

# LOGO AND THEME FOR INDEPENDENCE UNVEILED

*Story on Page 2*



## Logo, theme, and schedule of events for Independence unveiled

The official logo, theme, and schedule of events to mark the 42nd anniversary of Independence have been unveiled by the Antigua and Barbuda Festivals Commission.

The Antigua Barbuda Festivals Commission issued a media release where it said that this year’s celebration promises to be a vibrant and memorable occasion, showcasing our nation’s rich cultural heritage and achievements.

“Earlier this year, the ABFC launched the 42nd Anniversary of Independence Theme Competition, which received overwhelming support from Antiguan and Barbudans, locally and abroad. After robust deliberations and revisions from the ABFC, the Commission submitted

its top two (2) nominations to the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda for final ratification. The winning Theme emerging from Chaneil Imhoff of Avada Digital is “Embracing the Legacy, Shaping the Future,” the release stated.

It added that the 42nd Anniversary of Independence Celebrations will honor the achievements of the country’s past while looking ahead to the opportunities and challenges of tomorrow. “This theme embodies the spirit of our nation, highlighting our commitment to preserving our cultural heritage and forging a path towards continued growth and development,” the release noted.

Creative Industries Minister Daryll Matthew



shared “The official theme captures the essence of our proud nation while incorporating expressions that symbolize cohesion, resilience, and progress.” The Minister also congratulated Nigel Francis (Takumi Media) for designing “a dynamic Logo reflecting the energy and dynamism of Antigua and Barbuda as we embrace our heritage and legacy while shaping a promising future.”

A diverse range of activities has been meticulously planned to engage citizens and visitors throughout our Independence celebrations from

October 23 to November 01, 2023. The ABFC is committed to ensuring that all activities adhere to health and safety protocols to protect participants and attendees. Detailed guidelines will be provided to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

The 42nd Independence Celebrations are a testament to the resilience of the Antiguan and Barbudan people and provide a platform to showcase the nation’s talents, achievements, and cultural diversity to both the local and international communities.

### NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

I Glenfield Francis of Barnes Hill part owner of P.E.G Enterprise along with Elden Henry and Percival James also of Barnes Hill DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that it is our intention to apply at next sitting of Liquor License Court, to be held at the Magistrate Court St. John`s Antigua on Thursday 5th October, 2023, The premise known as P.E.G. Enterprise is registered and situated at Barnes Hill, in the Parish of St George Antigua and Barbuda. The application is ensuring for a Bottle License in. respect of the said premise, and is made pursuant to section 11 (5) of the Licensing (intoxicating Liquor) Act. Cap 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda Revised Edition 1992.

Dated: this the 20th September 2023

.....  
Glenfield Francis

## There is a move to bring Air BnB accommodations into the formal economy

The Air BnB sector of the Antigua and Barbuda tourism market is a vital part of the industry, but many operators remain outside the formal economy and the tourism officials are advocating for a change in that regard.

Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Chief Executive Officer, Colin C. James, said the Air BnB segment of the market in the country is ‘very important’ representing as many as 1,100 rooms. These rooms, he said, range from some small hotel properties to private individuals who are using their homes for rental.

James noted that many of these properties are not registered, so they are not paying the required taxes, from which funds go to finance the country’s marketing campaign.

He noted that during the pandemic, these Air BnB properties were required to register, as anyone arriving



Colin C. James

in the country was not allowed to go into any accommodation that was not registered, inspected, and passed by the health and tourism ministries. However, since the pandemic ended there has been a fall-off in the number of registered properties.

He noted that having these properties registered serves several purposes; most importantly, there is a need for them to be registered so that they can

pay the taxes. In addition, he said the taxes are charged to guests whether or not the property is registered, and the onus is on the property operator to pay those taxes to the Inland Revenue Department.

According to the ABTA CEO, in some jurisdictions, there are strong lobbying efforts to limit the scope of Air BnB, but he is not opposed to their operation here. All he wants is for them to be registered, pay the appropriate taxes, and adhere to the established standards set by the Ministry of Tourism.

It was disclosed that there are an estimated five hundred properties listed on the Air BnB Antigua and Barbuda site, but less than three hundred of these properties are registered.

The ministry has launched a drive to bring these properties into the formal economy.

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## Antigua and Barbuda continues to shine in the ‘eyes’ of the world

Antigua and Barbuda continues to demonstrate in tangible ways, that size is not a determinant of a country’s influence and impact on the world stage.

As the high-level week of activities took place during the United Nations General Assembly, one such event was Antigua and Barbuda’s convening of an influential gathering of leaders to discuss a major health issue affecting countries at every corner of the globe.

The discussion on vision and eye health results from the need to address a fundamental global economic, social, and development issue on which Antigua and



Barbuda is seeking to show leadership.

Held on the margins of the UN General Assembly, the High-Level Breakfast was also attended by Antigua and Barbuda’s Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson, a leading

advocate on the world stage for the blind and visually impaired.

In attendance and addressing the forum, was Antigua and Barbuda’s Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who donned a pair of Love Your Eyes glasses as a symbolic gesture of his support

for available, accessible, and affordable eye care for all.

“The world faces many complex challenges. Climate change is an obvious example, and we must fight every day to address those challenges. However, some issues are straightforward and non-controversial. Healthy vision is one and it can be solved this decade,” Prime Minister Browne declared.

“Eye health is more than a health issue; it’s a sustainable development issue. Improving access to eye health is achievable, practical, and cross-cutting,” he further *cont’d on pg 5*

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cont'd from pg 4  
stated.

The Breakfast meeting identified the crucial importance of global leadership in implementing the UN General Assembly's Resolution - Vision for Everyone. In attendance were other global leaders from as far away as Nepal - Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, to St. Kitts in the Caribbean - Prime Minister Terrance Drew. A number of supportive agencies at the United Nations and beyond are also lending their support to the effort.

"Vision is much more than a health challenge. Improving eye health is critical to supporting efforts to build a



more equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and resilient future," Prime Minister Dahal declared.

Prime Minister Drew expressed gratitude to Antigua and Barbuda and to Prime Minister Browne for the leadership role in piloting such a crucial and inspirational initiative.

"In founding the Friends of Vision group here at the UN, you, along with the governments of Bangladesh and Ireland have led the way as we work to ensure that vision is firmly placed within the SDG Agenda," Drew added.



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KEEP A LITTLE

## ITLOS hearing on A&B/Tuvalu request continues today

The hearing before the International Tribunal on the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) into a request for an opinion tabled by Antigua and Barbuda and Tuvalu continues at the organization's headquarters in Hamburg, Germany today.

The announcement came from Prime Minister Gaston Browne when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Friday. The prime minister explained why the two countries from either side of the world decided on this course of action.

He said Antigua and Barbuda has embarked on strategies, building alliances with the willing, to counter the threats it faces from the impacts of climate change, and the failure of the international financial institutions and their policymakers to respond to the urgent needs of its people.

