

NO ABST REDUCTION THIS YEAR

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Browne and the Antiguan delegation are among several from CARICOM member states that have been invited to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, for the first Saudi Arabia/CARICOM summit. *Story on page 3.*

No ABST reduction this year

This year, the popular ABST-reduction weekend that has become a favourite among consumers and merchants alike will not be implemented.

Well-placed sources say the move designed to spur business for merchants and provide a relief in prices for consumers has been done away with this year, as the government seeks ways to raise revenue to help it meet its monthly obligations.

The sources say upmost in the mind of the government is the payment of salaries and wages for December, which is usually paid around the middle of the month to facilitate public



workers taking advantage of the discounted prices associated with the ABST reduction.

Additionally, the government has agreed to raise the salaries and wages of public sector workers further in the new year. This increase will be added to the five percent increase granted earlier. The government has agreed to a

14 percent increase, five percent of which has been granted. However, the remaining nine percent may be implemented over time.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Gaston Browne, has been hinting over the past several weeks that there are likely to be adjustments in the country's tax structure as the government

seeks to place itself in a better position to meet mounting obligations. He has also suggested that there is likely to be a slight increase in the rate of the ABST, the country's most reliable form of taxation.

According to the prime minister Antigua and Barbuda's tax to GDP ratio is the lowest in the OECS. The country has been advised by international finance institutions to raise the rate to about 20 percent of GDP. It is currently closer to 16 percent.

Further details of the government's policies regarding taxes will come to light when the prime minister presents the country's 2024 National Budget on December 14.



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PM Browne taps Saudi investment to fix water challenges

Fixing the water challenges that plague Antigua and Barbuda was top of the list for possible funding when Prime Minister Gaston Browne and his team, met with the Saudi officials on Thursday.

Prime Minister Browne and the Antiguan delegation are among several from CARICOM member states that have been invited to Riyadh, the Saudi capital, for the first Saudi Arabia/CARICOM summit.

Reports from Saudi Arabia said the prime minister and delegation had a meeting with Saudi Arabian company ACWA Power on Thursday, as he seeks fresh remedies to Antigua and Barbuda's chronic water production and distribution problems.

Prime Minister Browne is also seeking to attract other investments from the oil-rich Gulf state to the

twin-island state.

Ahead of his discussions with the ACWA officials, the prime minister indicated that the request is for financial assistance to complete the re-piping exercise now underway to change miles of aging cast-iron pipes and exchange them with poly-ether line pipes that are better suited for Antiguan and Barbudan conditions which are subject to drought and earth movements caused by earthquakes.

A special investment forum with Saudi officials formed part of the programme for the regional leaders' visit to the oil-rich Kingdom.

The event was part of several engagements at the First Saudi-Caricom Summit, in which regional leaders discussed a wide range of areas of mutual interest with Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Browne

and other leaders were also due to meet with Crown Prince Mohamed bin Sal-

man, popularly known as MBS, considered the de facto ruler of the Kingdom.

PROBATE FORM P7

Rule 15

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 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
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 (Probate)

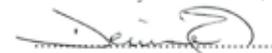
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ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by ANDREA NATHLINE FARRELL for a Grant of Probate of the will of the above named deceased who died on the 7th day of June, 2023 without revoking a will bearing the date of 30th day of July, 2021 wherein the Applicant is Sole Executor.

Any person having an objection to the application for the Grant of Probate shall file an objection within 14 days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2023.


 Mrs. Denise Parillon
 Jonas Parillon & Co. Inc.
 Attorneys at Law

Filed by Jonas Parillon & Co. Inc., Attorneys-at-Law for the Applicant, whose address for service is Sir Sydney Walling Highway, St. John, Antigua. Email: jonasparillon@gmail.com / deniscipar@yahoo.com. Telephone: 562-6530/721-3882.



Silver Airways gets 'pink carpet' welcome

Silver Airways received a warm Antigua and Barbuda welcome when its inaugural flight landed at the V.C. Bird International Airport on Thursday evening, with a direct link between Antigua and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

From a water cannon on the tarmac to the welcome banner and the VIP Lounge decorated in pink, the airline's colour, and a special double-decker cake to mark the occasion; the Anti-

gua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority 'left no stone unturned' to ensure that the officials of the airline, the captain and crew, felt welcome in Antigua and Barbuda.

Tourism Minister, Charles Fernandez, said it is important that Silver Airways has added VCBIA as part of the airline's schedule, as it provides a link for onward travel to Miami on the US

mainland.

"This, for us, is the start of the tourist season, so it needs to happen at this time. We are confident that it will work for two reasons; 1. It opens up the US market in a big way, as over the summer getting flights from many destinations was prohibitive. Now you can fly to San Juan and make your onward connections. 2. It will allow An-

cont'd on pg 5

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cont'd from pg 4

tiguans and Barbudans to be able to fly into San Juan for shopping in larger numbers, now that there is a direct connection,” he suggested.

The minister believes that others from the neighbouring islands will use Antigua as a connecting hub to travel to San Juan on Silver Airways, recalling that this was once a popular shopping destination for islanders in the Eastern Caribbean.

Acting CEO of the ABAA, Avery Henry, noted that the VCBIA is a flag-bearer for aviation in the region, and he is assuring the airline officials that their passengers will be pleased with the service they receive at the airport. He too recalled that travel between Antigua and Puerto Rico was quite popular and he expressed the hope that ‘those halcyon days will return with the Silver Airways’ service.’

Following the brief addresses was an exchange of gifts between the ABTA and the airline’s officials and crew, as well as the cutting of the cake.

ABTA’s Director of

Tourism for the Caribbean and Latin America, Charmaine Spencer, said there are plans afoot to promote the flight at both ends. These include a ‘fam’ trip by travel agents to Antigua and Barbuda and other promotions.



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- Must have excellent communication skills, oral and written, and public speaking skills.
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- Excellent negotiation and communication skills.
- Experience in organizing medical events would be an asset.

HOW TO APPLY

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Deadline for receipt of application is **24 November 2023**.



VCBIA ready for homeporting

A busy weekend is ahead at the V.C. Bird International Airport as the island prepares to facilitate hundreds of visitors who will arrive by specially chartered flights to begin their cruise excursions from the Heritage Quay Port.

