

# FRUSTRATIONS WITH APUA

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*Despite the government spending over \$100 million on water production, consumers still complain of no water for up to two weeks.*

## Frustrations with APUA

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has voiced much frustration with the ongoing water issues gripping the country, especially after the government has invested over one hundred million dollars over the last several years to bring some resolution to the chronic problems.

Speaking on the weekly Browne and Browne Show on Point FM on Saturday, PM Browne said the government is still grappling with the water problem, although he anticipates that there will be improvements during next year. An additional reverse osmosis plant is expected to go into service in the second half of 2024, producing some 3 mil-

lion gallons of water daily. He added that the re-piping exercise is also underway to stop the 20 percent water loss system-wide due to leaks from aging pipes.

PM Browne also disclosed that the government has decided to privatize a portion of the water product and that APUA has been asked to consider two options to determine which best suits their needs. One is from the local company, Caribbean Water Treatment, and the other is a Trinidad and Tobago concern.

However, according to the prime minister, despite the millions spent to improve water production and distri-



*Prime Minister Gaston Browne*

bution, there are rising complaints about the lack of water from consumers all across Antigua.

“All I can do at this point is to ask for the continued patience of the consumer, as I believe that the management at APUA can do far more in this situation. We have exhausted that discussion to the extent that I don’t know what else to say to them. All I can do is ask them to try harder and to do their best,” he said voicing his exasperation.

The prime minister was especially frustrated with the performance of the Water Division at APUA adding that he cannot understand why with more than seven million gallons being produced daily and with a daily demand of around nine million, some people have been without water for weeks at a time.

“At one point we were trying to figure out if they were weaponizing water, as on the By-election Day, Bolans was without water, while Jennings had water. Both are served from the plant at Ffryes Bay. This means that


they by-passed Bolans to reach Jennings. I had to call Mr. (Esworth) Martin (General Manager) who reported that he had already asked them to re-direct the water,” he revealed.

Another issue that has led to frustration, according to the prime minister, is a report that indicated that at least one plant has been offline because of the absence of spare parts. “I don’t know how many times we asked them to keep adequate service parts in place to avoid going long stretches waiting for parts. I am not even arguing anymore; the joke is no longer sweet,” he declared.

He reported that the Water Management team has repeatedly offered excuse after excuse, yet the problems persist. PM Browne described the water issue as the most critical issue facing his government, as it is the one issue it has not been able to resolve to the satisfaction of the consumer.

He said the water department must ‘step up’ and stop making excuses.

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## Martin is stepping down from APUA

The General Manager of the Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA), Esworth Martin, is stepping down from the post at the end of the year.

The announcement comes from Prime Minister Gaston Browne who reported that the general manager is leaving voluntarily at the end of December, after serving in the post for more than two decades.

His departure comes as

dissatisfaction mounts over the water availability issue where consumers have reported being without this vital commodity for up to two weeks, in some areas.

Martin served as financial controller of the statutory body prior to taking up the post of general manager.

PM Browne said an interim general manager will be appointed, while an executive search is mount-



Esworth Martin

ed to find a new general manager. "I hope the new general manager, whoever he or she is, will get those

guys to understand the critical nature of the availability of water to people in the society," he noted.

## Two investors express a desire to build a crematorium

Discussions are underway at the highest levels of government with two entrepreneurs of Antigua descent, who are planning to build a crematorium. The entrepreneurs are residents of Canada but have plans to return home.

Such an institution will provide grieving families with another option to deal with the human remains of their departed families.

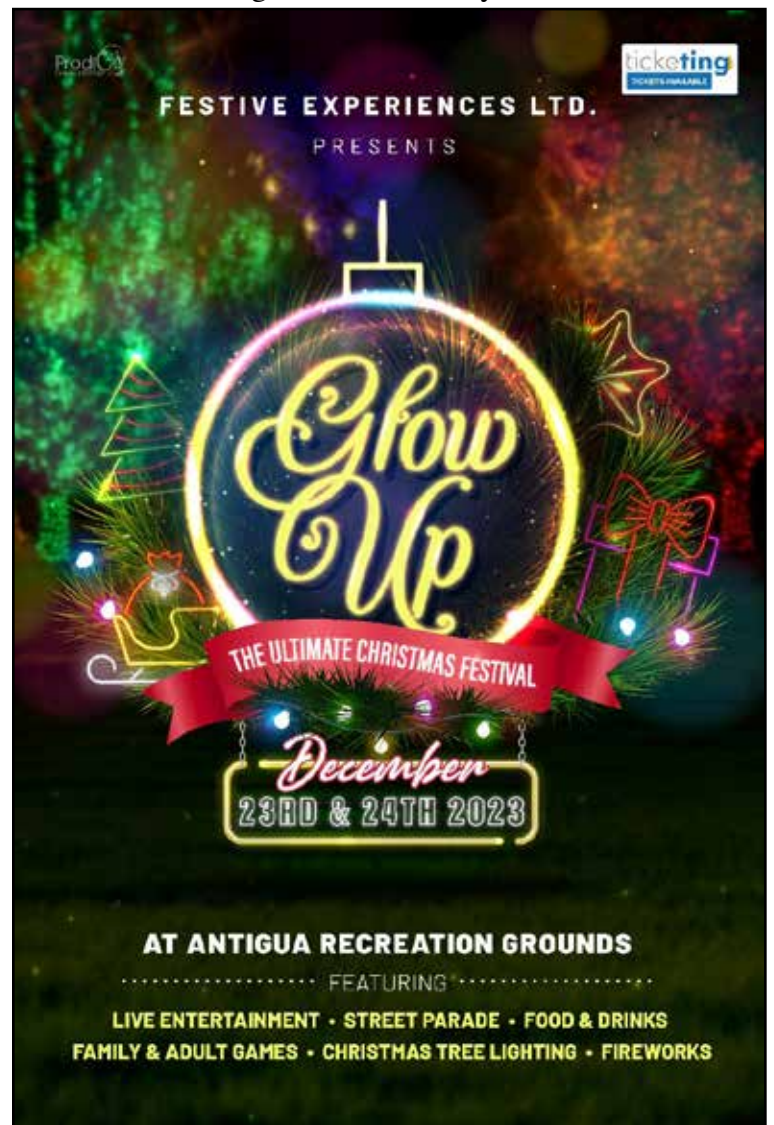
This comes against the backdrop that each year, about 600 persons die in Antigua and Barbuda and are usually buried in one of the cemeteries around the island nation; very few are cremated since that requires shipping the cadavers to another Caribbean island where that service is available.