"Frustrated by the lip service be-

ing paid by the world's major emitters, and the broken promises of every previous COP meeting, we decided that we would seek an Advisory Opinion from the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), concerning the obligation of states to combat pollution linked to climate change and its ensuing marine repercussions, such as rising ocean temperatures, sea-level rise, and ocean acidification," PM Browne indicated.

He noted that the move was joined by other small island states, and we co-founded the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (COSIS).

"COSIS sought and received a favourable agreement by ITLOS to hear our pleadings which began on September 11th in Hamburg and which will continue until September 25th," the prime minister told the UNGA.

He explained that the approach

was made to ITLOS because it is the guardian of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"It is the natural venue to seek legal clarity on the obligations of states to protect our marine environment. Small island developing states (SIDS) are primarily maritime states. We depend on the ocean not just for sustenance, but as a crucial part of our heritage and identity," he further explained.

In this connection, PM Browne declared Antigua and Barbuda and the other members of COSIS, will also stand with this General Assembly in its decision – initiated by Vanuatu - to seek an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice, on the obligations of states concerning climate change.

"We consider this as a duty of care for the peoples of the world," he emphasized.



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## Prime Minister Browne wants positive action taken at COP 28

Prime Minister Gaston Browne said on Friday, that the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28), to be held in Dubai in November, will be crucial for the future of the planet, particularly small island development states (SIDS).

“Not only does COP28 come at a time when the world is witnessing climate chaos firsthand, but this summit is particularly important because it will include a global stock take. Countries will assess how far they have come on cutting planet-heat-

ing pollution,” Browne told the 78th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

COP 28 takes place in Dubai from November 30 to December 12, and Prime Minister Browne told the international community the awful truth that is already clear. He stated that “eight years after the climate agreement in Paris, global progress has been far from sufficient.”

“The world is currently not in line with the temperature targets outlined in the Paris Agreement.

According to the European Union’s Climate Change Service, this year’s June to August period was not only the warmest since 1940, but it also saw temperatures soaring towards 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.”

Browne said that a red line, once deemed sacrosanct, will be crossed, if urgent action is not taken, saying warnings have turned to imminent danger.

“Therefore, what was already a crucial matter for action at COP28 has now

become an imperative for action, and that is the Loss and Damage Fund for which small island states have been praying, pleading, and begging.”

Prime Minister Browne recalled that at the COP27 last year, the world’s greatest polluters agreed, only at the last minute, that such a fund was important.

“But an agreement was not established. What we got was the formation of a transitional committee to make recommendations for consideration at COP28. The issue was once again deferred.”

“Now we must insist at COP28, that the loss and damage fund must be made operational and adequately funded. It must also provide sufficient financing to help SIDS withstand the inevitable ruin that the actions of the major polluters are continuing to wreak.”

Prime Minister Pierre, who is also the co-chair of the Commission of Small Island States on Climate Change and International Law (CO-SIS), warned that if COP28 fails in this critical mission, it risks undermining global trust, potentially sabotaging cooperative efforts on myriad global challenges.

“It is my ardent hope that when we gather in Dubai, the shared spirit of responsibility will prevail, such that the dying embers of hope can be reignited by the flame of action,” he said.

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## CBH to launch anti-germ campaign this week

The Central Board of Health is launching a campaign targeting the nation's schools on the importance of hand-washing hygiene and proper cough and sneezing etiquette to reduce the spread of germs.

Acting Principal Public Health Inspector, Julienne Mannix, announced that the campaign starts on Tuesday and will target both primary and secondary school students.

"We have observed that many persons in the community are coughing and or sneezing inappropriately.

"They are coughing into their hands and not washing their hands immediately.

"This helps to spread germs, and these persons often end up shaking other people's hands or touching things that others end up touching afterward," she explained.



Acting Principal Public Health Inspector, Julienne Mannix

She added that there has been an ease since the COVID-19 pandemic was declared as no longer an emergency health concern.

"We essentially have to go back

to re-enforcing what we taught during the pandemic, as many persons have simply reverted to their pre-COVID customs and behaviours.

"People in the community should not be indifferent to these concerns because the pandemic is over," Mannix stated emphatically.

Ten CBH officers traveling in groups of two will begin visiting the primary schools on Tuesday starting with four schools in the south.

These are the Golden Grove, Jennings, Bolans, and Old Road Primary Schools.

In total, the CBH officers will visit fifteen primary and fifteen secondary schools over a two to three-week period.

The teams will utilize flyers and other methods to communicate their ideas to the students.

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## Michael Joseph makes more donations to educational institutions

Two educational institutions – one located in Five Islands and the other at Green Bay – have been the recipients of fans to help both staff and students cope with the excessive heat waves that have been affecting the country over the last several weeks.

Community activist Michael Joseph, who made the donations, said he became concerned, recognizing that the scorching summer heat continues to grip our community and that learning under these conditions has become a challenge.

Against this backdrop,

Joseph has stepped up to provide much-needed relief to the students and staff of Five Islands and Greenbay Primary School with a generous donation of fans. Joseph aims to assist in alleviating the discomfort caused by the intense temperatures during these challenging times.

With his unwavering commitment to the welfare of the community, Joseph said these fans will be strategically placed in classrooms, hallways, and communal areas, ensuring that everyone can find some respite from the sweltering heat.

Michael Joseph firmly believes that every child deserves a comfortable learning environment that promotes their well-being and productivity. By do-

minating these fans, he hopes to create a conducive atmosphere for the students to thrive academically, despite the challenges posed by the summer heat.





### BUSINESS BREAKFAST WITH THE IMF

**SPEAKER: Ms. Emine Boz**  
Head of Mission

**TOPIC:** "How does the Russia-Ukraine conflict affect SIDS like Antigua and Barbuda and other OECs countries, in terms of access to finance, trade, energy, and security?"

**Date:** 26th September, 2023  
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## St John Association of Antigua and Barbuda completes Annual General Meeting

The St John Association of Antigua and Barbuda a registered charity under the patronage of Their Excellencies, Sir Rodney and Lady Williams, gathered for its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at Government House. The meeting was attended by distinguished members of the organization, including Sir Rodney, who welcomed and commended the Executive and Members for their outstanding contributions to the community.

Governor General Sir Rodney praised the St John



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams, left, presents Pedro Corbin with his instruments.

Ambulance for its remarkable work, especially for its pioneering initiative, the St. John Hospice, which is the first of its kind in the Eastern Caribbean. The hospice has been a beacon of hope, providing palliative care to

terminally ill patients at significantly discounted costs, thus easing the burden on countless families in need.

The success of the St John Hospice has been made possible through the unwavering support of the organization's dedicated members and staff, as well as the generosity of private and corporate citizens.

The Governor General also acknowledged the international organizations that have extended their support to the cause. Notably, Phil Keoghan and the entire CBS production team of "Secret Celebrity Renovations" were recognized for their significant contribution. They transformed the St John Hospice in Antigua and Barbuda, and this heart-

warming episode was aired on Friday, August 4th on US based TV network, CBS and again on our local station ABS on Friday September 15th.

