

# SIR MOLWYN REJECTS 'COVER-UP' CLAIMS



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*Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph*

## Sir Molwyn rejects 'cover-up' claims

Health Minister Sir Molwyn Joseph is rejecting in the strongest terms the suggestions that are being made in the public space, of a 'cover-up' by him or other senior members of the ministry, over the death of 27-year-old Lateefa George as 'absolute rubbish.'

Sir Molwyn was speaking at a press conference on Tuesday that was called to reassure the public that the investigation into the young woman's death is being handled and is now in the hands of a coroner's inquest. Therefore, neither he nor anyone in the government has anything to do with the matter.

He said he enjoys a close relationship with the family who live in Jennings, where he also resides. "I am personally hurt by some of the comments I heard in the public space, with allegations of a 'cover-up' and I want to address that. Let it be known that

this matter in terms of an investigation has nothing to do with the government; it has to do with our law, which is a coroner's inquest," he explained.

The minister quoted the relevant section of the law – Cap 105 of the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda – to re-emphasize the point that the matter is out of his hands and therefore there was no opportunity for any cover-up by anyone.

George was found unresponsive at Clarevue Psychiatric Hospital on 31st October and the Emergency Medical Services were summoned.

EMTs transported George to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLB-MC), but the circumstances surrounding her death remain a mystery and are the subject of an inquiry. Reports are that senior members of the Ministry of Health received no notification of the death and only learned of the incident



Lateefa George

from social media reports.

During the press conference, Sir Molwyn said claims of interference to possibly prejudice the outcome of the investigation are erroneous. He said

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## Trinidad and Tobago trade mission currently visiting Antigua and Barbuda

A trade mission from the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association is currently in Antigua and Barbuda on a four-day visit to drum up business opportunities and develop business contacts.

Executive Director of the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Martin Cave, said the mission comprises representatives from fourteen companies that are desirous of doing business with companies here in St. John's or

seeking out investment opportunities.

The ABCCI serves as consultants and coordinators for the mission, which according to Cave, is seeking to expand or to establish business contacts in St. John's and to speak with other business leaders about opportunities for expansion or for investments into new ventures.

Among the activities planned are a 'Doing Business Seminar', a Cocktail, a networking session to meet

with delegates, and Business to Business meetings (B2B).

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence E. Pilgrim delivered brief remarks at the 'Doing Business Seminar,' held on Tuesday. He expressed his delight in addressing the TTMA and considers the trade mission as an extremely timely endeavour, as it allows for the establishment and facilitation of trading opportunities. It seeks to explore any potential local, regional, and even international business opportunities to create a seamless network of buyers, agents, and suppliers in both territories.

Antigua and Barbuda and Trinidad and Tobago are both existing members of the regional trading and integration movement, CARICOM, and also by extension the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME).

The presence of quality distinct standards accompanying regional products and services must be ever-present, and consistent features for this will give the 'cutting



*Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade, Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim speaks to members of the T&T trade mission.*

edge of competitiveness' in all spheres.

Ambassador Pilgrim is of the view that the working model/example of the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association (TTMA) and manufacturers here in Antigua and Barbuda, can likewise benefit, and in so doing, can gain traction to re-energize and re-invigorate our local manufacturing association.

"The creation of connections and the opening of doors are critical to the foundation and success of any trade mission," he observed. The trade ministry official also expressed thanks to the organizers – the Antigua and Barbuda Chamber of Industry and Commerce.



*Permanent Secretary Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim exchanges a gift with a member of the T&T trade mission.*

### **cont'd from pg 2**

the law is clear on how matters such as the inquiry into Lateefa George's death should be handled and it excludes him and Ministry of Health officials from taking the lead.

Sir Molwyn contends that the unnecessary attention the matter is receiving is doing no good to the parents and relatives of

the deceased woman, who was from Saint Mary's North.

The health minister revealed that he received a report on the matter under investigation on Monday, and expressed dissatisfaction that the very report submitted to him has found its way into the public space.

# Local News

## Multi-agency collaboration for a cleaner St. John's City

In an exemplary display of National Agency synergy and commitment to the overall public health, proper disposal of waste, and beautification of the City of St. John's, several Government Agencies have teamed up and have commenced work within the city of St. John's and its environs, to improve the overall esthetics of the city. The St. John's Development Cooperation (SJDC), the Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA), the Central Board of Health (CBH), and the Ministry of Works (MOW) are among some of the agencies partnering, to present a cleaner and environmentally friendly city for both locals and visitors alike.

Chairman of the Central Board of Health Mr. Winston Williams commit-



Winston Williams

ted the agency's immediate attention and resources in an effort to restore and maintain the cleanliness in the historic city. In addition to increased inspections, and timely vector control measures throughout the city, the chairman

also committed the CBH to engaging in a number of national public awareness campaigns with the primary focus on food providers, such as restaurants and bars, food vendors, and other businesses, on the importance of proper waste disposal to include food, food waste, liquid waste and their proper Management, all of which will slow the increase rate of rodents and other harmful pollutants. We will in the coming weeks develop a comprehensive action plan to address waste disposal, littering, and homelessness in our city. This action plan will:

- \* Allocate resources and personnel efficiently to coordinate and implement cleanup initiatives.

- \* Coordinate with other government

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agencies to develop outreach programs to connect homeless individuals with suitable shelter, food, and social services care.

\* Enforce strict anti-littering regulations and educate the public on responsible waste disposal as well as personal responsibility for cleanliness for both homeowners and businesses alike. Develop and implement improved regulations in collaboration with our stakeholder partners such as the National Solid Waste Management Authority to guide business owners and visitors alike to our city on best practices to maintain a sustainable environmentally friendly city.