"The entrepreneurs, both females, who have

won many awards for their funerary services in Canada, have determined that a market exists for this alternative form of burial in Antigua and Barbuda.

"The Attorney General and the Minister of Health will collaborate to ensure that the appropriate legislation is adopted by the Parliament," according to a government source.

The Minister of Works reported that the Public Cemetery at Tomlinson's is being prepared with fencing on the south and west of the acreage; a wrought iron fence is to be placed on the northern perimeter, facing the highway. Roadways and plots are being prepared according to plan. The new cemetery is expected to look like a large garden rather than a dreary place full of foreboding.



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## Government pensioners in line for an increase

Government pensioners will not be left behind when the government moves ahead with promised increases to its current employees.

According to usually reliable sources the prospects of an increase in the payments made to pensioners

monthly have made a positive turn.

The sources say, in keeping with inflationary pressures and the loss in the value of money over time, the government has decided that pensioners are to receive an increase in their monthly payments.

However, the precise rate of increase has not yet been determined, as this would be subject to negotiations and affordability, given the 14 percent increase over several years which current government employees are beginning to enjoy.

The Ministry of Finance will put together a team that is tasked with determining what is affordable and what revenue stream is likely to be adjusted to ensure that revenues can match the increase in expenditure that would be triggered by an increase in pension payments.

## New Chief Medical Officer named

A new Chief Medical Officer has been named for Antigua and Barbuda. She is Dr. Kamaria De Castro whose appointment took effect on November 2, 2023.

An Antiguan by birth, Dr. De Castro comes to the position with a wealth of knowledge in the medical field. She graduated with top honours from the Faculty of Medical Sciences Ernesto Che Guevara, Superior Institute of Medical Sciences, Havana, Cuba in 2007 and subsequently completed the medical internship programme at the May Pen Hospital, Jamaica.

She returned to Antigua and Barbuda where she worked as a house officer at the Mount St John's Medical Center (now the Sir Lester Bird Medical Center) from 2010-2011.

Dr. De Castro has a passion for primary health care services and in the interim, worked as a Medical Officer within the private sector.

By 2014, Dr De Castro joined the Ministry of Health as a Medical Officer at the inaugural evening clinic in the All Saints and Grays Farm Health Centres.

Dr. De Castro's love for teaching led her to become an adjunct faculty



*Dr. Kamaria De Castro*

member at the American University of Antigua, in the Introduction to Clinical Medicine Department.

She also served as Medical Director at the University Park Health Centre.

Dr. De Castro pursued a doctoral degree in Internal Medicine at the University of the West Indies Mona campus, which culminated in December 2018.

During her training, she took part in abstract writing workshops and coauthored a publication, the West Indian Medical Journal.

She spent an elective year at the University Hospital, Jamaica; Mount St John's Medical Center; and the University Health Network, Toronto, Canada, and upon her return home, her enthusiasm about public health and healthcare services offered under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health, caused her to renew her commitment to enhancing the patient experience and quality of care offered to a diverse population.

She worked as a consultant specialist in Internal Medicine in primary healthcare services at the polyclinics across Antigua and Barbuda.

Dr. De Castro is Antigua and Barbuda's focal point for the HEARTS Initiative in the Americas of PAHO/WHO.

This initiative involves hypertension control in the primary care setting.

She has professional affiliations with several organizations including serving as Vice President of the Sickle Cell Association of Antigua and Barbuda and the Medical Association of Antigua and Barbuda.

She is a member of the American College of Physicians (ACP) as well as the Medical Protection Society.



## Five to compete in ABLP primary election for the SJRW constituency

Five people have made submissions to the Central Executive of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party expressing their intention to be named the party's candidate/caretaker in the St. John's Rural West constituency.

The Central Executive noted that Regulation 14.iii.a of the Second Revised Constitution of the ABLP requires that: a. The Central Executive shall determine the suitability of all prospective candidates and shall approve the candidate, obviating the need for a primary, or shall approve a list of candidates to contest in the primary election at the Constituency level.



Vying for the St. John's Rural West candidacy from left: Michael Joseph, Kevin Morgan, Shawn Benjamin, Russhell Ellis, and Aziza Lake.

The party has adopted a resolution naming December 8 as the date when a primary will take place to select a candidate/caretaker for the SJRW constituency. "In anticipation of the scheduled

2028 General Elections, to wit: Shawn Benjamin, Russhell Ellis, Michael Joseph, Aziza Lake, Kevin Morgan," the resolution revealed.

The resolution states that the party's internal Supervi-

sor of Elections must give at least twenty-eight days' notice, or shorter if the executive decides, and that registration to be a prospective candidate closes three days before the poll.

According to the resolution only registered Party members of the respective constituency, in good financial standing for at least twelve consecutive weeks prior, shall be permitted to take part in the Primary. Each party member shall exercise one vote.

The primary will take place at the Multi-Purpose Cultural Centre. Further details are expected to be made public shortly.

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## Ambassador O'Marde attends African Studies conference in DRC

Chairperson of the Antigua and Barbuda Reparations Support Commission (ABRSC), Ambassador Dorene O'Marde, was one of the invitees to the fifth biennial African Studies Association of Africa conference held in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

Ambassador O'Marde is one of three vice chairs of the CARICOM Reparations Commission. His participation in the conference was facilitated by the Rutgers Global Study Abroad Programme, headed by Antiguan citizen Dr. Dan Waite.

O'Marde presented as a member of a Rutgers University panel on the creation of a Reparatory Justice Lab



Ambassador Dorene O'Marde addressed the conference.

and was afforded a 90-minute plenary session on the final day of the conference, where he delivered an extremely well-received paper, 'REPARATIONS IN A PAN-AFRICAN CONTEXT: Experience and vision of the CARICOM REPARATIONS COMMISSION.'

ation of the ruthlessness of the continued exploitation of the resources of mineral-rich countries like the DRC and the abject levels of poverty that many there live in," O'Marde observed.

