

# ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK FOCUSES ON THE YOUTH

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Antigua and Barbuda and the United Arab Emirates have committed to strengthening the bonds of friendship that already exist between the two nations. *Story on page 8.*

# Entrepreneurship Week focuses on the youth

Antigua and Barbuda joins the rest of the international community in observing Global Entrepreneurship Week from November 13-19 with a host of events, targeting the youth of the nation.

Executive Director of the Gilbert Agricultural and Rural Development (GARD) Centre, June Jackson, who is coordinating the week's activities, in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade, said the activities this year are focusing on young people, encouraging them to get involved in business at an early age. The central theme for the week's events is: 'Entrepreneurs strive here; no one is left behind.'

So far, Jackson and a team that includes businesspeople, have visited several schools to 'preach the message' of the value of entrepreneurship to the students. On Wednesday, the team spoke with students of the Sir McChesney George Secondary School during a visit to Barbuda.



Team member Pastor Frest Burse speaking with the students

They also spoke with members of the fisherfolk association on the 'sister isle'.

The activities for Thursday, include a training workshop for entrepreneurs to be held at the conference centre of the Department of Environment, at the Botanical Gardens.

The facilitators of the workshop are Dr. Victoria Burse and Pastor Forest Burse, and it will be held under the theme 'Entrepreneurs arise and make a difference.'

On Friday, the team returns to speaking with students in the nation's schools with visits to the Old Road Primary and the All Saints Secondary School. Saturday's event is a Pop-Up market, taking place at Judgment Square



GARD Centre team interacting with Barbuda students

in the middle of St. John.

It will feature local vendors who will have for display and sale, jewelry, handcraft items, food, and other locally produced items.

In a message to mark the week's activities, Trade Minister E.P Chet Greene said much recognition is given for the great contribution and sacrifices local entrepreneurs have and continue to make. "We at the Ministry of Trade congratulate all our local entrepreneurs and we thank them for economic diversity, we thank them for empowering our communities, societies, and our future entrepreneurs.

"We want to thank the GARD Centre, the local host here in Antigua and Barbuda of Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW), for partnering with the Ministry of Trade, in building an eco-system where our entrepreneurs can have access to resources, information, and the necessary business development framework. It is our pledge to continue to be the conduit for assistance, development, and overall gateway in ensuring that our entrepreneurs can prosper," he added.



## PM Browne anticipates productive First CARICOM-Saudi Arabia Summit

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is looking forward to a productive and successful meeting as he leads an Antigua and Barbuda delegation to the First Summit of Heads of State and Government of CARICOM and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 16th November with an Investment Forum on the 17th of November.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, Works and Housing Minister Maria Browne, and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Senator Dwayne George, along with Prime Minister Dickon Mitchell of Grenada, Prime Minister Dr. Terrance Drew of Saint Kitts and Nevis, and Prime Minister Philip Pierre of Saint Lucia departed the V.C. Bird International Airport on Tuesday afternoon for Riyadh,

where they will join other CARICOM Heads who will actively engage with His Majesty Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and Crown Prince and Prime Minister His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, and other government officials on issues of mutual importance at the bilateral, inter-regional and global levels.

Some of the issues down for discussion area deepening CARICOM-Saudi Arabia relations designed to support the sustainability of the Community's development objectives through the coordinated use of financial, technical, and human resources, to promote economic and social development among Member States; World Expo Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC); Agriculture and Food Security,



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

ty, Transportation, Renewable Energy and Climate Change and Finance. Tourism, Investment, Education, and

*cont'd on pg 4*

  
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## VACANCY AC TECHNICIAN

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **AC Technician**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **AC Technician** is expected to participate in the installation, repairing and servicing of all of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority's (ABAA's) Air Condition Units. He/she will respond to all service requests to repair and maintain ABAA's Air Condition Units in line with Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures.

### **The functions of the AC Technician will include but not limited to:**

- Participate in the inspection, repair, diagnosis, and location of technical difficulties relating to all ABAA air condition units.
- Service all air condition equipment as part of the ABAA's Preventative Maintenance Programme.
- Inspect and test equipment repairs to monitor proper functioning and to ensure customer satisfaction.
- Test refrigeration equipment for refrigerant leaks.
- Provide prompt and effective responses to complaints from customers, airport users and Management and ensure that all situations/incidents are accurately recorded and reported to the Supervisor in a timely manner.

### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Antigua State College Diploma.
- An Associate's degree in HVAC-R (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) or Professional/Guild certification or vocational qualifications in air conditioning and/or refrigeration
- Minimum five (5) years' practical air condition and/or refrigeration experience.
- Air Condition and/or refrigeration experience in an aviation environment would be an asset.
- Knowledge of chilled water system is an asset.
- Detailed knowledge of the technical operation and repair of air condition and/or refrigeration equipment.
- Ability to competently use tools and equipment to meet the role requirements.
- Ability to use computer diagnostic and testing equipment.
- Ability to remain calm when under pressure (resilience).
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective collaboration skills.
- Excellent customer service skills

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

**The Human Resources Manager**  
Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority  
P. O. Box 1051  
V. C. Bird International Airport  
Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.  
E-mail: [hr@abairportauthority.com](mailto:hr@abairportauthority.com)  
Website: [www.vcbia.com](http://www.vcbia.com)

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17 November 2023**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.

### *cont'd from pg 3*

Health will also form part of the discussions.

The Opening Ceremony slated for today, Thursday, will hear addresses from His Majesty Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques and King of Saudi Arabia; His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince and Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Dominica and Chair of the Conference of Heads of Government of CARICOM; and Dr. Carla Barnett, Secretary-General of the Caribbean Community.

Prime Minister Browne, before departing the V.C. Bird International Airport, said that while investment is of paramount importance for CARICOM and Antigua and Barbuda, in fostering economic growth, job creation and building a robust and resilient economy, he plans to establish levels of cooperation with Saudi Arabia in a wide range of areas.

He said that for Antigua and Barbuda, public health infrastructure development, improving health delivery systems, and improving quality basic education, lifelong learning, and technical and vocational education and training are of equal importance, and therefore he will also aim to collaborate with Saudi Arabia in these areas.

