use, but we have been concerned about the safety of our officers who are exposed to radiation as well as the safety of the general public visiting the port," he further explained.

For that reason, the comptroller said the most powerful equipment in

the lot has not been deployed because of safety concerns.

"We thought that we would do a complete assessment of the safety issues involved in using this nuclear technology. Not only that, but we also need to standardize and put in place the protocols to handle various shipments, such as where they are from, whether they contain radio isotopes that are used for treating diseases such as cancer and different materials that may contain radioactive materials imported into the country," he stated.

Boddu said the training will equip officers with the skills to safely handle these materials.

"We felt a strong need and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was approached and they sent two facilitators from Jamaica to conduct the workshop. Along with the customs and port officers, a representative each from the Bureau of Standards and the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force are attending.

According to Boddu the new equipment have been used to scan barrels, pallets and containers. They are also able to detect contraband materials such as illegal firearms and drugs.

He revealed that the recent rise in the detection of drugs at the St. John's port has been due to the use of the equipment.



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The **Health & Wellness Department** will be closed from **27 - 29 September 2023** and our **Cork & Basket** store in English Harbour will be closed on **28 - 30 September 2023**.

All customers are asked to submit their orders no later than **Monday 25 September 2023 by 10:00 a.m.**

The last day to return goods for a refund in September will be **Friday 22nd September 2023**.

Our Bryden's online delivery service will also be unavailable on **28 & 29 September 2023** due to stocktaking.

The last day for orders is **Tuesday 26th September 2023**.

We will resume normal operations on **Monday 2nd October 2023**

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Management

## The ECCB wants banks to make it easier to open an account

Persons across the Eastern Caribbean Currency Union (ECCU), which comprises the eight countries that use the EC Dollar, are still encountering difficulties in opening a bank and account and the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) says it will lead the way to make the process easier.

Speaking at an ECCU press conference on Monday where the results of a financial literacy and inclusion survey were revealed, ECCB Governor, Timothy Antoine, says he is not happy with the current state of affairs.

“The survey found that for some people who do not have a bank account, one of the reasons is that it is too difficult to open an account and on that score, I just want to make it clear what the position of the central bank is. We are now working with our licensed financial institutions to ease



*ECCB Governor, Timothy Antoine*  
the requirements to open a bank account without doing violence to our obligations to fight money-laundering and financial crimes. We believe with

a proper understanding of the law and a risk-based approach to financial integrity, we can accomplish that,” he stated.

The Governor saw this as part of the financial literacy and inclusion effort now being spearheaded by the bank to encounter more citizens of the ECCU to become part of the financial system.

“We don’t want people to go back to using ‘under the mattress’ because they can’t open an account. That defeats the purpose of the whole exercise. So we recognize that this is an area where we can do something urgently,” he remarked.

Antoine revealed that officials of the ECCB and regulators in the ECCU met recently where this matter was discussed. “We think we can do something about this,” he declared.

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## AG expresses confidence in leadership of the Police Force

Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety, Steadroy Benjamin is pleased with the current leadership of the Police Force and the overall direction of the law enforcement entity.

Minister Benjamin, under whose ministry the police falls, said he is pleased with the performance of the police in the execution of their duties, as they serve with pride and dignity. He also congratulated the force on the successful completion of activities marking Police Week, 2023.

He pledged his and the

government's continued support to provide the necessary resources that will enable the police to function effectively and efficiently and to keep the nation of Antigua and Barbuda safe and secure. The Attorney General was seen attending the church service to mark the opening of police week 2023, and also at the Malcolm Nicholas Cup Competition.

The police celebrated 55 years of police week this year from September 10 to 17 under the theme, "With Dignity and Pride, We are Working Together With Our



Attorney General and Minister of Public Safety, Steadroy Benjamin

Community."

The current Commissioner of Police is Atlee Rodney QPM. Deputy

Commissioners, Everton Jeffers and Albert Wade complete the top ranks of the department.

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# Local News



## Antigua and Barbuda to be promoted as a wellness tourism destination

Following the recently concluded World Wellness Weekend, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority says it is eager to continue promoting Antigua and Barbuda as a wellness tourism destination.

The authority says plans are now in motion to further highlight the diverse range of offerings available to both visitors and residents in the twin-islands during Antigua and Barbuda Wellness Month in January 2024.

This will be the second year that the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority will host Antigua and Barbuda Wellness Month,



and wellness practitioners in the destination are being encouraged to participate in the month by sharing their wellness packages and activities with the tourism office.

The Tourism Authority's Wellness Pillar Lead and Director of Tourism (ag) in Canada, Tameka

Wharton said, "The travel trends show that people are still travelling intentionally for relaxation and to improve their overall wellbeing.

"As persons begin thinking of their New Year's resolutions and how they would like to ring in the New Year, we want them to

keep Antigua and Barbuda top of mind as a wellness destination that offers simplicity, tranquil settings, a laid-back pace and incredible outdoor experiences with nature in local communities."

Wharton was speaking following the wrap-up of World Wellness Weekend activities in Antigua and Barbuda, which the Tourism Authority and World Wellness Weekend Ambassadors Tricia Greenaway and Alejandro Leo have called "a resounding success".

With numerous energetic activities held over the weekend (September 15

*cont'd on pg 7*

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## Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society of NYC celebrates 89th anniversary

The Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society, Inc., established in Harlem, New York City, is this month celebrating its 89 years of service to the homeland of Antigua and Barbuda and the Harlem community.

“We honor those brave 22 Antiguan for their benevolence and love as we continue to promote their principles of Love, Faith, Hope and Charity at this “Lighthouse in Harlem”,” current ABPS President Arize Lee said at a ceremony held in Harlem over the weekend to mark the occasion as well as to celebrate the contributions of two outstanding former members of the society who recently passed.

“On June 24th, 2022, we honored our founder Bishop James P. Roberts Sr, as this block where the early members purchased this headquarters, was officially co-named – The Bishop James P. Roberts Sr. Way. The legacy lives on!

“Today, we honor two tenacious Antiguan wom-



en that were committed to the longevity of the Antigua and Barbuda Progressive Society. Their tenacity is a diamond quality, not easily found, and it is the tenacious people that shape this world,” Lee stated.

The first floor of the Antigua House building, located at 12W 122 Street in Harlem has been named in honour of the two women. “They were movers, undeterred by problems and fixated on solutions. Their commitment to their cause was iron and emboldened people around them, like me, and other

members of the organization to persevere with the legacy of ABPS,” Lee added.