He reports that his participation at the Conference further revealed the disconnections between Africans on the continent and in the Diaspora, noting that Antigua and Barbuda is virtually unknown to many of the continental members of ASAA. "Many of us in the Diaspora have little appreci-

ation of the ruthlessness of the continued exploitation of the resources of mineral-rich countries like the DRC and the abject levels of poverty that many there live in," O'Marde observed. He used the opportunity to deepen the collaboration and networking required for the strengthening of a global reparations movement, one reinforced by the diplomatic voices of African countries/governments and organizations. ABRSC/CRC is invited to participate in the Accra Reparations Conference hosted by the government of Ghana from 14 - 17 November, where the global reparations movement will be further developed.

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## Schools' cook-off competition off to a 'tasteful' start

The first two rounds of the Wadadli Junior Chef Cook-off Competition have been completed and the organizers, the Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association and the Ministry of Tourism, are singing the praises of the competition, so far.

The GARD Centre near Pares Village is the venue for this competition that seeks to bring out the culinary skills of students within the nation's secondary schools in preparing a selected national dish, Pepperpot.

The ABHTA said two schools have emerged win-



Round 1 Judges from left - Chef Bowers, Chef Wilson and Chef Burnette

ners following the completion of Rounds 1 & 2 on Friday. They are the Sir McChesney George Secondary School in Barbuda and the Seventh Day Adventist

School. For the McChesney George Secondary, Junior Chef Gregoryann Thomas, supported by Aria Teague and guided by teacher Jahmeel Greaux, presented a Pepperpot dip with fungi chips. Her dish was celebrated for its authenticity, uniqueness, creativity, taste, and presentation, with the fungi chips offering a delightful crunch and flavor.

For its entry, the Seventh-day Adventist School claimed victory with their flavorful rendition of Pep-



Round 1 - Winning Dish Sir McChesney George Secondary.

perpot and Fungi. The winning team was represented by Jr. Chef Janiya Murphy, assisted by Sommah Martin, and led to competition by teacher Nicola Reeve-Babb. Jr. Chef Janiya Murphy was lauded for her kitchen skills, including cleanliness, organization, and meticulous planning.

Head Judge, the Executive Chef at Galley Bay Resort & Spa, Jeremiah Nathaniel, openly expressed his deep admiration for the Junior Chefs. He highlighted the profound lessons he gleaned from their culinary creations, noting that some of the dishes demonstrated the potential to grace the menus of hotels across Antigua and Barbuda. With genuine enthusiasm, he encouraged the participants from schools that did not secure a spot in the finale to persist in refining their skills and eagerly return to the competition next year.



Round 1 Winner - Junior Chef Gregoryann Thomas.



Round 2 Winning Dish - Seventh-day Adventist Secondary

*cont'd on pg 8*



# Local News



*cont'd from pg 7*

The Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Competition continues today at the GARD Centre with the final two preliminary rounds:

Round 3 (8:30 a.m.) will feature The Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute, Antigua State College, Clare Hall Secondary School, Jennings Secondary School, and Ottos Comprehensive School.

Round 4 (1:00 p.m.) will culminate in an exciting showdown between Christ the King High School, The Antigua Girls' High School, Irene B. Williams Secondary School, and St. Joseph's Academy.

The winning school



Round 2 Junior Chef presenting to the Judges (from left) - Chef Burnette, Chef Beazer, Ched Nathaniel.

will receive EC\$10,000.00 to enhance its Home Economics facilities, and the

winning student will have the opportunity to represent Team Antigua and Barbuda

at the prestigious Taste of Caribbean event 2024, in Miami.

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## Antiguan judge appointed in US Virgin Islands Supreme Court

Antigua and Barbuda nationals continue to make strides in the legal profession in the United States and its territories.

The latest exponent of this trend is Judge Carol Thomas-Jacobs, originally from Willikies, who was confirmed in October as a judge of the Superior Court of the United States Virgin Islands – St. Thomas/St. John District. The investiture ceremony for Judge Thomas-Jacobs was held at the Alexander A. Farrelly Justice Center, Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands.

Judge Thomas-Jacobs, known to many in Willikies as ‘Baby’ was confirmed as a judge of the Superior Court of the United States Virgin Islands in a ceremony that was attended by members of the Judiciary, Legislature, Government, and of course, family and friends.

Judge Thomas-Jacobs’ career with



*Judge Carol Thomas-Jacobs*

the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Justice spans more than 20 years. She first served as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Division, then as head of the Civil Division. Judge Thomas-Jacobs became Deputy Attorney General in 2016 and was promoted to Chief Deputy Attorney General in 2020. In January 2023, she was appointed acting Attorney General. In March 2023 she was nominated by Governor Albert Bryan Jr.

to be a judge of the Superior Court of the United States Virgin Islands. Her nomination was unanimously confirmed by the 35th Legislature on 14th April, 2023.

During the investiture ceremony, several persons offered words of congratulations on behalf of Judge Carol Thomas-Jacobs. The newest judge on the bench was highly commended for her intellect, understanding of the law, and her outstanding work in the Department of Justice. Her daughter, Cajay, introduced her for the robing ceremony.

Presiding Judge, Debra Smith-Watlington remarked: “The work that she did as a practising attorney, her dedication to her craft, her attention to detail, her professionalism, her work ethic, her intelligence and temperament, her courage and confidence, among others, transcends both courts,” noting Thomas-Jacobs’ affinity for tennis.

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# Opinion

# The game's afoot

By **Tony Deyal**

We were doing Shakespeare's King Henry V for our exams and our teacher "went to town" on the king's speech to his soldiers to get them ready for the war against France. The king started with "Once more into the breach, dear friends, once more" and it was bad enough when one of the boys asked, "Sir, Sir, 'breach' in those days was 'pants'. You mean the king put the men to fight a war with only their pants on?" The teacher gave him a hard look and continued at full throttle, "I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips/ Straining upon the start. The games afoot: Follow your spirit ...". That was the end of the class for the day, and the teacher for a whole week of medical treatment.