He noted that his team

will put forward a request for a scholarship programme for Antiguan and Barbudan students to pursue degree studies in Saudi Arabia, which will facilitate knowledge exchange and cultural understanding. "We also believe that we can develop academic collaboration and research initiatives through teacher exchanges and educational infrastructure development," he pointed out.

"In the area of health, we believe we can collaborate on healthcare infrastructure development including the construction and upgrading of clinics, laboratories, and medical treatment facilities along with advancing medical training opportunities, education, and advancing electronic health records management," noted Prime Minister Browne.

Prime Minister Browne is also expected to pursue collaboration in the areas of technologies for screening, early detection, and treatment of NCDs including diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular diseases. Other CARICOM countries are expected to pursue similar areas of cooperation.

The trip to Saudi Arabia is fully sponsored by the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Browne and the other members of the Antigua and Barbuda delegation return to the country on Saturday. The Hon. Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Cutie Benjamin is the Acting Prime Minister.

## Statement from Mr. Osmond E. Lake, Accountable Manager, Sunrise Airways (Dominica) Ltd. (Airline Under Certification)

As the Accountable Manager of Sunrise Airways (Dominica) Ltd, I thought it necessary to issue the following statement.

As part of consultations held with various stakeholders regarding major investment plans in Antigua and Barbuda by the principals of Sunrise Airways (Dominica) Ltd., discussions were held with the CEO of the ABAA, Ms. Euleta Francis, and other key stakeholders and agencies.

This statement seeks to provide a summary of a meeting held to brief the Prime Minister on November 9, 2023.

Sequence of Events between Sunrise Airways (Dominica) Ltd. and Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA).

1.) On or about June 20, 2023 I met with Ms. Euleta Francis, CEO of ABAA.

2.) At that meeting I submitted a verbal request (followed by email) to rent space in the old Airport Terminal Building for Administrative Offices for Sunrise Airways (Dominica) Ltd.

3.) Following several reminders, I was advised on

November 6, 2023, that a unit of approximately 400 square feet was all that was available. This was inadequate for our purposes and we proceeded to seek and lease alternative office facilities.

4.) In the telephone conversation of Nov. 6, 2023, I advised Ms. Francis that the Sunrise Maintenance Provider, Sahara Aviation Maintenance of South Africa, was very interested in replicating their Approved Maintenance Organization (AMO) in Antigua with potential to increase its ratings to a Maintenance Repair Organization (MRO). Sahara Maintenance Organization is being contracted to provide maintenance support for Sunrise Flight Operations.

5.) The CEO was very enthusiastic because this proposal fell within the scope of the overall development plan of the V.C.Bird International Airport. Ms. Francis advised that she was currently reviewing a USD 100 million loan facility and would return to discuss this exciting project in two weeks.

**Meeting of Thursday November 9, 2023, with Prime Minister Browne.**  
*cont'd on pg 6*



### VACANCY BUS DRIVER

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **Bus Driver**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **Bus Driver** will be responsible for the delivery of transportation services to the employees of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA), in line with national road safety laws, Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures. This position will report to the Transportation Officer.

**The functions of the Bus Driver will include but is not limited to the following:**

- Drive the assigned Company vehicle to safely transport ABAA's employees to and from work.
- Complete the Daily Vehicles Checklist and conduct a comprehensive inspection of the assigned Company vehicle, reporting any conditions of concern to the Transportation Officer.
- Ensure that the assigned vehicles are properly cleaned, regularly serviced and sufficiently fueled prior to transporting employees.

**Minimum Requirements:**

- A School Leaving Certificate.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in a similar role
- Holder of a valid Class D or F Antigua and Barbuda Driver's License
- Excellent customer service skills
- Good verbal communication skills
- Have sound judgment and decision-making skills
- Ability to work independently, with minimal instructions

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

**The Human Resources Manager**  
**Antigua & Barbuda Airport Authority**  
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 Coolidge, St. George's, Antigua, W.I.

E-mail: [hr@abairportauthority.com](mailto:hr@abairportauthority.com); Website: [www.vcbia.com](http://www.vcbia.com)

The deadline for receipt of applications is **17 November 2023**. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.



## VACANCY PLANT MECHANIC 2

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority (ABAA) is accepting applications for the position of **Plant Mechanic 2**. ABAA is responsible for the management of the V. C. Bird International Airport and the Codrington Airport.

The **Plant Mechanic 2** is expected to maintain and repair the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority's (ABAA's) plant equipment at the highest level in line with Aviation standards and recommended practices, and Company policies and procedures.

### The functions of the Plant Mechanic 2 will include but not limited to:

- Participate in the inspection, maintenance, repair, diagnosis, and location of mechanical difficulties on all ABAA vehicles and equipment.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all Passenger Loading Bridges.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all Conveyor and Baggage Handling Systems.
- Assist with maintaining and repairing all ABAA generators both on site and off site.
- Assist with preventative maintenance on all electro/mechanical plant equipment, machinery, and related facilities.

### Minimum Requirements:

- Antigua State College Diploma.
- Professional/Guild Certification or Vocational Qualifications in Mechanics.
- Plant Equipment Electrical Certification.
- Minimum three (3) years' working experience in a similar role.
- Minimum one (1) year experience in hydraulics, and diesel and gasoline engines.
- Mechanic experience in an aviation environment would be an asset
- Ability to competently use tools, equipment, vehicles and machinery to meet the role requirements.
- Ability to use computer diagnostic and testing equipment.
- Ability to remain calm when under pressure (resilience).
- Good written and verbal communication skills.
- Effective collaboration skills.
- Excellent customer service skills.

Please submit your cover letter and curriculum vitae to:

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Website: [www.vcbia.com](http://www.vcbia.com)

The deadline for receipt of applications is 17 November 2023. Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged.

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1.) In a meeting with Prime Minister Browne on Thursday Nov. 9, 2023, I presented an overview of the combined Sunrise Airways/Sahara Aviation Maintenance structure and briefly described our overall business and aviation model.

2.) Although very keen, the Prime Minister meticulously questioned me about the ability of our Company to deliver on such a sizable undertaking and I in turn, explained that Sahara Aviation Maintenance is the largest Embraer maintenance provider worldwide and this project would undoubtedly, be a boost to Antigua and Barbuda's overall economy.