We all have a part to play in the overall care not just the city of St. John's but all of Antigua and Barbuda. The Central Board of Health, in the coming days, will revisit key policies to make strong recommendations to several Agencies such as the St. John's Development Cooperation on the provision of strategically placed user-friendly litter receptacles throughout the City, improved and enhanced regulations on the handling, disposal and collection of food waste within the City. Nightly cleaning and sanitation (where necessary) of our city streets, to ensure greater cleanliness. The Central Board of Health in partnership with other Government agencies will strengthen its comprehensive action plan to address waste disposal education, littering, and homelessness in our city.

\* Seek to allocate resources and personnel efficiently to implementing regular cleanup initiatives in partnership with the NSWMA.

\* Collaborate with the relevant agencies to establish outreach programs to connect homeless individuals with much-needed shelter, food, and social services care.

\* Enforce where applicable, strict anti-littering regulations in partnership with the relevant agencies and provide appropriate public educational tools on

all matters about Public Health incorporation with personal responsibility to cleanliness for both homeowners and businesses alike.

By bringing these agencies together, we can pool our resources, expertise, and manpower to make a substantial difference in the cleanliness of our city. Our city deserves better, and with a coordinated response, we can reclaim its beauty and ensure a brighter future for all residents. This collective initiative, spearheaded by the St. John's De-

velopment Cooperation, in partnership with other agencies, local businesses, and community groups, will result in a substantial improvement in the overall cleanliness of our city. Through a series of strategic community educational campaigns, and proactive actions, we will not only tackle visible challenges but also stand ready to deal with future challenges as they present themselves.

**Winston Williams**

*Chairman*

*Central Board of Health*

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# Local News



## Sherrian Phillip is ABHTA's Hospitality Professional of the Week

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) has named Sherrian Phillip as this week's featured professional in its "Unveiling Hospitality Professionals" series. Sherrian currently serves as the Housekeeping Manager at Jumby Bay Island, an Oetker Collection Masterpiece Hotel.

With over fourteen years of experience in the hospitality industry, Sherrian's journey is marked by dedication, passion, and the continuous pursuit of excellence. Her ca-

reer commenced at Caribbean Airport Services Handling Company, where she contributed her skills to Leeward Island Air Transport (LIAT) and British West Indies Airways (BWIA). During this period, Sherrian discovered her love for hospitality, prompting her transition from the airline to the hotel industry, starting as a Front Office Agent at Jolly Beach Resort and Spa.

In 2007, Sherrian was honored with the Caribbean Hotel Association and Board of Education Scholarship, setting the stage for her educational pursuits in the Tourism Industry. After completing her studies, she joined Jumby Bay Resort Ltd. in 2009 and quickly rose up the ranks, earning accolades such as the Leading Quality Assurance Outstanding Award and Supervisor of the Quarter nominations.

Sherrian's career took an international turn in 2013 when she was selected to supervise the Front Office team at Rosewood Tucker's Point,

Bermuda. Her achievements during this time included the Leading Quality Assurance Outstanding Award and Manager of the Year in 2014.

Despite her success, Sherrian remained committed to continuous learning, achieving a Summa Cum Laude Award in the Bachelor of Business Administration in Hospitality Management from Monroe College in June 2017.

Currently managing the Housekeeping and Laundry departments at Jumby Bay Island, Sherrian is furthering her knowledge in hospitality through a Certified Hospitality Housekeeping Executive Online course. Her dedica-

tion to growth and excellence is encapsulated in her personal mantra, "Small beginnings bring great rewards," emphasizing the importance of passion, love, and drive in achieving one's dreams.

The Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association takes pride in recognizing Sherrian Phillip's remarkable journey and commitment to the highest standards in hospitality. Through the "Unveiling Hospitality Professionals" series, ABHTA aims to inspire the next generation of professionals aspiring to make significant contributions to the dynamic and rewarding field of hospitality.

### Unveiling Hospitality Professionals

**Sherrian Phillip**  
Housekeeping Manager  
Jumby Bay Island



### Community Notice

Sons & Daughters of Willikies cordially invite all to its upcoming village reunion, from Thursday, 21st December to Sunday, 31st December 2023. The reunion activities will start with a church service at the Lion of Judah Wesleyan Holiness Church. Meet and Greet follows, along with the collecting of reunion material.

Reunion activities include a Night of Caroling, a Bus Tour, Sports Day, a Food Fair, a Gala dinner, and a Beach Picnic at Long Bay.

Gala tickets are currently available, and payment is being accepted. For further details on the reunion, please call 784-7214 or 773-9160.





# Why the poor results in Mathematics?

**By Derrick Nicholas**

The debate around the consistent, some say persistent less than acceptable pass rate in the area of Mathematics for Antigua and Barbuda continues to rage both offline and online. To be fair, public school students are the major contributors to these less-than-acceptable outcomes.

This writer is convinced of a few facts: (i) not all teachers of Mathematics are well versed in the subject, (ii) even those teachers who are 'versed' in the subject have not kept up to date with new methods of delivery, (iii) not enough time is dedicated to mental Math, and (iv) many parents are unable to provide their children with the kind of support that is required at home.

It is no secret that some Mathematics teachers are not well-versed in the subject. In fact, there are teachers who simply refuse to teach certain topics, because of their own inefficiency or lack of knowledge. As a consequence, their students are left to either fend for themselves or seek help elsewhere.

Mathematics, like any other subject, keeps evolving: the core principles remain the same, but the methods of delivery are constantly being updated. Math

teachers need to be aware of these updates so that they can pass them on to their students. There is no such thing as 'new' Math. Instead, there are new, easier ways of solving

centuries-old problems.

It appears that not enough time is being dedicated to mental Math. This is a fatal error since critical thinking is required in order

to develop competency. Students' propensity to use the calculator at first instance to solve simple problems will have dire consequences

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# Commentary

*cont'd from pg 7*

for future employers. Additionally, many students try to memorize concepts rather than understand them. Therein lies the biggest chal-

lenge to being competent in Mathematics.

As mentioned in a previous article, some parents feel intimidated when it comes to Mathematics, and are there-

fore reluctant to engage with the subject.