What happened was, one of the boys asked, "Sir, I thought it was a war but it sound like it was a dog race!" That was bad enough but what made the teacher leave was the same boy asking, "Sir, sir, how could the game be 'ah foot'? You say it was a war that was going on. The only way the games could be a foot is if it was a football match." Another jumped up with, "Sir, they had spirits there? I 'fraid those creatures you know." Wanting to show that I was a reader and knew about spirits, I made what was a joke for me but not my colleagues. Like Paul, I

paid for all when I stopped the teacher, "Sir, I always follow my spirit instead of drinking it like my father." One of the boys reached home before me and told my mother, who expressed her anger to my father, claiming that I told the whole school that he was a drunkard. The game was not afoot. It was a belt, and I got a few.

I started this article on Tuesday so it would go to the newspapers on Wednesday evening for them to publish on Saturday. So, there I was, Tuesday, October 31, putting my column together and realised it was Halloween. When I was at university in Canada, Halloween was a big deal.

The neighbours' children came for their share early (and the parents dropped in later). We had to grin and bear it. So, when I went to live in one of the houses of the sugarcane company, Caroni Ltd, I was glad to know that my children would get a taste of Halloween. Unfortunately, a government minister was in the area, got my directions, and came to see me. He had to stop because the kids were on the road. They were in costumes and then not only blocked him but kept pounding on his doors and windows, demanding sweets and money,

**GOT SCARED**

He was a 'Trini' and had never experienced this before. He got scared and



*Tony Deyal*

started to scream. The kids, even more frightened than he was, started running and shouting "Mammy. Mammy. Help!". I came out of the house, saw who it was, took him inside and tried to explain what the event was about. He had three quick whiskies to cool down and then insisted that I drive my car ahead of his until he reached the highway. One of my friends, knowing I had a Subaru, suggested that, because it was Halloween night, I should have dressed up as a "head gasket".

I responded, "That gives me a really good chance to get blown." He retorted, "Is only you and the Jehovah Witnesses who don't celebrate Halloween. In their case, it is because they don't appreciate strangers knocking at their doors." I retorted, "I am like them when

it come to that so you can't come by me. But, given that you're a Catholic, I know where to go on Tuesday night." His response was quick, "So, why not Saturday? That is a much bigger day than today." Then he cut the connection and refused to answer the phone.

He was right. If you think the game was afoot Tuesday night, it started long before that on Saturday, November 4, 1846 when Benjamin Palmer from New Hampshire in the US patented the artificial leg. The US also celebrates 'National Chicken Lady Day' and 'Use You Common Sense Day'. I'm already priming up for it and learning how to be a shoe salesman. They make excellent detectives because they always know when something is afoot. But

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none is as good as Sherlock Holmes. He came up with a lot of interesting quips like, "My name is Sherlock Holmes. It is my business to know what people don't know."; "I never guess. It is a shocking habit - destructive to the logical faculty."; "I'm not a psychopath, I'm a high-functioning sociopath. Do your research."; "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth."; and "There is nothing new under the sun. It has all been done before."

Even though William Shakespeare used "the game's afoot" in King Henry V, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle gave Holmes the phrase "the game's afoot" in The Adventure of the Abbey Grange, and it became his. It was Sherlock's declaration of his excitement and anticipation of a new investigation.

For instance, there is the story

about Holmes and Watson who were out hunting one day when Watson spied something moving in the bushes and, thinking it was a threat to his master, he took out his rifle and fired at whatever or whoever it was. They then went into the bushes and found a severed leg with a clean bullet wound just below the ankle.

Holmes was ecstatic and cried out, "Watson. The game's afoot!" While there is no place like home, there really is no case like Holmes, especially when it comes to crime. Sherlock and Watson found themselves at a scene of utter carnage.

As Holmes, who had a nose and quick sense for danger, quickly fingered the bloody knife and eyed the various body parts strewn along the dark, deserted highway, he placed his ear to the ground and, with his heart in his throat, quietly told his companion, "Arm yourself Watson, there's an evil hand afoot ahead."

And just to make sure that I leave you footloose and fancy-free, I will end by showing you that there's no case like Holmes. This has been chosen as 'The World's Funniest Joke'. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson are going camping.

They pitch their tent under the stars and go to sleep. In the middle of the night, Holmes wakes Watson up: "Watson, look up at the stars and tell me what you deduce." Watson: "I see millions of stars and, even if a few of those have planets, it's quite likely there are some planets like Earth, and if there are a few planets like Earth out there, there might also be life." Holmes: "Watson, you idiot, somebody's stolen our tent!"

*Tony Deyal was last seen laughing at this Watson joke. Proud of his doctorate from London University, Watson asked Holmes, "And what school did you go to Sherlock?" Holmes replied, "Elementary, my dear Watson.*



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## Apple sales dip again despite iPhone boost

Apple sales have continued to fall, despite strong demand for its iPhones and services like streaming platform Apple TV+.

The tech giant says revenues dipped 1% to \$89.5bn (£73.3bn) in the three months to 30 September when compared with the same period last year.

Sales of its Mac computers and iPads struggled after a post-lockdown surge in interest.

It marks the fourth quarter in a row where sales have fallen year on year.

In an update to investors, the firm said that profits had reached \$23bn, helped by a new record for iPhone sales in the three-month period.

The amount it took from services such as iCloud and Apple Music also hit a high, bringing in \$22.3bn for the California-based firm, up 16% from a year before.

But it cited concerns over potential supply chain issues hampering deliv-

eries of its new iPhone 15 Pro and Pro Max devices.

Apple chief executive Tim Cook said it was “working hard to manufacture more”.

“We do believe that later this quarter, we’ll reach a supply-demand balance,” he said.

Mr Cook said he felt the firm had its “strongest line-up of products ever” heading into the key Christmas trading period.

The latest update suggested, however, that other Apple items had been failing to capture the customer’s imagination more recently.

Its Mac computers, for example, saw sales drop to \$7.6bn for the quarter, down from \$11.6bn the year before.

The company revealed its latest iPhone line-up in September at a highly anticipated conference.

It announced that the iPhone 15 would not feature its proprietary light-

ning charging port, after the European Union forced the change. Instead, it uses a USB-C cable as the “universally-accepted standard”.