Antigua and Barbuda had a taste of the Homeporting experience roughly one year ago and the involvement of the airport's management and resourceful

staff played a prominent role in executing the operation.

Travelers were able to alight from their chartered aircraft and immediately board buses that transported them to the Heritage Quay port in a seamless operation with little or no impact on the regularly scheduled flights and routine operations of the airport.

It was the very same when the cruise

visitors returned to Antigua for their return flights to the United Kingdom.

The collaborative exercise, involving the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority and the Antigua Cruise Port, with the support of several agencies, will take place, over an extended period in its second iteration.

This time around, Antigua and Barbuda will undertake homeporting operations, beginning this weekend, on scheduled days up until March next year, fulfilling the vision to firmly establish the island as a homeporting destination.

"All systems are on the ready for this weekend. The kinks from the previous operation have been ironed out and we are fully mobilized to execute," noted Director of Operations of the Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority Joseph Samuel.

Besides this Saturday, the other scheduled days for Homeporting are December 2nd, 16th and 30th.

Homeporting falls on two Saturdays in January, the 13th and the 27th. Then in February, it will be the 10th and the 24th and the final one is on the 9th of March.

The Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority is requesting that travellers and other members of the public take note of the Homeporting days, to be kept aware in the event they may have to make personal adjustments, especially if they have to travel.



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Trade Ministry convenes Trade Facilitation Committee meeting

Antigua and Barbuda's move to fully implement provisions of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) agreements, was fully fleshed out at a meeting of the National Trade Facilitation Committee (TFC), held on Thursday.

Chaired by Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Works, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim, the meeting brought together the stakeholders representing key agencies to report on the status of the implementation of the Trade Facilitation mandate which comes from the World Trade Organization (WTO).

"There are several tasks to be accomplished in a given time frame and Antigua



Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim (right) chairs the meeting of the National Trade Facilitation Committee

and Barbuda has already accomplished a number of areas, working towards final execution," Ambassador Pilgrim reported.

He said the purpose of the meeting was to accomplish several tasks. These include;

To bring stakeholders together to see where we are.

To see how each other can complement the other to fulfill the mandate within the specific time frame.

To strategize on Antigua and Barbuda's response to these relevant areas.

He explained that The Ministry of Trade will now send copies of what transpired in the meeting to all stakeholders who are part

of the Trade Facilitation Committee so that they can examine their areas of focus and determine what needs to be accomplished and what remains.

"In the first quarter of 2024, we will meet again to review and decide how we can move on for the remainder of 2024 and also to fulfill our reporting requirements to the World Trade Organization. This meeting was a critical one that ended on a high note," Ambassador Pilgrim stated.

In broad terms, the TFC oversees the operation and implementation of the Trade Facilitation Agreement and provides WTO members with a forum to consult and share experiences.

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- Ensure coordination and implementation of digital operations and broadcast logistics and related operational requirements.
- Ensure that all ICC staff and support personnel have the required accreditation and access to stadium.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent certification in relevant discipline – Media and Broadcast, business, event management, project management.
- At least 5 years' experience in a lead broadcast, media or project role, and success in delivering regional and international events.

Local Operations Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Manage all venue specific tournament operations and ensure they are delivered to ICC and World Class standards.
- Ensure catering and distribution plans and schedules for match and practice venues are established and communicated with stakeholders and service providers.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent professional certification in relevant discipline – business administration, management, event management, project management, sports management or related field.
- Minimum 5 years' work experience in a lead cricket, sports or related field.

Local Logistics Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Assist with the planning, coordination, management and delivery of all air transportation, ground transportation, accommodation, freight and shipping services, territorial customs and immigration clearances.
- Liaise with government agencies and other stakeholders to collaborate on host venue logistics and operations plans.
- Coordinate and conduct physical inspections of local hotels, vehicles and other logistics services.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent professional certification in relevant discipline – logistics, business administration, project management, sports management or related field.
- Minimum 4 years' working experience in logistical operations and procedures for elite sport tournaments.

Local Venue Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Ensure all regional host venues are prepared according to the world cup standards.
- Devise territorial venue budgets and cost estimates, aligning with ICC standards.
- Coordinate venue inspections with relevant agencies to obtain necessary Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) certifications.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- Diploma or equivalent professional certification in relevant discipline – engineering, project management or related field.
- At least 5 years' experience in a related field.

Cricket Operations Officer

Key Areas of Responsibility

- Prepare practice schedules ensuring that all operational arrangements are in place.
- Prepare cricket operations plan for host country.
- Ensure all team and match official requirements are delivered.
- Ensure that pitch and outfield identified for the Tournament meet world class standard.

Professional experience & Skills Required:

- At least 5 years' experience in a related field.
- Advanced knowledge of administrative policies, procedures and technology.

Please submit your Cover Letter attaching your Curriculum Vitae / Resume via recruitment@cricketwestindies.org by **Friday, 17th November 2023**.

Please note the following:

- ✓ Interviews with the hiring team will be scheduled quickly if shortlisted.
- ✓ Only suitable applicants will be contacted.

How to help your child with mathematics

By **Derrick Nicholas**

Some parents feel intimidated when it comes to the subject of Mathematics and are therefore reluctant to try to engage with the subject. For this reason, many students are left deprived of help. It is quite normal to feel lost with these 'new' methods of doing Math.

Mathematics is needed for employment purposes, to get into a college or university, and simply just to go about our daily lives. The need for persons to be competent, if not versed in this subject is therefore very important.

William Paul Thurston (1946 – 2012) famously said: "Mathematics is not about numbers, equations, computations, or algorithms: it is about understanding." He understood that all it took for persons to master their fears of Mathematics, was to unlock their understanding of the subject. It is therefore

very troubling to encounter students preparing for the CXC exams, who still struggle with basic and foundational concepts.

Here are some tips to help parents provide help to their child in Math:

Make your engagements on the subject fun. Never make it seem like work. This will make your child less stressed.

Do not project your fear of Mathematics onto your child.

Stay in touch with your child's teacher(s). Find out how your child is doing, and ask for tips on how you can help at home.

Get familiar with new ways/methods of teaching math. This will make it easier for you to provide help to your child.

Seek help from trusted online sources.

Encourage your child to speak through their Math assignments – espe-

cially if they are having issues.