One of the women being honoured, Margaret Maynard, was the oldest member with the most years in the organization before she passed. She is said to have attended almost every general membership meeting and participated in events when her health permitted.

The second honouree, Maria “Roz” Olatunji was said to be a powerful ABPS member, who spearheaded the organization at a very critical point in its history

and made huge sacrifices for the society’s longevity. “She was the only member to hold all five positions of the Board: President, Vice President, Chief Financial Officer, Financial Secretary and Recording Secretary. Everyone recalls her dedication to excellence and the big vision she had for our charity,” according to President Lee.

Several government officials based in NYC at the Antigua and Barbuda mission as well as the tourist office were in attendance at the black-tie affair.

*cont’d from pg 6*

– September 17), the destination was declared a ‘World Wellness Weekend Champion’, an official designation granted by the founder of World Wellness Weekend. The activities hosted by the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority alongside, World Wellness Weekend Ambassadors to Antigua and Barbuda and World Wellness Weekend Leader Keisha Schahaff, included: Tai Chi at sunrise, yoga at

sunset, nutrition talks and tree-planting within schools, Socarobics in Barbuda, Pilates, Vinyasa flow yoga, and a wellness hike and scavenger hunt.

The Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority is excited to bring these and other activities organised by skilled and dedicated wellness practitioners to visitors for the upcoming Antigua and Barbuda Wellness Month.

Antigua and Barbuda Wellness Month will be an immersive experi-

ence with carefully curated activities that will allow visitors and residents to embrace wellness offerings in resort and also venture out into the local communities to discover new tours and join in on events that will ultimately enhance their wellness journey.

For further details on Antigua and Barbuda Wellness Month contact the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority on 1 268 562 7600 or email: info@visitaandb.com

## Andre Norton is the feature of this week's Hospitality Professional series

Andre Norton, the recently appointed Port Facility Security Officer and Health and Safety Officer at Antigua Cruise Port, is this week's focus of the Antigua Hotel's and Tourist Association (ABHTA) Unveiling Hospitality Professional Series.

Norton was promoted to the position on August 1, 2023. With more than fifteen years of dedicated service in the hospitality sector, Andre's promotion was a well-deserved recognition of his commitment and expertise in ensuring the smooth operations of the Antigua Cruise Port.

During the Cruise tourism season, numerous vessels call at the St. John's harbour.

However, few truly grasp the intricate technical aspects involved in

the security and safety of docking these massive vessels. Andre Norton is among the select few who possess this specialized knowledge.

Each arriving vessel is meticulously inspected by a team of local professionals, including Andre, in collaboration with representatives from the Ministry of Tourism, Customs and Immigration, and local cruise brokers.

They meticulously review and inspect all of the ship's documents, including passenger and crew counts, as well as equipment, before granting clearance for passengers and crew to disembark.

Similar to the stringent protocols at the V C Bird International Airport, every individual entering Antigua

and Barbuda must be accounted for and approved for entry.

The team responsible for boarding the cruise ship plays a pivotal role in upholding the destination's safety and security.

Norton takes immense pride in his role and describes his job as a daily reminder of the paramount importance of safety and security.

He emphasizes, "Every day I step into the Heritage Quay area, I am reminded of the significance of enforcing rules over personal relationships."

Norton also actively contributes to enhancing safety compliance by developing new protocols and strengthening existing health and safety policies.



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## A&B national among four Caribbean students who complete PhD degrees

Antigua and Barbuda’s Trish Lovell, who is attached to the Fisheries Division, is among four students from the Caribbean who successfully defended their PhD dissertations at the World Maritime University – headquarters, located in Sweden.

They were part of the “Closing the Circle Programme” funded by The Nippon Foundation.

Lovell defended her dissertation, “The Problem of Abandoned, Lost and otherwise Discarded Fishing Gear (ALDFG) in Eastern Caribbean Small-Scale Fisheries. Understanding the Challenges, Defining Solutions.”

The other students were Roxanne Graham from Grenada, who defended her dissertation, “Combating the Marine Litter Crisis in the Windward Islands: Examining

Source-to-Sea Pathways and Fostering Multi-Scale Solutions.”

Kristal Ambrose from The Bahamas defended her dissertation, “Contextual Barriers Facing Caribbean SIDS in the Global Governance of Plastic Pollution. Assessing the need for harmonised marine debris monitoring and contextual equity to support participation in the global plastics treaty negotiations by Caribbean SIDS.”

While from Barbados, Kristie Alleyne defended her dissertation entitled “Spatiotemporal Analyses of Pelagic Sargassum: Biodiversity, Morphotypes and Arsenic Content.”

### Important Notice from the Ministry of Health

#### (SERVICES AT THE CLAREHALL HEALTH CENTRE TEMPORARILY RELOCATED)

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, Social Transformation and the Environment would like to remind members of the public that services rendered at the Clare Hall Health Center will be temporarily relocated effective Monday 3rd July 2023. This relocation is due to extensive upgrades being made to the facility.

Effective immediately, the new schedule is as follows:

- Antenatal Clinic - Pigotts Clinic – Mondays
- Postnatal and Neonatal (Appointment Only - 462-1271) Pigotts Clinic
- Family Planning and Registration of Infants (Walk-Ins) - Pigotts Clinic
- Hypertension and Diabetic Clinic – Pigotts Clinic – Tuesdays
- District Medical Officer ( Persons ages 0-16 OR 60+ ) – Pigotts Clinic – Fridays
- Psychiatric Clinic – Pigotts Clinic – 2nd Thursdays
- Nephrology (Dr. Cox) – Villa Polyclinic – Fridays
- Nutritionist (Appointment Only - 462-1271) – Pigotts
- Child Health Clinic – Villa Polyclinic – 1st Wednesdays / 4th Thursdays
- Wound Care (Dressing) – Potters Clinic- Monday to Friday
- Daily Doctor – Potters Clinic – Monday to Friday

The Ministry apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and assures the issues will be rectified soonest. Updates will be provided accordingly.






## Randy Baltimore expands charitable work

Community activist, Randy Baltimore, has expanding his charitable work with education institutions in the St. Phillip's parish.

Recognising that the Nelvie N Gore Primary School, formerly the Wilkies Primary School, recently initiated a breakfast

programme to help ensure the young minds are properly nourished, Baltimore decided that this was an activity that he would wish to support.

On Tuesday, Baltimore made a timely donation of breakfast items to the school for use in the breakfast feeding programme.

The items included oats, cereal, milk, eggs, rice, and coco listo, were presented to the school's Vice Principal Chaka Grant.