The end result is that many students are left deprived of the help they so desperately need. This ought

not to be, especially since so much help is available. Get familiar with new ways/methods of teaching math.

This will make it easier for you to provide help to your child. Even if you cannot help your child with Math, encourage him/her to practice. If you feel the task is greater than you, get help from a tutor. As parents, our first responsibility is to our children.

Mathematics is a core subject for any course of study or line of employment. The need for persons to be functionally literate in Mathematics is therefore very important. The lack of functional literacy in Mathematics is evidenced all around us – in the offices, shops, and supermarkets.



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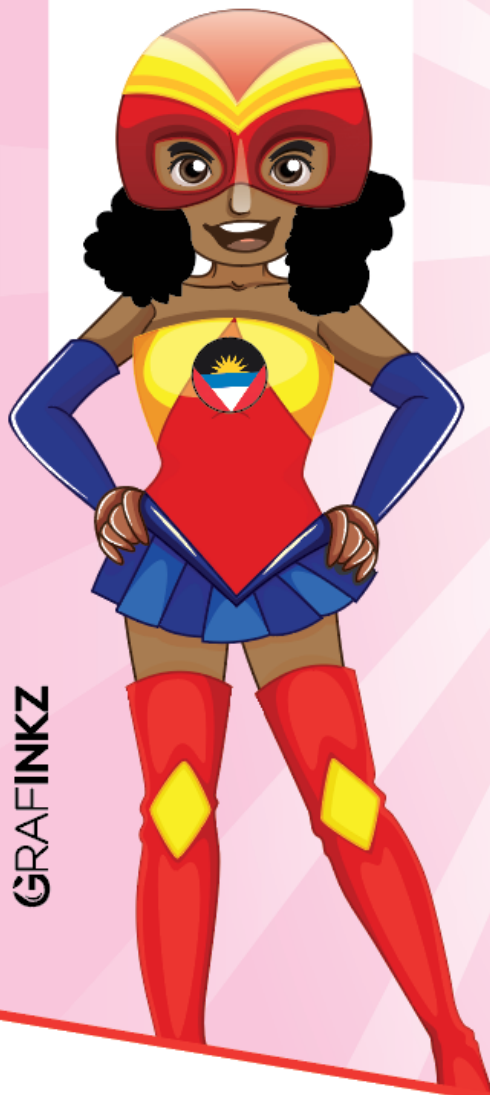
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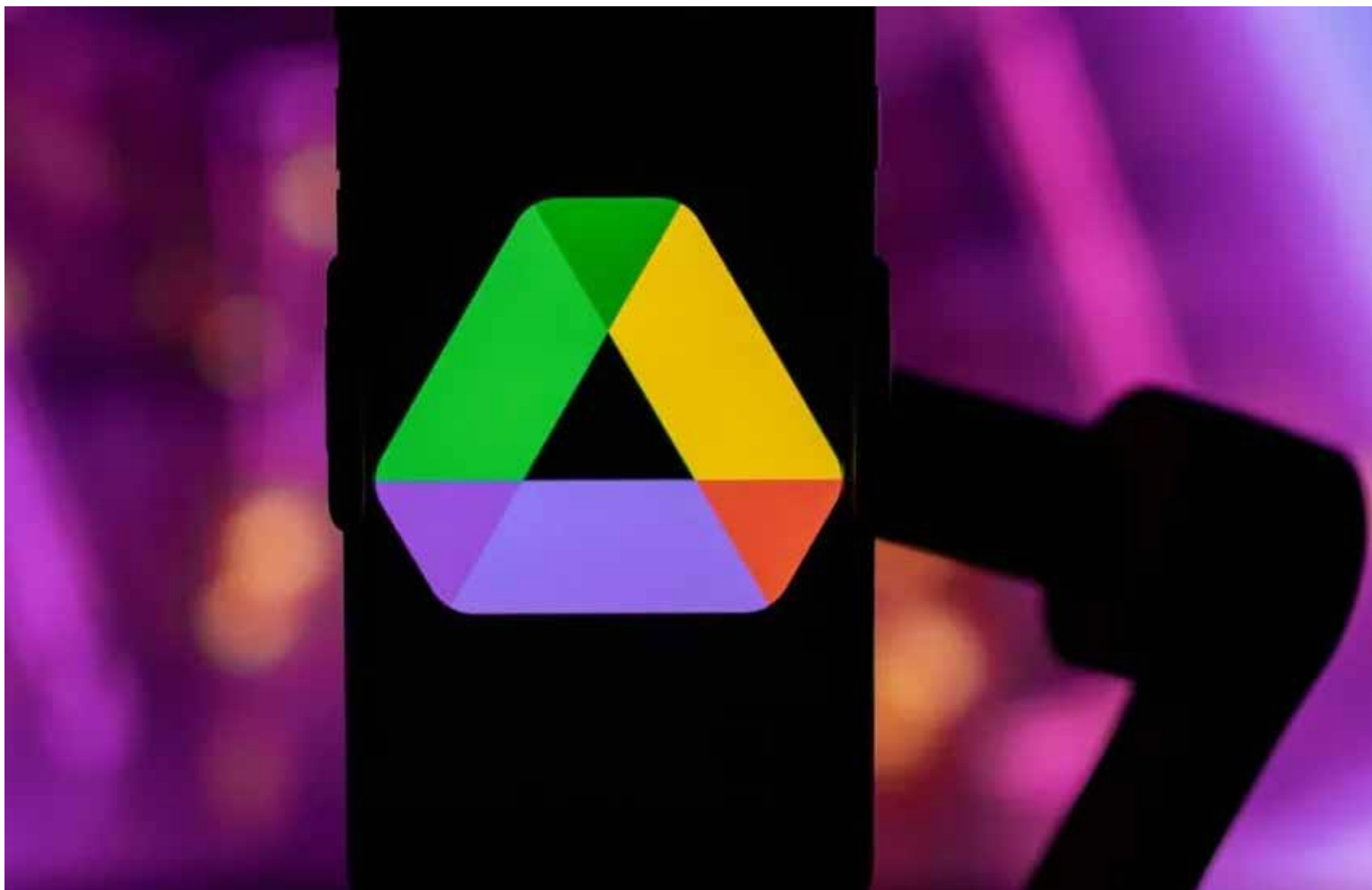
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## Anger as some Google cloud customers locked out of files

Google Drive users have reacted angrily to a glitch leaving some unable to access files from the last six months.