Do not have the same expectations for all your children. It is neither fair nor reasonable.

Find ways to get your child to improve his/her competency.

Talk to your child about what they are doing right – not just what they are doing wrong in school.

Remember that some students require more time and help in order to get better at Math.

Embrace the struggle: it is normal for students to struggle at first with new concepts.

Be patient with your child.

Encourage your child to practice.

Use items or chores to illustrate Math topics at home.

If you feel the task is greater than you, get help from a tutor.

Always do what is best for your child.



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Opinion



Guatemala: Lessons in the fight for democratic integrity

By **Sir Ronald Sanders**

It was a prophesy foretold – the eruption of violence in the face of attempts to disqualify from office a President and his party who were elected by the overwhelming majority of the electorate in Guatemala.

In the early hours of Thursday, November 16 (Eastern Standard Time), clashes between demonstrators and police erupted in Guatemala City, the Capital of the Central American state of Guatemala, as stones were hurled at politicians leaving the National Congress.

The demonstrators, likely supporters of the Semilla Party of Bernardo Arévalo, who was elected as President of the country with over 61 per cent of the vote, were provoked by several actions by the Attorney General and the Public Ministry to overturn the popular will of the people, as expressed at the ballot box.

Space was created for controversial actions because there is a waiting period between the election of the President and his installation. Arévalo was elected in runoff elections on August 20, 2023, but cannot be installed until January 14, 2024.

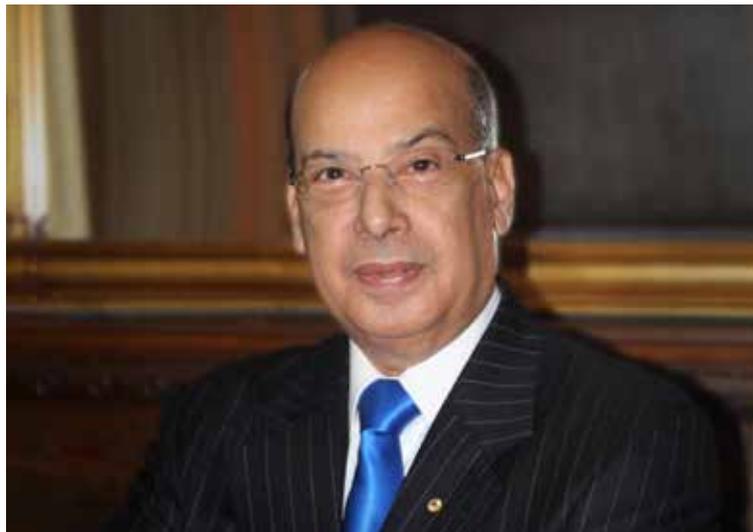
The executive of the Guatemala government, including the sitting President, Alejandro Giammattei, claim that the Attorney General, María Consuelo Porras, and the Office of the Public

Prosecutor, are “independent offices”, free to act in their own judgement without interference. However, from the outset of Arévalo’s election, the Public Ministry has taken several steps to disqualify Arévalo and the Semilla Party.

On 16 November, the Public Ministry announced that it will seek the withdrawal of immunity of Arévalo and his Vice President-elect, Karin Herrera. Both were subsequently named in an indictment for allegedly making social media posts that encouraged students to take over a public university more than a year ago.

The meeting of the National Congress on 15 November, consisting mostly of representatives of parties that failed to be elected in the July 2023 elections, appeared to set up the mechanism for what could be a prejudiced court by packing the supreme court with their own nominees.

Additionally, the National Civil Police and the Public Ministry carried out a raid on 31 properties in Guatemala City and other departments in search of individuals for whom arrest warrants have been issued for various crimes, including sedition and terrorism. Many have already been taken into custody. University students and professors, as well as a young former Semilla party candi-



Sir Ronald Sanders

date for congress, Marcela Blanco, are among those that will be charged with sedition.

For over a year, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights has been drawing attention “to the actions of the Public Prosecutor’s Office that jeopardize the constitutional order and the independence of the branches of government”.

On October 4, 2023, in an unequivocal statement, the IACHR noted that there is “continual interference in the electoral process in the form of interpretations of regulations and practices that effectively prevented individuals and political parties from taking part in the elections”. It also stated its concerns about the attempt to suspend the registration of the Semilla Party, as a legal entity, to prevent its members from being awarded public positions.

All these concerns have now come to pass, despite the best efforts of the member

states of the Organization of American States (OAS) and its Secretary-General, Luis Almagro.

On September 1, 2023, the Permanent Council of the OAS adopted a resolution to support an orderly transition of power in Guatemala. Almagro and his team undertook several visits to Guatemala, engaging with all parties, to try to ensure a smooth transition. But while he pointed to the dedication of representatives of Giammattei and Arévalo to achieve the handover of office on January 14, 2024, he criticised several actions of the Public Ministry. These included: raids on the offices of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal at which ballot boxes were confiscated. He described these actions as “a serious violation and deviation from representative democracy and the electoral procedure”, stating that “they have harmed the

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political will, the chain of custody, and the right that is protected in the Political Constitution of Guatemala”.

The majority of member states of the OAS shared Almagro’s anxieties over events in Guatemala. Many representatives felt that the Public Ministry had resorted to “lawfare”. Lawfare is the use of legal systems and institutions to damage or delegitimize an opponent, or to deter an individual’s usage of their legal rights. It can also be a tactic used by repressive regimes to label and discourage civil society or individuals from claiming their legal rights via national or international legal systems.

Altogether, the OAS Permanent Council met seven times to discuss the situation in Guatemala. On each occasion, the Council listened to the positions of the Guatemala delegation, and even agreed to defer consideration of a Resolution at Guatemala’s request.

However, the Council consistently expressed alarm at the actions by the Public Ministry which were seen as potentially undermining the rule of law in an effort to overturn the will of the electorate in Guatemala.

At a Council meeting on 15 November 2023, under my chairmanship, 20 countries voted in favour of a Resolution calling upon “all institutions of the State of Guatemala, including the executive, judicial and legislative branches, as well as the Public Prosecutor’s Office [-] to stop or prevent, as appropriate, any act of intimidation of electoral officials, the Movimiento Semilla party, and those who have been elected”. Only Guatemala voted against, 8 countries abstained, and 4 delegations were absent.