3.) The Prime Minister offered his full support and it is at this point that I explained some of the unresolved delay issues - already mentioned above.

4.) The Prime Minister then telephoned Ms. Francis and in a very business-like manner queried the reasons for the delays. I recall the P.M. asking Ms. Francis "why two weeks and why not two days". Ms. Francis explained to the PM that she was currently reviewing a USD\$100 million loan facility. The Prime Minister accepted the point that the Sunrise application could not be more immediately addressed and the conversation ended cordially.

5.) Following the meeting with the Prime Minister, and seeking to ensure that I maintain good relations with the CEO and ABAA, in the interest of the Company I represent, I called Ms. Francis to reassure her that my meeting with the Prime Minister was not intended to undermine her position but rather, to brief the Prime Minister on the introduction of Sunrise Airways into the region.



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## Environment Division preparing the way for the transition to ‘green energy’

The task of weaning Antigua and Barbuda off the near total reliance on fossil fuel has started, with the Environment Division putting in place the infrastructure to support the transition to green energy.

Director of the Division, Ambassador Dianne Black-Layne, said one major development along these lines is the coming onstream of a plastic recycling plant, to recycle the large volume of plastics that are discarded across the country.

Black-Layne said the government has made available lands to erect the plant.

“It will be located on the APUA Road near the Sherwin Williams showroom. The steel frame for the

building has been ordered and it is expected to arrive in the country shortly,” she disclosed.

The director said the plant will be powered by a wind turbine as the area is quite suited for the erection of such a facility.

This will reduce the reliance on electricity produced from fossil fuels.

Additionally, the department has completed placing solar panels on the roofs of many schools and churches across the country that can generate electricity.

“The solar panels are producing electricity, much of which is not currently being used.

“The idea is that they will be able to install charging stations for electric

vehicles, under an arrangement where the vehicle owners pay a small fee for the service,” Ambassador Black-Layne explained.

To speed up the switch to electric vehicles, Black-Layne said the department is exploring ways to source these vehicles at a price that makes them affordable.

She noted that China appears to be the country that can supply these vehicles in volumes and which are reliable.

The ambassador holds the view that this switch to electric vehicles could open new avenues for business for enterprising young people who could do a ‘wash and charge’ service to vehicle owners.



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## Antigua and Barbuda and the UAE commit to closer ties

Antigua and Barbuda and the United Arab Emirates have committed to strengthening the bonds of friendship that already exist between the two nations.

This, was among matters discussed at what has been described as ‘a productive dialogue’ between Education and Culture Minister, Daryll Matthew and Minister of Culture and Youth of the United Arab Emirates, His Excellency Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi.

This high-level meeting took place at the margins of the 42nd session of the General Conference of UNESCO, where both ministers used the opportunity to reinforce the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation that exist between the two nations.

They emphasized the shared commitment to international collaboration and underscored their nations’ dedication to global causes. His Excellency Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi



expressed heartfelt gratitude to Antigua and Barbuda for their unwavering support during the previous COP (Conference of the Parties) and their forthcoming participation in COP28, which is scheduled to be hosted in Dubai.

Minister Matthew reciprocated by congratulating the United Arab Emirates for its relentless efforts in com-

bating climate change and for championing UNESCO’s inclusion in the COP agenda. Furthermore, Minister Matthew reiterated the steadfast commitment of Antigua and Barbuda to assisting the success of COP28, offering reassurance that the UAE can rely on their full support to ensure the conference’s triumph.

His Excellency Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi, in turn, expressed his nation’s unwavering dedication to preserving natural heritage sites under UNESCO’s guardianship, aligning with one of the key priorities articulated by Minister Matthew in his policy speech. In a symbolic gesture of cultural exchange, His Excellency Sheikh Salem bin Khalid Al Qassimi extended an official invitation to Minister Daryll S. Matthew to attend the upcoming UNESCO World Conference on Culture and Arts Education taking place in Abu Dhabi in February 2024.

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## Focus on: Shannoy Roberts, from Bellhop to Guest Relations Manager *Another in the series ABHTA: Focus Hospitality Professionals*

Shannoy Roberts embarked on his journey in hospitality as a bellhop, and today, he proudly serves as the Guest Relations Manager at the luxurious Carlisle Bay Resort. Reflecting on his impressive career growth, Shannoy is not only grateful for the experiences that shaped him but also eagerly anticipates the promising opportunities ahead within the dynamic hospitality sector.

With a career spanning over two decades, Shannoy attributes his success to his unwavering drive and dedication to every task entrusted to him. His overarching goal is consistently to surpass the expectations of both guests and resort management, delivering an unparalleled level of customer service.

Hospitality was not Shannoy's initial career choice when he began as a

bellhop at the Jolly Beach Resort and Spa. However, his diligent work ethic quickly earned recognition, leading him to assume roles such as Guest Assistant, Senior Guest Assistant/Front Office Supervisor, Night Auditor, and Night Manager over the course of his illustrious career. Today, he proudly holds the position of Guest Relations Manager at Carlisle Bay, where he has dedicated eighteen years refining his craft at the property.

Shannoy's exceptional contributions have garnered well-deserved recognition, exemplified by his nominations at the ABHTA Tourism Gala Awards in categories such as Rising Star, Young Hotelier, and Supervisor of the Year. Within the illustrious setting of Carlisle



Shannoy Roberts

*cont'd on pg 10*

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## Environment Division brings training to selected area residents

Residents of five selected communities are to receive entrepreneurship training through a programme organized by the Department of the Environment's Enhanced

Direct Access Project, with funding provided by the Green Climate Fund (GEF).

The 5-Day All-Day entrepreneurship training from the 4th to the 8th of Decem-

ber 2023, is for residents living within the communities of Cashew Hill, Briggins, Golden Grove, Belmont, and Nut Grove.

This training will be an

intensive crash course into the world of entrepreneurship in services related to the delivery of climate change information, adaptation, and resilience services.

*cont'd from pg 9*

Bay, Shannoy has consistently earned accolades, notably securing the title of Supervisor of the Year and, more recently, achieving the esteemed recognition of Manager of the Quarter in 2021.

