

# ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA INSPIRES ACTION ON NCDs AND MENTAL HEALTH



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Prime Minister Gaston Browne, right, speaks with Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Walton Webson, left.

# Local News



## A&B inspires action from the international community on NCDs and Mental Health

Antigua and Barbuda's influence on the world stage was on full display Tuesday, as the international community overwhelmingly responded to its call to come together to address the issue of Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), which has emerged as a major socio-economic burden on many small states.

The Global Group of Heads of State and Government for the prevention and control of NCDs meeting was co-sponsored by the Government of Antigua and Barbuda and the World Health Organisation. Joining the Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne as co-chairs in leading the proceedings were the Deputy Secretary General of the United Na-

tions Amina J. Mohammed and Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr. Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus.

Joining Prime Minister Browne was Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Health Sir Molwyn Joseph, who has emerged as a tireless advocate for the prevention and control measures against those illnesses that constitute NCDs to include stroke, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Also in attendance was Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Walton Webson.

The meeting, held on the margins of the 79th General Assembly of the United Nations, comes as preparations are



being made for the 4th UN High Level meeting on the prevention and control of NCDs in 2025.

In sharing his vision and optimism for a future where NCDs are no longer a major worry for not only Antigua and Barbuda but island nations around the globe,

Prime Minister Browne spoke of the meaningful gains his country has been making.

"My government has invested considerable resources in combating the devastating impact and cost of NCDs on our population and our economy including diabetes, hypertension, and cancer," he informed colleagues around the table.

"In this regard, with the support of PAHO and WHO, Antigua and Barbuda anticipates eliminating cervical cancer by 2030. To this end we have instituted cervical cancer screening at the community clinic level," Prime Minister Browne revealed.

Prime Minister Browne also seized the opportunity to shift the attention of the

*cont'd on pg 3*





## PM Browne and PM Gonsalves share light moment on the margins of UNGA

Outside the rigors of the United Nations General Assembly, Prime Minister, Gaston Browne and Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves crossed paths on the streets of New York, USA and shared a light moment.

Both prime ministers will address the General Assembly of the UN on Friday afternoon, during which they will continue to champion the need for special and differential treatment for Small Island Developing States. Both leaders have also been strong advocates for the removal of the US embargo on the sister nation of Cuba which has been a benefactor of both

countries.

They are expected to raise this issue during their presentations. Antigua and Barbuda and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines share a long history, with that country recently announcing the commencement of flights into the island from October 4 by the recently reorganized Antigua based airline, LIAT 2020.

Following the liquidation of its predecessor, LIAT 1974 Ltd., Prime Minister Gaston Browne led a charge to keep the airline in the skies, under the new name of LIAT 2020 Ltd., citing its importance to regional transportation.



Prime Minister of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Dr. Ralph Gonsalves

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audience of top officials from around the world to an issue that is close to his heart and a growing concern globally. He implored his colleagues and top UN officials gathered for the meeting to take bold action and prioritize the issue of mental health as he reflected on the life of his mother who suffered with the condition before her passing earlier this year.

Prime Minister Browne's heartfelt appeal

resonated deeply around the room as his words visibly moved a number of officials, including the Assistant Secretary of Global Affairs in the US' Department of Health and Human Services Loyce Pace, all of whom pledged to redouble their commitment and efforts on this important issue.

"It is up to us to set the stage for global progress on NCDs and mental health," Prime Minister Browne stressed, as he made a call for the UN to convene a



high level meeting dedicated specifically to address the issue of mental health.

Also coming in for praise was Antigua and Barbuda's First Secretary at the Antigua and Barbuda Mission in New York Claxton Duberry who collaborated with the various offices across the UN system, the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Health in Antigua and Barbuda in coordinating the event and en-

suring that it was a resounding success.

Other members of the Mission in attendance were Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Tumasie Blair and Counsellor Glentis Thomas.

Climate Ambassador Ruleta Camacho Thomas, who has been attending bilateral meetings and other activities of the UN General Assembly with Sir Molwyn, was also present.



# Local News



## FA Minister navigates heavy schedule of engagements at UN General Assembly

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade E.P. Chet Greene has completed another busy round of engagements at the United Nations General Assembly as he represented the country's position on a number of crucial matters that are receiving global attention.