In brief comments, Baltimore emphasised the importance for the children to have a nutritious breakfast to start the day, which is considered to be the most

important meal of the day.

The activist continued his charitable work by making a similar donation to the Glanville Secondary School, which also has a breakfast programme. Receiving the donation were Principal, Rody Christopher, and Vice Principal, Samantha Jackson.

## Protocol Office Recruitment Drive for SIDS 2024

Small island developing states (SIDS) and coastal areas are uniquely vulnerable to climate change impacts and other environmental pressures. This was recognized by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) in 1989, when it passed resolution 44/206 on the possible adverse effects of sea-level rise on islands and low-lying coastal areas.

The first UN Conference on the Sustainable Development of SIDS was held in Barbados in 1994 the second was held in Mauritius in 2005 and the third in Samoa in 2014.

The 4th UN SIDS Conference is being forecasted to be held in Antigua in May 2024. As a result, the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs is currently recruiting approximately 200 volunteers to work with the Office of Protocol in the various aspects of the conference.

Persons from NGO's, Service organizations and the Public Service will all be required to volunteer as: Country Liaisons, registration assistants, ushers, plenary escorts, meeting services and should all have mannerisms as listed below:

1. Strong work ethic.
2. Teamwork.
3. Time management.
4. Positive attitude.
5. Willingness to help.
6. Reporting skills

7. Trouble shooting/problem solving skills

8. a welcoming/warm personality

9. a calm demeanor

Interested persons are asked to forward their Full Name, Email address and Contact number to [kritzia.bird@ab.gov.ag](mailto:kritzia.bird@ab.gov.ag) for planning purposes. "The date and time of the planning meeting will be announced soon" remarked a protocol official who is involved in the planning process. "We are especially hopeful that persons that were involved in World Cup or CARIFESTA will apply, but truth be told, we encourage everyone to take advantage of this experience".

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Suitable candidates should submit their resume along with a cover letter to [hr@savinc.net](mailto:hr@savinc.net) by **September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023**. Please include the name and contact information for at least two professional references. As a requirement of the property developer, all persons employed onsite must be fully vaccinated.

# FTX: 'King of Crypto' parents sued over missing millions

By Natalie Sherman

The parents of FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried are being sued for money they allegedly received improperly from the crypto firm ahead of its collapse.

In a filing, managers at the bankrupt firm accuse the couple of holding millions of "fraudulently transferred" dollars and of turning a blind eye to misconduct at the company.

The action was filed on behalf of those owed money after the firm's failure.

The fall of the company led to the arrest of Mr Bankman-Fried last year.

US prosecutors have accused the former billionaire, once dubbed the "King of Crypto", of illegally transferring millions from the exchange to plug losses at his trading firm, make political donations and buy property.

He has denied the charges and is in jail awaiting trial next month.

Attorneys for his parents said the claims against them were "completely false" and designed to hurt their son's chances at trial.

The legal action, filed as part of a wider bankruptcy suit, says Mr Bankman-Fried's parents - then both professors at Stanford University - exploited their



Barbara Fried, left, and Allan Joseph Bankman

"access and influence within the FTX enterprise to enrich themselves, directly and indirectly, by millions of dollars".

They received a \$10m (£8m) gift in cash from funds that belonged to Alameda, an FTX partner company, while FTX also gave them a \$16.4m property in the Bahamas, according to the filing.

FTX was once one of the biggest cryptocurrency trading firms in the world, holding assets worth an estimated \$15bn in 2021. It filed for bankruptcy last year, after a sudden rush by customers to withdraw funds revealed a huge gap in the company's finances reportedly worth up to \$8bn.

Managers for the bankrupt firm say it was used by Mr Bankman-Fried and other "insiders" as a "piggy bank" and his parents "helped perpetuate or benefited from this fraudulent largesse".

The filing claims his father, Allan Joseph Bankman, an expert on US tax law, served as an adviser to FTX and "played a key role in perpetuating this culture of misrepresentations and gross mismanagement and helped cover up allegations that would have exposed the fraud".

He also helped to quash an internal complaint alleging price manipulation made in 2019, it adds.

Mr Bankman was al-

legedly treated to stays at hotels charging \$1,200 a night, while the lawsuit cites messages in which he complains about receiving a \$200,000 salary, claiming it is supposed to be \$1m.

Meanwhile Mr Bankman-Fried's mother, Barbara Fried, helped direct her son's political donations, encouraging him to obscure their source, according to the filing.

Managers for FTX are seeking to recover money from the couple.

The downfall of Mr Bankman-Fried, one of the most high-profile players in the industry, sent shudders through the sector and helped to galvanise regulatory scrutiny.

# Katy Perry reportedly makes \$225m by selling her music catalogue

By Mark Savage

Katy Perry has sold a bundle of her music rights to Litmus Music, with multiple sources pricing the deal at \$225m (£182m).

The sale, which was announced on Monday, covers all five albums Perry released for Capitol Records, from 2008's *One of the Boys* to 2020's *Smile*.

That includes multi-platinum hits like *Firework*, *Teenage Dream*, *Hot 'n' Cold*, *California Gurls* and *I Kissed A Girl*.

It is the biggest catalogue deal for a single artist this year.

Justin Bieber was the previous title holder, after offloading his stake in his back catalogue to the UK-based Hipgnosis Songs Capital in January for \$200m (£162m).

Litmus now owns Perry's stake in the master recordings and publishing for the records, meaning it will collect any future royalties the music earns.

Two of her songs - *Dark Horse* and *Roar* - have more than one billion streams on Spotify. *Roar* is also one of the most-watched videos of all time on YouTube, with 3.8 billion plays.

A major star in the



*Katy Perry's Las Vegas residency is due to end this November.*

2010s, Perry has slowed her work rate down in recent years, concentrating on her Las Vegas residency and raising a family with her partner, the actor Orlando Bloom.

She will also return for her seventh season as a judge on *American Idol* next year.

Litmus music is a venture co-founded by former Warner Music and Capitol Records president Dan McCarroll and financed to the tune of \$500m (£404m) by The Carlyle Group.

According to a press release, the deal with Perry is rooted in McCarroll's "longstanding working relationship" with the singer when they were both at Capitol.

Litmus co-founder and CEO Hank Forsyth said: "Katy's songs are an essential part of the global cultural fabric. We are so grateful to be working together again with such a trusted partner whose integrity shines in everything that she does."

The company previ-

ously acquired Keith Urban's rights to his master recordings and a "portfolio" of tracks by songwriter Benny Blanco, who has worked with Ed Sheeran, The Weeknd, Rihanna and Britney Spears.