It has also faced challenges elsewhere, with economic uncertainty weighing on consumers in the Chinese market.

On Thursday, the company said that sales in China had dipped by 2.5%, although Mr Cook said that after accounting for foreign exchange rates its business there had grown year on year.

The executive made a surprise visit to China last month, meeting gamers in the city of Chengdu.

It marked his second visit to China - a key market for Apple - this year, as the firm’s operations in the country have been complicated by Covid restrictions and US-China tensions.

In March, Mr Cook said he felt Apple had a “symbiotic” relationship with China, a key manufacturing base.



## ICJ to hear Guyana's request to block Venezuela's border referendum

CMC - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) Friday set November 14 as the date for holding public hearings into Guyana's request to block a number of questions in Venezuela's December 3, 2023 referendum on the border controversy.

"The hearings will be devoted to the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by Guyana on 30 October 2023," the ICJ said in a statement.

It said that Guyana, in its request, had said that Venezuela government, through its National Electoral Council has 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 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 Court said the hearings will take place at the Peace Palace in The Hague.

Guyana had asked the ICJ to hear its application as a matter of urgency, ahead of



the planned December 3 referendum.

According to the ICJ, Guyana is requesting that the Court indicate that "Venezuela shall not proceed with the Consultative Referendum planned for 3 December 2023 in its present form," and "in particular, Venezuela shall not include the First, Third or Fifth questions in the Consultative Referendum.

"Question 5 proposes the creation of Venezuelan state of Guyana Essequibo and an accelerated plan for giving Venezuelan citizenship and identity cards to the Guyanese population."

Guyana also wants the Court to indicate that "Venezuela shall not take any actions that are intended to prepare or allow the exercise of sovereignty or de facto control over any territory that was awarded to British Guiana in the 1899 Arbitral

Award.

"Venezuela shall refrain from any action which might aggravate or extend the dispute before the Court or make it more difficult to resolve," the ICJ said Guyana outlined in its request.

Venezuela's planned referendum and its approved questions for the referendum later this year have set off a wave of criticisms, with the Guyana government accusing Venezuela of trying to annex parts of the country's territory in contravention with international law.

The 15-member Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the London-based Commonwealth Secretariat and the Organisation 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.

Meanwhile, Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister, Hugh Todd, Friday said that the bipartisan ministerial advisory committee on the Guyana-Venezuela border controversy is fully functional and fulfilling its mandate.

His comments followed the postponement of an extraordinary sitting of the National Assembly, which was set to pass a motion to solidify Guyana's stance on the border controversy.

The parliamentary opposition had proposed within the motion that a non-partisan commission be established to ensure its participation.

"We have already established a bipartisan ministe-

*cont'd on pg 14*

## Dominican Republic takes over summit of the Americas Presidency

The Dominican Republic has officially received the presidency of the Summit of the Americas from the United States.

Dominican Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez received the chairmanship of the hemispheric summit from Assistant Secretary of State of the United States Brian Nichols at a special handing-over ceremony in Washington DC yesterday.

In a brief remark, Álvarez reiterated the Dominican Republic's commitment to organising an inclusive

and effective summit that covers every issue affecting the hemisphere.

“Receiving the presidency of the Summit of the Americas is a great honour and a responsibility that we assume with the utmost commitment.

“We intend to build on the solid foundations left by our predecessors and work tirelessly so that the 2025 Summit is a reflection of the aspirations and the will of all the peoples of the Americas,” Álvarez said.

The Dominican Republic is the second Ca-



Dominican Foreign Minister Roberto Álvarez (left) and Assistant Secretary of State of the United States Brian Nichols.

ibbean nation to host the hemispheric summit, which brings together leaders from North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

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*cont'd from pg 13*

rial advisory committee on the Guyana/Venezuela controversy, which the President Ali Administration inherited from the (David) Granger administration and we've left it intact," Todd said, pointing out that the already-established mechanism includes two opposition Members of Parliament.

The advisory committee consists also of several seasoned diplomats who provide critical advice to the government.

“That committee meets on matters relating to the case itself before the ICJ and [other] related issues,” Todd, said, noting that the creation of a commission will only duplicate that which already exists.

“So, what we've recommended to the opposition is that...we already have a mechanism in place so we don't need to duplicate it, because it would be the same persons who are now on this ministerial advisory committee would also have to sit on this commission.”



## Hamburg Airport hostage drama ends after 18 hours

By Kathryn Armstrong

A hostage situation at Hamburg Airport involving a young child has ended after 18 hours, according to local police.

The man, 35, drove through a security barrier and on to the airport tarmac on Saturday night with his four-year-old daughter in the car and parked under a plane.

He eventually gave himself up to the authorities “without resistance”, according to police, and was arrested.

“The child appears to be unharmed,” they wrote on X (formerly Twitter).

The incident caused the disruption of several flights in and out of the airport. Operations have since resumed but there are significant delays.

It began at about 20:00 local time (19:00 GMT) when the suspect drove his car to the airport’s apron, the area where aircraft are usually parked.

Police said the man shot his weapon twice in the air and threw burning bottles from the vehicle. It was unclear if the man had explosives.

They later clarified that he stopped the vehicle where a commercial flight full of passengers was preparing to take off. Everyone on board was evacuated safely.



The suspect was detained by special forces.

According to local media, he parked under a Turkish Airlines plane.

Hundreds of other people waiting for flights in the airport had to be put up in hotels.

Hamburg police spokeswoman Sandra Levgruen said earlier on Sunday that the man did not agree with some decisions made by the authorities in relation to the custody arrangement and wanted to travel to Turkey with the child.

“He speaks about his life being a heap of shards,” she told German broadcaster ZDF.

Following the incident, the authorities said the man had been in an “exceptional psychological situation due to custody disputes with his ex-wife”.

They said he had taken their daughter following an argument and her mother then alerted emergency services - filing a complaint of suspected child abduction.

It is not the first time

the man, who is a Turkish citizen, has been accused of kidnapping the young girl. Last year he was investigated after he travelled

to Turkey with her without permission. The mother later brought the child back to Germany.