Google said it was investigating the issue which is affecting some users of its hugely popular cloud storage service.

The problem was first reported on 22 November by a user who said their Drive had reset to a May 2023 version.

It is not known how many customers are affected, but people in multiple countries have reported problems.

Drive is part of Google Workspace, a suite of applications which has more than three billion users worldwide.

Users reacted angrily on Google's support site, with one calling it "very devastating", adding "the files are very important to me".

Others said they had lost files from recent months - and wrote of the stress it was causing them.

"This is crazy and not a dependable cloud service," one commented. "In a panic!" they added.

Another posted: "I pay for this service every month and will pursue legal action if needed. Unacceptable and highly aggravating."

The original poster, who was using Drive for Desktop on Windows, says none of the fixes suggested by Google so far have worked.

In their post on the forum, Google said they were investigating the reports and would "follow up with more updates".

They suggest that people do not disconnect their account in the Drive

for desktop app, and do not delete or move the app data folder.

They also recommend making a copy of the folder, if users are able to.

Enza Ianopollo, a data privacy expert at analyst firm Forrester, said the situation was a "big deal" for Google.

She said it was "very, very necessary" for the tech giant to give users a full explanation of what had happened.

"Not just in terms of 'wait, your data will appear back,' but really understanding what happened to the data", she told the BBC.

Ms Ianopollo said business customers in particular would need to know exactly when and if their files had been accessed or altered - because it would be them rather than Google who would be liable for any data loss.



## New report warns Caribbean countries could lose land to sea level rise

CMC – A new report is warning that several Caribbean countries including Jamaica without shoreline defences could permanently lose five per cent or more of their cities to sea level rises by the end of the century.

“Without shoreline defenses, under a worst-case warming scenario by the end of the century, five per cent or more of the following cities are projected to fall permanently below sea level, namely, Guayaquil, Ecuador, Barranquilla, Colombia, Santos, Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Kingston, Jamaica, Cotonou, Benin, Kolkata, India, Perth, Australia, Newcastle, Australia and Sydney, Australia,” said the report.

New hyperlocal data released Tuesday by Human Climate Horizons, a collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Climate Impact Lab (CIL), notes that the extent of coastal flooding has increased over the past 20 years as a result of sea level rise.

It said as a result, 14 million more people worldwide now live in coastal communities with a one-in-20 annual chance of flooding with global greenhouse gas emissions (SSP2-4.5) projected



by the end of the century to expand this one-in-20 floodplain to areas currently populated by nearly 73 million people.

The new hyperlocal data maps in detail the fivefold increase in susceptibility to flood damage along the world's densely populated coastlines with the authors saying the data platform makes it possible to see where sea-level rise impacts may most threaten homes and infrastructure.

They said hundreds of highly populated cities will face increased flood risk by mid-century, relative to a future without climate change. This includes land home to roughly five per cent of the

population of coastal cities such as Kingston, Jamaica.

Flood risk exposure is anticipated to double to 10 per cent of the population by the end of the century.

The study found that many low-lying regions along the coasts of Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and Southeast Asia may face a severe threat of permanent inundation, part of an alarming trend with the potential to trigger a reversal in human development in coastal communities worldwide.

“By 2100, climate change is expected to cause the submergence of a significant share of land (>5 per cent) in the following

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Associate Members of United Nations Regional Commissions: Bahamas, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Turks and Caicos, Tuvalu, and Seychelles,” the report said.

It notes that at the highest levels of global warming (SSP5-8.5), approximately 160,000 square kilometres of coastal land, an area larger than the territory of Greece or Bangladesh, would be inundated by 2100, compared to a future with no climate change.

This includes the United Arab Emirates, which is

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# Guyana: Schoolgirl nursing gunshot wound

A 21-year-old man was arrested in Guyana after a 14-year-old girl had to be treated for a suspected gunshot wound to her left thumb.

The matter came to light and was reported to police after the female patient sought treatment at a health centre yesterday afternoon.

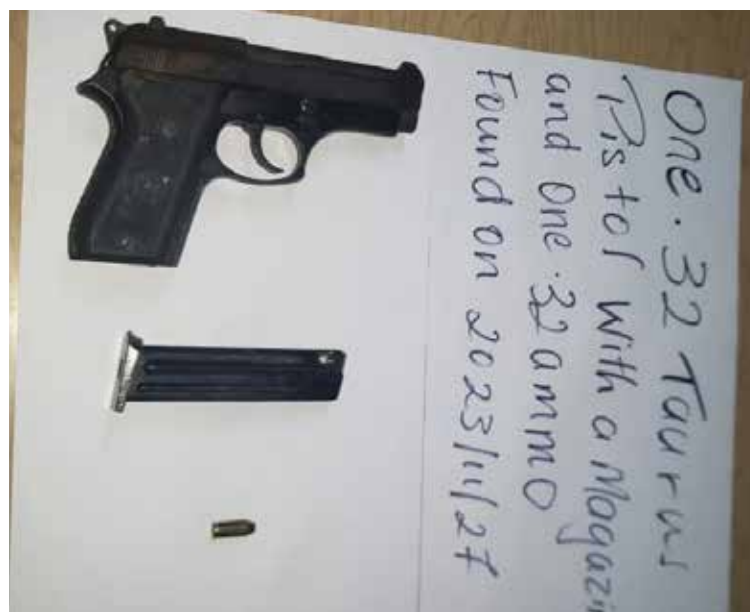
According to reports, the student from Kuru Kuru, Soesdyke/Linden Highway told police she was at the time in the company of a 15-year-old friend who is a student, and the suspect, a

21-year-old 'Delivery Man' who is from Norton Street, Werk-en-Rust, Georgetown.

