



ANTI-GANG LEGISLATION GOES TO PARLIAMENT

Story on Page 2



Prime Minister Gaston Browne spent several hours on Monday working alongside employees at the General Post Office. *Story on page 3.*

Anti-gang legislation goes to parliament today

The second part of the government's two-pronged approach to dismantling the gangs that are operating in the country, the enactment of relevant legislation, goes to parliament today (Tuesday) as the House of Representatives meets to debate the Anti-Gang bill and other specifically-tailored legislative measures.

Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin has revealed that the Anti-Gang Bill and the Small Charges Act are two pieces of legislation destined to be debated during the session today.

He said Prime Minister Gaston Browne will likely introduce the bills since as minister responsible for National Security matters, he has started the process by his personal intervention with the members of two gangs in an effort to quell gang violence.

Sir Steadroy said the Anti-Gang Bill seeks (a) to curtail the formation of gangs (b) to stop the recruiting of persons to be members of gangs and (c) to curtail and prevent further gang development by imposing stiffer penalties and sanctions against those practices.

He described gangs as a situation where two or more persons gather to promote criminal activities. "We have had inputs from the Antigua and Barbuda Bar Association, civil society



Attorney General, Sir Steadroy Benjamin

groups and NGO's as well as comments offered by residents via several of the popular radio programmes and social media," he reported.

According to the Attorney General, the Antigua and Barbuda government has adopted a proactive stance regarding the operation of gangs in the country noting that this has been a problem faced by Caribbean governments from Jamaica in the north to Guyana in the south.

"This is not a problem faced only by us here in Antigua and Barbuda as we see it everywhere. We also note the reports of school shootings in places like the United States perpetrated by young people, some as young as 14 years old. We are taking these steps

to 'nip this problem in the bud' here," he declared.

He observed that the recent meetings between the prime minister and members of the two gangs have already resulted in a reduction of criminal activities involving youth. Sir Steadroy added that there has been widespread support for the initiatives being undertaken by the prime minister to dismantle the gangs and to provide their members with productive activities to pursue. "On social media and elsewhere, we see the country galvanizing in support of the prime minister and the government as residents rally behind the government with this particular initiative," he stated.



2024 MATCH SCHEDULE

TUE 10 SEP SLK v TKR 7:00 PM ST LUCIA

PM Browne spent time as a postal worker on Monday

Prime Minister Gaston Browne is once again displaying exceptional leadership by spending the day working alongside workers at the General Post Office on Monday.

Last week Prime Minister Browne met with staff of the post office to address a number of concerns, some of which would have led them to take industrial action in the past.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Browne committed to spending a few hours with the team to get first-hand experience of the day to day operations of the GPO.

Prime Minister Browne said that already he has made a number of interventions to address the concerns of the staff at the post office and he is com-



mitted to ensuring that the workers have a comfortable and safe environment in which to operate.

The staff at the GPO have been restive over the past several months as they have resorted to industrial action to press home their grievances regarding the conditions under which they have to work.

The move by the prime minister is seen as a recognition on his part that he is aware of their situation and that he is committed to solving these issues.





PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION

APUA Electricity Business Unit Urges Property Owners to Support Critical Vegetation Management Efforts

ST. JOHN'S Antigua, September, 9th 2024 - The Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) Electricity Business Unit is committed to maintaining a reliable and safe power supply to all customers. Over the past few months, increased rainfall has accelerated the growth of vegetation, particularly trees, which can pose a significant risk to our overhead power lines.

In response, we have been intensifying our vegetation management efforts. However, our teams frequently encounter challenges with property owners who are reluctant to allow the pruning of trees that could potentially interfere with power lines. Trees that are too close to these lines can cause faults, outages, and safety hazards.

We kindly request that our customers be mindful when planting trees on their property and avoid planting trees close to utility lines. Property owners are also reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that trees on their property are pruned and maintained at a safe distance from power lines.

If trees on private property are found to be interfering with power lines, the removal of any debris resulting from pruning or cutting will be the responsibility of the property owner.

To report trees that are interfering with power lines, please contact our Electricity Fault Line at 311. APUA remains dedicated to ensuring a stable and reliable electricity supply while working with the community to maintain safe and efficient utility services.

-END -

ABHTA to host Hospitality Job Fair on World Tourism Day September 27, 2024

The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA) is excited to announce the return of its Hospitality Job Fair on Friday, September 27, 2024, at the Multipurpose Cultural and Exhibition Centre, Perry Bay, in celebration of World Tourism Day. As tourism continues to shape the world's economy and societies, the ABHTA is proud to foster an environment that promotes the various roles that are possible within the industry.

Chairman of the ABHTA, Craig Marshall, emphasizes the significance of the Hospitality Job Fair: "Tour-



ism has the potential to create meaningful change—not only economically but also socially and environmentally. As we prepare to celebrate World Tourism Day, we are reminded of our responsi-

bility to ensure that tourism remains a powerful force for good in our society. Our Job Fair presents a unique opportunity for individuals across Antigua and Barbuda to become part of this transformative industry."

Job seekers attending the fair will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of positions, including Culinary, Food and Beverage, Maintenance, Housekeeping, Tour Guides, Administrative Team and more.