“I wish the mother, the child and her family a lot of strength to cope with this terrible experience,” Hamburg Mayor Peter Tschentscher wrote on X after the hostage situation ended.

The airport said it was working to resume operations as quickly as possible. A total of 286 flights with about 34,500 passengers had been scheduled for Sunday, it said earlier.



## Ukraine war: Military chiefs in Kyiv under pressure over deadly Russian strike

By Jaroslav Lukiv

Ukraine's military chiefs are facing growing criticism over a recent Russian missile strike that is believed to have caused heavy Ukrainian casualties.

Ukrainian media and Russian military bloggers say more than 20 Ukrainian soldiers were killed at Friday's award ceremony near the southern frontlines.

Ukraine's military has not yet given casualty figures of what it says was a "tragedy" in the Zaporizhzhia region.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said the incident "could have been avoided".

"Criminal proceedings have been initiated," the Ukrainian leader added in a post on social media on Sunday.

"Every soldier in the combat zone - in the enemy's line of fire and aerial reconnaissance - knows how to behave in the open, how to ensure safety."

A number of Ukrainian soldiers and military experts say the ceremony should not have taken place in a strike-risk area.

They say Ukrainian officers should have been aware that Russian drones are constantly monitoring Ukrainian troops' activities near the frontlines to guide air and artillery strikes.

Drone footage has now



Many of the 128th Brigade's personnel - as seen in this archive photo - are from Ukraine's westernmost Transcarpathia region.

emerged on a Russian Telegram channel purportedly showing the moment of the deadly strike on what looked like an open-air ceremony.

A number of bodies believed to be those of Ukrainian soldiers are also seen lying on the ground.

Russia's military has not officially commented on the attack.

Ukrainian Defence Minister Rustem Umerov on Saturday confirmed earlier media reports that Ukrainian soldiers from 128th Mountain Assault Brigade "Zakarpattia (Transcarpathia)" were killed on Friday.

In a statement, he also ordered a "full investigation" in what he described as a "tragedy".

Meanwhile, Ukraine's Strategic Command (Strat-Com) said an Iskander-M - Russia's short-range ballistic missile - was used in the attack. A number of civilians were injured.

On Sunday, Ukrainian lawmaker Mykhailo Volynets said 28 people were killed and 53 injured in the attack, but this has not been officially confirmed.

President Zelensky said he wanted to "establish the complete truth about what happened and prevent such incidents from happening

again".

The 128th Brigade is yet to officially comment on the issue.

Three days of mourning have been declared in Ukraine's westernmost Transcarpathia region, where many of the victims are believed to be from.

Kyiv has not publicly revealed the location of the strike, but reports in Ukrainian media say it was a village near the frontline.

Russian bloggers said it was the village of Dymytrovo (renamed to Zarichne by Ukraine in 2016).

The attack is believed to have happened

*cont'd on pg 17*



*cont'd from pg 16*

as Ukrainian troops were marking Artillery Day, celebrating military personnel working in artillery and missile units.

Ruslan Kahanets, commander of Ukraine's volunteer battalion Sonechko (Sun), said in a Facebook post on Saturday that there was "a pile of dead officers and soldiers" after the Russian strike.

He also posted photos of burned vehicles and the bodies of killed soldiers.

A video has also emerged of a Ukrainian soldier, believed to be from a brigade located nearby, who publicly criticises officers for organising the re-

ported award ceremony.

The unnamed soldier says that frontline villages are being hit "methodically and regularly" and "anyone who is here will tell you this".

"As a result of this [ceremony] line-up, many Ukrainian defenders and civilians died".

He asks what the officers who had gathered the crowd were thinking, because "everyone on the frontlines knows that a crowd of more than two people always provokes an 'arrival' ['strike' in military jargon]".

Serhiy Sternenko, a well-known Ukrainian volunteer, suggested on Sat-

urday that the commander who had organised the ceremony should be jailed for life.

"There have already been many similar incidents. Unfortunately. Without systemic changes, there will be more such incidents," he said.

A number of social media users in Ukraine have been voicing their anger, demanding punishment for the organisers of the award ceremony.

"Who gathered them there, why is this person's name being withheld? Whose initiative was it? Are these people already under investigation?" one user said.

Another one wrote: "How was it possible to gather ALL our warriors in one place?"

Meanwhile, Russian military bloggers say more than 20 Ukrainian soldiers were killed.

One blogger on Sunday suggested that Ukraine's military chiefs now should "think why such incidents have become more frequent".

Another pro-Kremlin blogger wrote that "earlier, Ukrainians had 'punished' Russians in a similar way several times. And we quickly forgot about lining up outside, stopped huddling and began to constantly look at the sky".

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## Award Ceremony 2023

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## Joseph helps Windies 'A' Women to first T20 tri-series win

The West Indies "A" Women defeated Thailand Women Emerging by five wickets in the second match of the T20 tri-series at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan, on Saturday.

In the low-scoring game, West Indies Women A were brilliant with the ball, dismissing Thailand Emerging for just 46 in 14.2 overs after winning the toss. West Indies then got over the line in 13 overs, with five wickets to spare.

Qiana Joseph made 11, Shabika Gajnabi and Trishan Holder each chipped in with 10, which was enough to give the West Indies victory.

Thailand Emerging attempted to derail the chase by taking wickets in quick succession with Thipatcha Putthawong taking

two wickets, while Phannita Maya, Sunida Chaturongrattana and Onnicha Kamchomphu getting a wicket each.

Earlier, all of the West Indies bowlers found success. Left-arm spinner Qiana Joseph snapped up three wickets for one run, and right-arm pacer Jannillea Glasgow picked up three wickets for 17 runs.

Right-arm pacer Jahzara Claxton bagged two wickets for 16 runs, off-spinner Sheneta Grimmond grabbed two wickets for one run, and fast bowler Cherry-Ann Fraser picked up one wicket for eight runs.

Chaturongrattana was the only batter on the Thailand scorecard that got to double digits. She hit 12 from 26 balls, including one boundary.



West Indies 'A' Women's Qiana Joseph bats against Thailand Women Emerging in the second match of the T20 tri-series at Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore, Pakistan, on Saturday, November 4, 2023. (CWI Media)

## Harpy Eagles beat Scorpions to advance to semis

The Guyana Harpy Eagles are through to the semi-finals of the 2023 CG United Super50 Cup after a comfortable seven-wicket win over the Jamaica Scorpions at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Saturday.