In the presence of her guardian, the 14-year-old student stated that on November 25 around 11 pm, she was with a female friend who resides with her boyfriend at the Norton Street address when she observed him playing with a firearm.

The teen said she heard a loud explosion that sounded like a gunshot and felt a burning sensation in her left thumb, which started to

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Firearm and ammo which was found. (Photo credit: Guyana Police Force)

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hosting the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) from November 30 to December 12 this year.

With concerted action to reduce global emissions and put the world on track to limit warming below two degrees Celsius, 70,000 square kilometers of that at-risk land is projected to remain above sea level, the report noted.

"The effects of rising sea levels will put at risk decades of human development progress in densely populated coastal zones which are home to one in seven people in the world," said Pedro Conceição, Director of UNDP's Human Development Report Office.

"The displacement of millions of people and the disruption of economic activity in major business hubs could introduce new elements of instability and increase competition for resources. Our new research from UNDP and Climate Impact Lab is another re-

minder to the decision makers going to COP28 that the time to act is now," he added.

These impacts include empowering global citizens and decision-makers with localized information on the projected impacts of climate change over this century on people and communities.

In the report, the platform unveils projections of local sea-level rise and its impacts on humans under three future emissions scenarios. This data is derived from satellite and tidal gauge observations and model ensembles from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report.

With geographic detail, the new data paints a stark picture of a world grappling with the consequences of melting ice in mountain glaciers and at the poles, and seawater expanding as it warms.

"These projections are not foregone conclusions; instead, they can

be a catalyst for action," said Hannah Hess, associate director at the Climate Impact Lab.

"Swift and sustained action to reduce emissions will affect how quickly and how much coastal communities are impacted. Reducing emissions not only mitigates risk but buys us more time to proactively respond and prepare for rising seas."

In addition to the latest sea-level rise impacts, the platform illustrates how climate change is projected to influence temperature and its impacts on mortality, energy use, and the global workforce.

"These projections are available under multiple scenarios of greenhouse gas emissions for 24,000 regions worldwide, shedding light on the implications for our collective future, revealing vast inequalities within and between countries, and pinpointing areas where the risks of unmitigated climate change are most severe," the report notes.



## Grenada records decline in rate of unemployment

The results of a labour force survey in Grenada that was undertaken for the quarter ended June 30, 2023, has revealed that the unemployment rate was 12 per cent which represents a decline from 16.6 per cent as recorded for the quarter ended June 2021, and 28.4 per cent recorded in June of 2020.

The Statistics Department in the Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, Tourism, ICT, Creative Economy, Agriculture and Lands, Fisheries & Cooperatives in a statement said the decline in the rate of unemployment as of the end of June 2023, was influenced by a reduction in the rate of unemployment among youths and women.

The unemployment rate among youths fell from 38.6 per cent for the quarter ended June 2021 to 36.2 per cent for the quarter ended June 2023.

The rate of unemployment declined for both young males and females



with the higher reduction for young females. Consequently, the unemployment rate for females contracted from 19.5 per cent to 14.6 per cent over that period.

The Statistics Department says the data from the survey represents comprehensive information on the labour market.

It includes data on the rate of unemployment, the age and sex of the unemployed, the level of education of the unemployed, the structure of unemployment by categories of occupation, and the proportion of the labour-force that is actively seeking employment.

The unemployment rate

is determined by the number of people unemployed, divided by the labour force. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) defines the unemployed as a person who is 15 years and over, available to work within two weeks and 2 actively sought employment at some time during the last four weeks or has already found a job that starts within the next three months.

The labour force survey also provided disaggregated data by sex on, among others, unemployment by categories of workers and the educational status of the unemployed.

*cont'd from pg 12*  
bleed.

It is reported the man went to his backyard, where he hid the firearm among some concrete blocks. They then went to the Kitty Health Center, to seek medical attention.

As a result, the suspect was arrested and based on information provided by the

injured teenager, a police team in the company of the man went to his address where a search was conducted.

A bag hidden among some hollow blocks, which contained a pistol with one live round of ammunition was found.

The suspect is not the holder of a Firearm licence.

Investigations are continuing.

## Dina Boluarte: Peru's president blamed for protesters' deaths

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

Peru's top prosecutor has blamed the President, Dina Boluarte, for the deaths of a number of demonstrators during anti-government protests.

After an 11-month investigation, Attorney General Patricia Benavides filed a constitutional complaint against the president on Monday.

Ms Boluarte has described it as "a despicable political manoeuvre".

The president has accused Ms Benavides of using the complaint as a distraction from her own legal problems.

The attorney-general filed the complaint against the president just hours after she herself had been accused of leading a corruption ring, which allegedly dropped investigations against lawmakers in exchange for them appointing allies of Ms Benavides to key posts in the judiciary.

Ms Benavides has denied any wrongdoing, has fired the prosecutor who made the allegations against her team, and has so far resisted calls for her resignation.

The stand-off between President Boluarte and Attorney General Benavides is the latest twist in Peru's political woes which started with the ouster of President Pedro Castillo in December of last year.

Mr Castillo was removed from office by lawmakers after he tried to dissolve Congress in an attempt to stave off an impeachment trial.

Dina Boluarte, who had been Mr Castillo's vice-president, sided with Congress and was sworn in as the new president to serve out the remainder of Mr Castillo's term in office.

But supporters of Mr Castillo took to the streets to demand her resignation and weeks of upheaval ensued in which demonstrators blocked major



*Dina Boluarte was sworn into the office after Pedro Castillo was impeached following his failed attempt to dissolve Congress.*

highways and occupied airports.