Participating companies include:

Ana's on the Beach Restaurant and Art Gallery
Blue Waters Resort & Spa

Buccaneer Beach Club
Carlisle Bay Resort Ltd
Cocobay Resort
Colombian Emeralds International Antigua

Goddard Catering Group (Antigua) Ltd

Hammock Cove Antigua
Hermitage Bay Antigua
Hodges Bay Resort &

Spa

Jolly Beach Antigua
Keyonna Beach Resort
Pineapple Beach Club
Royalton Antigua
Sandals Grande Antigua

Resort & Spa

Siboney Beach Club
St. James's Club & Villas
Tamarind Hills Resort & Villas

The Escape at Nonsuch Bay Antigua

The Mill Reef Club
The Rendezvous Company Antigua

The Verandah Antigua
Trade Winds Hotel

Job Seekers will also have the opportunity to learn about advancing their education in Industry by interacting with representatives from The Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute.

To streamline the process, job seekers are strongly encouraged to pre-register to secure an interview time slot.

- JOBS AVAILABLE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**
- ▶ Front Desk
 - ▶ Food and Beverage
 - ▶ Culinary
 - ▶ Maintenance
 - ▶ Housekeeping
 - ▶ Tour Guides
 - ▶ Administrative Team
 - ▶ Watersports
 - ▶ Accounting
 - ▶ Plus More

LIST OF THE PARTICIPATING COMPANIES:

- Ana's On The Beach
- Blue Waters Resort & Spa
- Buccaneer Beach Club
- Carlisle Bay Resort Ltd
- Cocobay Resort
- Colombian Emeralds Antigua
- Goddard Catering Group (Antigua) Ltd.
- Hammock Cove Antigua
- Hermitage Bay Antigua
- Hodges Bay Resort & Spa
- Jolly Beach Antigua
- Keyonna Beach Resort
- Pineapple Beach Club
- Royalton Antigua
- Sandals Grande Antigua Resort & Spa
- Siboney Beach Club
- St. James's Club & Villas
- Tamarind Hills Resort & Villas
- The Escape at Nonsuch Bay Resort
- The Mill Reef Club
- The Rendezvous Company Ltd.
- The Verandah Antigua
- Trade Winds Hotel

Registration OPEN

Antigua and Barbuda students benefit from Sandals Foundation education outreach initiative

As the new school year gets underway, the Sandals Foundation is reinforcing its commitment to education across the Caribbean with an investment of approximately USD \$110,000. This significant contribution supports scholarships, infrastructure improvements, teacher training, and the distribution of essential school supplies, ensuring that students across the region have the resources they need to succeed.

Through its Care for Kids Scholarship Programme, the foundation has awarded nearly USD 70,000 this year, benefiting 42 secondary and tertiary students as they pursue their academic dreams in 2024. The programme not only provides financial assistance but also offers a holistic support system, covering medical expenses and housing, while connecting students with mentors who guide and support them throughout their educational journey. This comprehensive approach ensures that students are equipped with the



Sandals Foundation A Day with the Girls Backpack Distribution

tools they need to succeed.

Two promising students from Antigua, 11 years old Kyrah Edwards

and 12 years Erwin Christopher, have been awarded the prestigious Sandals Foundation Care for Kids Scholarship for the new academic year, which will support them through five years of secondary education at Princess Margaret Secondary and Antigua Grammar School respectively.

As part of its wider school preparation support, recently, the Sandals Foundation partnered with local community organization Boss Ladies Connect for their annual Day with the Girls project, providing a much-needed respite of relaxation and fun for girls aged 3-15 from the local communities across Antigua. As part of the initiative, the Sandals Foundation gifted several custom-made, high-quality Sandalsbranded school bags to this year's participants.



Sandals Foundation Antigua Scholarship Recipient - Erwin Christopher



Sandals Foundation Antigua Scholarship Recipient Kyrah Edwards

Maven Marketing partners with Halo Foundation in back-to-school initiative

Maven Marketing, a company that provides digital marketing for companies locally and overseas, is continuing its tradition of making annual donations to students in the country.

The company has teamed up with Halo Foundation to donate back-to-school supplies to fifty students designed to ease the financial burden from their parents.

In a statement from the Halo Foundation said employees of Maven Marketing were actively involved in packing the backpacks with essential school supplies such as notebooks, water bottles, pens, pencils and more.



“The company believes in giving back to the community in which it operates and events like this make a meaningful impact, ensuring that children have the tools and support required to succeed in the classroom,” the statement said.

Back to School

Monday - Friday

- 2 pcs (leg and thigh)
- Biscuit
- Drink

\$17.50

KFC

KFC

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FOR PICKUP/DELIVERY

TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Jamaican man remanded, his mother to be deported

The Jamaican man who escaped lawful custody while in detention at the Immigration Detention Centre on Sunday...has pleaded guilty and has been remanded in prison for a court appearance on Wednesday when he is expected to be ordered for removal from the state.

Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel made the order when Sanjaye Kemar Mor-

gan appeared before her on Monday in District B court in All Saints. Morgan will know his fate on Wednesday, but indications are that he will be ordered for removal for violating the country's immigration laws. Morgan was in the country illegally and he faced an additional charge of escaping lawful custody.

Meanwhile, in District A, his moth-

er Susan Stephenson, who remained in the country illegally since 2020 was ordered for immediate deportation.

The Immigration Department has been enforcing the country's laws with regard to non-nationals who remain here illegally or those who engage in criminal activities, especially gun-related crimes. The department has been petitioning the courts to have these individuals removed from the state.

Police on the hunt for building materials thieves

Police are searching for the suspects believed to be involved in stealing large quantities of building materials from two separate properties. A Marble Hill resident reported the theft of 4,819 pieces of 6-inch concrete blocks from a site at Friars Hill Road. This incident occurred sometime between August 20 and September 8, 2024.