In a game that was eventually reduced to 47 overs per side due to multiple rain delays, the Scorpions, after winning the toss, were bowled out for 181 with one ball to spare.

A number of Jamaica batsmen were able to get starts, but none were able to carry on and get a big enough score to put pressure



Guyana Harpy Eagles batsman Shimron Hetmyer on the Harpy Eagles.

Brad Barnes was the highest scorer with 36, while Rovman Powell (33), Chadwick Walton (26), Andre McCarthy (23), Odean Smith (20), and Nkrumah Bonner (20) all got starts.

Nial Smith led the way with the ball for Guyana

with three for 26 from 8.5 overs, while Kevin Sinclair took three for 48 from 10 overs.

Guyana then needed only 39 overs to achieve victory at 184 for three. The successful chase was led by half centuries from Tegenarine Chanderpaul and

Shimron Hetmyer.

Chanderpaul led the way with 77 off 110 balls, his highest List A score, while Hetmyer finished not out on 62 off 53 balls, including five fours and two sixes.

Captain Tevin Imlach provided good support with 30. Shalome Parnell took two for 26 off six overs for the Scorpions whose season now comes to an end with six losses and one no result in seven games.

The Harpy Eagles will now join the Leeward Islands Hurricanes, the Trinidad & Tobago Red Force, and the Barbados Pride in the semi-finals.



## Rain wash out Hurricanes' game against CCC

The Leeward Islands Hurricanes' final match in the preliminary round of the regional CG United Super50 Cup against Combined Campuses and Colleges (CCC) was abandoned without a ball being bowled at the UWI SPEC in Trinidad on Saturday.

This means the Combined Campuses and Colleges were eliminated from the knockout phase of the Super50 Cup after their final game of the 2023 tournament was washed out.

For the second straight day, not a ball was bowled at the UWI SPEC, with a wet outfield preventing any play.

The CCC needed to beat top team Leeward Islands and pick up three bonus points to wrap up the fourth spot in the race for the semi-finals.

Both teams received two points for the abandonment with the Leeward Islands holding a two-point lead over T&T Red Force at the top of the Super50 Cup table.

The CCC, Windward Islands and defending champions Jamaica Scorpions have been eliminated from the eight-team tournament.

The Leewards, who could still be overtaken, regained the top spot with a four-wicket win against the Barbados Pride via the Duckworth-Lewis-Stern method in their penultimate match of the preliminary round at the Brian Lara



*Not a ball was bowled in the CG United Super50 Cup match between the Leeward Islands Hurricane and the CCC at UWI SPEC, St. Augustine, Trinidad, on Saturday, November 4, 2023.*

Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Thursday.

A rain delay meant the game was reduced to 42 overs and the Pride took first strike after the Hurricanes won the toss.

The Bajans quickly found themselves reeling at 19 for three inside five overs, losing Kraigg Brathwaite (2), Zachary McCaskie (4) and Shamarh Brooks (5) in quick succession.

An 85-run fourth wicket stand between Captain Shai Hope and Roston Chase restored order to proceedings before Chase fell in the 22nd over for a 58-ball 45.

Hope went on to bring up his second fifty of the tournament before he fell soon after for 55 with the Pride on 138 in the 30th over.

The skipper's wicket brought about a procession, with the Pride losing their final five wickets for 58 runs to eventually be bowled out for 196 in 41.2 overs.

The Hurricanes captain and fast bowler Alzarri Joseph took three for 34 from his nine overs, while fellow Antiguan leg-spinner Hayden Walsh Jr. captured three for 43 from eight overs.

Chasing a revised target of 192, the Leewards lost Kieran Powell off just the second ball of the innings for four. Justin Greaves and Keacy Carty then put on 59 for the second wicket before Carty went off the bowling of Roston Chase for 18.

Jahmar Hamilton then came and went soon after for 10 to leave the Hurri-

canes at 77 for three off 16 overs. Terance Warde then joined Greaves in the middle and the pair added a crucial 65 for the fourth wicket before Warde fell for 22.

Sixteen-year-old debutant and West Indies Under-19 representative Jewel Andrew was next to go for five before Alzarri Joseph fell for seven to bring Hayden Walsh Jr to the crease to join Greaves with the Hurricanes needing 28. The pair brought the Hurricanes home at 192 for six in 40.1 overs.

Greaves ended on 95 not out off 120 balls, his third consecutive 50-plus score, while Walsh Jr. finished on 21 not out off just nine balls. Off-spinner Roston Chase took four for 34 from nine overs for the Pride.

# GERM BUSTER

## TIPS!

1

**WASH YOUR HANDS WITH SOAP FOR AT LEAST 20 SECONDS**

- 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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## Treasury stay unbeaten in business volleyball league

Treasury extended their unbeaten run in the Antigua and Barbuda Amateur Volleyball Association's (ABAVA) Business League competition on Saturday night.

Treasury claimed their fourth win in as many games by overcoming the Antigua and Barbuda International Institute of Technology (ABIIT) 2-1 in the opening match of a double-header at the indoor volleyball facility at the YMCA Sports Complex.

ABIIT took the opening set 25-21, but Treasury ensured they maintained their perfect start to the competition by taking the second set 25-22 to draw level and clinching victory by winning the deciding third set 16-14. It was the second loss in as many outings for ABIIT.

The Media beat 77 Bus 2-0 to claim their first win in three encounters. The Media won 25-17, 25-21 to condemn 77 Bus to their fifth loss in as many appearances.

But defending champions APUA INET returned to winning ways in the ABAVA Business League competition.

After suffering their first loss to ICONS in their previous outing, APUA INET rebounded to claim their second win in three games by dispatching newcomers Royalton 2-0 in straight sets.

The APUA INET got their title defense back on track by prevailing 25-6, 25-10 against Royalton, who lost for the second time in three games.

The ICONS secured their third win in four encounters by beating MEDSO

Fusion 2-0, prevailing 25-13, 25-18. It was the fourth loss in as many games for MEDSO Fusion.

The Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB) extended their unbeaten run by pulling off a 2-1 win against 77 Bus. The ECAB notched up their fourth victory to maintain their perfect record by prevailing 25-23, 24-26, and 15-10 against 77 Bus.

After winning their first two games, the Sandals have now suffered back-to-back losses in their last two encounters.

After losing 2-1 against Treasury in their previous encounter, the Sandals lost 2-0 against Nate's Photography in their latest match. Nate's Photography beat Sandals 25-22, 25-15 to record their third win in four encounters.





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## ABBA congratulates Knight on national honour

The Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association (ABBA) has offered congratulations to legendary ex-national player Carl "Bowlie" Knight on his national honour.

In a media release, ABBA states, "The Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association and the basketball fraternity as a whole would like to echo congratulations to former national player Carl 'Bowlie' Knight on his honour at the recently held national independence ceremony on November 1."

Knight was the lone individual from sports to be honoured among the 12 honorees. He is now an officer of Princely Heritage (OH).

"We definitely want to congratulate Mr. Knight on this achievement. A well-deserved one as well. Even after retiring, he has always given back to the sport, and even now you can catch him refereeing or commentating on matches. We are definitely proud as an association, and we wish him and his family well in the future," President of ABBA, Michael Freeland, said.

Knight was arguably

one of the best point guards to ever come out of the region. Locally, he dominated with the Skillville basketball team and then later with the senior men's national team, the Wadadli Bulldogs, where he was the captain from the age of 16 until his retirement in the late 90s.

Knight has played alongside a number of other local greats, including Noel "Nyah" Roberts, Richie Francis, Tekel Gomes, and Wayne "Doc" Harris.

He would later become the first ever sportsman of the year in Antigua and Barbuda, and he still remains the only male basketballer to win that title. The ABBA Division One Most Assists Award was renamed in his honour some years ago.

The release adds, "After retiring, he didn't stray far from the sport, having applied his trade as a PE teacher for the Ottos Comprehensive School and the TN Kirnon Primary. He would later transition to being a basketball coach and then the school's basketball coordinator. A role he still remains in at present.

"When he isn't assist-



*Legendary Antigua and Barbuda basketballer Carl 'Bowlie' Knight. (ABBA)*

ing the youth in the school league, Knight can be found at the local division and business league games officiating or commentating."

Meanwhile, Sandals beat H. Wright Promotions by a 16-point margin in the final match in the round-robin stage of the Cool and Smooth Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Business League.

The Sandals clinched second place in the league with a record of 10 wins and two losses as they prevailed 66-50 against H. Wright Promotions at the JSC Sports

Complex.

Keroi Lee shot a game-high 25 points, and John Rolland scored 12 points for the Sandals. Sharife Sergeant produced 14 points, Shaquille Kelly sank 11 points, and Hansle Piper scored 10 points for H. Wright Promotions.

All 13 teams will compete in the playoff phase of the business basketball league, which commenced at the JSC Sports Complex on Sunday.

The top three finishers in the round-robin league phase have earned first-round byes into the second round.

They are league winners Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, Sandals, and reigning playoff champions, Richie's Shooterz.

*cont'd from pg 24*

sion for St. Joseph's Academy.

Three other Under-14 Boys Division matches were not played. Princess Margaret School won by default against Jennings Secondary School on the PMS playing

field.

All Saints Secondary won by default against Ottos Comprehensive School at Mack Pond in All Saints, and Clare Hall Secondary School won by default against St. Mary's Secondary School at Clare Hall.

## PMS trounce Jennings in schools' football league

Princess Margaret School (PMS) hammered Jennings Secondary 4-0 in the latest round of matches in the Ministry of Sports Secondary Schools' Football League.

Greg Williams had conversions in the 24th and 25th minutes for Princess Margaret School in the West Zone Under-20 Boys Division encounter at the PMS playing field.

Jahbrie Barzy also scored in the 28th minute, and Johnathon Shoy converted in the 43rd minute for Princess Margaret School.

Ottos Comprehensive snatched a 1-0 win against Antigua Grammar School in their West Zone Under-20 Boys Division encounter at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Eroy Gonsalves scored a hat-trick to give St. Joseph's Academy a 3-1 victory against defending champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Institute of Continuing Education (ABICE), in the East Zone Under-20 Boys Division encounter at the Princess Margaret School (PMS) playing field.

Gonsalves had conversions in the 8th, 13th, and



Coach Rolston 'Lexi' Phoenix (black shirt) and his Princess Margaret School's Under-20 Boys Division squad before their secondary schools' league encounter against Jennings Secondary at the PMS playing field on Friday, November 3, 2023. (Photo by Elwin Francis)

51st minutes for St. Joseph's Academy, while Shayan Hastings scored in the 56th minute for ABICE.

Railique Browne scored twice as Irene B. Williams Secondary snatched a 3-2 victory against Clare Hall Secondary in another encounter in the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys Division at the Clare Hall School playing field.

Browne had conversions in the 10th and 15th minutes, while Antoniel Campbell scored in the 57th minute for Irene B. Williams Secondary.

Omarie Thomas scored in the 26th minute, and Amos Christian had a

40th-minute conversion for Clare Hall Secondary.

All Saints Secondary also won by default against Pares Secondary School in the East Zone of the Under-20 Boys Division at Mack Pond in All Saints.

Nafisa Quashie scored six times as Antigua Girls High School hammered All Saints Secondary 8-0 in the opening round of matches in the Under-16 Girls Division at King George V Recreational Grounds.

Quashie had conversions in the 9th, 13th, 24th, 26th, 40th, and 45th minutes. The other goals were scored by Thedia Browne in the 18th minute and Ashilah

Martin in the 22nd minute.

But Jennings Secondary School won by default against Ottos Comprehensive School, while the other Under-16 Girls Division encounter between Princess Margaret School and Clare Hall Secondary School was postponed.

St. Joseph's Academy suffered a 3-1 loss against Princess Margaret School in the Under-14 Boys Division at the PMS playing field.

Mario Lewis scored a hat-trick with goals in the 5th, 41st, and 50th minutes for Princess Margaret School, while Joshua James had a 6th-minute conver-

*cont'd on pg 23*