On Wednesday, Minister Greene was in attendance at a meeting convened by the United States to discuss the situation in Haiti where armed gangs have literally taken over the capital of the French-speaking Caribbean country. Leading the discussions at the meeting, which was held under

the theme "Building progress to restore peace in Haiti" was the American Secretary of State, Antony Blinken.

Also in attendance were Minister Greene's Ministerial counterparts from a number of CARICOM countries to include Jamaica, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname, Belize, Guyana as well as African, European and Latin American countries.

His diplomatic tour de force continued where he addressed a meeting of the G20, a grouping of some of the world's richest countries. Minister Greene brought attention to a glaring omission in their report on the "Call to Action on Global Governance Report."

"Alarming, this 'Call to Action' contains only a solitary mention of climate change, and entirely omits references to Small Island Developing States. This must be glaring oversight, correct?" Minister Greene queried.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs also delivered remarks at two other major events – a multi stakeholder panel on the legal dimensions of sea level rise and a crucial side event themed, United by Water: Securing Our Collective Water Future Amidst Rising Seas and Melting Glaciers.



Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade E.P. Chet Greene

On Tuesday, the Foreign Minister attended a bilateral meeting with Azerbaijan, which will be hosting the global climate summit, COP29, later this year. He was joined by Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of the Environment Sir Molwyn Joseph in pressing home the needs of island states, especially coming after the historic role Antigua and Barbuda played in bringing to life the 10-year framework for Small Island Development States known as the ABAS.

Minister Greene was also encouraged by the bilateral discussions with the Philippines. He emphasized his eagerness to strengthen ties between their countries, where the shared experiences as island nations could help in fostering closer collaboration in the maritime sector, renewable energy, and tourism.

With the high level portion of the United Nations General Assembly in full swing, Minister Greene has a few more packed days ahead of him as he continues the work of building positive and mutually beneficial relations for Antigua and Barbuda with the international community.





## Re-establishment of the “Authentic Antigua and Barbuda” retail outlet

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs held dual approach consultation sessions aimed at providing insights into support initiatives available to propel the growth and development of MSMEs in Antigua and Barbuda and gathering feedback to guide the reestablishment of the “Authentic Antigua and Barbuda” retail outlet in Heritage Quay.

The sessions took place on September 12, 2024, at the Conference room, Deep Water Harbor, bringing together project participants who are local producers, artisans, and key partners to engage in discussions that will shape the future of this project.

The event comprised of a panel discussion themed “Support Initiatives for MSMEs” (Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises), where key stakeholders from local business support organizations participated. This session was moderated by Senior Trade Policy Analyst within the Ministry of Trade, Jomica Carbon, who also serves as Project Coordinator for the Authentic Antigua Retail Outlet Project.

Panelists briefly presented on initiatives such as “Dadli Buy” an e-commerce platform for producers of local goods and services, Authentic Antigua Certification Program, concessions and subsidies offered by the Antigua and Barbuda Investment Authority and training programs for youth, women and the vulnerable offered by the G.A.R.D Center.

The second segment of the program entailed a feedback session aimed at gathering insights from existing vendors on the project’s performance and recommendations that would feed into the strategic plan for re-establishing the retail space. Both segments were met with enthusiasm as MSME representatives engaged in vi-



Caption: PS Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Amb. Clarence Pilgrim with Jomica Carbon (left) and Beverly Samuel (right)

brant discussions on the areas presented and welcomed the various forms of support.

During the session, a questionnaire was administered where the findings suggested satisfaction with the project’s performance and strongly recommended that greater emphasis be placed on marketing not only to cruise ship passengers and hotel guests but also to returning locals. The consultation served as an essential platform for stakeholders to share their insights, concerns, and innovative ideas for the revitalization of the store, which is intended to be a hub for local entrepreneurship, creative expression, and economic growth.

Authentic Antigua and Barbuda was launched in 2017 as part of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Barbuda Affairs’ mandate to support

the growth and development of MSMEs on the verge of expansion with export potential. The project provides support by featuring the products of local producers, who meet the Ministry’s specified criteria in a retail outlet in Heritage Quay.