Similarly, a resident of Liberta reported that someone stole three, 5-gallon buckets of paint, 40 boxes of 12-inch tiles, and a meter base from a building under construction at Buckleys. This incident occurred between September, 7 and 8. Further investigations are ongoing into the reports.

Meanwhile, police are cautioning those involved in stealing building materials or other criminal activities to desist from doing so. Members of the public are further warned not to purchase suspected stolen items from anyone. If you have information on these or other crimes, kindly contact the nearest police station or call the Criminal Investigations Department at 462-3913.



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

“Antigua and Barbuda: A Nation Covenanting with God for the Success of Our Land”

2 Chronicles 7:14

SEPT | 12TH | 2024

Prayer at designated locations: 6:00 a.m. to noon

PRAYER MARCH

commences at
1:30 p.m.

Multipurpose centre
to Antigua Recreation
Grounds



PRAYER, PRAISE & WORSHIP:
4:00-6:00 p.m.

From adult swimming lessons to Sunday snorkel club: EMC deepens community connection with the ocean

The Elkhorn Marine Conservancy (EMC), in collaboration with Splashing With Clashing Swim Instruction, concluded its second annual Adult Swimming Program this month. The program, which spanned three weekends, saw eleven participants complete a series of learn-to-swim classes, culminating in a snorkel excursion to explore EMC's coral reef restoration site off the coast of Green Island.

"The adult swimming program was truly life-changing. Over three weeks, I learned to swim with a supportive group, feeling safe and guided every step of the way" says Zoe Teague, one of the students from this year's program. "The experience was intense but incredibly rewarding, and seeing my progress in such a short time was amazing. The highlight was deepening my connection to nature by exploring the coral nurseries and learning about EMC's work. This program has opened up a whole new world for me."

This program builds on EMC's recent community engagement initiatives and accomplishments, including:

A collaboration with EAG for the 'Into the Wild - The Coral Code' YouTube three-part video series that encourages school-aged children to learn



Students from the Adult Swimming Program learning to use snorkel gear while gaining confidence in the water. Photo Credit - Andre Phillip

more about coral reefs in Antigua and Barbuda and their supporting ecosystems.

Hosting excursions for a total of 60 children this summer at the EMC Green Island Coral Nursery site through collaborations with three local summer camps

"This program offers a transformative experience of moving from fear of the water to being in awe of the ocean," says Christal Clashing, newly appointed Director of Advancement and Community Engagement at the Elkhorn Marine Conservancy. "Our participants' engagement with the water won't stop here. EMC will launch their quarterly Sunday Snorkel Club on Sunday 22nd September 2024 for



Swim instructor Edith Clashing from Splashing With Clashing guiding students through their lessons. Photo Credit - Andre Phillip



Students from the Adult Swimming Program gearing up to use snorkel gear for the first time, ready to dive into a new underwater experience Photo Credit - Andre Phillip

past program participants and members of the general public to go snorkeling in the safety of a group at select snorkel sports across the island."



Learning to swim against the backdrop of a stunning sunset, combining skill-building with the natural beauty of the sea. Photo Credit - Andre Phillip



Students getting an up-close view of a coral fragment during EMC's snorkel tour at the Green Island coral nursery. Photo Credit - Andre Phillip



Mother-daughter duo Edith and Christal Clashing from Splashing With Clashing, empowering students together through expert swim instruction and water safety education. Photo Credit - Andre Phillip

Heartwarming initiative lights the path for All Saints West students

In a remarkable display of community spirit and dedication to education, Anthony Smith, Member of Parliament for All Saints West, joined forces Monday with a group of young professionals and entrepreneurs to launch an inspiring back-to-school initiative. This initiative brings together a diverse group of individuals, including former students who have transformed into successful managers, chefs, business owners, social workers, and teachers, all pooling their resources to invest in the future of their community.

Smith took a moment to reflect on the profound impact that teachers have on the lives of students. He shared heartfelt memories of the love and support he received from his educators while growing up, emphasizing the crucial role they play in shaping the youth of today. "Our teachers are the unsung heroes of our society," he expressed. "They inspire our young minds and create pathways for their success."

With the acknowledgment that



educators play an essential role in our children's development, this back-to-school initiative was designed to encompass not only the students but also the dedicated teachers and staff who guide them. Smith declared, "No student should be left behind," and committed to ensuring that schools would identify students in need, guaranteeing that each classroom would be equipped



with the necessary supplies to assist all learners.

This effort has provided vital support to all Government Primary Schools within the constituency, including Buckleys Primary, Freemans Ville Primary, and Sea View Farm Primary. From backpacks filled with school supplies to resources that empower teachers, the initiative underscores the importance of a united community in nurturing its future generations.

Expressing his gratitude, MP Smith thanked everyone who contributed to making this initiative possible. "Together, we are building a brighter future for our children and community," he stated, inspiring hope and excitement as the new school year begins.

As the All Saints West constituency embarks on this new academic year, it is evident that the combined efforts of community members and MP Smith's leadership will help pave the way for success, fostering a supportive environment for learning where every child can thrive.



Captain, the ship has sunk

Dear Editor,

I appreciate the opportunity to once again address the leadership of the United Progressive Party (UPP) through your platform. This time, I wish to bring to light the ongoing chaos and disarray within the UPP, most notably at last Sunday's General Council Meeting.

When the Political Leader spoke for just over three and a half minutes to address what he called "yet another sad occasion for the UPP" following the resignation of Dr. Edmund Mansoor, it should have prompted serious reflection within the party. Dr. Mansoor, unlike others who have left, has gone a step further by joining the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP).