The acquisition of music rights has been a booming business for the last couple of years, with artists including Bob Dylan, Neil Young, Shakira, Debbie Harry and Justin Timberlake forgoing future royalties for upfront, nine-figure sums.

## Grenada moving to tighten legislation against gun crimes

CMC - Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell has signalled his intention to table legislation to deal with the escalation of criminal activities in Grenada, particularly gun-related crimes.

He told a news conference Tuesday that while for the most part, crime in Grenada “has been trending downwards” gun related crimes were increasing.

“In total we have 18 homicides for the year, many of them are gun related and as I have said repeatedly, firearms are lethal, they are meant to kill and I daresay, perhaps in some of these instances were firearms not involved, some of the victims may very well have survived.

“We intend to take a very robust response to this and the Cabinet intends to pilot legislation to amend the Firearms



Act to introduce far more significant penalties for persons found in unlawful possession of a firearm,” said Mitchell, a lawyer.

He said the ceremonial opening of the new parliamentary term will be next week “and we certainly intend to file the necessary legislation before we go on the Christmas break...so that it

could be enacted into law to signal our view that the possession of unlawful firearms, the use of unlawful firearms, the trading in unlawful firearms will not be something that will be tolerated”.

Mitchell said in addition, the government has appointed a national security advisory council and that it intends to have the council constituted “and the first order of business it will be mandated to do is to carry out a series of national consultations which we hope to commence in October”.

He said the consultations will allow for a comprehensive review of national security as well as the implementation of programmes that treat with ensuring “as a nation we do not do violence as a means of conducting ourselves or as a means of resolving our disputes.

“We intend to back this up by contracting with a specialist” in the area of behavioural

science,” he said, adding “because one of the clear things that’s obvious is about the acts of violence, often-times the perpetrators and the victims know each other”.

Prime Minister Mitchell said that the government will also be constituting a project team to advise it on the implementation of CCTV cameras at significant public areas on the island.

He said the government is already in possession of the cameras and that his administration will adopt a deliberate policy of investing more in the Coast Guard.

“We certainly recognise that we do not produce firearms in Grenada and they are clearly coming into Grenada from outside of Grenada. We continue to work with our partners in the region and North America in particular to address how we can stymie the flow of firearms into Grenada and into the region.

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*cont'd on pg 15*

## Guyanese Education Minister warns schools about hair discrimination

CMC - Education Minister Priya Manickchand Tuesday warned schools about sending students home because of their hair style, saying those doing so will face disciplinary proceedings.

“I was clear enough IN WRITING. Children are NOT to be sent home for any breach or perceived breach of any school’s hairstyle rule. And any person so doing ( sending children home) will face disciplinary proceedings.

“Children are not to be sent home for any breach or perceived breach of any school’s hairstyle rule. And any person doing so (sending children home) will face disciplinary proceedings,” Manickchand wrote on her Facebook page.

The Ministry of Education has since issued a statement reminding schools that children should not be sent home because of their hairstyles.

“The Minister and Ministry have been clear on this issue: children are not to be sent home because of any breach or perceived breach of any hairstyle rule. Schools are reminded,” it said.

The statements follow a report posted on social media indicating that a South Ruimveldt Secondary School student had been sent home because of her hairstyle.



In January, the Ministry of Education issued a memorandum stating that learners must not be sent home over perceived hairstyle breaches. Head teachers were reminded that their main priority is to ensure all learners are in school and are being taught with the aim of reducing any further learning loss.

Further, the memo warned that in any instance of a learner being deemed to have an inappropriate hairstyle, the school must invite his or her parent or guardian to discuss the perceived infraction. The Ministry of Education has said that it has no policy regulating hairstyles in schools; rules have been created by the schools themselves.

### *cont'd from pg 14*

“Once they get into the region then we too are vulnerable for the risk of it getting into in Grenada and many instances the firearm trade is tied with the narcotics trade and it is also a significant challenge for us because while we help many of our partners to stem the flow of narcotics to the north we need to make sure that they are working assiduously with

us to stem the flow of arms to the south and into our respective countries, Mitchell told reporters.

Last Tuesday, Grenada police 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.

The newly appointed head of the Criminal Inves-

tigation 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.

## CARICOM re-states position on SDGs

CMC - The 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM) grouping Monday said it remains firm in its support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) even as it expressed concerns about some of the hindrances to achieving the UN mandate by 2030.

Addressing the high-level political forum on the SDG Summit at the United Nations, Dominica's President Charles Savarin said CARICOM's position on the path towards achieving the SDGs has been clearly outlined in several debates and inter-governmental negotiations under the auspices of the United Nations.

"We firmly believe that greater commitment, solidarity and transformative action are needed to achieve the said targets within a realistic time frame," said Savarin, delivering the statement on behalf of the CARICOM grouping.

He said the summit here provides a unique opportunity to fundamentally adjust the trajectory of all member states to take positive action towards its implementation.

Savarin said CARICOM endorses the political declaration set out by the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres in a renewed call for all member states to re-commit towards this transformative process.

"The existential threats of COVID-19, over the last three years, exacerbated by the impact of climate change and war in Ukraine calls for even greater leadership at the multilateral level, therefore what is required is a surge in commitments from Governments and other stakeholders to take implementation of the SDGs to the next level.

"To this end, decisive action must be taken to better support developing



*Dominica's President Charles Savarin addressing Sustainable Development Goals summit.*

countries, through long-term lending at lower interest rates, debt relief and the creation of a robust and effective sovereign debt resolution mechanism."

The Dominican head of state said that CARICOM is therefore calling for urgent action from the international community to reform the international financial architecture and ensure an enabling environment for developing countries to actively participate in and benefit from the global economy.

He said the Multivulnerability Index and the Bridgetown Initiative are two structures that have found consensus among CARICOM and must be vigorously pursued.

The vulnerability index is a measure of the exposure of a population to some hazard.

Typically, the index is a composite of multiple quantitative indicators that via some formula, delivers a single numerical result.

The Bridgetown Initiative being spearheaded by the Barbados Minister Mia Mottley, is aimed at reforming the way rich countries finance

poor countries in a climate crisis.

Mottley notes for example that rich countries are able to borrow at interest rates of between one and four per cent, while it's around 14 per cent for poorer countries.

Charles said, additionally CARICOM supports the call to outline national budgets with the SDG's pathway.

He said gender equality, empowerment of women and girls, reduction in domestic poverty, access to clean water and sanitation, and food and energy security must be prioritized, noting also that the use of technology as a transformative tool must be harnessed and no citizen should be disadvantaged.