With keen efforts lead by Ambassador Clarence Pilgrim and supported by Senior Trade Policy Analyst, Carbon and Retail Outlet Manager, Beverly Samuel, received the approval of the Cabinet of Antigua and Barbuda to revisit this initiative to execute its restructuring and reestablishment.

The Ministry has set a target of date in November 2024 to resume full operation with an imminent call for expressions of interest from producers of local goods that reflect the culture, heritage, and craftsmanship of our twin-island nation.

# Local News

## Local abattoir upgraded with help from People's Republic of China

The government-owned and operated abattoir, located near the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium, has been upgraded through assistance provided by the government of the People's Republic of China.

Over the past two months, teams from the Chinese company, China Civil Engineering Construction Company (CCECC) carried out general upgrade and improvements at the facility.

They painted the walls,

both inside and outside, carried out repairs to the floor, installed new equipment and refurbished others as well as carried out repairs to the two large chillers used to store the meats.

They also repaired the holding area which were seriously decayed as well as repaired the fans that are essential for the chillers to operate.

Operations Supervisor at the abattoir, Chad Williams, said the upgrades



will make a big difference in the overall efficiency and effectiveness of the abat-

toir. "We welcome the work done by our Chinese friends as the equipment that they installed will mechanize much of our operations. Prior to this, we had to rely on manpower to de-hair the pigs after slaughter as well as to cut the slaughtered animals, including cattle, pigs and goats, into smaller pieces," Williams explained.

According to Williams the holding pens were par-

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ticularly in dire need of repairs because they had deteriorated badly over the years. "Some of the pens were in a poor state of disrepair to the point where they were no longer useful. The Chinese came and re-welded and repaired them to where today the pens are fully functional," he added.

The CCECC teams also cleared the drains leading from the abattoir which allows for the waste water from the operations of the facility to drain away unhindered.

Deputy General Manager of the CCECC Caribbean, Jay Wang, said his company is pleased to be able to assist with the much needed repairs and retro-fitting of the abattoir as the expectation is for the overall efficiency of the facility to improve exponentially.

Williams further explained that

the abattoir processes an average of fifteen animals per week but with the new equipment and the storage facilities that number should rise sharply.

Two members of the Chinese Embassy were on hand to inspect the work; they were Director of Econom-

ic and Commercial Affairs, Claudia Chang, and Third Secretary of the Chinese Embassy, Emily Ai Hongfei.



# Local News



## Alleged robber in August 15 shootout with police makes first court appearance

Eighteen-year old (18), Koeina Joseph of Cooks Extension has been remanded in prison until December 4, 2024, following his first court appearance for charges stemming from the August 15 shootout with the police, during which one of his alleged accomplices died.

Joseph, who was wounded in the shootout, was released from the hospital on Tuesday and brought before Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel of District B on Wednesday.

He faces charges of robbery while being armed with a firearm and rob-

bing Calt Mini Mart of Parham of the sum of \$2,000.00. His is charged with breaching Section 33 of the Larceny Act of the Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda, 1992. He also faces a charge the unlawful possession of one 9mm ammunition when not licensed to do so; and, for making use of a firearm in the furtherance of the commission of a crime to wit robbery contrary to the Firearms Act, Chapter 171 of the Revised Laws of Antigua and Barbuda.

Three persons were involved in the robbery and they drove away in

a motor vehicle, but when the report and the description of the vehicle were communicated via the police communications channels, a police patrol vehicle intercepted the vehicle and in attempted to apprehend the alleged culprits, they reportedly opened gunfire at the police.

In responding to the gunfire, the police reported that they took action to defend themselves and in the process Joseph was wounded on the scene and taken to the hospital. One accomplice died on the spot while the other was taken into custody.

## Cuban national who smuggled into the country to be deported

A Cuban national who smuggled into Antigua and Barbuda after traveling here via a boat has been ordered by the court to be deported forthwith.

The woman – Maria De

Las Neives Jimenez Lopez – was apprehended at the VC Bird International Airport when she attempted to purchase a ticket to leave the country for neighbouring St. Kitts, from where

she reportedly smuggled into Antigua and Barbuda.

Jimenez Lopez was slapped with three charges; for arriving in the country and disembarking from a vessel without the consent of an Immigration Officer in violation of the Immigration and Passport Act, No.6 of 2014.