Ms Boluarte's government deployed security forces to restore order and lift the blockades, which had left thousands of tourists stranded, paralysed commerce and led to shortages of food and petrol in some areas.

According to Peru's Ombudsman's Office, at least 49 protesters and bystanders were killed from December 2022 through February 2023 in clashes with the security forces.

Many of the bodies had bullet wounds, which human rights groups said were caused by weapons fired by the security forces.

In a report published in May, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) concluded that "a disproportionate, indiscriminate, and lethal use of force was a major element of the State response to the protests".

Attorney General Patricia Benavides launched an investigation into the protesters' deaths as early as January but the complaint she filed on Monday is the first charge brought against the government over the clashes.

Ms Benavides said in a TV address

on Monday that she had filed a "constitutional complaint" against President Boluarte, and the Prime Minister, Luis Alberto Otárola, accusing them of murder.

However, the murder accusation is unlikely to lead to a criminal trial in the near future.

Under Peru's constitution, presidents and parliamentarians cannot be put on trial while they are in their posts for alleged crimes committed as part of their role.

The attorney general can instead file a constitutional complaint which has to be reviewed by a congressional committee in order to proceed.

Even if the complaint were to be approved by a majority of members of Congress, a trial would only proceed once President Boluarte and Prime Minister Otárola leave office.

Ms Boluarte's presidency is due to end in July 2026 but given Peru's recent history of unrest, impeachments and resignations staying in office until then will prove a challenge.

No Peruvian president has served a full five years since Ollanta Humala finished his term in 2016.



## Uttarakhand tunnel collapse: Rescuers free 41 trapped workers

Rescuers in India have freed 41 workers who had been trapped in a collapsed Himalayan tunnel for 17 days.

Miners drilled the final section by hand to reach the workers in the 4.5km (3-mile) tunnel in Uttarakhand.

The men, who were brought out in wheeled stretchers through a 90cm (3ft) wide pipe, were taken to hospital for check-ups. No one was injured.

Marathon efforts to free them from the Silkyara tunnel which collapsed on 12 November overcame numerous setbacks.

The mission was ultimately completed on Tuesday evening thanks to the efforts of a group of “rat-hole” miners, who used hand-held drills to break through the rock.

India’s president Droupadi Murmu wrote on X, formerly Twitter, that she was “relieved and happy” to hear the men had been freed. She also praised the rescue effort, which she said was met with obstacles that had been “a testament of human endurance”.

The workers were greeted with wild cheers and flower garlands as they emerged from the tunnel.

Friends, family and local residents gathered outside the tunnel, setting off firecrackers and distributing sweets.

Since early in the rescue, those above ground were



*The workers from some of India's poorest states had been stuck in the tunnel since its collapse on 12 November.*

able to communicate via walkie-talkies with the men, who were supplied with oxygen, food and water through a separate narrow pipe.

The Silkyara tunnel is part of the \$1.5bn (£1.19bn), 890km-long flagship Char Dham project connecting key Hindu pilgrim sites via two-lane roads in the Himalayas.

Since a landslide caused a portion of the tunnel to cave in, teams have tried to clear about 60 metres of rubble - made up of rock and metal - which lay between the men and the tunnel mouth. The aim was to create a horizontal exit passage with crawl-out pipes for the trapped workers.

Having to cut through metal rods in the rubble repeatedly impeded the rescue efforts, and loose soil slowed progress. Last Friday, officials said the workers would be out in a matter of hours - until the complete breakdown of the main drilling machine inside the tunnel.

When that happened, two dozen “rat-hole” miners were deployed to manually drill and clear the passage to the trapped workers. Trained in narrow tunnel navigation, they used handheld tools for excavation to clear the last few metres of debris to get to the workers, who came from some of India’s poorest states.

Rescue workers

equipped with ropes, ladders and stretchers then entered the tunnel, with 41 ambulances positioned outside to transport the men to a hospital some 30km away.

Rescuers had also begun drilling vertically from the top of the mountain under which the men were trapped to bore an alternate rescue passage.

One of the rescuers told the BBC that “the moment we broke through the last part of the debris, there was an outburst of happiness inside the tunnel”.

“The trapped men started clapping and shouting in excitement. Then the officials asked them to keep calm, be

*cont'd on pg 16*



# International

AROUND THE WORLD



*cont'd from pg 16*

patient. They told them: we will get you out one by one."

The Uttarakhand government put out a statement saying the rescue had been

successful "thanks to both science and God".

The men - who are mostly in their 20s - are said to be in good health. An official from the National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF) told news agency ANI: "Their condition is first-class and absolutely fine... just like yours or mine. There is no concern about their health." However, they were taken to a nearby hospital for a medical assessment.

The prolonged rescue operations had India on the edge as millions of people prayed for the men rescuers.

On 21 November, the first images of the trapped men emerged as a medical endoscopy camera was pushed through a pipeline drilled into the debris. Some 12 men in helmets and construction worker jackets were captured standing in a semi-circle in the glow of tunnel lights.

Environmentalists and residents have blamed rapid construction, including the Char Dham project, for land subsidence in the region, saying this contributed to the tunnel collapse.

The Uttarakhand region, the birthplace of the Ganges and its major tributaries, sustains more than 600 million Indians with water and food. The landscape is dotted with forests, glaciers and water springs.

Crucially, India's climate is influenced by this area, as its topsoil serves as a significant carbon sink - naturally absorbing and storing carbon dioxide to mitigate the impact of greenhouse gas emissions. There are two main road tunnels in the project - the Silkyara tunnel and a shorter 400-metre tunnel in Chamba - as well as planned tunnels for railways and hydropower projects.

"There has been an intensification of tunnel work in the last 15-20 years", Hemant Dhyani, an environmentalist, told the BBC. "These mountains are not built for such massive building of infrastructure."