"The 2030 Agenda is achievable. There will always be challenges, however, the capacity to overcome the most severe challenges is not an anomaly for humankind.

"These are indeed unprecedented times, but we can draw confidence from the fact that we have access to a wealth of knowledge and resources to meet the demands of the times," Savarin told the high-level meeting.



## Fentanyl found under nap mats at New York nursery kills child - US officials

By Max Matza

A kilogram of fentanyl was found under nap mats at a nursery in New York where one child died and three others were taken to hospital, police say.

Police believe the children, ranging in age from 8 months to two years old, inhaled the powerful narcotic drug at the Bronx nursery last week.

Three children were given Narcan, an emergency medication used to reverse opioid overdose.

Drug conspiracy and murder charges have been filed against two people.

Nicholas Dominici, who was due to turn two in November and had attended the nursery for just one week, died in a suspected drug overdose on Friday.

A search of the nursery turned up one kilo of fentanyl that was discovered "underneath a mat where the children had been sleeping earlier" said NYPD chief detective Joseph Kenny on Monday.

They also allegedly discovered three presses used to package kilos of drugs, investigators say.

Owner of the Divino Niño nursery in the Bronx Grei Mendez, 36, and her tenant Carlito Acevedo Brito, 41, are now facing federal charges of narcotics possession "with intent to distribute resulting in death and conspiracy to distribute narcotics resulting in death", according to federal prosecutors.

"The defendants poisoned four babies and killed one of them because they were running a drug operation from a day care centre," Manhattan US Attorney Damien Williams said at a news conference on Tuesday.

Fentanyl, a pharmaceutical drug that can be given to treat pain, has been blamed for an increase in drug deaths.



A lawyer for Grei Mendez says she was unaware there were drugs in the nursery.

Surveillance footage and call records show that Mrs Mendez called her husband after finding the children ill - moments before she called 911. Her husband then arrived and removed several full shopping bags from the nursery, officials said.

Authorities are still searching for her husband, who has been identified in court documents as a co-conspirator.

A lawyer for Mrs Mendez said his client denies the charges and was unaware that drugs were being kept in the nursery.

"Her only crime was renting her room to someone who had a kilo," said her lawyer, Andres Aranda, according to ABC News.

"There is no evidence that she did anything but care properly for these children."

It is unclear whether Mr Brito, who is a cousin of Mrs Mendez's husband, has retained a lawyer.

Both suspects have been labelled as flight risks by authorities and are being held without bail. They each face life in prison if convicted.

City health inspectors conducted a

surprise visit of the nursery on 6 September but did not identify any violations, said City Health Commissioner Ashwin Vasan.

"I'm very sorry, but one of the things that my child care inspectors are not trained to do is look for fentanyl. But maybe they need to," he said at a news conference on Monday.

Mayor Eric Adams at the news conference called for a "full national assault" on the drug, and alluded to its potency. Fentanyl is estimated to be 50 times more powerful than heroin.

"A tenth of a size of a fingernail can kill an adult. So imagine what it could do to a child," he said, holding up a photo showing a lethal dose in comparison to a one cent coin.

Virtually every corner of the US, from Hawaii to Alaska to Rhode Island, has been touched by fentanyl, research shows.

In 2010, less than 40,000 people died from a drug overdose across the country, and less than 10% of those deaths were tied to fentanyl.

In 2021, over 100,000 people died in drug overdose, with an estimated 66% of those tied to fentanyl.

## Azerbaijan launches operation against Nagorno-Karabakh and demands surrender

By Paul Kirby

Azerbaijan has launched “anti-terror” operations in Nagorno-Karabakh, and said it will not stop until ethnic-Armenian separatists surrender.

Tensions in the South Caucasus have been high for months around the breakaway enclave, recognised internationally as part of Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan and Armenia last went to war three years ago.

Baku ordered “illegal Armenian military formations” to hand over arms and dissolve their “illegal regime”.

Azerbaijan and Armenia first went to war in the early 1990s after the fall of the Soviet Union. Then in 2020 Azerbaijan recaptured areas in and around Nagorno-Karabakh before a truce was agreed and monitored by Russian peacekeepers.

Ethnic Armenians in Karabakh appealed on Tuesday for a ceasefire and for talks to start. But it was clear from the Azerbaijani ultimatum that Baku’s aim was to complete its conquest of the mountainous enclave.

Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan accused Azerbaijan of starting a ground operation aimed at “ethnic cleansing”.

But hundreds of Armenian protesters, frustrated



*Buildings and vehicles were damaged by shelling in the Karabakh regional capital.*

by their country’s response, 7,000.

clashed with police outside parliament in Yerevan, condemning their leader as a traitor and calling on him to resign.

Azerbaijan said talks could start in the town of Yevlakh, some 100km (60km) north of the Karabakh regional capital of Khankendi, called Stepanakert by ethnic Armenians.

Since the end of 2020, 3,000 Russians have monitored the fragile truce but Moscow’s attention has been diverted by its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

An estimated 120,000 ethnic Armenians live in the mountainous enclave. Russia said its soldiers had moved almost 500 civilians from the most at-risk areas, while separatists said they had helped move a total of

For the past nine months, Azerbaijan has imposed an effective blockade on the only route into the enclave from Armenia, known as the Lachin Corridor.

Azerbaijan said it had launched its operation in response to the deaths of six people, including four police officers, in two landmine explosions on Tuesday morning.

Air raid sirens then rang out and the sound of artillery and gunfire could be heard in Karabakh’s main city. Residential buildings were damaged and journalist Siranush Sargsyan described seeing a building next door being hit.

Karabakh officials said five people had been killed and dozens more wounded,

including women and children.

Defence officials in the breakaway region said the Azerbaijani military had “violated the ceasefire along the entire line of contact with missile-artillery strikes”. Other Karabakh representatives spoke of a “large-scale military offensive” although later reports said that the intensity of fire had decreased.

The Azerbaijan defence ministry insisted it was not targeting civilians or civilian buildings, and that “only legitimate military targets are being incapacitated by the use of high-precision weapons”.

It accused Armenian forces of “systematic shelling” of its army positions and said it had responded by

*cont’d on pg 19*

*cont'd from pg 18*

launching “local, anti-terrorist activities... to disarm and secure the withdrawal of formations of Armenia’s armed forces from our territories”.

In a brief televised address, Armenia’s prime minister rejected claims that his military was involved.