Regrettably, disregarding all the cautions of the IACHR and the OAS member states, and the efforts of the Secretary-General, the Public Ministry has continued its actions to manipulate the

law for a political objective – to overturn the will of the electorate, and to stop the installation of Arévalo as President of Guatemala.

However, if there is continued violation of the law, including arresting and disqualifying the elected President of Guatemala, the consequences could be grave indeed.

Every support will be given to all the branches of the government in Guatemala to take the actions necessary for respecting and upholding the electoral result. They should move to do so swiftly in the interest of maintaining democracy, the rule of law and peaceful development.

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to the United States and the Organization of American States. The views expressed are entirely his own. Responses and previous commentaries: www.sirronaldsanders.com)

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Meta calls for parental control laws for under-16s

By Tom Gerken

Meta has called for laws that would force app stores to get parental approval when a child downloads an app.

The proposal would put app stores, like those run by Apple and Google, on the hook for implementing parental controls - rather than social media companies.

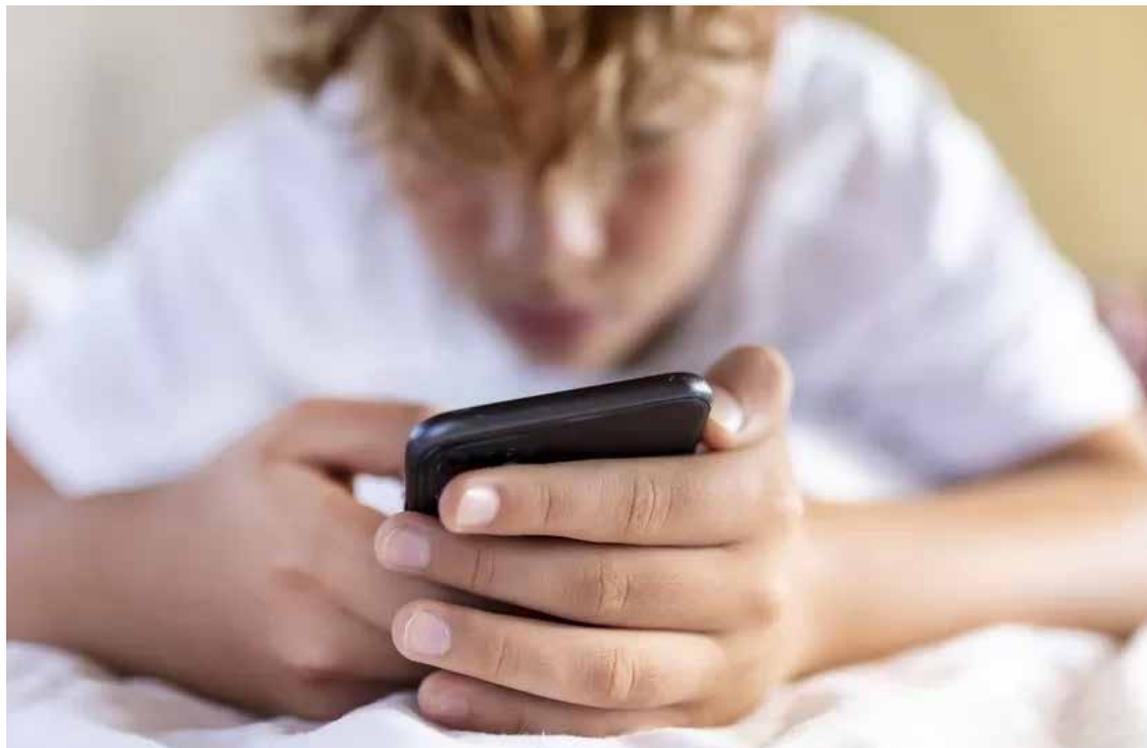
Meta, owner of Instagram and Facebook, has faced criticism for how it handles teens using its platforms.

The firm's safety chief called for a "simple, industry-wide solution" to govern children's social media use.

"Parents should approve their teen's app downloads, and we support federal legislation that requires app stores to get parents' approval whenever their teens under 16 download apps," said Meta's global head of safety, Antigone Davis, in a blog post published Wednesday.

"With this solution, when a teen wants to download an app, app stores would be required to notify their parents, much like when parents are notified if their teen attempts to make a purchase.

"Parents can decide if they want to approve the download... they can also verify the age of their



teen when setting up their phone, negating the need for everyone to verify their age multiple times across multiple apps."

The post comes as the firm faces mounting lawsuits related to its handling of child and teen use and a week after a whistleblower told the US Congress that he believed Instagram was not doing enough to protect teens from online harm.

He said his 14-year-old daughter faced sexual advances on Instagram, and he believed Meta needed to do more to combat the problem.

The former Meta employee told the BBC he believed whistleblowing meant he would not work in the tech industry again.

Meta has previously said it has introduced "over 30 tools" to support a safe online environment.

But politicians in the US are increasingly opting to pass local laws to address the problem, which could lead to a more complicated legal framework for Meta and other firms to navigate.

In March, Utah became the first state in the US to require social media firms get parental consent for children to use their apps.

Meta said it was calling for a national law.

"As an industry, we should come together with lawmakers to create simple, efficient ways for parents to oversee their teens' online experiences," Ms

Davis said.

"Legislation is needed so all apps that teens use can be held to the same standard."

Social media companies are also facing a raft of growing regulation worldwide.

In the EU, laws around data privacy have created such an issue for Meta that it has introduced a subscription fee to get around them, while it has yet to even introduce its newest social platform, Threads.

Ms Davis said placing the responsibility for parental controls on app stores would also "help to preserve privacy" by limiting how many individual companies collected "potentially sensitive identifying information".



Sean Combs and Cassie at a 2006 music awards in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Sean Combs: Singer Cassie accuses rap mogul of rape and abuse

By Max Matza

Rap artist Sean “Diddy” Combs has been accused of rape and sex trafficking by a female singer.

In a lawsuit seen by the BBC, ex-girlfriend Casandra Ventura said she was trapped for a decade in a cycle of abuse and violence.

Mr Combs - who has also gone by the stage name Puff Daddy - denies the allegations, accusing the singer of trying to extort him.

His lawyer said the claims were “offensive and outrageous”.