Instead of a moment for heal-

ing and reflection, last Sunday turned out to be one of the most chaotic afternoons I've ever witnessed within the UPP.

Here are some undeniable facts:

1. The General Council Meeting was characterized by chaos.
2. The Chairman made it clear that she wants Richard Lewis out of the party.
3. She revealed that a recent poll showed Richard Lewis trailing Michael Joseph in the St. John's Rural West constituency.
4. The Chairman expressed her lack of trust in Richard Lewis, stating that he can no longer win his seat and should step aside.
5. Both the Political Leader and Chairman told members they were free to leave the UPP if they no longer

supported the leadership.

6. There is a growing belief among members that Richard Lewis will soon leave the UPP, possibly to join the ABLP.

7. Prime Minister Gaston Browne has not shown interest in welcoming Richard Lewis into the ABLP.

8. Discussions have surfaced about replacing Shawn Nicholas in the Senate with Pearl Quinn.

9. Shawn Nicholas has threatened to resign from both the Senate and the party.

10. She has not yet resigned because Harold Lovell, her close ally, has convinced her to wait.

11. The party leadership has initiated efforts to expel Sean Bird from the UPP, accusing him of being an "ABLP flip-flopper".

12. At least four senior members are contemplating resignation, with one already meeting with Prime Minister Browne over the weekend at a local hotel.

The ongoing turmoil within the UPP is a testament to the failed leadership of Jamale Pringle and the divisive influence of D. Giselle Isaac. Together, they have brought the party to the brink of collapse.

It is laughable that some continue to point fingers at Gaston Browne and the ABLP for the UPP's internal crisis. Prime Minister Browne has shown himself to be a visionary, strategic and effective leader.

If Pringle and Giselle do not wake up to the reality of the party's disintegration, the metaphor "Captain, the ship is sinking" will soon no longer apply—because by then, the ship will have already sunk.

*Cheers
Embert*




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Apple banks on AI to boost sales of new iPhone 16

With business slumping, Apple has been under pressure to show what it will offer buyers to jumpstart a new wave of iPhone sales.

On Monday, the technology giant revealed its hand - the iPhone 16 which has a camera button on the outside of the handset.

The button is an external clue to the changes Apple said it had made inside its latest smartphone, aimed at harnessing the latest in artificial intelligence (AI).

Apple's chief executive Tim Cook said the upgrades would "push the boundaries of what a smartphone can do" but the firm has tough competition, as other brands have already integrated generative AI features into their handsets.

Apple's share price fell during its "Glowtime" event, where it unveiled the iPhone 16 as well as other products, and ended the day flat. The company, worth \$3 trillion, is facing concern that it is losing its edge in the burgeoning area of artificial intelligence.

Sales of the iPhone - Apple's most important product which accounts for around half of its total sales - have stalled in recent months. They slipped by 1% over the nine months ended 29 June compared with a year earlier.

Apple said its new



phones, which come with longer lasting batteries, more powerful chips and enhanced privacy features, were its first built specifically to handle AI and its new "Apple Intelligence" tools, many of which were announced in June.

Those include new tools for writing and creating new emojis as well incorporating OpenAI's chatbot ChatGPT into Siri to help users with some queries and text generation requests.

On Monday, Apple also announced updates to its Apple Watch and its AirPods headphones, which will allow them to automatically drop the volume when users start in-person conversations and to decline calls with the shake of a head.

It said the Pro version of its AirPods would be able to be used as a "clinical grade" personal hearing aid for

people with mild or moderate hearing loss.

The company said it was expecting marketing approval from regulators for the device "soon" and the feature would be available this autumn in more than 100 countries, including the US, Germany and Japan.

Previously, the company had a feature that allowed people to pair hearing aids with iPhones and other devices.

The products were rolled out at a glossy event where protestors gathered in a designated free speech area across the street, urging executives to ramp up efforts to protect children from dangerous content in the company's App Store.

The protest featured a life-sized blow-up made to resemble Mr Cook.

Sales of the new range

start in September, with prices for the iPhone16 starting at \$799.

But the Apple Intelligence features are not set to be available on operating systems until October, starting in the US and heading to other countries in the following months. They will be available in the UK in December.

Ben Wood, chief analyst at the market research firm CCS Insight, said it was likely that many people would dismiss the company's new camera control as a "glorified shutter button".

But he said it offered "very significant" upgrades, including visual, AI-powered search and he came away from the presentation persuaded that Apple would win over customers.

"The combination of Apple Intelligence and new
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camera features on the iPhone 16 will help spur upgrades from loyal Apple customers,” he said. “Particularly as Apple is positioning this latest update as being a future-proof purchase for customers wanting to get Apple Intelligence features as they roll out over the next few years.”

Apple has been slower than rivals Samsung and Google to bake generative AI features for photo editing, translation and web browsing into its devices.

Competitors are now building them into folding, flipping and even tri-folding smartphones.

Pre-orders for Huawei’s new tri-fold phone, the Mate XT, reportedly hit more than three million on



People will be able to decline phone calls with a shake of the head with Apple’s new AirPods.

Monday.

Gartner analyst Annette Zimmermann said because Apple was rolling out AI-

ready smartphones later than rivals, it was “critical” they deliver.

She warned that rolling

the features out before they were ready could risk their reputation or prompt sales losses.