Russia’s foreign ministry said it had been warned of the Azerbaijani offensive only minutes in advance and urged both countries to respect a ceasefire signed after the war in 2020. The EU’s regional special representative, Toivo Klaar, said there was “urgent need for immediate ceasefire”.

Both Russia’s Foreign Ministry and the US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, called for Mr Aliyev to cease military action in the area immediately.

South Caucasus commentator Laurence Broers said on Tuesday the Armenian population in Karabakh had been weakened by the blockade and the Azerbaijan operation had been launched “seemingly to retake Armenian-populated Karabakh in its entirety”.

Nikol Pashinyan said recently that Russia was “spontaneously leaving the region”. Azerbaijan has meanwhile had strong support from its ally Turkey.

Hikmet Hajiyev, special adviser to Azerbaijan’s President Aliyev, called on the separatist ethnic-Armenian administration to “dissolve itself”.

“Azerbaijan has always

said we are ready to provide rights and security of Karabakh Armenians under the constitution,” he told BBC News.

Azerbaijan had denied building up troop numbers in the region. On Monday, it allowed aid from the In-

ternational Committee of the Red Cross into Karabakh on two roads, one via the Lachin Corridor from Armenia and the other on Azerbaijan’s Aghdam road.

Before Tuesday’s offensive began there had been hopes that tensions might

subside.

The Azerbaijan defence ministry released images of a vehicle which it said were destroyed by a land mine, but ethnic Armenian officials said it was Azerbaijan’s military that had violated the ceasefire.



**9 Teams**

## ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES

*Antigua and Barbuda*

Sep 29 - Oct 7  
2023



The Netball action will take center stage at the YMCA Sports Complex.

# Spain players arrive at camp after Hermoso accuses federation of threatening World Cup winners

MADRID (AP) - In the latest twist to the Spanish soccer crisis, the country's World Cup-winning players started reporting to training camp on Tuesday despite not wanting to be called up for the national team while fighting for changes in the soccer federation.

Local media showed some of the players arriving at a hotel in Madrid where they briefly gathered with staff before heading to Valencia - a day after new coach Montse Tomé ignored their decision not to play until their demands for reform at the federation were met.

The players had said in a statement on Monday that they were caught by surprise by the call-up and did not plan to end their boycott, but those who don't show up risk breaking a Spanish sports law that requires athletes to answer the call of national teams unless there are circumstances that impede them from playing, such as an injury.

Not responding to a call-up by a national team can expose a player to fines or even being banned from playing for their clubs, according to Spain's sports law.

Those punishments would have to be requested by the federation to the government's sports council,



Spain's new women's national team coach Montse Tomé, center, holds a jersey during her official presentation with her technical staff at the Spanish soccer federation headquarters in Las Rozas, just outside of Madrid, Spain, Monday, Sept. 18, 2023. Tomé replaced Jorge Vilda less than three weeks after Spain won the Women's World Cup title and amid the controversy involving suspended federation president Luis Rubiales who has now resigned. (AP)

which would decide whether to apply them.

One player, goalkeeper Misa Rodríguez, when asked if she was happy to be with the team in Madrid replied with a "No."

Instead of regaining control of the squad by calling up the players, the move by the federation has prompted the government to step in to mediate directly with the players.

Spain's Secretary for Sports and president of the Higher Council for Sports, Víctor Francos, said he

would meet with players in Valencia later Tuesday. He also slammed the federation's handling of the situation.

"The government had let the federation be the ones to talk to the players, giving it room to maneuver," Francos told Spanish television channel La Sexta.

"(But) yesterday we looked ridiculous as a nation. It is unacceptable and this morning I spoke to some of the players. The impression I came away with was the most negative

one possible. I did not hear resentment or anger, I heard sadness and exhaustion, and that is why I decided to back them."

It was the latest embarrassing chapter in Spanish soccer in a crisis ignited by former federation president Luis Rubiales kissing player Jenni Hermoso on the lips after Spain won the Women's World Cup last month. Hermoso, who said she did not consent to the kiss during the awards ceremony, accused the federation

*cont'd on pg 21*

## Antigua to face Guyana in qualifier for women's Gold Cup

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Girls will begin their quest to qualify for the final stage of the inaugural 2024 Concacaf female Gold Cup today, Wednesday, September 20.

The senior Benna Girls will kick off their campaign on the 2023 road to the Women's Gold Cup at home against Guyana at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters today at 4 pm.

The Antiguans are among 35 Concacaf women's senior national teams that will participate in a series of qualifiers for the group stage of the inaugural 2024 female Gold Cup competition.

The teams have been divided into three leagues and subdivided into groups. The qualifying matches will take place in the FIFA Women's match windows of September, October, and November this year.

The Women's Gold Cup is the region's premier competition for women's senior national teams and is a key part of the Concacaf women's football strategy, which the Confederation launched in 2019.

The inaugural female Gold Cup competition will



Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Girls will kick off their campaign today in the Concacaf qualifiers against Guyana in their quest to qualify for the group stage of the inaugural 2024 female Gold Cup competition. (File photo)

be played between February 17th and March 10th, 2024, in the United States.

The 35 Concacaf Member Associations participating, excluding the two who will compete in the 2024 Paris Summer Olympic Games Women's Football Tournament (USA, Canada, or Jamaica), were split into three leagues according to their Concacaf Women's Ranking as of March 2023 and subdivided into groups.

The Antigua and Barbuda Benna Girls will be contesting Group A in League B, which comprises the next

12 best-ranked teams after the nine top-ranked teams that have been divided into three groups in League A.

The 12 teams in League B, including Antigua and Barbuda, have been divided into three groups of four.

Antigua and Barbuda will contest League B Group A along with Dominica, Guyana, and Suriname. Contesting League B Group B will be El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Martinique, while League B Group C will comprise the Dominican Republic, Bermuda,

St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Barbados.

Following today's encounter against Guyana, the Benna Girls second game will be away to Suriname on Sunday, September 24.

After 90 group stage qualifying matches, which include home and away play within each league and group, the top finishers in each of the League A groups (three teams) will qualify for the 2024 Women's Gold Cup Group Stage.

Furthermore, the second-place finishers in each of the League A groups (three teams) and the first-place finishers in each of the League B groups (three teams) will advance to the 2024 Women's Gold Cup preliminary rounds.

### cont'd from pg 20

of trying to intimidate the players by picking them for the national team even though they asked not to be called up.

She said in a statement early Tuesday

that the federation's decision to call up nearly half of the 39 players who said they would not play for the national team as a protest was "irrefutable proof" that "nothing has changed."