She also faced a charge of entering Antigua and Barbuda at a point not designated as a port of entry contrary to the law and thirdly, for traveling from a place outside Antigua and Barbuda and not presenting herself to an Immigration officer for examination contrary to law.

Magistrate Nhaio Emanuel reprimanded the woman when she appeared in the District B court on Wednesday. Jimenez Lopez was ordered to be deported

on Friday.

The crime was believed to have been committed sometime between April 1st and September 22, 2024.

Meanwhile, Magistrate Emanuel also ordered the deportation of Jamaican national, Deron Campbell who faced a number of serious charges. He was charged with the attempted murder of Ovid Lewis at Ferris Farm in the St. Paul's Parish, as well as false imprisonment of Abigail Lewis and Kamar Lewis in contravention of the Offences Against the Person Act. These incidents took place on September 29, 2023, at Ferris Farm in St. Paul.

The DPP decided not to proceed further with the case as Campbell is said to be in poor health. He however has been ordered to be deported back to Jamaica.

### COMMUNITY NOTICE

25th September, 2024

The Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries announces the resumption of its Adult Education Programme from 7th October, 2024.

The AEP is an adult literacy programme aimed at supporting adults with literacy and the programme is held in four centres. They are:

- Golden Grove Primary School
- JT Ambrose Primary School
- T.N Kirnon Primary School
- National Public Library

All classes are from 5-7 pm Tuesdays and Thursdays and at the National Public Library from from 3 - 5 pm.

Application forms can be obtained from the headquarters of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Creative Industries, Government Office Complex on Queen Elizabeth Highway.



## A&B students shine in 2024 FCCA Children's Essay Contest

The Ministry of Tourism, in collaboration with the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA), has announced that two of the nation's students, Chakyra Lambert of Old Road Primary and Maliah Stuart of Christ the King High School, have been selected by a panel of national judges to represent Antigua and Barbuda in the regional segment of the prestigious 2024 Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association Children's Essay (FCCA) Contest.

This annual competition, open to students from across the Caribbean and Latin America, challenged participants to submit a 500-word essay on the theme: "How Can My Country and Cruise Lines Work Together for More Sustainable Cruise Calls?"

Maliah Stuart, Antigua and Barbu-



A proud A&B student who has been selected for the FCCA essay competition.

da's national representative in the senior division of the competition, made the country proud by securing third place in the regional segment. Her essay presented insightful strategies



A&B student who performed well at the FCCA essay competition.

on how cruise lines and destination countries can collaborate to promote sustainability in cruise tourism. Her achievement positions her among the top young minds in the region focusing on the future of sustainable tourism.

The FCCA Children's Essay Contest aims to engage youth in identifying creative solutions to issues affecting the Caribbean's tourism industry. This year's theme centered on sustainability, a critical concern for both the cruise and tourism sectors. The competition provides a platform for students to showcase their innovative thinking and understanding of how local and global stakeholders can work together.

The Ministry of Tourism congratulates both national representatives for their hard work and dedication, with special recognition to Stuart for her exceptional performance on the regional stage. Antigua and Barbuda continues to support educational initiatives that empower youth to contribute to the sustainable growth of our tourism industry.



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# National Cadet Corps welcomes new members

The Antigua and Barbuda National Cadet Corps (ABNCC) has launched its new Cadet year at Camp Blizzard.

During a welcome ceremony, the ABNCC recognized its successful CXC achievers and welcomed 17 new recruits into the Corps.

Honours were also given to the summer camp awardees, including:

- 🏆 Most Outstanding Non-Cadet: Yannique Nelson
- 🏆 Most Outstanding Recruit 2024 – Rec Gilpin Noah
- 🏆 Most Outstanding Private 2024 – OS Kildare Nayton
- 🏆 Most Outstanding NCO 2024 – Cpl Bird Daena
- 🏆 Top Drill Cadet 2024 – Private Loague Barrington
- 🏆 Best Turned-Out Cadet 2024 – Private Nedd Riana
- 🏆 Top Physical Fitness 2024 – OS



ABNCC cadets and ABDF senior officers

Baker Jahmoy

- 🏆 Most Outstanding House 2024 – Lt Donald Richards Red House

Most Outstanding Recruit: Rec Gilpin Noah

Commandant Trophy for Excellence: Cpl Bird Daena

With 36 certificates presented and

29 promotions, including a new acting CSM, the Corps is ready for an exciting year ahead.