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Guyana President Ali wants regional leaders to discuss poor performances in maths

CMC - President Irfaan Ali says the poor performance of Caribbean students in mathematics is a matter of concern for regional leaders and that the matter needs to be fully ventilated.

The Barbados-based Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) last month reported that only 36 per cent of students across the region received passing grades for mathematics at the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC), a seven percentage point decrease compared to last year.

CXC's Director of Operations, Dr Nicole Manning emphasised the need for improvement in each territory.

Addressing the commissioning of the new Yarrowkabra Secondary School, President Ali that the matter will be discussed by regional leaders even as he suggested that declining grades in mathematics might be due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

"The issue of mathematics has now captured the attention of every single head of state and prime minister in the region, and it is now an agenda for the Heads of Government in CARICOM.



Guyanese President Dr Mohamed Irfaan Ali. Photo: Office of the President.

That is to tell you the issues and challenges that we face," Ali told the ceremony.

He said Barbados' Prime Minister, Mia Mottley, had recently told him that she intended to take the issue of maths to the next CARICOM summit slated for February 2025 in Bridgetown because she believed that the region was in a crisis in mathematics.

"It is not a Jamaica issue, Barbados issue, Trinidad issue or your Guyana issue.

It has now become a collective issue that we must address and here in Guyana,

we have to be innovative," Ali said.

According to the CXC results, Guyana recorded a CSEC Mathematics' pass rate of 31 per cent this year compared to 34 per cent last year.

Ali wondered whether the declining rate of success was linked to the more than two-year long COVID-19 pandemic.

"Now also COVID, mathematics required more direct contact, more group, more analytics, more teachers-to-student relationship, more teaching time, whether COVID itself had a greater impact on students' perfor-

mance in mathematics than other subject area, because you can read and follow in other subject areas, but in mathematics, you need to have more problem-solving approach.

"You have to do formulas, understand formulas, understand analytics.

That can be also an offshoot of the problem of COVID," he said, adding that other reasons for Guyana's declining math performance might be the effectiveness of teaching delivery, children shying away from the problem-solving mode of mathematics, and

cont'd on pg 15



Grenada House of Parliament

Grenada: Opposition Senate bench shakeup

Changes are coming to Grenada's opposition bench in the Upper House of Parliament after two Senators have decided not to continue in their positions.

A statement from His Majesty's Opposition Leader's Office said Senators

Neilon Franklyn and Kati-sha Douglas have expressed their intention not to continue in this role from October 1, 2024.

New National Party (NNP) leader and Opposition leader, Dr Keith Mitchell has expressed apprecia-

tion for their service to the Upper House.

According to the statement, as the appointments of both senators expire on September 30, Dr Mitchell will make two new appointments effective October 1, 2024.

Dr Mitchell is quoted as stating these appointments will be part of the ongoing process to reorganize the party, to prepare for the upcoming General Election and for the opportunities ahead to lead Grenada into the future.

cont'd from pg 14
fear of the subject.

Ali said he has asked Education Minister Priya Manickchand not to await for next year's CARICOM discussion on maths but conduct introspection, and ascertain what globally available tools could be used to improve performance in the subject.

"We're investing in the digitisation of education, the digitisation of our textbooks, the digitisation of our teaching material, the digitisation of our learning material, digitisation of our delivery," he said.

The Yarrowkabra Secondary

School is catering for an estimated 1,019 students from several villages along the Soesdyke/Linden Highway.

The GYD\$790 million learning facility features 11 departments including entrepreneurial, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) and TVET skills, with a dedicated cohort of 65 teachers.

Ali said the infrastructure is only one component of the government's bid to ensure every child has access to world class education.

"We can have the best facilities, but if we also do not invest in human resources that will help this facility to

manifest the type of results that you're investing for, then you will have a mismatch," he said.

He reiterated the government's goal of achieving universal secondary education, adding that this involves a focus on digitising education to address challenges in subjects like mathematics.

"We further believe that universal access to secondary education should not be considered optional. It is an indispensable right for exercise. Secondary education is not merely a privilege, it is a fundamental entitlement that must be extended to all."

Cars plunge into river as super typhoon destroys Vietnam bridge

A busy bridge in northern Vietnam collapsed after being hit by Super Typhoon Yagi, which has killed more than 60 people since making landfall on Saturday.

Dashcam footage showed the moment the Phong Chau bridge in Phu Tho province gave way on Monday, plunging several vehicles into the water below. Searches were under way for 13 people.

Vietnam's most powerful storm in 30 years has wreaked havoc across the north of the country, leaving 1.5 million people without power.

Although it has now weakened into a tropical depression, authorities have warned Yagi will create more disruption as it moves westwards.

More than 240 people have been injured by the typhoon, which brought winds of up to 203 km/h (126 mph) and is Asia's most powerful storm so far this year.

Ten cars and two scooters fell into the Red River following the collapse of the Phong Chau bridge, Deputy Prime Minister Ho Duc Phoc said.

The moment a lorry plummeted into the water as the bridge decking ahead fell away before the driver had time to stop was captured on camera.



Footage online showed part of the 375-metre Phong Chau bridge still standing.

At least three people have been rescued from the river so far.

Nguyen Minh Hai said he was riding across the bridge on his motorcycle when it collapsed.

"I was so scared when I fell down," he said, speaking from hospital.

"I feel like I've just escaped death. I can't swim and I thought I would have died."

Part of the 375-m (1230-ft) structure is still standing, and the military has been instructed to build a pontoon bridge across the gap as soon as possible.

At least 44 of those who died in Vietnam were killed in landslides and flash floods, according to the ministry of agriculture and rural development.