In a heart-touching Season 3 premiere of "Secret Celebrity Renovation," Phil Keoghan returned to his hometown of Antigua and Barbuda to surprise his former neighbour, hospice volunteer, Lotte Edwards, with a much-needed renovation to the St. John Hospice, located at the Holberton grounds. The episode also showcased Keoghan's personal tour of Antigua and Barbuda, where he reminisced about his childhood, including visits to his old house and school.

During the AGM, key reports were presented to the members. Heather Mannix-Labadie, out-going President of the St. John Ambulance, presented her annual report, highlighting the organization's achievements and milestones. The Board Chairman also welcomed the in-coming Chair, Pedro Corbin, wished him well and pledged her continued support.



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Deadline for receipt of applications is 6 October 2023.

**\*\*Only suitable candidates will be acknowledged\*\***

# Opinion

## Down but hopefully not out

By **Tony Deyal**

The Caribbean Premier League (CPL) is in its big week heading towards a Guyana vs Trinidad game that will determine whether it is a victory for 'chicken curry' or 'curry chicken'. Or neither if, as my Jamaican friends believe, the game will go to ackee and saltfish.

At the same time, the rest of the world minus the West Indies, for once, is getting ready for the men's ODI World Cup, starting with England vs New Zealand on October 5. India is a big favourite to win the tournament, so I was very surprised to read, "Kuldeep replace Hardik". As all my regional lady friends will tell you, that will never ever happen anywhere in the Caribbean. In India, "Hardik" means "affectionate, heartfelt, full of love, from the bottom of the heart" (and most likely working its way straight downwards) while Kuldeep is "lamp of the family" and only those of us who are taking it light will leave the lamp on.

In a real way, the big global tournament is not for me. ESPN CricInfo wants me to answer, "Which pair of batters have scored the most partnership runs in IPL 2023?" Growing up in the Caribbean, the only batters I knew were shoes we wore to school. In those days every schoolchild had to wear Bata shoes. In fact, when I was growing up, Simmons was a bed and not yet a cricket-

er. Nowadays, the game has players with names that are better than Kuldeep but still can't touch Hardik. There is Travis Head from Australia, Ryan Sidebottom from South Africa, Sachin Baby from India and Tim Paine (hopefully not in the butt).

### LENGTH

Fiji has length, "Ilikena Lasarusa Talebulamainei-likenamainavaleniveivakabulaimainakulalakebalau" but they call him "Bula" for short. Someone came up with the Indian fast-bowler Jasprit Bumrah and his rear rare name, but I refused to say more. The only part of him that does the talking is, like most other men, his right hand. I thought that the only one better than all of the above is Sri Lankan Niroshan Dickwella. The talk is that there are some ladies who are anxious to find out for themselves whether he lives up to his name. However, as soon as I mentioned that, one of my friends called me and shouted, "I catch you. You wrong. Dick is second. The man who is the best is the South African wicketkeeper who is also a talented batter. His name is Quinton de Kock."

It is not that we don't have West Indians in the loop but they stand out differently. For instance, the British broadcaster, Brian Johnston, was commentating on a West Indies-England cricket match in 1979 and, just at the time, the British television viewers joined the game in the mid-



Tony Deyal

dle of an over that Michael Holding was bowling to Peter Willey. Johnston, making sure the viewers knew what was happening, explained, "The bowler's Holding, the batsman's Willey." Johnstone was also covering an England-New Zealand match at Lord's in 1969 when Glenn Turner was hit in the groin and collapsed in great pain.

For some time, Turner lay on the ground writhing in agony. When Turner eventually picked up his bat and returned to the wicket, a greatly relieved Johnston said, "Turner looks a bit shaky and unsteady but I think he's going to bat on - one ball left." One of my favourite Caribbean commentators, Donna Symmonds of Barbados, had said of Patrick Patterson that "he did very badly in the first test - no balls, no balls", and of Phil Simmons, "only medium pace but he is quite stiff.

Quite stiff!" Not to be outdone, among "The World's Best Cricket Jokes" was a situation where a husband, watching cricket on television while his wife was knitting, told her, "Joel Garner has come to bowl with a new ball." She replied, "Wonderful what doctors can do these days."

In fact, one English doctor, W.G. Grace, was favoured by umpires and, in one incident, C.J. Kortright of Essex was bowling to Grace and made several vain appeals for leg-before-wicket. Eventually, he knocked Grace's middle stump out of the ground with a yorker. As Grace began to walk away, Kortright called after him, "You're surely not going, Doctor? There's a stump still standing."

In looking at today's Caribbean cricket, I'm not sure

*cont'd on pg 13*

*cont'd from pg 12*

if a stump is still standing or whether a thump with a heavy bat on the heads of the players, or a third ball in the right place, might bring us back to the days when we ruled the cricket world. I know we are not, and never were, like Harold Pinter, the playwright who loved the game so much that, in 1980, he told the Observer newspaper, "I tend to believe that cricket is the greatest thing that God ever created on earth ... certainly greater than sex, although sex isn't too bad either." Our view used to be that the two pursuits, cricket and sex, were not mutually exclusive, and certainly, in our approach to life, love and the game, we entered all with the same zest, abandon and expectations. We won the toss, went in and scored heavily, quickly destroyed the opposition, and went in once again for a mighty second innings.

That was then, this is now. The West

Indies in those days was, as C.L.R. James described us in *Beyond a Boundary*, "Cricket is first and foremost a dramatic spectacle. It belongs with the theatre, ballet, opera and the dance."

This was the cricket of Constantine, Ramadhin and Valentine, Weekes, Worrel, Walcott, Kanhai, Sobers and Richards. It is not the cricket of today. Perhaps it is as Neville Cardus says, "In cricket, as in no other game, a great master may well go back to the pavilion scoreless ... . In no other game does the law of averages get to work so potently, so mysteriously."

Perhaps the law of averages has hit us and, for all the times we were above average, we now have to suffer the agony of being below average. It is said that tough times never last but tough people do. What we need is the toughness of a Brian Close, the Englishman, who took a terrific pounding from our best

fast bowlers. In one game, the batsman produced a full-blooded pull shot and Close, fielding at short leg, was hit in the face. Amazingly, the ball flew straight up in the air and the batsman was caught at slip. "My God!" said a worried fielder going to check on Close. "What would have happened if he'd hit you right between the eyes?" "In that case," growled Close, "the bugger would have been caught at cover."

Or do like the Barbadian who woke up to watch a West Indies vs Australia match. That was his first slip. Then his wife woke up. It was the second slip, third slip and gully. He was caught and bowled at cover and extra cover. He explained shyly, "Besides, West Indies is not worth looking at again."