Special recognition went to those cadets who represented the ABNCC locally and internationally through table tennis, karate and other various talent competitions.



## Back to School

**Monday - Friday**

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

# \$17.50













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## Sharp rise in problematic teenage social media use, study says

By Tom Singleton

A major international study suggests there has been a sharp rise in what it calls “problematic” social media use among young people since the pandemic.

Researchers came to the conclusion after surveying almost 280,000 children aged 11, 13 and 15 across 44 countries.

The Health Behaviour In School-aged Children (HBSC) study found, on average, 11% of respondents engaged with social media in a problematic way in 2022 - compared to 7% in 2018.

England, Scotland and Wales all recorded figures above that average.

The report’s authors say the findings “raise urgent concerns about the impact of digital technology on the mental health and well-being of Europe’s youth”.

They say more action is needed to “promote healthy online behaviours.”

“Problematic use is most common amongst 13-year-olds - it sort of peaks in that early adolescence phase and girls are more likely to report problematic social media use than boys,” said the study’s international co-ordinator Dr Jo Inchley, from the University of Glasgow.

She said the research also revealed how much time young people spend online.

“Across the study as a whole, we found just over a third of adolescents report continuous online contact with friends and others,” she said.

“That means almost all the time throughout the day they are connected online to friends and other people.”

The report does not conclude all that time spent online is detrimental.

Instead, teenagers who were heavy, but not problematic, users of social media reported stronger peer support and social connections.



But for the “problematic” minority it found social media use was associated with addiction-like symptoms including:

- neglect of other activities in favour of spending time on social media
- frequent arguments about use
- lying about how much time is spent online
- an inability to control social media use and experiencing withdrawal

It also highlights concerns about the proportion of teenagers considered to be at risk of “problematic gaming” - something it suggests applies to boys more than girls.

That designation applied to 15% of teenagers in England - the second highest proportion across all countries studied.

The average proportion of boys who played daily was 46%, but this figure stood at 52% in England and 57% in Scotland.

And 13-year-old boys in England reported the highest rate of long gaming sessions, with 45% of boys of that age indicating that they played for at least four hours on gaming days.

The study has been published by the European arm of the World Health

Organisation (WHO).

Dr Hans Henri P Kluge, the WHO’s regional director for Europe, said the findings made clear social media could have both positive and negative consequences for young people.

He said there needed to be more “digital literacy education” to help young people develop a healthy approach to being online, and governments, health authorities, teachers and parents all had to play their part.

“It’s clear we need immediate and sustained action to help adolescents turn the tide on potentially damaging social media use, which has been shown to lead to depression, bullying, anxiety, and poor academic performance,” he said.

Ben Carter, Professor of Medical Statistics at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, described the report as a “useful snapshot of the evidence”.

But he pointed out it was difficult to agree on a definition of what “problematic social media” was, making gathering data on it challenging.

Nonetheless, he said the study was a “valid contribution to the evidence base”.

# Australia's lithium mining boom hit by sagging prices

By Phil Mercer

Often called “white gold” and the key component in rechargeable batteries, the metal lithium is so light that it floats on water, but its price has sunk like a stone over the past year.

Due to a combination of falling global sales of electric vehicles, and a world oversupply of lithium ore, the cost of the main lithium compound has fallen by more than three quarters since June 2023.

This decline has had a particularly hard impact on Australia, because it is the world's largest producer of lithium ore, accounting for 52% of the global total last year.

Australia also has the second-largest reserves of the mineral after Chile, with the vast majority in Western Australia, and a smaller amount in the Northern Territory.

The sharp decline in lithium prices has led to mine shutdowns. Adelaide-based Core Lithium announced back in January that due to “weak market conditions” it was suspending mining at its Finnis site near Darwin, with the loss of 150 jobs.

Then in August, US firm Albemarle said it would be scaling back production at its Kemerton lithium processing plant, located some 170km (100 miles) south of Perth. This is expected to lead to more than 300 redundancies.