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## TG Welding remain unbeaten in MPL business softball league

TG Welding maintained their perfect run in the latest round of matches in the Cool and Smooth Mandy Premier League (MPL) Sherma Jackson Business Softball Cricket League at the Powells playing field on Sunday.

TG Welding notched up their third win in as many matches by coasting to a nine-wicket victory against the Antigua and Barbuda and Barbuda Defense Force (ABDF).

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force was restricted to 49 for seven off their allotted 10 overs. Almajie Webster struck 41, including four sixes.

Deran Benta grabbed three wickets for 12 runs, male player of the game Essan Warner claimed two wickets for six runs, and female player of the game Ann Anthony picked up a wicket.

TG Welding then cruised to victory at 52 for one with 19 balls to spare. Demarie Benta hit an unbeaten 24, and Warner made 23 not out.

TG Welding is leading the competition with 40 points, while Hanse On Security Tech and the Board of Education are tied for joint-second place with 30 points each.

They are followed by Polished Concrete Floors & Countertops (PCF&C) with 20 points, and Grill Box and PEL Boys with 10 points each. The ABDF and Time of Victory are languishing in the cellar without a point.

The Board of Education snatched a nine-run victory against PCF&C. Player of the Match Kadeem Henry slammed an undefeated half century to propel the Board of Education to 103 without losing a wicket off their 10 overs.

Henry hammered an unbeaten 53,



*Kadeem Henry*

Isiah Viville made 22 not out, and

Rayn John scored 17.

In reply, Polished Concrete Floors and Countertops were restricted to 94 for five off their 10 overs. Steve Martin struck 24, Malinga Bruney hit 22, and Peter Belafonte scored 21. Henry claimed one wicket for four runs.

Hanse On Security prevailed by 23 runs against the PEL Boys. Hanse On Security made 93 for six off their 10 overs. Male player of the match Melvin Charles cracked 24, Adrian Abbott got 15, and Kerry Mentore scored 14. Samuel Joshua captured three wickets for 16 runs.

In reply, the PEL Boys were restricted to 70 for five off their 10 overs. Frederick Floyd struck 25, and Clarence Francis made 14. Charles took two wickets for five runs. Kimberly Anthony was named the female player of the game.

Grill Box defeated the Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force by 31 runs. Grill Box batted first and made 115 for five off their 10 overs.

Melvin Higgins cracked 36, play-



*Essan Warner*

er of the game Kimani George hit 26, and D'Andre Harris scored 19. Shaquelle Richards captured three for 25, and Almajie Webster claimed two wickets for nine runs.

The Antigua and Barbuda Defense Force was then restricted to 84 for four off their 10 overs. Sawandi Ambrose struck 38 not out, and T'ron Payne made 14. D'Andrea Harris took one wicket for seven runs.

Menova Govia was named the female player of the game. PEL Boys also won by default against Time of Victory.



# Sports News



## Old Road makes winning start to Premier League campaign

Old Road made a successful start to their Premier Division campaign by coming from behind to snatch a 5-2 victory against the Pigotts Bullets at the ABFA's Technical Center on Monday evening.

National winger Raheem Deterville and Stefan Smith each scored twice for Old Road, which ended the match with 10 men after Rodney Lawrence received a red card in the first half.

Akeem Isaac gave the Pigotts Bullets a 1-0 lead, and Smith drew Old Road level by converting a penalty. Marckens Dorisca then scored to give

the Pigotts Bullets a 2-1 halftime advantage.

Deterville scored his first goal just after the interval to equalize for Old Road. Smith scored his second goal of the match to give Old Road a 3-2 lead.

Deterville then scored his second goal to increase Old Road's lead, and Malcolm Oniel scored in the latter stages to complete the win.

Monday's other scheduled Premier Division League encounter between the promoted Garden Stars and Tryum was not played after it was cancelled by the ABFA.

The ABFA's first division league



National winger Raheem Deterville scored twice for Old Road against Pigotts Bullets in the Premier Division League at the ABFA's Technical Center on Monday, November 27, 2023. (Photo courtesy Old Road FC)

will commence with three matches today (Wednesday).

*cont'd on pg 19*

Ticket Outlets Antigua: Landing Strip, Roti King, Eighteen Plus 1 Restaurant, ABCA Office Ticket Outlets Montserrat: Beni's Jewelry, Summer Breeze Restaurant



## GOLD JACKET Award Ceremony 2023



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## Phillips leads New Zealand fightback against Bangladesh

DHAKA (Reuters) - Opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy made 86 and collaborated in two half-century partnerships to help Bangladesh finish day one of the first test against New Zealand on 310 for nine in Sylhet on Tuesday.

Electing to bat on a surface where the ball spun sharply from the first session, Bangladesh were 180-2 before New Zealand roared back into the contest with Glenn Phillips claiming four for 53 in his second Test.

Shoriful Islam (13) and Taijul Islam (eight) were dragged Bangladesh past the 300-mark before bad light stopped play at the Sylhet International Stadium.

Earlier, Bangladesh captain Najmul Hossain Shanto won the toss and elected to bat with the home side opting for a spin-heavy attack with Shoriful as the lone frontline seamer.

New Zealand wasted a review trying to get Zakir Hasan lbw by Kyle Jamieson before skipper Tim Southee,



New Zealand's off-spinner Glen Phillip, left, celebrates after taking one of his four wickets on the opening day of the opening Test against Bangladesh in Sylhet, Bangladesh, on Tuesday, November 28, 2023. (AP)

recognizing the nature of the track, introduced spin in the seventh over bringing Ajaz Patel (2-76) into the attack.

The left-arm spinner struck in his fourth over when he spun one through

Zakir's gate but next-man-in Shanto threw caution to the wind and counter-attacked the New Zealand spinners.

Shanto smashed three sixes in his breezy 37 before hitting a rank full toss from

Phillips into the air on the leg side. Kane Williamson moved from mid-on to take the catch.

Mahmudul added 88 runs with Mominul Haque (37) to consolidate their position but off-spinner Phillips, bowling first time in a test match, broke the stand.