Among them were a 68-year-old woman, a one-year-old boy, and a newborn baby.

The typhoon tore roofs from buildings, uprooted trees, and left widespread damage to infrastructure and factories in the north. Photos by Reuters news agency show that the walls of an LG Electronics factory in Hai Phong city have collapsed.

In the Yen Bai province, flood waters reached a metre high on Monday, with 2,400 families evacuated to higher ground as levels rose, AFP news agency reported.

Nearly 50,000 people have been evacuated from coastal towns in Vietnam, with authorities issuing a warning to remain indoors.

Schools were tempo-

rarily closed in 12 northern provinces, including Hanoi.

Nguyen Thi Thom, who owns a restaurant in Ha Long Bay on the northeast coast, said she and many other people had lost everything in the storm.

"There is nothing left.

"When I look around, people have also lost all they had, just like me," she said.

"I can only try to recover from this."

Before hitting Vietnam, Yagi left 24 people dead across southern China and the Philippines.

As the world warms, typhoons can bring higher wind speeds and more intense rainfall, although the influence of climate change on individual storms is complicated.

El Salvador police chief dies in 'suspicious' copter crash

By Vanessa Buschschlüter

The head of El Salvador's police force is among nine people who died when the military helicopter they were travelling in crashed in the Central American nation on Sunday evening local time.

Police Director-General Mauricio Arriaza was escorting a suspect in a multi-million-dollar fraud scheme to the capital, San Salvador, when the helicopter came down shortly after take-off.

The suspect, fugitive former bank director Manuel Coto, had been accused of involvement in the embezzlement of \$35m (£27m) from a credit union in El Salvador.

Salvadorean President Nayib Bukele wrote on X that he did not think the crash should be considered an accident and ordered an investigation.

President Bukele said flags would be flown at half-mast for three days in honour of Mr Arriaza.

The president had named him as chief of police in 2019 and he was key to Mr Bukele's crackdown on El Salvador's infamous gangs.

Under Mr Bukele, the country's shocking homicide rate dropped, but human rights groups say security has come at a cost, with



Mauricio Arriaza had been named chief of police in 2019.

some suspects arbitrarily detained and denied access to fair trials.

President Bukele praised the late police chief as "a fundamental part of bringing peace and security to our people".

Mr Bukele said he would request international help to examine the causes of the crash.

El Salvador's Armed Forces said the UH-1H helicopter came down near Pasaquina, some 10km (six miles) from the border with Honduras.

The helicopter was carrying Police Chief Arriaza, Mr Coto and a TV news crew, according to local

media.

All those on board died in the crash, the Salvadorean military said.

Mr Arriaza had travelled to the Honduran border to take Mr Coto into custody.

Honduran officials said police had captured the former bank director as he was trying to make his way to the US with the help of a people-smuggler.

News of his arrest caused surprise and confusion as it was not widely known that he had been on the run.

In fact, the Salvadorean authorities had announced back in July that Mr Coto

had been detained in Panama.

It is not clear how he came to be in Honduras.

Mr Coto was one of 32 people accused of embezzlement and money-laundering over the disappearance of \$35m from the coffers of the COSAVI credit union.

El Salvador's attorney-general accused the group of syphoning off money from people's savings and using it to buy luxury flats and cars, among other items.

In total, 15 people have been detained in connection with the case. Among them are Mr Coto's parents.



Participants of the London Football Summer Camp

Political aspirant hosts football camp

One of the political aspirant for the St. Mary's North constituency, Dr. Terri London, has successfully completed a football summer camp in the constituency aimed at providing positive activities for the youth of the area.

“The programme aimed to provide a constructive outlet for young participants, encouraging discipline and camaraderie through sports, while also promoting a healthy and active lifestyle. It was also geared at fostering skills development, teamwork,



Dr. Terri London, host of the London Football Summer Camp and physical fitness,” Dr. London told Point Express Sports

She noted that as she travels the play fields in the constituency, she has observed that there are many talented young people and this was the genesis of the idea for the football summer camp.

“Simply by engaging the talented youth I have observed, I am of the view that sports could have a significant impact, fostering both individual growth and community development,” she stated.

Dr. London believes that initiatives such as football camps or local tournaments could harness the young people’s potential while promoting a



Even the very young participated in the London Football Summer Camp

healthy and supportive environment.

“Therefore, this will become an annual event where London and the Level Up team will be sponsoring children to further equip them for not just local football but regional and international football as well,” she promised.



Dr. Terri London (right) with one of the instructors of the football camp

Wins for GP Eagles and Dredgers in Tape Ball Classic

GP Eagles and the Dredgers recorded wins during the second round of matches, which were affected by rain, in the LL Supply Limited Island Boys Sports Club (IBSC) 20 over Tape Ball Classic on Sunday.

GP Eagles prevailed by eight wickets against PEL Desi Boys at Powells. Desi Boys were dismissed for 77 in 13.2 overs after winning the toss and electing to bat.

Iverson Joseph struck 20, and Frederick Floyd scored 13. Player of the Match Kerry Mentore grabbed four wickets for 14 runs. Kerriquer Mentore claimed two for 21, and Yohanne Marcellin captured two for 24.

Kerry Mentore slammed an unbeaten half century as the GP Eagles achieved



Jaquan Athanaze victory by scoring 78 for two in seven overs. Kerry Mentore hammered 53 not out, and Kerriquer Mentore struck 16 not out.