*Tony Deyal was last seen asking, "What's the difference between a West Indies cricketer and Cinderella?" Cinderella knew when to leave the ball.*



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# Microsoft's new Call of Duty deal set for UK approval

The UK's competition watchdog has said Microsoft's revised offer to buy the Call of Duty maker Activision Blizzard "opens the door" to the deal being cleared.

The Competition Markets Authority (CMA) said the updated deal appeared to address concerns it had raised.

Under the new proposals, Microsoft will not buy the cloud gaming rights owned by Activision Blizzard.

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

Earlier this year, the CMA prevented Microsoft from taking on the whole of Activision over concerns that the deal would harm competition in cloud gaming in the UK.

Microsoft then submitted a restructured deal for the competition watchdog to look at last month.

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

The sale to Ubisoft of this portion of Activision's business will mean the cloud streaming of games like Call of Duty, Overwatch and World of Warcraft will not come under Microsoft's control.

In a statement on Friday,



the CMA's chief executive, Sarah Cardell, said: "The CMA's position has been consistent throughout - this merger could only go ahead if competition, innovation, and choice in cloud gaming was preserved."

A consultation will be opened before a final decision on the deal is taken.

This latest update is likely to come as a big relief for those bosses at the top of Microsoft and Activision who have pushed hard, and risked reputations, to get this deal over the line.

Microsoft's plan to buy Activision Blizzard - the largest takeover in the history of the gaming industry - was originally announced in January last year.

However, it has proved controversial and received a mixed response from regulators around the world.

The deal was passed by

regulators in the European Union in May, while the US competition watchdog recently saw its attempt to pause the purchase rejected by an appeals court.

Given that the takeover looked like it would collapse earlier this year, the fact that it is now on the verge of approval is some achievement.

However, in its latest announcement, the CMA's Ms Cardell said: "It would have been far better... if Microsoft had put forward this restructure during our original investigation.

"This case illustrates the costs, uncertainty and delay that parties can incur if a credible and effective remedy option exists but is not put on the table at the right time."

Sony also objected to the deal originally, concerned that Microsoft could stop major games being made

available to its own PlayStation business.

The CMA said that with extra protections, the move would mean that gamers have the opportunity to access Activision's games in many different ways, including through the cloud-based multigame subscription services.

It added that while it still had "limited residual concerns", the revised deal "keeps the cloud distribution of these important games in the hands of a strong independent supplier, Ubisoft, rather than under the control of Microsoft".

Ms Cardell told the BBC's Today programme that this was "not a tweak", but a "fundamentally restructured deal".

The agreement brings to a close the first "test case" for the CMA - and reveals

*cont'd on pg 15*

## Jamaica declares dengue outbreak

CMC - Jamaica has declared a dengue outbreak.

On Saturday, health officials said that the island had surpassed the dengue epidemic threshold for July and August and is on a trajectory to do the same for September.

A statement from the Ministry of Health and Wellness said this means that the country has seen an increase in the number of cases compared to what is normally seen during these months of the year.

However, there are no dengue-related deaths classified at this time, but six deaths are being investigated, the ministry said.

Dengue is a mosquito-borne disease and the



ministry said that as of Friday, September 23, Jamaica had recorded 565 suspected, presumed and confirmed cases of dengue, with 78 cases being confirmed.

It said the majority of the cases were in Kingston and St Andrew, St Catherine and St Thomas.

The ministry said the

dominant strain has been Dengue Type Two, which is one of the deadliest and has not been predominant in Jamaica since 2010.

The strain, in addition to fever, can cause two or more other symptoms of typical dengue infection and can be fatal.

Dengue symptoms in-

clude fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue, nausea, and rash. In a small number of cases, the potentially deadly dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) may develop, resulting in internal bleeding, enlargement of the liver, and high fever.

Jamaica last had a dengue outbreak in 2019.

*cont'd from pg 14*

how competition rules might work in the UK - since it gained extra powers after Brexit.

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

Its vice chairman and president Brad Smith said it was "encouraged" by this positive step.

"We presented solutions that we believe fully address the CMA's remaining concerns related to cloud game streaming, and we will continue to work toward earning approval to close prior to the 18 October deadline."

Microsoft hopes the CMA will make a final decision on the revised bid next month - after the consultation closes on 6 October. Without its approval, the deal cannot go ahead globally.

Activision said that the preliminary approval was "great news" for its future with Microsoft.

"We look forward to working with Microsoft toward completing the regulatory review process," it added.

It may take some time for players to notice what this all means. But with Microsoft taking control of such a major slice of gaming real estate, business strategists and games makers at the company are pondering what they can do with access to some of the biggest franchises in gaming.

Although any big announcements on what games or updates might be next are yet to be made, one expert told the BBC that the deal placed Microsoft in a "unique position".

Gareth Sutcliffe, senior games analyst at Enders Analysis, pointed out that it will bring Activision's studio solely for mobile games in-house for Microsoft.

"It's ultimately about covering all games imaginable with one subscription. Microsoft can now cover every

different platform - mobile, consoles and PC.

"It's all about the transfer of knowledge [from Activision's team]," he added, while Microsoft will hope Activision continues the successes of its games like Candy Crush.

The announcement from the comes days after an unredacted document accidentally made public during Microsoft's battle with US regulators appeared to suggest the company planned to release refreshed versions of its Xbox Series S and Series X consoles in 2024.

One presentation slide included in the leak showed plans for a new next-generation console in 2028, although there were few details.

It also included an old memo suggesting Nintendo was at one point floated as a potential purchase for Microsoft, although this would have been sent prior to any bid emerging for Activision.

## Bermuda gov't hit by cyber attack

CMC - The Bermuda government has acknowledged that it is experiencing "some challenges" with its information technology (IT) system and is pointing an accusing finger at Russia.

"There has been an incident, which is affecting not only the Bermuda government but some other regional governments as well.

"Our initial indication is it's come from an external source, most likely from Russia, and we are working with agencies to make sure that we can identify any particular challenges and make sure that services are restored as quickly as possible," Premier David Burt has said.

Burt said that while the

government is in the early stages of confirming what happened on Thursday afternoon, no digital information had been lost.

The incident led to Thursday's postponement of the sitting of the House of Assembly.

The government had earlier advised the public that its telephone, internet and e-mail systems were disrupted and that all departments were affected.

The Bermuda Police Service (BPS) said that its services were functioning and that emergency and non-emergency telephone numbers were operating as usual.

Premier Burt said that various teams were work-



ing with "local partners, engaging all hands, overseas partners and there may be a need to engage further" to establish the source of the incident.

He said the Minister of Tourism and the Cabinet Office, Vance Campbell, who oversees IT, would be able to provide an update "as things become clearer.

"What we are focused on right now is just making sure that we identify any challenges.

"It does not at this point in time appear that any data has been taken, so that's at this point in time but it does appear that systems are affected.

"We are trying to identify which systems are affected, which ones are not so that we can return to servicing persons, so people at TCD, people at immigration et cetera, can get the government services which they rely on."