Arcadium Lithium followed suit this month, announcing that it would be mothballing its Mt Cattlin mine in Western Australia, blaming low prices. The firm's shares are listed in both the US and Australia.

Yet as some producers are putting work on hold, others are expanding theirs, confident that global demand for lithium - and prices - will bounce



Australia is the world's largest producer of lithium ore.

back.

Pilbara Minerals is one such firm. The Perth-based miner aims to boost its lithium ore production by an additional 50% over the next year.

“What we've learned historically from lithium pricing is that it can change, and it can change rapidly,” managing director Dale Henderson recently told ABC News. “It doesn't faze us that much because we know the long-term outlook is fantastic.”

This confidence is echoed by Kingsley Jones, founder, and chief investment officer at Canberra-based investment firm Jevons Global, which monitors the mining and metals sectors. “Lithium remains very strategic to the energy transition,” he tells the BBC.

“Storage batteries for electricity is a big growth area,” he adds, pointing to the increased need for batteries to store the power generated by solar and wind power.

But some analysts have warned that oversupply will keep the market under pressure until at least 2028.

Another company moving ahead

with increased lithium ore production in Australia is Perth-based Liontown Resources. In July, it started production at its Kathleen Valley mine, located 420 miles (680km) north-east of Western Australia's capital.

The facility gets 60% of its energy from its own solar panel farm.

Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, has praised the site's green approach, and his government has invested \$A230m (\$156m; £118m) in the facility.

This move towards the use of renewables is also good news in financial terms for producers in Australia, as it reduces their dependence on buying expensive diesel, which is currently the main fuel that they use to generate electricity.

Extracting lithium ore in the country requires three times more energy than in other big producing nations such as Chile and Argentina, says Prof Rick Valenta, the director of the Sustainable Minerals Institute at the University of Queensland.

Extraction in Australia requires

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additional energy because the lithium ore, also known as spodumene, has to be mined and removed from solid rock. Whereas in Chile and Argentina the ore is produced by evaporating it from brine collected from under the countries' vast salt plains.

"As Australia has hard-rock mining operations, they use more energy and produce more emissions than brine operations," Prof Valenta adds.

The form of lithium that Australia exports – almost all of which goes to China – is partially processed ore, called spodumene concentrate.

Prices of this have mirrored the sharp fall of refined lithium. One report this month said that the price of spodumene had hit its lowest level since August 2021. Chinese companies refine the spodumene into solid lithium, and into the two lithium compounds used in batteries - lithium hydroxide and lithium carbonate.

This is where the real money is to be made, because a tonne of lithium carbonate is currently around 72,500 yuan (\$10,280; £7,720) compared with just \$747 (£630) for the same weight of spodumene concentrate.

Given that price differential, Australian mining firms have unsurprisingly been moving to build their own lithium refineries instead of just exporting almost all spodumene, as is



Falling electric car sales have hit demand for lithium.

the case currently. In 2022-23, 98% was exported as spodumene concentrate.

The first refined lithium to be commercially produced in Australia happened back in 2022, when Perth-based IGO announced that it was making battery-grade lithium hydroxide at its Kwinana Refinery in Western Australia. It co-owns the facility with Chinese firm Tianqi Lithium.

Meanwhile, another Australian miner, Covalent Lithium, is building its own lithium refinery, also in Western Australia. And Albemarle has its refinery, albeit one currently reducing its output.

Some commentators welcome the development of lithium refining in Australia, saying it will help to reduce China's dominance of the global market for the metal. China currently accounts for 60% of all lithium refining.

However, Kingsley Jones says that Australia needs to be more open to embracing Chinese investment in the lithium sector. He points out that the Australian government

has, in his view, "adopted a strategy, we think unwisely, to preference investment from countries other than China" in the lithium sector in recent years.

This has come as relations between the two countries have cooled since 2020. Last year, Canberra even blocked the sale of an Australian lithium miner to a Chinese firm.

The government said at the time that it was simply following the advice of the country's Foreign Investment Review Board.

Mr Jones adds: "It's an excellent example of how to shoot yourself in the foot as a producer. You tell the biggest buyer to go away. So, they do."