The match between Bryson's Shipping Insurance Bullets and Buckley's 3J's was abandoned after it was interrupted by rain.

After winning the toss



Kerry Mentore

and batting, Buckley's 3J's were 36 without the loss of a wicket in 1.1 overs when the rain intervened and brought an end to the encounter.

The Dredgers recorded a 10-wicket win against Pete's Landscaping 300 at the Potters playing field.

300 was dismissed for

74 in 14.4 overs after winning the toss and batting. Justin Pereria made 13, and Jared Roberts scored 11.

Man of the Match Jaquan Athanaze grabbed three wickets for nine runs, and Loy Weste captured two for 18.

Dredgers romped to victory by scoring 78 without losing a wicket in 5.1 overs. Mervin Higgins cracked 45 not out, and Jaquan Athanaze hit 29 not out.

The encounter between Pelican Safari and The Nest Beach Bar and Restaurant VIP and PMS was abandoned after the match was interrupted by rain.

After winning the toss and batting, PMS were 35 for two in 6.2 overs when rain came and brought an end to the encounter.

Freeman's Village advance to the final in PSL

Freeman's Village have advanced to the finals in the Parham Super League (PSL) football competition.

Freeman's Village booked their spot in the finals after coming from behind to prevail 2-1 against Willikies in the first semi-final at the Parham playing field on Sunday night.

Kwame Byers put Willikies ahead with a fifth-minute conversion, and Malik Charles scored in the 15th minute to equalize for Freeman's Village.

Manuel Reyes scored the winner for Freeman's Village with a strike in the 25th minute.

Freeman's Village will await the

winner of the second semi-final between defending champion Pigotts Bullets and Garden Stars. Bullets advanced to the semi-finals after a 6-0 drubbing of the Greenbay Hoppers in the quarter-finals.

Garden Stars booked their spot in the semi-final by beating Parham 4-2 in a penalty shootout after both teams fought to a 1-1 draw at the end of regulation in the last quarter-final on Sunday.

Courtney Clarke gave Garden Stars the lead with a 10th-minute conversion, and Andy Daniel scored the equalizer for Parham in the 30th minute to force the deciding penalty

shootout.

Courtney Clarke, Jahred Williams, Tarek Charles, and Dylan Martin each converted their penalty kicks for the Garden Stars, while Denie Henry and Dondre Hobson were the only players to score from the penalty spot for Parham.

Garden Stars and Pigotts Bullets will clash in their semi-final affair at the Parham playing field on Wednesday at 6:30 pm.

The finals of the second annual Parham Super League will take place at the same venue on Saturday at 6:30 pm. The winner will collect a grand prize of EC\$5,000.

Sri Lanka get consolation Test win over England

LONDON (Reuters) - Sri Lanka completed a rare Test victory in England on Monday as they reached their target of 219 with untroubled ease on the fourth day at The Oval, with Pathum Nissanka's unbeaten 127 leading them to a consolation win in a 2-1 series defeat.

After their impressive end to Sunday's final session, Sri Lanka resumed at 94 for one, needing a further 125 to win and knocked them off in a little over two hours to finish on 219 for two and win by eight wickets.

It was their fourth victory in 21 Tests in England over 40 years and their first since a 1-0 victory in a two-Test series 10 years ago.

"It is very special, winning in England," Sri Lanka captain Dhananjaya de Silva told the BBC.

"The boys were tough enough to handle the pressure and get into some scenarios. It is not comfortable. There was hard work put in by the bowlers and batters. We were there in every match - had positive points. The boys wanted to win in the end.

"Credit to all of the bowlers. They have been on target from ball one. In the second innings they were spot on. He (Nissanka) has proved he is the best opener in Sri Lanka right now."

Their Sunday evening assault had set them up to be favourites but the few England fans scattered around The Oval knew that a few early wickets could make things interesting.

Kusal Mendis had added nine to his overnight 30 before a brilliant running catch by Shoaib Bashir gave Gus Atkinson another wicket, but it proved the only bright note for England on an overcast south London day.

Opener Nissanka, who had ham-



Sri Lanka's Pathum Nissanka celebrates reaching his century on day four of the Third Rothesay Men's Test at The Kia Oval, in London, Monday Sept. 9, 2024. (AP)

pered a quick 53 not out in Sunday's final session to set up the chase, was initially more controlled in his approach, but kept the scoreboard ticking and reached his second Test century off 107 balls.

He then cut loose with some big hits and, with the experienced Angelo Mathews also looking untroubled for 32 not out, it turned into an absolute cruise that did not even need the entire first session.

England had been hoping for a 6-0 summer clean sweep after crushing West Indies 3-0 and claiming two more convincing victories over Sri Lanka.

They looked well-placed for a third after reaching 261 for three in their first innings, but a collapse for a total of 325 kept the tourists in the game.

Sri Lanka still looked up against it after managing only 263 in reply, but they fought back superbly by bowling

England out for 156 in 34 overs on Sunday and then setting about their chase with gusto.

"We felt we were in a really good position and were outplayed for the last day and a session," England captain Ollie Pope said.

"We didn't bat our best yesterday and didn't bowl our best. We would have liked to have 400 on board in that first dig, but felt there was a fair bit in the wicket and felt we could bowl them out for a fair bit less than us... A few chances went down, but that is cricket.

"We had a poor day three and credit to Sri Lanka as well. We weren't at our best, but that was a brilliant knock from Nissanka as well. There are a couple of good lessons we can learn from day three."

England now turn their attention to white ball cricket against Australia, starting with a T20 International on Wednesday.