Ms Ventura - an R&B singer and dancer who performs under the stage name Cassie - alleges that the rap producer raped and beat her over 10 years starting when she was 19 and he was 37.

“After years in silence and darkness, I am finally ready to tell my story,” she said in a statement on Thursday.

The lawsuit includes multiple graphic descriptions of the violent abuse that she says occurred beginning after she met the rapper in 2005.

According to the complaint, Mr Combs signed her to his record label, Bad Boy, and “plied the vulnerable Ms Ventura with drugs and alcohol, causing her to fall into dangerous addictions that controlled her life”.

The lawsuit labels the musician a “serial domestic abuser, who would regularly beat and kick Ms Ventura, leaving black eyes, bruises, and blood”.

In her statement, Ms Ventura said she was ready “to speak up on behalf of myself and for the benefit of other women who face violence and abuse in their relationships”.

In a statement to BBC News, Mr Combs’ lawyer said Ms Ventura had demanded \$30m (£24m) “under the threat of writing a damaging book

about their relationship”.

His lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said the alleged demand “was unequivocally rejected as blatant blackmail”.

“Ms Ventura has now resorted to filing a lawsuit riddled with baseless and outrageous lies, aiming to tarnish Mr Combs’ reputation, and seeking a pay day,” he added.

In response to Mr Brafman, Ms Ventura’s lawyer, Doug Wigdor, said Mr Combs had offered her a payment of “eight figures to silence her and prevent the filing of this lawsuit”.

“She rejected his efforts and decided to give a voice to all woman who suffer in silence,” he said.

She released several hits in the 2000s, including songs that featured Diddy.

Her most famous tracks include Me & U, Long Way to Go and Official Girl, featuring Lil Wayne.

Regional governments want collaboration with Africa on issue of reparation

CMC - The Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) says the issue of reparations for the trans-Atlantic slave trade is a priority for the 15-member regional integration grouping.

Addressing the four-day ACCRA Reparations Conference, which entered its second day on Wednesday, Dr Carla Barnett said CARICOM leaders have agreed that collaboration with Africa on reparations is critical to moving the reparations justice agenda forward.

“They have expressed their full support for the convening of the Accra Reparations Conference as a strategic and prime opportunity to forge a common, collaborative agenda between the Caribbean and Africa on reparations”, Barnett told the conference that is being held under the theme “Building a United Front to Advance the Cause of Justice and the Payment of Reparations to Africans”.

The conference has brought together many African heads of state and government, alongside scholars, legal experts, and representatives of civil society organisations.

The CARICOM Secretary-General in a video address said the regional



Secretary General of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), Dr Carla Barnett.

leaders welcomed the update that the African Union is also seeking to develop a common position on reparations and a roadmap for future collaboration with the African diaspora on reparatory justice

“The Accra Reparations Conference is, therefore, timely to facilitate dialogue on the reparations agenda,” she said, adding that Caribbean leaders have tabled important proposals for cooperation with the African Union on reparations.

“They would welcome collaboration to co-sponsor

a resolution on reparations at the United Nations, to signal our joint commitment and our position that reparatory justice ought to receive due consideration by the United Nations”.

Barnett said the regional countries are to seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) through the United Nations General Assembly.

“We invite the African Union to join us in this campaign. We are also working to have reparations included on the agenda of key meetings of intergovernmental

bodies. We hope that we can establish appropriate mechanisms to facilitate cooperation on reparations between CARICOM and Africa, including the proposed joint CARICOM-African Union committee of legal experts.”

Barnett stated that CARICOM welcomes the establishment and excellent advocacy, consultative and research initiatives of the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent and anticipates deepening collaboration with this body, which includes two distinguished CARICOM representatives.

She said the CARICOM-Africa cooperation has increased in several areas following the First CARICOM-Africa Summit of Heads of Government held in September 2021.

“AfriCaribbean Trade and Investment Forums have been held in Barbados and Guyana in 2022 and 2023, respectively. The AU-ECOSOC Study Tour on Reparations was held in Barbados in July 2023.

“The Caribbean Community has also participated in the Reparations and Racial Healing Summit in August 2022 in Ghana and welcomes the increased

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ICJ reserves ruling in border case between Guyana and Venezuela

CMC - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has reserved its judgment on Guyana's claim that it has evidence that Venezuela intends to gain ownership of the mineral and forest-rich county of Essequibo through a referendum on December 3.

Both Guyana and Venezuela made presentations to the ICJ during two days of hearing into the case relating to the 1899 Arbitral Award after 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.

"According to the applicant, the purpose of this referendum is to "obtain responses that would support Venezuela's decision to abandon [the current proceedings before the Court], and to resort instead to unilateral measures to 'resolve' the controversy with Guyana by formally annexing



International Court of Justice.

and integrating into Venezuela all of the territory at issue in these proceedings, which comprises more than two-thirds of Guyana," the ICJ said.

The 15-member CARICOM grouping, the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organization of American States (OAS) have also rejected the referendum stating that international law strictly prohibits the Government of one State from unilaterally seizing, annexing or incorporating the territory of another state and noted that

the referendum will open the door to the possible violation of this fundamental tenet of international law.

ICJ President, Judge Joan Donoghue at the end of the public hearings on Wednesday informed the parties that they would be advised in due course as to the day on which the court will deliver its ruling.

"I shall request both agents to remain at the court's disposal to provide any additional information the court may require. The court will render its order on the request for the indi-

cation of provisional measures submitted by Guyana as soon as possible," Judge Donoghue said.

Guyana applied to the ICJ in 2018 to have the 1899 Arbitral Award, which established the border between Venezuela and the then-British Guiana, confirmed as legally enforceable. The 1899 ruling was likewise cited in this application as a 'full, perfect, and final settlement' of all issues pertaining to drawing the borders between Venezuela and the British Guiana province.

cont'd from pg 16

focus on the return of stolen cultural property to both the Caribbean and Africa."

She urged the conference to seize the moment and ensure that CARICOM, Africa and others from the diaspora speak with one voice to advance the just and strong call for reparations for the crimes against humanity

of native genocide, the trans-Atlantic trade in enslaved Africans and chattel enslavement.

Meanwhile, Ghanaian President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo has called for reparations for Africa saying reparations must go along with the restitution of African cultural properties stolen from the continent.