Adding to his impressive journey, in October 2019, Shannoy was personally selected by the Executive Committee of Carlisle Bay to embark on a transformative experience in Ireland. Over two months, he underwent comprehensive training and collaborated with the team at the esteemed Lough Eske

Castle. This invaluable opportunity not only proved to be enriching but also inspired Shannoy to apply the acquired knowledge and skills to enhance operations at Carlisle Bay.

As Shannoy looks ahead in the industry, he is excited about the myriad of learning opportunities that will further fuel his professional growth. He attributes his success to the robust support from his dedicated team members and the diligent management team at Carlisle Bay, all of whom contribute tirelessly to the success of every team member.

All participation expenses for up to 20 residents, including participation fees and meals, will be covered by the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Project. Women and persons with disabilities are strongly encouraged to register.

Spaces are limited and interested residents are encouraged to register by Monday, 27th November 2023, to secure a spot.

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*Pal inkz*

# Starbucks faces walkout at hundreds of US stores

By Michelle Fleury

The union representing thousands of Starbucks workers in the US is staging a walkout on one of the coffee chain's busiest days of the year.

The action comes amid a bitter fight between Starbucks and Starbucks Workers United, which started organising workers at the company in 2021.

The two sides are fighting over pay, scheduling and other issues.

Roughly 200 stores are expected to be affected by the 16 November work stoppage.

Barista Michelle Eisen, one of the union's leaders, said the company could afford to "do better by its workers".

The protest is the second to coincide with Starbucks' 'Red Cup' day, when the company distributes reusable, holiday-themed cups.

In some locations, the walkout is set to last just a few hours, while in others it is expected to shutter the store for most of the day.

The union said the action was aimed at calling attention to Starbucks' refusal to fairly negotiate contracts with the unionised stores.

Members are also protesting work conditions, including inadequate staffing



Starbucks Workers United said this year's Red Cup walkout would be bigger than in 2022.

on promotional days.

Ms Eisen said she expected more customers and community activists to join the action this year in a warning sign for the coffee brand.

"That's what's going to set this apart," she told the BBC. "That's what should scare the company. Their reputation is everything."

Starbucks, which operates roughly 10,000 stores across the US, said it did not expect major disruption.

It said it had spent hundreds of millions of dollars on higher wages, training and new equipment and it blamed the union for delays in talks, noting successful negotiations at several stores in Canada.

"Starbucks remains ready to progress in-person negotiations with the unions certified to represent partners," the company said in a statement.

Since 2021, workers at about 350 of the company's roughly 10,000 locations in the US have voted to join the union.

Starbucks has fiercely opposed the campaign.

Union members say it has dragged its feet at the negotiating table and gone so far as to fire workers and shut stores in an effort to stop the movement.

Administrative law judges in the US have found the company has repeatedly violated labour laws.

Starbucks, which typically appeals the findings,

has denied wrongdoing.

Last year, former boss Howard Schultz was forced to appear before Congress to answer for the union's claims.

The union campaign at Starbucks has been closely watched, and is credited with helping to galvanise workers at other companies.

Ms Eisen, who was involved with the first Starbucks store to unionise, said watching other unions win big wage increases at other companies, such as UPS, had been "bittersweet".

"It feels like this campaign really lit a fire under the labour movement in this country and we are still sitting here fighting super hard," she said.

## Brazil: Health warnings as country gripped by 'unbearable' heatwave

Red alerts have been issued for almost 3,000 towns and cities across Brazil, which have been experiencing an unprecedented heatwave.

Rio de Janeiro recorded 42.5C on Sunday - a record for November - and high humidity on Tuesday meant that it felt like 58.5C, municipal authorities said.

More than a hundred million people have been affected by the heat, which is expected to last until at least Friday.

Officials have attributed it to the El Niño phenomenon and climate change.

The city of São Paulo saw average temperatures of 37.3C on Tuesday afternoon, the National Institute of Meteorology (Inmet) reported.



*The authorities have attributed the heatwave to the El Niño phenomenon and climate change.*

"I'm exhausted, it's hard," Riquelme da Silva, 22, told AFP news agency on the streets there.

"When I get home, it's cold water, otherwise I

can't even get up because I'm so tired. It's even hard to sleep."

Dora, a 60-year-old street vendor, described the heat as "unbearable" for those who worked outside.

Inmet has issued red alerts for a large part of the country. These indicate that temperatures may be 5C above average for longer than five days and could pose a serious danger to health.

The heatwave, which comes more than a month before the beginning of summer in the southern hemisphere, has seen Brazil's energy consumption soar to record levels as people try to keep themselves cool.

Inmet research released last week showed that the average temperature in the country had been above the historical average from July to October.

Extreme weather is becoming more frequent and more intense in many places around the world because of climate change.

According to scientists, heatwaves are becoming longer and more intense in many places and this is expected to continue whilst humans keep releasing planet-warming greenhouse gases.

Meanwhile, the Earth is currently in an El Niño weather phase, during which time global temperatures typically increase.

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## American woman dies in Bahamas boating incident

A female tourist from the US lost her life following a pleasure craft accident in The Bahamas on Tuesday to Blue Lagoon Island.

The victim was a 75-year-old cruise passenger who was visiting the Caribbean destination from Colorado. It is unclear how she died.

The incident at sea was captured by another passenger, Kelly Schissel, who was onboard the ferry and shared the terrifying experience on social media.

In one of the videos uploaded, she said: "Our boat is sinking. Everybody is freaking out." Passengers can also be heard screaming and panicking, with persons seen jumping into the water.

According to police, sometime around 9:30 am, the pleasure craft left from the ferry dock with over 100 passengers onboard en route to Blue Lagoon.

Reports indicate half an hour into



*Pleasure craft takes on water en route to Blue Lagoon Island in The Bahamas on November 14, 2023.*

the ride the vessel experienced rough seas in the area which resulted in the boat taking on water and becoming submerged in waters just outside Blue Lagoon.

As a result of the incident, one casualty was recorded, a 75-year-old

American woman. Police say she was on a five-day family cruise vacation and The Bahamas would have been their second stop.