He said the Ministry of National Security will be consulting with external agencies, adding "we do know at least one other country that has been affected; suspected on the same level of attack.

"There's been significant investment that has been made recently to improve government security, recognising and understanding that we've been moving many items over to the cloud.

"Cloud services have not been affected."



### Notice To Our Customers

Please be advised that **A.S. Bryden & Sons (Antigua) Ltd.** and the **Food Service Division** will be closed for annual stocktaking on **28 - 29 September 2023**.

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**

Many thanks for your kind consideration

Management



# Cuba offers to fill teaching gap in Jamaica

CMC - Cuba is offering to supply teachers to Jamaica as the country's education system is being rocked with resignations.

Over 1,000 teachers have left the system this semester in the quest for more lucrative jobs in countries like the United States, the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

Cuba's Ambassador to Jamaica Fermin Quinones Sanchez told a newspaper that his country stands ready to assist if or when the government asks for the support.

"There is no limitation from Cuba's side about any request that would be made

by the Jamaican Government and the Ministry of Education to continue supporting the education sector," the diplomat said.

There are over 100 Cuban teachers in the Jamaica school system most of whom teach Spanish, but the Diplomat said his country can offer teachers in the sciences as well as in dealing with children with special needs.

"We mentioned some time ago to the Jamaican government of the possibility to expand the co-operation of the bilateral agreement to tackle some special needs of children with certain disabilities



Quinones Sanchez, Cuban ambassador to Jamaica.

that need some kind of support," the ambassador said in an interview with the Jamaica Observer Newspaper.

He added that Cuba has been developing special needs skills over many, many years, and now we have teachers who are well prepared to work with children with special needs.

"Cuba is ready to participate in such a programme if it is the request, of course, by the Jamaican government," Ambassador Sanchez said.

Education Minister Fayval Williams was quoted in a ministry statement last week, as saying that sudden resignation of scores of teachers and the employment of new teachers at short notice, the ministry had to "implement new mechanisms to ensure that new teachers are paid

in the month of September.

"Under normal circumstances, for a teacher to be paid in a particular month, the employment documents must be submitted by the last working day of the previous month. For example, to be paid in September, all relevant employment documents must be submitted to the ministry by the last working day in the month of August.

"However, given that many of the new teachers were employed this month [September], the ministry extended the deadline for submission to September 12 and deployed the accounting staff to work overtime and on weekends to process the submissions.

The statement from the education ministry said 1,155 teachers had joined the sector in time for the new school year.

**NOTICE**

TO: HIS WORSHIP, The Licensing Magistrate  
District "A" Magistrate Court  
Gray's Farm  
St. John's Antigua

TO: Commissioner of Police  
Police Headquarters  
American Road  
St. John's Antigua

Dear Sir,

**Notice: Application for Tavern License**

I **Jaber Hourani of Cassada Gardens**. With registered business situated at Fort Road in St. John's Antigua and Barbuda **DO HEREBY GIVE NOTICE**, that is it my intention to apply at the next sitting of the liquor licensing Court to be held at the Magistrate's Court Gray's Farm St. John's Antigua on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, for a Tavern license. This application is made pursuant to section (11) (3) of the Licensing (Intoxication Liquor) Act Cap, 249 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda 1992 Revised Edition, in respect of premises known as "**Jaber Caribbean Shop**" situated at Fort Road in the parish of St. Johns Antigua and Barbuda.

Dated the 15<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2023

.....  
Jaber Hourani



Officials examine the damage in one of the rooms at the Ramada Princess Hotel and Casino where a fire broke out on Saturday night. (Photo: Newsroom & Ministry of Home Affairs)

## Guyana Fire Services investigating fire at Ramada Princess Hotel

The Guyana Fire Service is investigating a fire that occurred last night at the Ramada Princess Hotel and Casino in Providence, East Bank Demerara.

The fire broke out on the fourth floor in room 431 of the six-storey building.

The hotel has 194 rooms along with a casino which is located on the southern side of the structure.

At the time of the fire, there were 293 adults and 4 children registered at the hotel.

Smoke was observed emanating from the eastern side of the building which triggered the fire alarm and sprinkler systems.

The Fire Department was called and informed of the fire at 10:47 pm.

Eccles, Diamond, Central, and West Ruimveldt fire stations promptly dispatched water tenders, water car-

riers, a hydraulic platform, three ambulances, and their personnel to the scene, with the first appliance arriving at 10:54 pm.

Under the command of Chief Fire Officer Gregory Wickham twenty-eight firefighting personnel went into immediate action and managed to safely evacuate all of the guests present at the hotel at the time and contained the blaze in a timely manner.

The recently acquired hydraulic high-rise platform was also used to rescue a number of persons who were trapped on the sixth floor of the hotel.

One guest was conveyed to the Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation by Emergency Medical Technicians for treatment of smoke inhalation. There were no serious injuries or casualties.

At 3:10 am today, firefighting op-

erations ceased. The room of origin, along with rooms 433 and 435 sustained significant damage.

Two lines working from water carrier #14, water tender #116, HP #2, and an open water source were used to extinguish the fire.

President Irfaan Ali along with Vice President Bharrat Jadgeo, Minister of Home Affairs, Robeson Benn, Minister of Tourism, Oneidge Walrond, Minister with responsibility for information, Kwame McCoy, COP Clifton Hicken and other officials were on scene from around 11 pm last evening until about 3 am.

Investigations are underway by Fire Prevention officials to ascertain the cause of the fire.

Police and Fire personnel remain on standby duty at the location lending additional support.

## Kosovo monastery siege ends after heavy gun battles

By Marita Moloney

At least four people are dead after Kosovan police cleared a monastery held by at least 30 heavily armed men near the border with Serbia.

“We put this territory under control. It was done after several consecutive battles,” Xhelal Svecla, Kosovo’s minister of internal affairs said.

The day began with the death of a police officer in Banjska village, before the occupation of the monastery.

Belgrade and Pristina were quick to blame each other for the violence.

Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic said three of those killed in the shooting were confirmed to be Kosovo Serbs.

Sunday’s shooting began at about 03:00 (01:00 GMT), after police said they arrived in Banjska where a blockade had been reported.

Officers were attacked from several positions with “an arsenal of firearms, including hand grenades and shoulder-fired missiles”, they said in a statement.

A group of about 30 then entered the monastery complex in nearby Leposavic, where pilgrims from the northern Serbian city of Novi Sad were staying.

At least three of the gunmen were killed in battles



Kosovo police at the scene with troops from the US and EU states in the background.

through the day as police mounted what Mr Svecla described as a “clearance operation”.

Mr Svecla said police made several arrests during the operation and seized a large amount of weapons and equipment.

However it remained unclear if all gunmen had been apprehended during the sweep.

The attack and ensuing firefight marks one of the gravest escalations in Kosovo for years, and follows months of mounting tension between Pristina and Belgrade.