"The effects of the slave trade have

been devastating to the continent and the African diaspora. The entire period of slavery meant that our progress, economically, culturally, and psychologically, was stifled," he said.

"It is time for Africa's 20 million of whose sons and daughters had their freedoms curtailed and sold into slavery, also to receive reparations," he added.

Canadian man guilty of Muslim family's murders in Ontario

By Nadine Yousif

A Canadian man has been convicted of murder in the 2021 killings of a Muslim family in London, Ontario after an eleven-week trial.

But the jury did not specify whether Nathaniel Veltman, 22, was motivated by terrorism when he killed four members of the Afzaal family.

Veltman ran down the family with his truck while they were walking together.

The case was the first time Canada's terrorism laws had been argued before a jury at a first-degree murder trial.

Jury deliberations are secret under Canadian law, and jurors did not have to specify whether they believed the killer was motivated by terrorism.

The 12-person jury returned the verdict after less than six hours of deliberation.

Salman Afzaal, 46, and his wife Madiha Salman, 44, were killed in the attack - along with their daughter Yumna Afzaal, 15, and Mr Afzaal's mother Talat Afzaal, 74.

The couple's nine-year-old son was seriously hurt but survived.

The guilty verdict was delivered to a packed courtroom in Windsor's Superior Courthouse on Thursday.

One person handed out tissues for those walking into court, many of whom were members of London, Ontar-



From left to right: Yumna Afzaal, Madiha Salman, Salman's mother Talat Afzaal, and Salman Afzaal were "the best" of their community, friends said.

io's Muslim community and friends of the Afzaals.

Reporters inside the room said spectators were visibly emotional as they heard the guilty verdicts being read.

Veltman, who was reported to be inside the courtroom wearing all black, did not react.

His lawyer, Christopher Hicks, said his client was shocked at the verdict.

Speaking to reporters outside the courthouse, relatives of the Afzaal family said that while the verdict does not bring their family back, it did give them some solace.

They added that the trial was a reminder that work is still needed to address hatred in all forms in Canada.

"This wasn't just a crime against the Muslim community, but rather, an attack

against the safety and security of all Canadians," said Tabinda Bukhari on behalf of the family.

The National Council of Muslims (NCCM) said they were "relieved that justice has been served".

"The attack that happened over two years ago changed Canadian Muslims' relationship with their country," said NCCM head Omar Khamissa. "For the first time for many of us, we felt unsafe and targeted just for walking down the street."

During the trial, prosecutors sought to argue that Veltman was motivated by hate and white nationalist ideologies when he jumped the curb with his truck and struck the Afzaal family, who were Pakistani-Canadian Muslims on 6 June 2021.

Both the defence and

prosecutors agree that Veltman was behind the wheel that day, but he had pleaded not guilty, arguing that he suffers from mental illness.

In his closing arguments, Crown lawyer Fraser Ball said Veltman intended to send a "clear message" with his actions and to make "all Muslims fearful for their safety".

The jury heard evidence of a document left behind by Veltman and found shortly by police after his arrest that outlined his hatred for Muslims.

They also heard that he had begun to obsessively consume far-right and anti-Muslim content online during the Covid-19 pandemic. Taking the stand in his own defence during the trial, Veltman said he was scarred by a strict Christian upbringing and

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Breonna Taylor: Jury deadlocks over ex-officer Brett Hankison's fate

The federal trial of an ex-police officer accused of violating Breonna Taylor's civil rights has ended in a mistrial with a deadlocked jury.

It marks the second time Brett Hankison has avoided a conviction relating to the case, after he was found not guilty on state charges last year.

Ms Taylor was killed in a botched 2020 police raid in Kentucky. Her death sparked mass racial injustice rallies.

It was not immediately clear whether prosecutors would seek a re-trial.

The nine-day trial had revolved around whether Mr Hankison's use of force had violated the rights of Ms Taylor, her boyfriend Kenneth Walker and her next-door neighbours.

Mr Hankison fired 10 rounds through Ms Taylor's window and door as officers sought to execute a "no-knock" search warrant at her apartment on 13 March 2020.

Another officer, Myles Cosgrove, fired the shot that killed Ms Taylor. The shots Mr Hankison fired did not strike anyone, but some landed in the neighbouring apart-



ment, which was home to a young child.

On the stand in Louisville, the ex-detective admitted he could not see a target but believed a shootout was taking place and acted to save his and his fellow officers' lives.

Jurors were in their fourth day of deliberations over the two counts against Mr Hankison when they told the judge on Thursday that they could not come to a decision.

District Judge Rebecca Grady Jennings had earlier urged the 12-member, mostly white, panel to keep trying to reach a verdict after they indicated they were at an im-

passee, the Associated Press reported.

She told the court that security officials in the building had to visit the jury room in response to "elevated voices" heard during the deliberations, the outlet added.

The dual deprivation-of-rights charges against Mr Hankison, 47, carried a maximum sentence of life in prison.

He was the only officer who fired his weapon during the raid to be criminally charged by the government.

In March 2022, a Kentucky state jury spent about three hours in deliberation before finding Mr Hankison

not guilty on three counts of felony wanton endangerment during the incident.

But three other former officers involved with the raid have been charged in separate federal cases.

One of them, Kelly Goodlett, has pleaded guilty and is expected to testify against the others, Joshua Jaynes and Kyle Meany, in their joint trial next year.

The raid was part of a sprawling drug investigation, but no drugs were ultimately found in Ms Taylor's home.

In December, Mr Walker received a \$2m (£1.7m) settlement from the city over the incident.

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struggled with an obsessive compulsive disorder.

He also said that he was left detached from reality after taking magic mushrooms in the days before running the family down.

He admitted that the thought of run-

ning over Muslims came to him twice after taking the drug, but he resisted. Then, while out for food, he said he saw the family and could not stop the "urge".

Justice Renee Pomerance thanked the jurors for their verdict, saying that it has been "a long trial and a challenging trial".

Veltman will be sentenced at a later date. Under Canadian law, punishment for first-degree murder is life in prison with no parole for 25 years.

But Justice Pomerance may take other factors into consideration during the sentencing, including whether the murders were an act of terrorism.

ECAB stay unbeaten in business volleyball league

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) has remained the only unbeaten team in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League competition.