Blue Lagoon Island in its own statement on the incident said around 11 am, a vessel from Blue Lagoon started taking on water and became partially submerged. The incident occurred as it was approaching and near to the island.

Emergency teams from the island went to render assistance. Passengers and five staff members were located and brought to the island, with two passengers taken to hospital for additional care.

It said all on board were accounted for. The passengers onboard were all cruise ship guests.

Blue Lagoon Island said the local authorities, the ship and the US Embassy were notified.

Investigations into the incident are ongoing.



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## Venezuela rejects any call for not holding December 3 referendum

CMC - Venezuela on Wednesday vowed to go ahead with its December 3 referendum as it seeks to gain ownership of the mineral and forest-rich county of Essequibo in Guyana.

“The referendum is an internal domestic matter and is not meant in any way to result in the annexation of the disputed territory,” International Law Professor Makane Moïse Mbengue told the International Court of Justice (ICJ).

The position of the South American country came one day after attorney Paul Reichler outlined Georgetown’s position in his presentation to the ICJ that is conducting public hearings devoted to the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Guyana on October 30, 2023.

Guyana, in its request, had said that the Venezuela government, through its National Electoral Council had published a list of five questions that it intends to put before the people of Venezuela in a “Consultative Referendum” next month.

Venezuelan Vice President, Delcy Rodriguez told the Court that “nothing will prevent



*Venezuelan Vice President, Delcy Rodriguez addressing the ICJ.*

the referendum scheduled for the third of December from being held.

“No one can deny or divide this right finally, the state of Venezuela will not turn its back on what the people decide during the referendum,” she said, denying Guyana’s claims that Caracas was threatening peace and security in the region.

She accused Guyana of using the ICJ to interfere in her country’s internal affairs, adding, “nothing is above the constitution”.

Displaying a number of publications, claiming that Guyana has had a record of taking steps with the United States to “strengthen preparedness through tactical

and operational integration”

Rodriguez said Venezuela’s appearance before the ICJ did not constitute the jurisdiction of that court but opted to present its arguments to counter “Without prejudice to our position, and doctrine on jurisdiction. We come before this court to defend independence, sovereignty and self-determination as the inalienable rights of our nation”.

The ICJ has already declared that it has jurisdiction to hear Guyana’s substantive case that the 1899 Arbitral Tribunal Award of the land boundary with Venezuela. It will announce a date for its decision on Guyana’s request to block

the referendum.

The Vice President said that Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has always been interested in dialogue and negotiation and that her country has never attacked any country or crossed borders to invade or annex territories.

In his arguments before the ICJ, Professor Mbengue said that the referendum and its domestic consequences are not and cannot be the subject of the proceedings before the court on the merits of the case.

He said Guyana’s requested measures could not be subsumed by the court’s eventual judgment on the merits.

“The court should, therefore, reject Guyana’s request for provisional measures,” he said, adding that none of the outcomes of the referendum would have any adverse impact on Guyana’s alleged title over the disputed territory, and even less create a risk of irreparable harm to Guyana.

Venezuela’s Agent to the ICJ, Ambassador Samuel Moncada accused Guyana of attempting to “silence the memory of a people who generation after generation” about their national geography.

## Finland accuses Russia of aiding illegal migrant crossings

By Ido Vock

Finland's prime minister has accused Russia of helping migrants get into the country illegally, saying some have been helped by Russian border guards.

Finnish officials say migrants arrive by car before cycling across the border in small groups to claim asylum.

Finland shares a 1,340km (833-mile) border with Russia, Europe's longest.

The number of crossings remains small but has been rising this week. Border guards say they have registered around 89 crossings in two days.

That compares with 91 in the four months to 12 November.

Matti Pitkaniitty, a colonel in the Finnish border guard, told BBC News the migrants included citizens of countries such as Iraq, Yemen and Syria who had arrived legally in Russia but were not authorised to enter Finland, which is an EU member state.

"Traditionally, Russian guards haven't allowed people to arrive at the Finnish border without proper documents," he said. But he added Russian authorities had "definitely" changed their policy in recent months.

Many of the migrants are crossing into Finland



Finnish border guards patrol the frontier with Russia.

by bicycle, exploiting an agreement allowing cycling across the border. Last week Finland banned crossings by bike.

Most of the activity has been seen around the border crossings at Nu-ijamaa and Vaalimaa, in south-eastern Finland.

At a news conference on Tuesday, Prime Minister Petteri Orpo accused Russian authorities of facilitating the illegal crossings.

"It is clear that these people are helped and they are also being escorted or transported to the border

by border guards," Mr Orpo said.

In 2021, thousands of migrants from Middle Eastern and African countries crossed into EU member states Poland and Lithuania after flying to Belarus, a close Russian ally.

The EU at the time accused Belarusian leader Alexander Lukashenko of using migration as a weapon of "hybrid warfare" to destabilise the bloc.

Mr Pitkaniitty said the small numbers seen so far remained manageable and stressed that Finnish au-