## Automotive Parts Manager - Summary

An automotive dealership in Antigua is seeking an Automotive Parts Manager who strives to return a satisfactory profit on the capital invested in parts inventory. Accomplishes objectives using proper purchasing procedures, inventory control, staff utilization, security and pricing.

## Automotive Parts Manager - Essential Duties

- Forecasts goals and objectives for the department and strives to meet them.
- Hires, trains, motivates, counsels and monitors the performance of all parts department staff.
- Prepares and administers an annual operating budget for the parts department.
- Maintains a balanced inventory consistent with the requirements of the service department, and the do-it-yourself public.
- Establishes pricing parameters in each customer category that generate enough gross profit to produce a satisfactory profit while maintaining customer loyalty.
- Establishes individual parts inventory levels and balances them for maximum turnover.
- Ensures that parts inventory turns (established #) times per year.
- Monitors and adjusts inventory to minimize obsolescence.
- Supervises stock order procedures.
- Sets and enforces a policy on the special ordering of parts. Ensures that stock orders represent at least the established percent of all orders.
- Analyzes inventory sales and expenses monthly to maintain profit goals.
- Ensures that the same high-quality level of service provided to outside customers is also provided to internal dealership customers.
- Works with the service manager to ensure a timely turnaround of parts needed for internal jobs.
- Attends managers meetings.
- Holds frequent department meetings.
- Analyzes departmental operations and storage layout and revises as needed for maximum effectiveness.
- Provides technical assistance to parts department employees.
- Coordinates a prompt, efficient and timely flow of paperwork.
- Directs shipping and receiving efforts to ensure timely processing.
- Monitors daily reports such as sales productivity.
- Develops sales promotions.
- Develops, enforces and monitors guidelines for working with customers to ensure maximum customer satisfaction.
- Handles customer complaints immediately and according to the dealership's guidelines.
- Understands, keeps abreast of, and complies with local regulations that may affect parts sales.
- Maintains professional conduct with staff and customers.
- Organize and manage the physical annual stock taking
- Ensures that all stock received is adequately processed and entered into the inventory.
- Quarterly reconciliation of physical stock levels to computerized stock levels for selected stock items.
- Other duties as assigned.

## Automotive Parts Manager - Qualifications

To perform this job successfully, an individual must be able to perform each essential duty satisfactorily. The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge, skill and/or ability required.

## Automotive Parts Manager - Education and/or Experience

- 5-10 years related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education and experience in inventory mana
- Knowledge of automotive dealership software (especially CDK) would be an assets
- Sound knowledge of the automotive industry

## Automotive Parts Manager - Other Skills

- Ability to read and interpret documents such as safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals. Ability to write routine reports and correspondence. Ability to speak effectively before groups of customers or employees of organization.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret general business periodicals, professional journals, technical procedures, or governmental regulations. Ability to write reports, business correspondence, and procedure manuals. Ability to effectively present information and respond to questions from groups of managers, clients, customers and the general public.
- Ability to read, analyze and interpret common scientific and technical journals, financial reports and legal documents. Ability to respond to common inquiries or complaints from customers, regulatory agencies or members of the business community. Ability to effectively present information to top management, and/or boards of directors.
- Ability to calculate figures and amounts such as discounts, interest, commissions, proportions, percentages, area, circumference and volume. Ability to apply concepts of basic algebra and geometry.
- Ability to work with mathematical concepts such as probability and statistical inference, and fundamentals of plane and solid geometry and trigonometry. Ability to apply concepts such as fractions, percentages, ratios and proportions to practical situations.
- Ability to solve practical problems and deal with a variety of concrete variables in situations where only limited standardization exists. Ability to interpret a variety of instructions furnished in written, oral, diagram or schedule form.
- Ability to define problems, collect data, establish facts and draw valid conclusions. Ability to interpret an extensive variety of technical instructions in mathematical or diagram form and deal with several abstract and concrete variables.
- Ability to apply principles of logical or scientific thinking to a wide range of intellectual and practical problems. Ability to deal with nonverbal symbolism (formulas, scientific equations, graphs, etc.) in its most difficult phases. Ability to deal with a variety of abstract and concrete variables.

Deadline for the receipt of applications is September 29,2023, with the names and contact information for 2 referees able to provide professional references on your behalf.

Email applications to: [Accting.officer@gmail.com](mailto:Accting.officer@gmail.com)

## Richie's Shooterz maintain winning start to business basketball league

Defending off champions Richie's Shooterz have recorded their second win in as many games in the annual Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business League competition.

After trouncing newcomers H. Wright Promotions 89-44 in their opening encounter on Sunday,

Richie's Shooterz romped to a 23-point victory against Sledge O in the final game of a triple-header at the JSC Sports Complex on Monday evening.

Lincoln Weekes shot a game-high 25 points to lead Richie's Shooterz to their 81-58 victory. Kwame Brathwaite converted 19 points, and Sean Nicholas scored 10 points for Richie's

Shooterz.

Coy Quinland sank 22 points, Michael Jeffers converted 12 points, and Zuri Nesbitt scored 10 points for Sledge O.

Anjo Wholesale and former champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board made winning starts to their respective campaigns on Monday night.

Steven Matthew pro-

duced 18 points to lead Anjo Wholesale to a 69-60 victory against Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew. Andrew Venture chipped in with 15 points, and Gabriel Perez contributed 12 points for the winners.

Ricky Willock scored 20 points, and Takeem Martin converted 12 points for the Fearless Crew.

Ishan Peets sank 17 points to propel the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board to their 74-61 victory against the Board of Education.

Marlon "Buju" Charles gave support with 12 points, and Craig Massiah chipped in with 11 points for the Transport Board.

Jesus Reyes produced 13 points, and Xavier "X-Man" Meade and David Hernandez each scored 11 points for the Board of Education.

The business basketball league will continue with another triple header at the JSC Sports Complex this evening (Wednesday).

Sledge O will face Sandals at 6:30 pm, Richie's Shooterz will face Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew at 7:30 pm, and Trimmingham Trucking Enterprises will clash with the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 8:30 pm.



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- Haemophilus
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- Hepatitis B
- Yellow Fever
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## Warriors Cup set to kick off this week

The Young Warriors Football Club will be hosting its annual Warriors Cup invitational football tournament from September 21 to 24.

Four local clubs will compete for coveted honours in the competition, which will commence with a double-header on Thursday and conclude on Sunday at the Radio Range Playfield in Ottos.

Premier Division contenders FC Aston Villa, Garden Stars, who were promoted to contest the premier division this season, Master Ballerz and host Young Warriors, both of the Second Division, will compete in this year's Warriors Cup.