Kosovo’s Prime Minister Albin Kurti blamed “Serbia-sponsored criminals” for the incursion, saying they were “professionals, with military and police background” who were fi-

nanced and motivated by Belgrade.

Serbia’s President Vucic hit back in a televised statement, blaming Mr Kurti for months of “provocations”.

While describing the death of the Kosovo police officer as “absolutely reprehensible”, he said that Mr Kurti bore responsibility for the incident.

He said Mr Kurti was “the only one to blame, the only one who wants conflicts and war. No other person wants conflicts and war. “His only wish is to drag us into a war with Nato and that’s the only thing he does all day”.

Tensions have run high in Kosovo, after violent clashes followed a disputed local election in May and EU-mediated political talks designed to stabilise the sit-

uation have stalled.

Kosovo declared independence in 2008 but Serbia - along with Belgrade’s key allies China and Russia - does not recognise it.

Many Serbs consider it the birthplace of their nation. But of the 1.8 million people living in Kosovo, 92% are ethnic Albanians and only 6% are ethnic Serbs.

The EU’s foreign policy chief Josep Borrell condemned what he called the “hideous attack” and said those responsible must be brought to justice.

Kosovo’s foreign minister, Donika Gervilla-Schwarz, criticised Mr Borrell’s statement, saying it did not express support for the police nor use the word “terrorists” to describe

*cont’d on pg 20*

# Niger coup: Macron says France to withdraw troops and ambassador

President Emmanuel Macron has said France will withdraw its ambassador and end all military co-operation with Niger following a coup.

“France has decided to withdraw its ambassador. In the next hours our ambassador and several diplomats will return to France,” Mr Macron said.

He added that military co-operation was “over” and French troops would leave in “the months to come”.

The military junta which seized power in Niger in July welcomed the move.

“This Sunday we celebrate a new step towards the sovereignty of Niger,” the junta said, in a statement quoted by AFP news agency.

There are about 1,500 French soldiers in the landlocked West African country.

The decision by Paris follows months of animosity and protests against the French presence in the country, with regular demonstrations in the cap-



A protester holds a sign saying “goodbye France” at a rally in Niamey last month.

ital Niamey. The move deals a hammer blow to France’s counter-terrorism operations in the Sahel and France’s influence in the region. But Mr Macron said France would “not be held hostage by the putschists,” speaking to France’s TF1 and France 2 television stations.

Mr Macron said he still regarded ousted Niger President Mohamed Bazoum, currently held prisoner by the coup leaders, as the country’s “sole legitimate authority” and had informed him of his decision.

He described the deposed president as a “hostage”.

“He was targeted by this coup d’état because he was carrying out courageous reforms and because there was a largely ethnic settling of scores and a lot of political cowardice,” he said.

Niger’s military leaders told French ambassador Sylvain Itte he had to leave the country after they overthrew Mr Bazoum on 26 July.

However, a 48-hour ultimatum for him to leave, issued in August, passed

with him still in place as the French government refused to comply, or to recognise the military regime as legitimate.

Mr Macron’s statement also comes hours after Niger’s coup leaders banned “French aircraft” from flying over the country.

The regional air safety organisation, ASECNA, said that Niger’s airspace was “open to all national and international commercial flights except for French aircraft or aircraft chartered by France including those of the airline Air France”.

The airspace would remain closed for “all military, operational and other special flights”, unless receiving prior authorisation, the message said.

Air France told AFP simply that it was “not flying over Niger airspace”.

*cont’d from pg 19*  
the attackers.

It comes after the latest EU-mediated talks collapsed last week, with Mr Borrell blaming Mr Kurti for failing to set up the association of Serb-majority municipalities which would give them more autonomy.

Unrest engulfed northern Kosovo in

May after Kosovo Albanian mayors were installed in majority-Serb areas, after Serb residents boycotted local polls.

Nato deployed an additional 700 troops to Kosovo to deal with unrest in the northern town Zvecan following the elections.

Some 30 Nato peacekeepers and more than 50 Serb protesters were hurt in the ensuing clashes.



A panoramic view of the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium during the second cricket test match between the West Indies and England on 31 January, 2019.

## A&B among Caribbean countries to host matches in the 2024 T20 World Cup

Antigua and Barbuda is among seven countries in the Caribbean to host matches in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Men's T20 World Cup next year.

The International Cricket Council on Friday confirmed the seven venues in the Caribbean that will host matches in the T20 tournament from June 4 to 30 in 2024.

Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Guyana, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad & Tobago, will host games in the West Indies

Three venues in the USA - Dallas, Florida, and New York - will also host matches in next year's ICC Men's T20 World Cup.

ICC Chief Executive Geoff Allardice said, "We're delighted to announce the seven Caribbean venues that will host the biggest ICC Men's T20 World Cup ever staged, with 20 teams competing for the trophy. They're all popular venues with players and fans alike that will provide a wonderful backdrop to the event.

"This will be the third ICC senior men's event hosted by the West Indies, and the matches will again give cricket fans the unique experience of

enjoying cricket in the Caribbean. I'd like to thank Cricket West Indies and the seven host governments for their continued commitment and support of our sport."

Cricket West Indies (CWI) CEO Johnny Grave said, "This is an exciting moment as we announce our venues approved to host the largest ICC Men's T20 World Cup in history, with 20 teams playing in 55 matches in June next year.

"We are grateful to the host Governments of the Caribbean for their overwhelming responses and enthusiasm for hosting what will be the most significant sporting event held in our region for a generation.

"We are confident that together we will deliver a world-class tournament showcasing the best this region has to offer with our unique culture and carnival atmosphere that will ensure there is a real celebration of the sport next June."

Meanwhile, Cricket West Indies (CWI) has confirmed the start times for the first ever Christmas Series played between the West Indies and England in December 2023.

The series will feature eight matches - three CG United One-Day

Internationals (ODI) and five T20 Internationals (T20I) - from December 3 to 21.

England will arrive in Antigua to start the tour with two CG United ODIs at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium on December 3 and 6.

The first CG United ODI is a day game starting at 9:30 am, with the second CG United ODI starting at 1:30 pm as a day/night game.

The third and final CG United ODI to be played at Kensington Oval, Barbados, on December 9 will also be a day/night game starting at 1:30 pm.

The five-match T20I starts in Barbados with the first match played at Kensington Oval under lights starting at 6 pm. The Spice Isle of Grenada then welcomes both teams for the second and third T20Is on December 14 and 16, with both matches starting at 1:30 pm.

The tour concludes in the week before Christmas in Trinidad with the fourth and fifth T20Is on December 19 and 21. The Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad will be hosting a West Indies versus England men's fixture for the first time with day/night matches starting at 4 pm.

# Sports News



## Garden Stars crush Ballerz to claim second win in Warriors Cup

Garden Stars hammered Master Ballerz 7-0 to record their second win in as many matches in the annual Warriors Cup football competition at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos on Saturday night.