Australia's Department of Industry, Science and Resources did not respond to a request for a comment.

As Australia aims to become more of a lithium refiner, government scientists are continuing to research ways to do this in a more environmentally friendly way. A code, which if cracked, could make the country one of the greenest producers of the metal. Currently the pro-

cess releases a lot of poisonous chlorine gas.

"There is only one industrial method, and it has several drawbacks," says Dongmei Liu, a research scientist at Australia's national science agency, the CSIRO.

"The process is very expensive and not very efficient. Most importantly, it also produces chlorine gas. It has severe environmental issues."

She and her team are instead working on a new process called "shock quenching". It involves the extreme cooling of lithium vapour, and Dr Lui says it "avoids the chlorine gas emissions".

While Australia hopes to make its mineral industries less polluting, it also wants to recycle more.

Lithium Australia is a listed company that sorts and processes batteries that have come to the end of their lives, to extract their lithium and other metals for reuse.

"Global commodities prices place economic pressure on lithium, so creating a circular battery industry will benefit Australia by ensuring we have the sovereign capability to produce and recycle our own batteries," says Lithium Australia chief executive Simon Linge.

"If Australia is to establish a battery manufacturing industry, we must first ensure that no end-of-life lithium battery is being sent to landfill or exported to be recycled in some other country."

# Regional News



## Suriname urges international community to do more to help Haiti

CMC - Suriname Wednesday told the international community that “Haiti fatigue” is not an option and urged countries to provide more assistance as efforts continue to restore peace and security in the French-speaking Caribbean Community (CARICOM) country.

Addressing the 79th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Suriname President Chandrikapersad “Chan” Santokhi, praised the 15-member regional integration grouping, CARICOM, for its on-going role in bringing stability to the country.

“We are pleased to note through the Caribbean Community a roadmap towards free and fair elections has been initiated and a transitional government with a clear mandate has been installed”.

Haiti has been without an elected head of state since July 7, 2021 when President Jovenel Moise was assassinated at his private residence overlooking the capital, Port au Prince.

Since then, criminal gangs have sought to overthrow the interim administration and last October the United Nations Security Council approved a resolution allowing for a Kenya led Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission to provide much-needed respite to the Haitian people.

“We cannot leave Haiti and its people alone and behind. Haiti fatigue is not an option. We urge the international community to financially and technologically support Haiti on its path forward,” Santokhi told the global community.

He said Suriname will contribute to the MSS “in whatever way we can.

“We urge and call for a more effective and coherent approach and the transparent sharing of informa-



President Chandrikapersad Santokhi. Photo: UN

tion regarding the different initiative to serve...the objective of facilitating peace, security and prosperity in Haiti and the Haitian people”.

Santokhi in his wide-ranging speech also called for an end to the decades old trade and economic embargo by the United States against Cuba.

“Leaving no one behind should also include lifting the long-standing economic embargo against Cuba and its people,” he said, urging the need to foster greater collaboration and partnerships to address the long-term global issues as climate change, social inequality and access to affordable health care and quality education for all.

He said small nations also needed support for digital transformation to fully integrate into the digital global economy.

In his address, Santokhi said that Suriname is now emerging from a tight economic situation that in the past had hampered the Dutch-speak-

ing country from generating its own development.

He said new measures by international banks and others in the international financial sector did not consider the country’s reality and the severe impact on the development objectives.

“This must be addressed head on if you want to be inclusive rather than exclusive. My country Suriname can attest to the importance of urgent needs from the global financial and political systems and to build greater trust in the multilateral system.

“Because of our ranking, we are not eligible for several global financial instruments to the detriment of my people. Since taking office in July 2020, my government has successfully started a policy of financial economic reforms including restructuring the debt portfolio supported by an IMF programme and international financial institutions.

“The impact of the various crises

*cont’d on pg 15*



## Dominica: Opposition party taking action against government over CBI

CMC - Dominica's main opposition United Workers Party (UWP) says it is taking legal action against the Dominica government over the controversial Citizenship by Investment Programme (CBI).

Under the CBI, foreign investors are provided with citizenship of the island in return for making substantial investments in the socio-economic development of Dominica.

Attorney General Levi Peter told the state-owned DBS radio that he would respond to the matter as soon as documentation from the court is available.