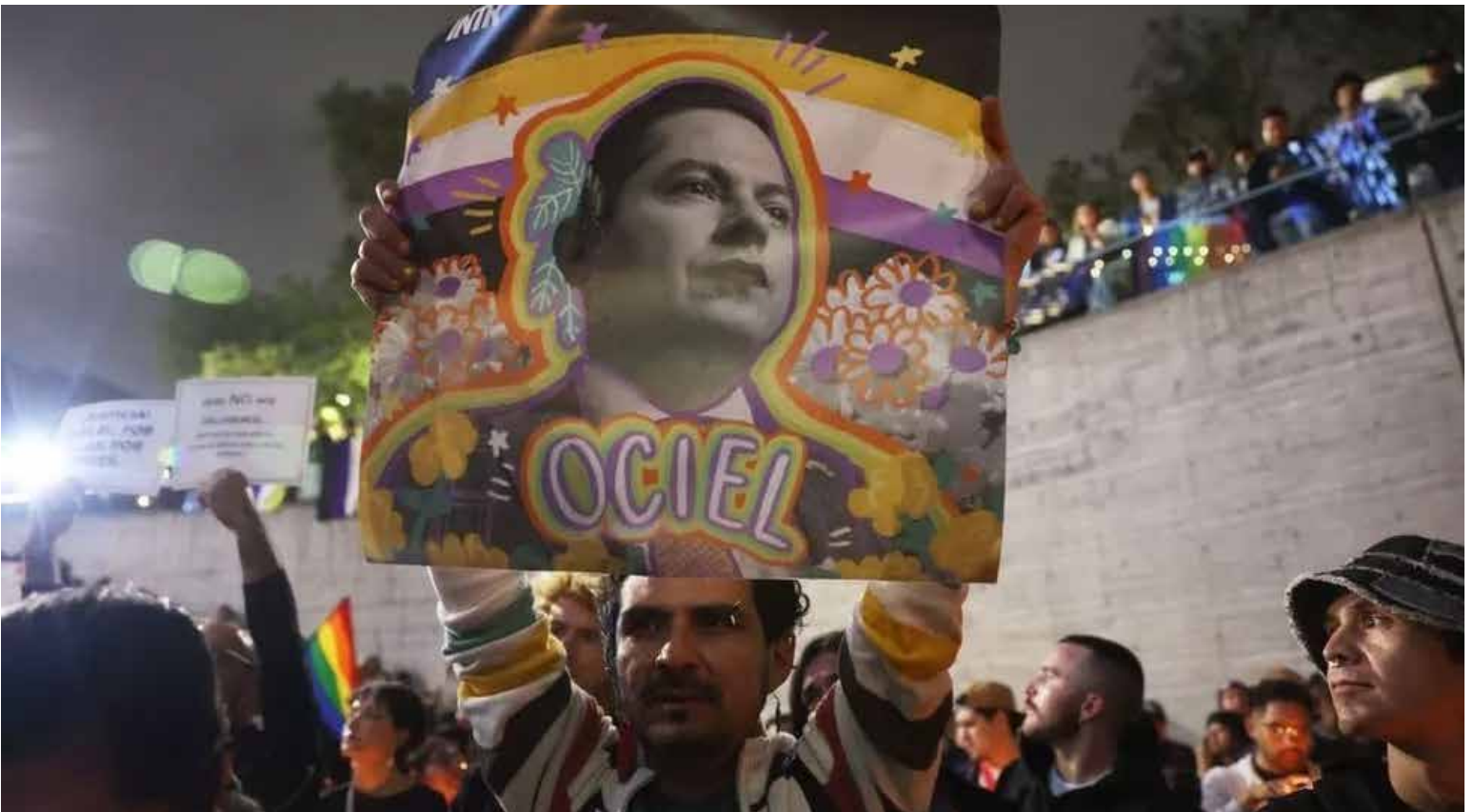
thorities have tools available to them to react in case crossings increase.

Interior Minister Mari Rantanen said on Tuesday that her government was preparing to increase security on the border.

This way into the EU via Russia was much safer than other routes used by migrants, such as crossing the Mediterranean by sea, Mr Pitkaniitty added.

"Once word gets around we may see a rapid increase in numbers. Smugglers and migrants don't know when the opportunity will end."





Thousands of people took to the streets of Mexico City calling for justice following the death of Jesús Ociel Baena.

## Mexico: Murder suspected in non-binary magistrate Jesús Ociel Baena's death

By Kathryn Armstrong

The death of Mexico's first openly non-binary member of the judiciary, a prominent LGBTQ+ activist, appears to have been murder, officials say.

Jesús Ociel Baena was found dead at home next to their partner, Dorian Daniel Nieves, in the central city of Aguascalientes on Monday.

A razor blade was found at the scene and the authorities say there was no sign a third person had been present.

They now suspect Baena was killed by Nieves, who then took their own life.

Aguascalientes chief prosecutor Jesús Figueroa said Baena had been found with 20 wounds on their body, including one on their neck that was probably the cause of death.

Forensic evidence suggested Nieves had wielded the murder weapon, Mr Figueroa added.

However, he stressed that the investigation was ongoing so no definitive conclusions could yet be made.

Baena's family disputed the authorities' hypothesis. Their father, Juan Baena, said it "would be a shame to let this justice system make a judgment that is not correct and that the majority do not believe it".

Rights organisations have called on the authorities to investigate whether the deaths were a hate crime and said Baena had received death threats.

The 38-year-old became a magistrate for the Aguascalientes state electoral court in October 2022 and was thought to be the first non-binary person in Latin America to take up a judicial position.

In June, they were among the first group of people to be issued gender-neutral passports

"Baena's purpose was to promote

the people of the LGBTQ+ community, who supported him throughout his struggle, achieving a powerful message of inclusion and equality in our state and our country," fellow magistrate Laura Hortensia Llama said at a tribute held at the headquarters of the Aguascalientes electoral court.

"We will never forget Baena's essence, persistence, and desire to achieve a better world."

These sentiments were echoed by thousands of people who attended vigils and demonstration in several cities, including the capital, for the slain activist on Monday evening.

"Ociel is, and was, the most relevant figure in today's fight for human rights for the LGBTQ+ community," Humberto Dena, 24, told the Associated Press in Mexico City.

"We want [the authorities] to continue to investigate this case, and not just say it was a 'crime of passion'."

## West Indies Under-19s to play five matches in Trinidad

The West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under-19 Selection Panel has named 15 players for a two-week training camp in Trinidad.

This will form as part of the ongoing preparations for the ICC Men's Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

During the camp, the players will have five matches at the National Cricket Centre at Couva.

Three matches will be against the Trinidad and Tobago Under 23 team, while the other two will be against the USA Under 19 squad, who will also be participating in the World Cup.

The West Indies will again be led by Stepan Pascal, and the squad includes several members who toured Sri Lanka for four-day "Tests" and Youth One-Day Internationals in



The West Indies Rising Stars Men's Under 19 cricket team. (CWI Media)

August and September.

Among them is the Antiguan and Leeward Islands Under-19 wicketkeeper/batsman Jewel Andrew.

The next ICC Men's U19 Cricket World Cup will be played in Sri Lanka in

January and February 2024.

The West Indies squad for the tournament will be named in early December.

**FULL SQUAD:** Stephan Pascal (captain), Jewel Andrew, Mavendra Dindyal, Joshua Dorne,

Nathan Edward, Tarrique Edward, Reon Edwards, Deshawn James, Divonie Joseph, Zishan Motara, Tamarie Redwood, Nathan Sealy, Raneico Smith, Steven Wedderburn, and Adrian Weir.