South Africa hand trio first ODI call-ups to build depth

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) - South Africa have handed Nqaba Peter, Andile Simelane and Jason Smith their first call-ups to the One Day International squad for series against Afghanistan and Ireland in the United Arab Emirates, starting next week.

All-rounder Simelane has also received a first call-up to the Twenty20 squad for two games against the Irish, Cricket South Africa announced on Monday.

South Africa will play Afghanistan in three ODIs in Sharjah, starting on Sept. 18, then two T20s against Ireland in Abu Dhabi, followed by three ODIs against the Irish at the Sheikh Zayed Cricket Stadium.

Spin bowler Peter and all-rounder Smith have both previously been capped in the T20 team.

“We have decided to give opportunities to some of the fringe players as well as those who have impressed in recent weeks and months,” said South Africa’s limited overs teams coach Rob Walter.

“This has been a deliberate move, in line with our goal of building a wider pool of players to choose



Nqaba Peter

from, as we prepare for the major tournaments taking place over the next 18 months, with a long-term view on the 50-over World Cup in 2027.”

Seamer Lungi Ngidi has recovered from a right calf injury and was named in all three squads.

South Africa, runners-up at the T20 World Cup in June, are fresh from a 3-0 T20 series defeat in the West Indies last month.

Their last ODIs were in December last year when India won a three-match series 2-1 in South Africa.

South Africa ODI squad against Afghanistan: Temba Bavuma (captain), Ottneil Baartman, Nandre Burger, Tony de Zorzi, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Aiden Markram, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Nqaba Peter, Andile Simelane, Jason Smith, Tristan Stubbs, Kyle Verreynne, and Lizaad Williams.

South Africa T20 squad against Ireland: Aiden Markram (captain), Ottneil Baartman, Matthew Breetzke, Nandre Burger, Bjorn Fortuin, Reeza Hendricks, Patrick Kruger, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton, Andile Simelane, Jason Smith, Tristan Stubbs, and Lizaad Williams.

South Africa ODI squad against Ireland: Temba Bavuma, Ottneil Baartman, Nandre Burger, Tony de Zorzi, Bjorn Fortuin, Wiaan Mulder, Lungi Ngidi, Andile Phehlukwayo, Nqaba Peter, Ryan Rickelton, Jason Smith, Tristan Stubbs, Rassie van der Dussen, Kyle Verreynne, and Lizaad Williams.

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wrist-spinner Wanindu Hasaranga bagged four wickets for Patriots, they failed to defend 153 on a tacky surface on Sunday. Since winning CPL 2021 at home, Patriots have lost 11 completed games on the bounce at Warner Park in Basseterre.

“I must say thanks, but we disappointed them (the

St. Kitts and Nevis crowd),” Patriots’ captain Andre Fletcher said after the game.

“It’s hard and I would like to apologise as the leader as well, saying sorry for not giving them a win on home soil.

“But all is not lost, we still have four more games left. We still have to go out there play the cricket and play hard and we will try to

win the next four.”

Patriots all-rounder Kyle Mayers is also an injury doubt after he left the field following a two-over spell with the ball, with the broadcasters suggesting that he had sustained a hamstring injury.

South Africa’s batter Rilee Rossouw, however, returned to action for Patriots after having recovered

from a calf injury.

Prior to the start of the season, Patriots had lost Zimbabwe all-rounder Sikandar Raza to injury and were depleted by the unavailability of Hasaranga and Tabraiz Shamsi at different points.

The Patriots are also without Tristan Stubbs, who has returned home to South Africa for national duties.

Fakhar leaves Falcons to return home for Champions Cup

Pakistan and Antigua and Barbuda Falcons opener Fakhar Zaman has left the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) to participate in the Champions One-day Cup in his homeland.

Pakistan's newest version of the domestic 50-over competition, which will run from September 12 to 29, is clashing with the CPL. Fakhar is due to arrive in Pakistan on September 10 (today), and will turn out for the Wolves, who will be led by Mohammad Rizwan.

Fakhar is currently the Falcons' highest run-getter in the current CPL with 159 runs in five innings at an average of 31.80 and strike rate of 133.61.

Fakhar's Falcons teammates Imad Wasim and Mohammad Amir, both Pakistanis, have made themselves unavailable for the Champions Cup and will instead continue to play in the CPL. Guyana Amazon Warriors' wicketkeeper-batter Azam Khan will also stay at the CPL.



Fakhar Zaman

In Fakhar's absence, Brandon King made his debut for the Falcons and slotted in at the top after having recovered from the side injury he sustained during the 2024 T20 World Cup at home in June.

King marked his return

with 29 off 16 balls, which set up Falcons' successful chase of 154 to claim a two-wicket win against the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Sherfane Rutherford has announced his departure from the St.

Kitts & Nevis Patriots for the remainder of the 2024 CPL due to personal reasons.

Rutherford's unavailability has added to the St. Kitts and Nevis Patriots' troubles in CPL 2024. Midway through their last home game of the season against Antigua and Barbuda Falcons, a CPL release stated that Rutherford had withdrawn from the rest of the tournament for personal reasons.

A replacement for Rutherford will be announced in due course. Rutherford, 26, had played just four games for Patriots this season, scoring 35 runs at a strike rate of 194.44.

In Rutherford's absence, Patriots had Dominic Drakes, who is predominantly a bowling all-rounder, batting at No.7 against Falcons on Sunday. They are currently rooted to the bottom of the 2024 CPL points table with a solitary win in six matches.

Though Sri Lanka

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