Teenage striker Karique Knight scored once to take his tally to three goals in two matches, making it 4-0 before halftime as Garden Starz ran riot over Ballerz, who had defeated



Eleven-year-old Young Warriors player Nile Lee. (Photos courtesy Young Warriors FC)

Wings in their opening game.

Knight, 17, was supported by double strikes from Kemoi Walsh in the 19th and 23rd minutes and Allan Martin, who had conversions in the 65th and 78th minutes.

The other goals were converted by Tarek Charles in the 14th minute and Akeem Smith, who scored an own goal in the 59th minute.

Inspired by Knight's two goals, Garden Stars beat host Young Warriors 5-0 in the opening game of the five-team round-robin competition on Thursday.

Knight, who represented Antigua and Barbuda against Guadeloupe in the CONCACAF Gold Cup qualifier in Miami last June, put Garden Stars ahead after 10 minutes and extended their advantage 12 minutes later.

Walsh made it 3-0 before halftime with a 38th-minute strike before substitute Martin and Tequan Anthony added further goals in the space of three minutes as Garden Stars won without the presence of their coach, Astel Joseph, who is coaching the national senior female team in the Concacaf Women's Gold Cup Qualifiers.

CPTSA Wings bounced back from their defeat to the Master Ballerz on Friday to beat Sea View Farm 4-2 in the first match of Saturday's double-



Seventeen-year-old Garden Stars striker Karique Knight

header.

Wings, playing with tenacity and verve, were rewarded with goals by Sean Tomlinson, Jaylon St. Claire, Kadeem Campbell, and Tafari Looby. Forward Zafique Drew converted both goals for Sea View Farm.

Rhezal Gomes scored twice, including the winner, as Sea View Farm snatched a 4-3 victory in their opening encounter against Young Warriors on Friday.

It was a game defined by the fine margins in which 11-year-old Nile Lee of the Young Warriors became the youngest-ever scorer in the seventeen-year history of the Warriors Cup.

## Richie's Shooterz still unbeaten in business basketball league

Richie's Shooterz kept their unbeaten run intact in the latest round of games in the 2023 Cool & Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League competition on Saturday

night.

The defending playoff champions recorded their fourth win in as many encounters by snatching a 62-56 victory against the Board of Education at the JSC Sports Complex.

Lincoln Weekes sank 19 points, and Kwame Brathwaite scored 10 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Jesus Emmanuel converted 11 points, while Xavier Meade and David Hernandez each scored 10

points for the Board of Education.

Trimmingham Trucking Enterprise prevailed 46-40 against Anjo Wholesale to claim their second win in four games.

*cont'd on pg 23*

*cont'd from pg 22*

Ryan Sheppard had 13 points, and T-Shawn Lewis scored 12 points for Trimmingham Trucking Enterprise. Jaheem James converted a game-high 17 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Former champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, also maintained their winning start to their campaign in the business league competition.

The Transport Board notched up their third win in as many games by trouncing defending league champions Eye Mobile Vision Care 111-71 in a lopsided affair.

Ishan Peets shot a game-high 40 points, Marlon "Buju" Charles scored 20 points, Craig Massiah sank 13 points, and Russell Daley had 12 points for the Transport Board.

Kevin Pimental converted 14 points, and Devonte Carter scored 11 points for Eye Mobile Vision Care, which lost for the second time in three outings.

Newcomers H. Wright Promotions and Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew both recorded their first wins in this year's business league basketball competition.

Humroy Wright, Anthony Greer, and Adrian Carnegie each scored 13 points, and Devorn Benjamin had 12 points to propel H. Wright Promotions to their 65-59 victory over Sledge'O Ballers.

Coy Quinland shot a game-high 17 points for the Sledge'O Ballers, who were

beaten for the third time in as many encounters.

Errol Quallis converted 18 points as the Fearless Crew snatched a 54-50 victory against the Callan Shooters. Eric Joseph also

scored 18 points for the Callan Shooters, who lost for the second time in three appearances.

The competition will continue with a double-header at the JSC Sports

Complex this evening (Monday).

Sledge'O Ballers will face Anjo Wholesale at 6:45 pm, and Sandals will clash with the Board of Education at 7:45 pm.

## ECCB INTERNATIONAL NETBALL SERIES

**September 29 – October 8, 2023**  
**St. John's, ANTIGUA & BARBUDA**

### EVENT SCHEDULE

*2 netball courts for simultaneous matches*

**PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES**

1. Antigua and Barbuda	4. Dominica	7. St. Kitts and Nevis
2. Barbados	5. Grenada	8. St. Lucia
3. Cayman Islands	6. Montserrat	9. St. Vincent & the Grenadines

Match #	DATE	TIME	TOURNAMENT FIXTURES		VENUE	
	<b>Thursday, September 28</b>	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of CNA Officials, UAPs & UMPIRES		VC Bird International	
		6:00pm	CNA & ABNA/LOC Meeting		Jolly Beach Resort	
	<b>Friday, September 29</b>	ALL DAY	ARRIVAL of COUNTRY DELEGATIONS		VC Bird International	
		9:00am	Umpires' Seminar		Jolly Beach Resort	
		7:30pm	WELCOME RECEPTION			
		8:30am	TECHNICAL MEETING			
	<b>Saturday, September 30</b>	3:30pm	OPENING CEREMONY		YMCA	
		5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
		5:45pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 2
		7:30pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 1
		7:45pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	GRENADA	Court 2
	<b>Sunday, October 1</b>	5:30pm	MONTERRAT	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
		5:45pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
		7:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
		7:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	BARBADOS	Court 2
	<b>Monday, October 2</b>	7:00am	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
		5:30pm	DOMINICA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	MONTERRAT	Court 1
		7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 2
	<b>Tuesday, October 3</b>	7:00am	DOMINICA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 1
		5:30pm	ST. LUCIA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
		5:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	MONTERRAT	Court 2
		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 1
		7:45pm	DOMINICA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 2
	<b>Wednesday, October 4</b>	8:30 – 11:30am	ECCB Personal Development Session		Jolly Beach Resort	
		5:30pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
		7:45pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 2
	<b>Thursday, October 5</b>	7:00am	BARBADOS	vs	GRENADA	Court 1
		5:30pm	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 1
		5:45pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 2
		7:30pm	GRENADA	vs	CAYMAN ISLANDS	Court 1
		7:45pm	BARBADOS	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
	<b>Friday, October 6</b>	7:00am	MONTERRAT	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
		5:30pm	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
		5:45pm	GRENADA	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
		7:30pm	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	vs	BARBADOS	Court 1
		7:45pm	CAYMAN ISLANDS	vs	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	Court 2
	<b>Saturday, October 7</b>	4:00pm	GRENADA	vs	ST. LUCIA	Court 1
		4:15pm	MONTERRAT	vs	DOMINICA	Court 2
		6:00pm	ANTIGUA & BARBUDA	vs	ST. KITTS & NEVIS	Court 1
		6:15pm	BARBADOS	vs	ST. VINCENT & THE GRENADINES	Court 2
		8:30pm	CLOSING CEREMONY		YMCA	

# PROTECT YOURSELF

EVEN THOUGH THE COVID-19 PROTOCOLS HAVE BEEN RELAXED



Continue to practice proper hand hygiene by washing your hands and/or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer.