## PMS stay top of Under-16 Boys Division

The Princess Margaret School (PMS) team maintained their perfect winning run to remain leaders of the Under-16 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Tuesday.

Princess Margaret Schools notched up their fourth win in as many games by beating Glanvilles Secondary 3-0 at King George V Grounds.

Mario Lewis, J'Quan Athanaze, and Najantae Wynaldum each scored once for Princess Margaret School, which remains at the top of the league by advancing to 12 points.

Glanvilles Secondary remain on

three points after succumbing to their third loss in four games.

A 20th-minute conversion by Samuel Brazier was sufficient to give defending champion Antigua Grammar School a 1-0 victory against All Saints Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints.

Antigua Grammar School move to seven points, while All Saints Secondary remained on nine points. All Saints have two losses in five matches.

The biggest margin of victory of the day was achieved by the Clare Hall Secondary School team, which hammered St. Mary's Secondary School 8-0 at the

Clare Hall school playing field.

Tajai Wright scored twice with conversions in the 22nd and 46th minutes. Yaakov Peterson opened the scoring in the 16th minute, and T'Kai Williams added a second goal in the 19th minute.

Kalique Samuel made it 5-0 with a 30th-minute conversion. The other three goals were scored by Jaden Martin in the 38th minute, Robert Jeffery in the 45th minute, and Andrew Canoville in the 57th minute.

Clare Hall Secondary advanced to seven points after securing their second win in four matches. It was the third

*cont'd on pg 19*

## West Indies 'A' confident as they depart for tour of South Africa

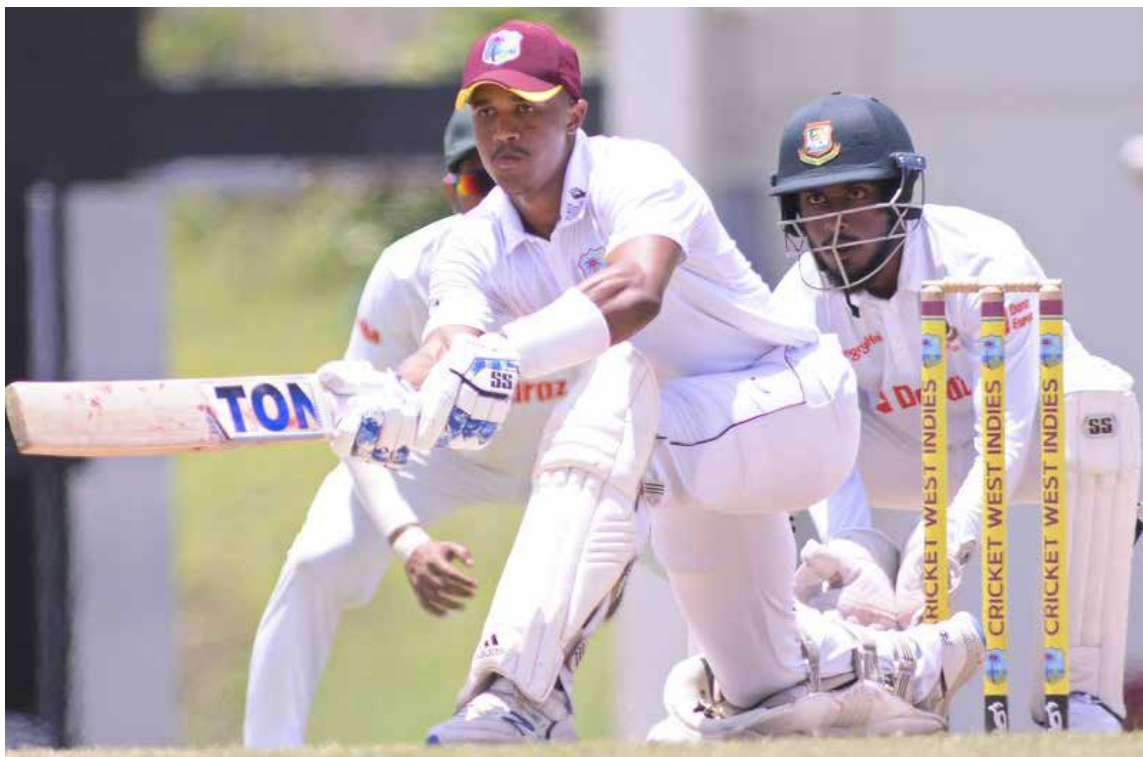
Head Coach Andre Coley said the West Indies "A" team tour of South Africa was important to defining and developing the depth of talent in the red ball formats.

The team, led by wicketkeeper/batsman Joshua Da Silva, left on Tuesday for a trip on which they will play three "Tests" against South Africa "A" between November 21 and December 8 in Benoni, East London, and Bloemfontein.

"It will give us an opportunity to boost our red-ball opportunities outside of the Caribbean. Earlier this year, we went to Bangladesh, and we did well there, and now we are going to another part of the world – South Africa," Coley said in an interview with CWI Media.

"It will give us an opportunity to explore the brand of cricket that we want to play. Our next international assignment is in Australia, and six months after that we go to England, so this A team is positioned to offer red-ball playing opportunities on the back of the just-concluded CG United Super50 Cup."

Coley added, "The South Africans are a team that want to play a specific



West Indies 'A' vice-captain and wicket-keeper/batsman Tevin Imlach. (CWI Media)

way, and they always look to challenge you, but they respect our players. The pitches have offered pace, have offered bounce, so you will have pitches on which you can trust the bounce.

Coley added that the main objective was to come away from the trip with wins under the team's belt, but there were other goals that will be equally important for the development of the West Indies squad.

"You learn to win over time. We want to see our primary batsman scoring loads of runs, as well as the all-rounders and bowlers

averaging above 20 or 30 and building lower order partnerships, that will help to expand our batting options," he said.

Tevin Imlach, the other wicket-keeper/batsman was named the vice-captain and the squad, which includes five players with senior Test experience – Da Silva, left-handers Tagenarine Chanderpaul and Kirk McKenzie, and fast bowlers Jayden Seales and Shermon Lewis.