New Zealand bowlers subsequently kept chipping away and the early stumps meant they were spared the tricky task of batting in fading lights. The second and final Test is scheduled in Mirpur from Dec. 6.

### cont'd from pg 18

The Young Lions of Old Road will face the Liberta Black Hawks in the opening game of a double-header at the ABFA's Technical Center at 4:30 pm.

Police will take on Lion Hill in the second encounter at 6:30 pm. Fort Road will begin their campaign against Bolans at the Fort Road playing field at 4:30 pm.

The second division will continue its

first round of matches on Thursday at 4:30 pm.

Bethesda Christian Hill will host English Harbour at the Bethesda playing field. Glanvilles will entertain Freeman's Village at the Glanvilles playing field.

Golden Grove will clash with TAMO FC at the Golden Grove playing field, and Urlings Golden Stars will face Young Warriors at the Urlings playing field.



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## Maxwell mayhem keeps Australia alive in T20 series

NEW DELHI (Reuters) - Glenn Maxwell's blistering century trumped India opener Ruturaj Gaikwad's unbeaten 123 as Australia clinched a last-ball victory in a thrilling third T20 International (T20I) to stay alive in the five-match series on Tuesday.

On a high after back-to-back wins in Visakhapatnam and Thiruvananthapuram, India appeared keen to clinch the series in Guwahati as they racked up 222 for three, their third successive 200-plus score of the series, riding Gaikwad's 57-ball blitz.

Maxwell, who bled 30 runs as a bowler in his only over of the match, had other ideas though.

Three weeks after smashing an unbeaten 201 against Afghanistan in the 50-overs World Cup, the all-rounder hammered an unbeaten 104 off 48 balls to secure a five-wicket victory for Australia.

Put into bat, India lost Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ishan Kishan inside three overs but stand-in skipper Suryakumar Yadav (39) combined in a



Australia's captain Matthew Wade, left, and Glenn Maxwell celebrate after winning the third T20 cricket match against India in Guwahati, India, Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023. (AP)

57-run stand with Gaikwad to arrest the slide.

Suryakumar fell at the midway stage of the innings but India reached 100 in 12 overs before Gaikwad stepped on gas. The 26-year-old went run-a-ball for his first 21 runs before exploding with the bat.

Gaikwad clobbered seven sixes and 13 fours in what is the second highest score by an India batter in a T20 International, behind Shub-

man Gill's unbeaten 126 against New Zealand earlier this year.

He forged a 141-run partnership off just 59 balls with Tilak Varma, who made 31 not out. Sixty-seven of those runs came in the last three overs.

Travis Head (35) led Australia's spirited reply before their top order wilted and the tourists slumped to 134-5 in the 14th over. Maxwell turned the match

on its head with his astonishing shotmaking, hitting eight sixes and as many fours.

Needing 21 runs off the last over from Prasidh Krishna, Australia captain Matthew Wade, who made 28 not out, took five runs from the first two balls getting Maxwell on strike.

Maxwell hit the third ball for a six, and followed it with a hat-trick of fours to seal a thrilling victory. India's slow over rate meant they could deploy only four fielders in the deep for the final over, which proved costly in the end.

The teams move to Raipur for the fourth match on Friday, two days before the series concludes in Bengaluru.

### cont'd from pg 22

The Secondary Schools' Football League will continue with Under-16 Boys Division double-headers at Clare Hall and the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints today (Wednesday).

At Clare Hall, Princess Margaret School will face Clare Hall Secondary at

2:15 pm, and Jennings Secondary School will tackle Glanvilles Secondary School at 3:15 pm.

At Mack Pond in All Saints, Antigua Grammar School will challenge Irene B. Williams Secondary at 2:15 pm, and All Saints Secondary will meet Ottos Comprehensive School at 3:15 pm.

## PMS retains Under-14 Boys title

Princess Margaret School (PMS) has retained the Under-14 Boys Division title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

The young boys of PMS retained the title after securing a 1-1 draw with Ottos Comprehensive School at the King George V Recreation Grounds on Monday.

Shamar Walters put Princess Margaret ahead in the fourth minute, and Jahlaney Bachelor scored the equalizer for Ottos Comprehensive in the 9th minute.

Princess Margaret played unbeaten during the 10-team round-robin competition, winning eight and drawing one of their nine matches to finish at the top of the standings with 25 points.

All Saints Secondary and Antigua Grammar School recorded wins in the Under-14 Boys Division on Monday to finish in second and third places, respectively.

Kymani Francis scored four times to lead All Saints Secondary to a 5-2 victory against St. Joseph's Academy at the Princess Margaret School's playing field.

Francis scored in the 3rd, 7th, 14th, and 25th minutes, and Jahrome Marsh had a 50th-minute conversion for All Saints Secondary, which ended the competition with 22 points from their nine matches.

Iczjaire Sebastian had an 18th-minute conversion, and Joshua



*The Princess Margaret School players celebrate with the trophy after retaining the Under-14 Boys Division title in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League at the King George V Recreation Grounds on Monday, November 28, 2023. (Photo courtesy Ministry of Sports)*

James scored in the 19th minute for St. Joseph's Academy.

Tafari Parker struck a hat-trick as Antigua Grammar School hammered Clare Hall Secondary 5-0 at King George V Grounds.

Parker had conversions in the 28th, 33rd, and 37th minutes; Kevonte Lewis scored in the 20th minute; and Clare Hall conceded an own goal in the 30th minute for the Antigua Grammar School to secure their victory.

Antigua Grammar School ended their campaign with 20 points from their nine matches.

Jennings Secondary School prevailed 2-0 against Clare Hall Secondary in an Under-16 Girls Division encounter at the PMS playing field.

Chalecia Byers scored in the 22nd minute, and Latoya Williams produced a 33rd-minute conversion for Jennings Secondary.

*cont'd on pg 21*