ECAB, which captured the runner-up spot in last year's competition, extended their unbeaten run to six consecutive wins by beating the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) 2-0 at the indoor volleyball stadium at

the YMCA Sports Complex on Wednesday night.

ECAB won their latest encounter 25-12, 25-18, and now leads the 11-team round-robin competition with a perfect six wins from as many games.

The ABIIT slumped to their fourth loss in as many encounters to join newcomers Royalton second from the bottom of the standings with identical records.

Reigning champions APUA INET notched up



The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) has remained the only unbeaten team in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League competition. (File photo)

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Ticket Outlets Antigua: Landing Strip, Roti King, Eighteen Plus 1 Restaurant

Ticket Outlets Montserrat: Beni's Jewelry, Summer Breeze Restaurant



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VENUE: COURTYARD

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Australia edge South Africa to set up final against India

KOLKATA (Reuters) - Five-time champions Australia battled through to Sunday's final of the 50-over World Cup against India with a nervy three-wicket win against South Africa in the second semi-final on Thursday.

Australia laid the foundations for a place in the final after bowling out South Africa for a below-par 212 despite David Miller's defiant 101 at the Eden Gardens.

The chase, however, was not as straightforward as Pat Cummins and his team would have liked.

Man-of-the-match Travis Head (62) led their rollicking start before a mid-innings wobble put Australia in a spot of bother.

South Africa did not let big partnerships bloom but their inadequate total meant Australia eventually prevailed with 16 balls to spare to make the final for the eighth time.

"Nerve-wracking couple of hours but great effort and a great game," said Cummins, who was especially pleased



Australia's captain Pat Cummins and Mitchell Starc celebrate their win in the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup second semifinal match with South Africa in Kolkata, India, Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023. (AP)

with his side's fielding.

"It's something we talk a lot about. It wasn't up to scratch at the start of the tournament."

The chase has not been South Africa's forte in the tournament and Temba

Bavuma's decision to bat first under an overcast sky seemed to be a no-brainer.

Bavuma played the match despite not having fully recovered from a hamstring strain and his four-ball duck suggested sitting out

would probably have been a wiser decision for him.

Australia ramped up the pressure with their electric fielding and Cummins led by example, taking a brilliant catch to send back the other South African opener Quinton de Kock.

Australia were so dominant that South Africa had to wait until the ninth over for their first boundary and were 18-2 after their 10 powerplay overs.

It soon snowballed into a full-fledged crisis and South Africa slumped to 24-4 in the 12th over.

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their fifth win in six outings by securing a 25-15, 28-26 victory against 77 Bus, which succumbed to their sixth loss in eight encounters.

Sandals and Nate's Photography also recorded wins in their latest outings. The Sandals beat the ICONS 2-1 by prevailing 20-25, 25-15, and 17-15 to claim their fourth win in seven games.

Nate's Photography notched up their fifth win in six encounters by beating Royalton 25-12, 25-16.

The business volleyball league will continue with a double-header at the YMCA Sports Complex on Saturday evening. Royalton will take on ECAB in the opening encounter at 6:30 pm, and ABIIT will face the Media in the second game at 7:30 pm.



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AGHS return to winning form in Under-20 Girls division

The Antigua Girls High School (AGHS) returned to winning ways in the Under-20 Girls Division of the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League on Wednesday.

After suffering their first and only loss to division leaders Princess Margaret School (PMS) in their previous outing, the players of Antigua Girls High School rebounded to snatch a 1-0 victory against St. Anthony's Secondary School at the PMS playing field.

National Under-15 team forward Nafisa Quashie scored the lone goal of the match in the fourth minute to give Antigua Girls High School their third win in four encounters.

The result means that Antigua Girls High School rejoins Princess Margaret School, which has only played three matches, at the top of the Under-20 Girls Division with nine points apiece.

St. Anthony's Secondary School, which lost to Clare Hall Secondary in their previous outing, remains on four points from four matches after suffering back-to-back losses.

After picking up their first win and points by beating St. Anthony's Secondary in the previous outing, Clare Hall Secondary

were held to a 2-2 draw by Jennings Secondary at the Golden Grove playing field.

All Saints Secondary

and St. Joseph's Academy recorded wins in an Under-14 Boys Division double-header at the Clare Hall Secondary School

playing field.

St. Joseph's Academy romped to an emphatic 4-0 victory against Sir Novelle Richards Academy.



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PRESENT

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NOVEMBER 18TH, 2023
TIME: 6PM
FREE ENTRY

PERFORMERS INCLUDE:
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FAMILY | MR & MISS TEENAGE PAGEANT 2023 and many more....

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1

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- Before eating or handling food
- After using the bathroom
- After touching pets or animals
- After handling rubbish