Three played that made their first-class debuts this year were also named in the squad – batsman Kevlon Anderson, fast bowler and

fellow Guyanese Shamar Joseph, and spin bowling all-rounder Abhijai Masingh.

**FULL SQUAD:** Joshua Da Silva (captain), Tevin Imlach (vice-captain), Kevlon Anderson, Tagenarine Chanderpaul, Kavem Hodge, Akeem Jordan, Shamar Joseph, Shermon Lewis, Jair McAllister, Zachary McCaskie, Kirk McKenzie, Abhijai Masingh, Jayden Seales, and Kevin Sinclair.

**Team Management:** Andre Coley (Head Coach), Dwain Gill (Team Manager), Jimmy Adams (Assistant Coach), Shaun Tait (Assistant Coach), Barrington Gayle (Physiotherapist), and Asia Joseph (Strength & Conditioning Coach).

*cont'd from pg 18*

loss in four matches for St. Mary's Secondary School, which remained on three points.

The Jennings Secondary team picked up their first point in the competition by sal-

vaging a 1-1 draw with Sir Novelle Richards Academy at the Clare Hall school playing field. It was also the first draw in four matches for Sir Novelle Richards Academy, which moved on to four points.



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## Kohli's ton, Shami's spell power India into world cup final

MUMBAI (Reuters) - India's Virat Kohli struck a record 50th hundred and fast bowler Mohammed Shami's seven-wicket haul proved equally crucial as the unbeaten hosts overpowered New Zealand by 70 runs in a high-scoring match on Wednesday to march into the World Cup final.

Kohli's 117 and a blistering 105 from Shreyas Iyer helped India post 397 for four wickets after they won the toss at the Wankhede Stadium, where the hosts had lifted their second and last 50-over World Cup trophy in 2011.

In reply, New Zealand, who beat India at the same stage in the 2019

*cont'd on pg 23*



India's Mohammed Shami celebrates the wicket of New Zealand's Daryl Mitchell, left, during the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup first semifinal match between India and New Zealand in Mumbai, India, Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2013. (AP)

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## Full Clip A take early lead in three-hand domino contest



Players participating in the latest ABNDA's three-hand domino competition at its headquarters in Ottos. (ABNDA)

The Full Clip A team took an early lead after the opening round of matches in the Antigua and Barbuda National Domino Association's final three-hand competition of the year.

Full Clip A won the final match of the opening round of the accumulated-point three-hand contest at the ABNDA's headquarters in Ottos on Tuesday night.

Full Clip A scored 88 points to prevail against Moise Eagles Eyes with 74 points and Double Six Ice with 58 points.

Willikies Super Stars A team is in second place after scoring 84 points to beat Parham Strikers with 69 points and Bolans Revellers A team with 62 points in the first match of the opening round.

Triple Dynamite are in third place with 78 points, while the B teams of Willikies Super Stars and Bo-

lans Revellers are tied in joint fourth place with 77 points each.

Triple Dynamite scored 78 points to prevail against the Bolans Revellers B team with 77 points and the Full Clip A team with 73 points in the third match of the opening round.

The Willikies Super Stars B Team scored 77 points to beat Ramplers with 68 points and Dominatrixx with 67 points in the second match of the opening round.

Double Six Diamond and Unstoppables were given first-round byes after Bravo pulled out of the competition to leave 14 teams contesting the three-hand tournament.

Willikies Super Star also took an early lead in the 125 Four-Hand competition, which also commenced with its first round of matches.

The Willikies Super Stars prevailed 125-104 against the Ramplers in the opening encounter. Everyday Service Station Double Six and A.S. Bryden and Stingray City Bolans Revellers will clash in the second match of the competition later this week.

Six clubs are contesting the final team four-hand competition of the year. Dominatrixx and Unstoppables are the other clubs contesting for the title.

### cont'd from pg 21

tournament, were bundled out for 327 in the 49th over with Daryl Mitchell's excellent innings of 134 proving to be in vain.

"The wicket was very good, lots of runs were scored in the afternoon," said man-of-the-match Shami.

"It feels amazing. Last two World Cups, we lost in the semis. We wanted to do everything for this, (it was) one chance we didn't want to let go."

Australia and South Africa meet in the second semi-final at Kolkata's Eden Gardens on Thursday, with the final on Sunday in Ahmedabad.

Mitchell added 181 for the third wicket with Kane Williamson to keep the Black Caps firmly in the chase but Shami, who sent back both openers, returned to dismiss the New Zealand captain and Tom Latham in one over to put India on top.

The right-handed Mitchell suffered cramps after getting past his hundred, but continued to plunder runs with Glenn Phillips during a 75-run stand before the latter fell for a 33-ball 41.

The target ultimately proved too steep, however, as the Indian juggernaut rolled on for their 10th win in as many matches in the 50-over showpiece.

## Richie's Shooterz to defend business league playoff title

Reigning champions Richie's Shooterz took a major step in making a successful defense of their playoff title in this year's Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League competition on Tuesday night.

The third-seed Richie's Shooters snatched a one-point win to clinch their best of three semi-final playoff series 2-1 against the second-seeded Sandals at the JSC Sports Complex.

Richie's Shooterz prevailed 57-56 in the third and deciding game to oust the Sandals and advance to the finals, where they will face round-robin league champions and top-seed Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board.

Nickon McGregor produced 17 points, Kwame Brathwaite sank 14 points, and point guard Tavarus Benta had 12 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 25 points, and Adissa "Ras I" Harris chipped in with 10 points for the Sandals.

Richie's Shooterz and



Richie's Shooterz, formerly Graphic Impact Shooters, took a major step in making a successful defense of their playoff title in this year's Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League competition on Tuesday night. (File photo)

the Transport Board will face off in the opening game of the best of three business league playoff finals at the JSC Sport Complex at 7:30 this evening (Thursday).

The Transport Board, which is seeking to capture the double by claiming the playoff title in addition to the league title which they already won, will face Richie's Shooterz in the

second game of the finals on Saturday at 7:30 pm.

If necessary, both teams will clash in the third and decisive last game of the finals at the same venue on Sunday at 7 pm.