Wear a mask, especially indoors where physical distancing is not possible.



Choose open, well ventilated spaces over closed ones. Open a window if indoors.

Cover your nose and mouth with your bent elbow or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.



Choose to get Vaccinated or boosted.



THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH, WELLNESS & THE ENVIRONMENT OF ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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## Indians seal ODI series win over Australia

INDORE, India, (Reuters) - India batsmen Shubman Gill and Shreyas Iyer scored centuries to lay the platform for a 99-run win over Australia in their rain-hit second one-day international (ODI) in Indore on Sunday that sealed a 2-0 series victory ahead of the World Cup.

A revised victory target of 317 in 33 overs following a rain interruption left Australia facing a daunting task and they ran out of steam after David Warner's departure for a defiant half-century, as India prevailed via the Duckworth-Lewis method.

Spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, playing in only his second ODI this year, got rid of Australia's dangerous batsmen to end with 3-41 after pace bowler Prasidh Krishna's early double strike.

Asked to bat first on a good Holkar Stadium wicket by stand-in Australia captain Steve Smith, top-ranked India posted

a huge 399 for five in 50 overs as opener Gill continued his superb form with a fifth ton this year and sixth overall.

The 24-year-old began cautiously but built momentum to make 104 off 97 balls, with six fours and four sixes, while Iyer gave him good company with 105 from 90 balls as the pair tore into the Australian attack without rested skipper Pat Cummins.

Iyer's third century in the format will be a huge confidence boost after the 28-year-old missed the Indian Premier League and the World Test Championship final earlier this year with a lower back injury that required surgery.

He also missed much of India's triumphant Asia Cup campaign with a back spasm but showed he was in fine fettle heading into the World Cup on home soil next month, with 11 fours and three sixes in a controlled 200-run second-wicket stand with Gill.



The Indian team celebrates the wicket of Australia's David Warner during the second One Day International cricket match between India and Australia in Indore, India, Sunday, Sept. 24, 2023. (AP)

Home skipper KL Rahul made a steady 52 in the middle overs before Suryakumar Yadav heaped the misery on Australia, striking four consecutive sixes off Cameron Green in the 44th over en route to a 37-ball 72.

Australia started shakily as Krishna removed Matthew Short and Smith off successive balls before rain briefly halted play

with the tourists mounting a fightback at 56 for two.

Left-hander Warner went on the offensive after play resumed and displayed his ambidexterity by batting right-handed against Ashwin, but was trapped lbw for 53 as he looked to switch back and raise the scoring rate.

Warner bizarrely did not review the umpire's decision as television replays showed he edged the ball onto his pad.

Ravindra Jadeja (three for 42) then got in on the act as Australia fizzled out for 217 after a battling 54 by Sean Abbott.

India, who rested several frontline players for the first two games, will eye a clean sweep when the teams meet in Rajkot on Wednesday.

They begin their World Cup campaign on Oct. 8 against Australia.

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at the top of Group A by winning all four games to advance to the semi-finals.

St. Lucia also surged to comfortable 3-0 victories over Saba and St. Maarten. The St. Lucian girls beat Saba 25-7, 25-3, and 25-13 and prevailed 25-14, 25-16, and 25-13 against St. Maarten.

The girls from St. Maarten beat Saba 3-0, winning 25-18, 25-11, and 25-10 to finish second in Group A and advance to the semi-finals.

Host Dominica secured 3-1 wins against Anguilla, Grenada, and the British Virgin Islands to finish top of Group B

and advanced to the semi-finals.

The Dominicans overcame Anguilla 25-9, 23-25, 25-8, and 25-20. Dominica prevailed 23-25, 25-9, 25-11, and 25-9 against Grenada after dispatching the British Virgin Islands (BVI) in the opening Group B affair.

The BVI rebounded from their loss to the Dominicans by pulling off wins against Grenada and Anguilla to finish second in Group B and advanced to the semi-finals.

The BVI prevailed 19-25, 25-22, 25-20, and 25-23 against Grenada and defeated Anguilla 27-25, 25-15, and 25-10.

## A&B finish seventh at ECVA Under-23 tournament

Antigua and Barbuda finished in seventh place at the Eastern Caribbean Volleyball Association's (ECVA) Women's Under-23 Tournament in Roseau, Dominica.

The Antiguan girls prevailed 3-2 against Anguilla in the playoff for seventh place in their final match of the nine-team tournament at the Massacre Indoor Facility on Sunday.

Antigua and Barbuda outlasted the Anguillians by winning 25-20, 23-25, 25-23, 23-25, and 15-9.

Antigua and Barbuda failed to advance to the semi-finals after finishing fourth in Group A, which was contested by five teams.

The Antiguan girls secured their only win in Group A in their final outing by beating the bottom team, Saba, 3-0.

Antigua and Barbuda prevailed 25-14, 25-10, and 25-16 against Saba after suffering losses to St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and St. Maarten.

Antigua and Barbuda's head coach, Rosemarie Simon, was elated that her team was able to conjure



Antigua and Barbuda middle blockers (in white, blue and black uniforms) attempt to block a hit (spike) from a St. Maarten attacker during their Group A encounter at the ECVA Women's Under-23 Tournament at the Massacre Indoor Facility in Roseau, Dominica, on Saturday, September 23, 2023. (Photo courtesy DAVA)

up a win.

"I am really happy for the ladies, because they came with the intention to win, but overall, the experience here for the ladies will serve them in good stead going forward," Simon said. For Saba, it was their fourth straight loss in as many matches.

Antigua and Barbuda had their third successive loss of the tournament, narrowly losing 2-3 against St. Maarten in a keenly contested affair.

Antigua and Barbuda won the opening set 25-20,

but St. Maarten drew level by taking the second 25-15.

Antigua and Barbuda went ahead 2-1 by winning the third set 25-7, but once again, St. Maarten was able to draw level by taking the fourth set 25-21. St. Maarten then snatched victory by clinching the fifth and deciding set 17-15.

The Antigua and Barbuda girls were beaten 25-21, 25-22, and 25-16 by St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their second Group A encounter following their 25-17, 25-9, and 27-25 loss to St. Lucia in the open-

ing game of the nine-team sub-regional tournament.

It was the first win of the competition for the Vincentian girls, who had earlier launched their campaign with a hard-fought 2-3 loss against St. Maarten. The girls from St. Maarten prevailed 25-16, 25-23, 17-25, 22-25, and 15-9.

St. Vincent and the Grenadines also suffered a 2-3 loss against Group A winners St. Lucia. The St. Lucians beat the Vincentians 25-20, 20-25, 25-19, 21-25, and 15-20 to finish

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