"We are delighted once again to stage the Warriors Cup as we look forward to the support of the sports-loving public," said Colin James, who is the President of Young Warriors Football Club.

"As is the nature of the tournament, we hope to see a number of young players

showcasing their talents ahead of the start of the national season.

"The participating clubs are eager to compete, and they use the Warriors Cup to help fine-tune their preparation for the upcoming season, which is likely to start about mid-October."

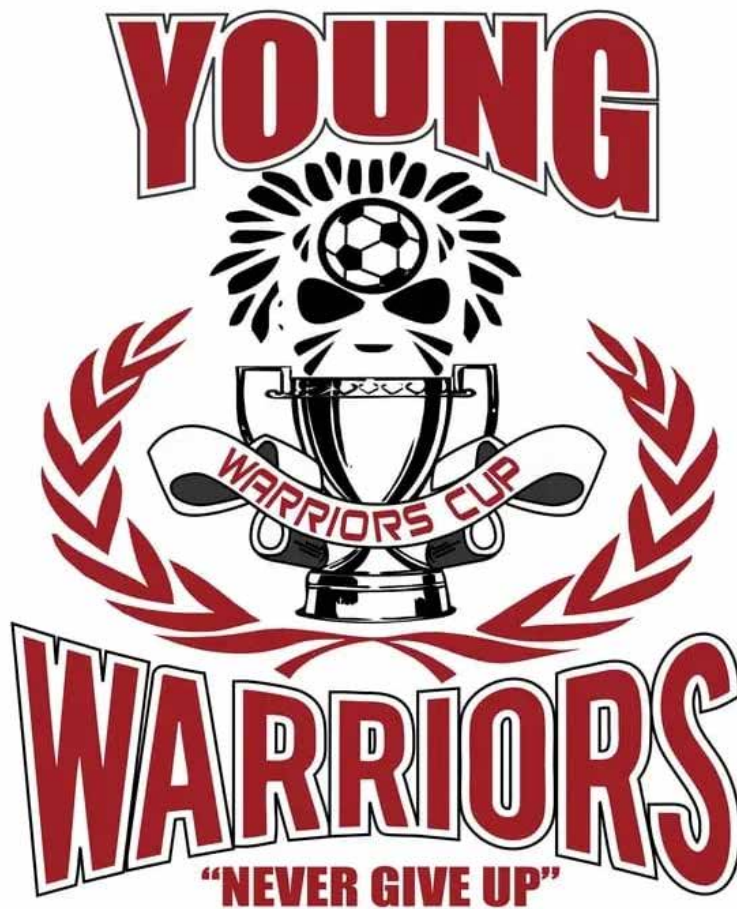
The Young Warriors and Garden Stars will kick off the tournament on Thursday at 5 pm followed by the Villa Lions against Master Ballerz at 6:30 pm.

After a break on Friday, the teams return to action on Saturday and Sunday for back-to-back double-headers to conclude the competition.

Villa Lions will face Young Warriors at 5 pm, and Master Ballerz will meet Garden Stars at 6:30 pm on Saturday.

Young Warriors will take on Master Ballerz at 4 pm, and Villa Lions will clash with Garden Stars at 5:30 pm on Sunday.

Several team honours and individual prizes will be up for grabs in the War-



riors Cup, which started in 2006 and has featured top club sides from Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Maarten.

The awards ceremony will take place at 7 pm on Sunday. Awards will be presented to the champions, runners-up, and third-place

finishers.

Individual awards will also be presented to the best goalkeeper, defender, midfielder, coach, manager, and referee.

The best player will receive the golden ball award, while the top goal scorer will collect the golden boot award.

*cont'd from pg 26*

what the teams from the other countries are bringing to the table."

However, Simon said the players have been prepared to do their best with the help of Cuban volleyball coach Francisco Cruz, who is a Federation of International Volleyball (FIVB) Level III instructor.

"We have prepared our girls. We had a technical director, who came from Cuba, assisting us with our preparations. His name is Francisco Cruz, and he came and gave his

knowledge and his skills that he has honed for over 50 years to the young ladies," Simon said.

Nine countries, divided into two zones, will be contesting the ECVA Under-23 Championship. They are Antigua and Barbuda, Anguilla, Saba, the British Virgin Islands (BVI), Dominica, Dutch St. Maarten, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Antigua and Barbuda will compete in Zone A alongside St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, St.

Maarten, and Saba.

Host Dominica will compete in Zone B along with Grenada, the BVI, and Anguilla. St. Kitts and Nevis had pulled out of the competition.

Antigua and Barbuda will begin their campaign in one of two games during Wednesday's opening night of the competition.

The Antiguans will take on St. Lucia in the opening game at 7 pm, which will be followed by a Group B encounter between Dominica and the BVI at 9 pm today.

## Antiguans off to contest ECVA U-23 Tournament

The Antigua and Barbuda squad left the island on Monday to contest the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association (ECVA) Under-23 Women's Tournament in Dominica, which is slated to start today (Wednesday).

The Antigua and Barbuda 10-member team comprised three outside hitters in Jasannia Joseph, Schmidt Carter, and Rihanna Brown. Two opposite hitters are also included. They are Nashea Browne and Jerri-Ann Barnes.



The Antigua and Barbuda team at the VC Bird International Airport before departing to Dominica on Monday, September 18, 2023. (Photos courtesy ABAVA)

The squad is completed by liberos Philisha Burnette and Sharifa Peters, setter Jaya Isaac-Carr, and middle blockers Samrah Samuel and Jahzara Donovan.

The Under-23 team is accompanied by head coach Rosemarie Simon, assistant coach Jacqueline Ladoo, team manager Giselle Azar, and referee Vanessa Burke.

Head coach Rosemarie Simon said the young players are expected to give their best in the nine-team tournament, which will take place at the Massacre Indoor Facility in Roseau from September 20 to 25.

“We are going down to Dominica with the expectation that we are going to do the best that the team can do,” Simon stated.

“I am saying that because we do not know

*cont'd on pg 25*



TOP ROW (L TO R) - JASSANIA JOSEPH, RIHANNA BROWN, SCHMIDT CARTER, SAMRAH SAMUEL, JAHZARA DONOVAN, NASHEA BROWNE  
BOTTOM ROW - JERRI-ANN BARNES, SHARIFA PETERS, PHILISHA BURNETTE, JAYA ISAAC-CARR  
COACHES: (L) MS. JACQUELINE LADOO & (R) HEAD COACH - MS. ROSEMARIE SIMON