2

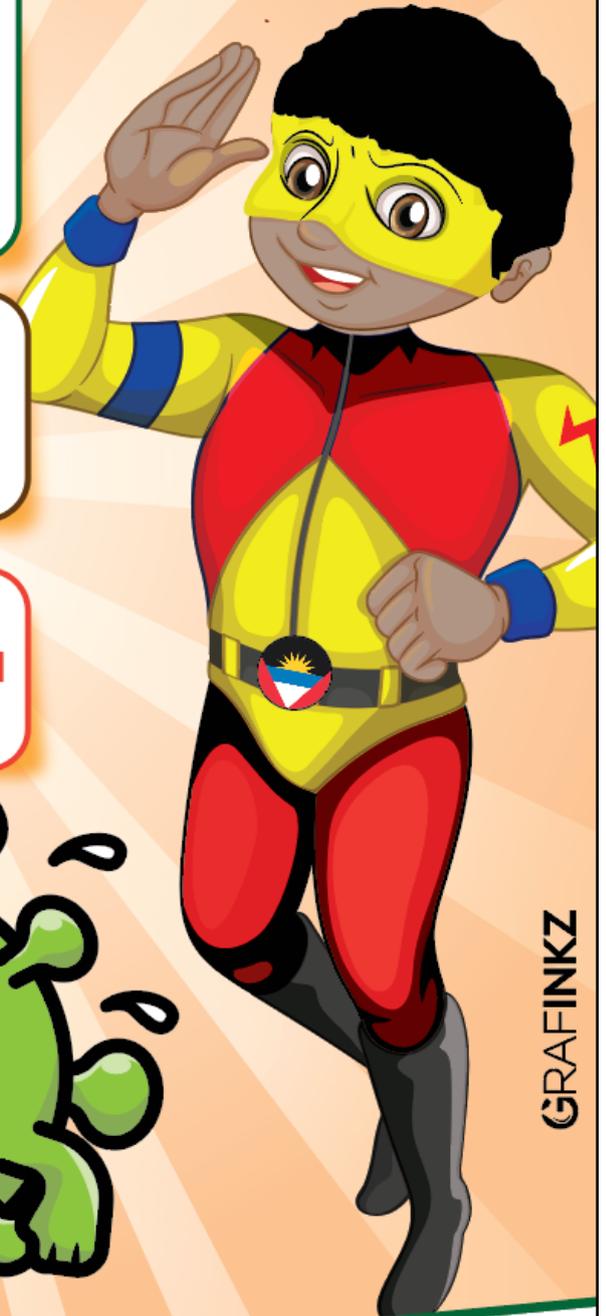
CATCH YOUR COUGH OR SNEEZE IN A CLEAN TISSUE, AND TOSS IN THE BIN

- Then wash your hands or use hand sanitizer

3

AVOID PUTTING YOUR HANDS IN YOUR EYES, EARS, NOSE OR MOUTH

- Germs spread this way



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Warriors' Draymond Green suspended five games by NBA

NEW YORK (AP) — The NBA has suspended Golden State's Draymond Green for five games for grabbing Minnesota's Rudy Gobert around the neck "in an unsportsmanlike and dangerous manner," the league said Wednesday night.

Also penalized by the league for their roles in the incident, which happened early in Tuesday's game between the Timberwolves and Warriors, were Gobert, his Minnesota teammate Jaden McDaniels and Golden State guard Klay Thompson — all fined US\$25,000 by the league.

But Green will pay the biggest price, both in terms of games missed and money lost. The suspension will cost him US\$769,704 in forfeited salary.

"The length of the suspension is based in part on Green's history of unsportsmanlike acts," the NBA said in the release announcing the penalties.

Those sanctions were handed down by Joe Dumars, the NBA's Executive Vice President and Head of Basketball Operations - and a longtime mentor of Green's.

The incident started when Thompson and McDaniels "became entangled and were grabbing and pulling at one another's jerseys," the NBA said, and



Golden State Warriors' Klay Thompson, front, and Draymond Green, back, get into an altercation with Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert, middle, during the first half of an in-season NBA tournament basketball game in San Francisco, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2023. All three were ejected. (AP)

got further out of hand when Gobert got involved and put his arms around Thompson.

Green got involved not long after that, wrapping his arm around Gobert's neck.

Thompson and McDaniels were each assessed a technical foul and ejected, while Green was assessed a Flagrant Foul 2 for grabbing Gobert. That category of flagrant comes with an automatic ejection, which was Green's second in Golden State's last

three games.

Gobert voiced his displeasure with his fine after Wednesday night's game against the Suns.

Green will miss home games Thursday and Saturday against Oklahoma City, another home game Monday against Houston, a road game with Phoenix on Nov. 22, and then a home NBA In-Season Tournament game against San Antonio on Nov. 24.

He would be eligible to return Nov. 28 at Sacramento.

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top-ranked League A teams: Canada, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the United States.

After home-and-away play, the aggregate score winner in each quarterfinal pairing will advance to both the 2023/24 Concacaf Nations League Finals and the 2024 CONMEBOL Copa America.

The four losing quarterfinalists will still have an opportunity to qualify for next summer's Copa America via a single-match direct elimination play-in, where they will play for the two remaining slots for Concacaf teams.

The 2023/24 Concacaf Nations League Finals and the play-in will take place in March 2024.

Heading into the tournament's fourth edition, promotion and relegation between leagues will take place after the matches in November, as follows:

League A: Fifth- and sixth-place finishers will be relegated to League B. League B: Group winners will be promoted to League A, and fourth-place finishers

will be relegated to League C.

League C: Group winners and the best second-place finisher will be promoted to League B.

The 2024/25 Concacaf Nations League will be played during the FIFA Match Windows of September, October, and November 2024, followed by the finals in March 2025.

Benna Boys to resume battle in Nations League

Antigua and Barbuda's senior Benna Boys will be seeking to win their last two matches and avoid relegation to League C when they resume battle in Group D of League B in the CONCACAF Nations League this weekend.

The Benna Boys, who are currently in third place in the four-team Group D with four points from four matches, will host second-place Puerto Rico in their penultimate encounter at the ABFA's Technical Center at Paynters on Saturday at 3 pm.

The Antigua Benna Boys, who were hammered 5-0 by Puerto Rico in the second round of group play, will hope to avoid a similar fate against their Spanish-speaking opponents, who have six points from their previous four matches.

Guyana, which is already assured of finishing as group winners by virtue of winning all four previous matches to top the standings with 12 points, will face the Bahamas in the other Group D encounter at the Estadio Félix Sánchez in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Saturday at 6 pm.

The Bahamas, who are



Players of the Antigua and Barbuda's senior Benna Boys team. (ABFA)

bottom of the group on one point that they picked up in the previous outing away to Antigua and Barbuda, will be seeking to ascend from the cellar and avoid being relegated to League C at the end of the competition.

Antigua and Barbuda will face Guyana in the final Group D encounter at the Estadio Félix Sánchez in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on Tuesday, November 21, at 8 pm.

Puerto Rico will also host the Bahamas in the other Group D encounter at the Es-

tadio Juan Ramón Loubriel in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, on Tuesday at 8 pm.

The Group D League B schedule is part of the 2023/24 Concacaf Nations League matches, which will be take place during the November FIFA men's match window.

They are among the 30 final matches that will be played between November 16 and 21, 2023.

The schedule includes the quarterfinals for League A, which will determine the four teams that will advance to the

2023/24 Concacaf Nations League Finals and qualify for the 2024 CONMEBOL Copa America, and the conclusion of group stage play for Leagues B and C.

The Concacaf Nations League's third edition began in September and was followed by a series of compelling matches across the region in October.

After the completion of group stage play for League A, the two top teams from each group advanced to the quarterfinals, joining the four

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