Flanked by several people, including the former attorney general of Trinidad and Tobago, Senior Counsel Anand Ramlogan, UWP president, Lennox Linton, told a news conference that the decision to pursue the legal action was not an easy undertaking.

"Deciding to take legal action against the government of the state is never easy especially for patriotic organizations driven first and foremost, the best inter-

est of the state," said Linton, a former opposition leader.

"That is why having brought the injustice to public attention years ago, we advocated long and we advocated hard inside and outside of Parliament for remedial action in the public's interest. We advocated for obedience to the Constitution and the rule of law, for honesty, for transparency and accountability in the operations of the CBI programme.

"All we wanted to do was to protect the integrity of the programme and to ensure that the lofty national development goals for which it came into existence were fulfilled."

Linton told reporters that "this has been quite a journey for us in the past five years having taken the decision that we were going to go to court with this.

"We have received opinions and second opinions; we have spoken to a number of lawyers. We have in the course of time ask ourselves whether we should go forward with this because after all no institution wants to



sue their government, but we came to the point where we decided that we had to move forward with this," he added.

For his part, Ramlogan told reporters his firm has been asked to "assist with this historic, ground breaking and landmark case in the public's interest."

He said the CBI has generated significant amount of funds that are meant to be spent for the benefit of the public in Dominica.

"The cardinal principles upon which a democracy is based include...public accountability...transparency in public life and...good public administration.

"Without those hallmark principles being observed then you do not have a democracy. So we have

taken a look at it. We see this is a case that is important for the Caribbean region as a whole because it will establish some significant constitutional boundaries as it relates to the government's duty to account to the people through the Parliament."

Ramlogan said the intention is to ask the government to disclose a copy of the agreement for the CBI programme between the government and its agents.

"We intend to ask to see the terms and conditions of that contract because the case is constructed based on the Dominican constitution and on the principle that all monies and revenues earned by the government is meant to be paid into the Consolidated Fund, which is subject to parliamentary scrutiny and approval for any form of expenditure," Ramlogan added.

Apart from Dominica, the other islands with a similar CBI programme are Antigua and Barbuda, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis and St Lucia.

### *cont'd from pg 14*

and national efforts to reform the economy has not been easy for our population. But we are on the road to recovery now, macro-economic stability has been achieved.

'We established a social safety net and increased several social benefits all meant to ensure that we shall not forget or exclude that part of our population from

restoring a healthier economy," Santokhi said.

The Suriname leader said he was also looking forward to the United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 29) that will be convened in November 2024 in Baku, Azerbaijan, adding that he hopes it will not be another talk shop of promises and no meaningful results.

## Canada's Trudeau survives no-confidence vote in parliament

By Nadine Yousif

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has survived a motion in parliament aimed at bringing down his government and triggering an election.

Wednesday's no-confidence vote is the first in a series of similar votes expected to be put forward by the opposition Conservative Party amid Trudeau's plummeting approval ratings.

The motion failed after opposition leader Pierre Poilievre fell short in his effort to shore up support from leaders of two other political parties in parliament, the New Democratic Party (NDP) and the Bloc Québécois.

Trudeau, who has been Canada's prime minister for nine years, has been leading under a minority government.

Voting was held on Wednesday afternoon, on the same day as Trudeau was set to host French President Emmanuel Macron.

While this motion has failed, the Conservative party plans to bring at least two other similar no-confidence votes on Thursday in hopes of sending Canadians to the polls.

Trudeau has been facing growing pressure to step down in recent months.

His approval rating has plummeted from 63% when he was first elected to 28% in June of this year, according to one poll tracker, amid concerns about housing unaffordability and the rising costs of living. His Liberal party lost two consequential by-elections this summer in Toronto and Montreal.

A deal between his party and the NDP has helped him stay in power since Canada's last federal election in 2021.

But the deal collapsed early in September after NDP leader Jagmeet



Singh pulled out from the coalition, saying that the Liberals are "too weak" and "too selfish" to govern.

Trudeau's leadership has been under threat since, with Conservative Party leader Pierre Poilievre stating that he would put forward a no-confidence vote.

The vote would need the approval of the majority of the 338 members of parliament (MPs) in order for it to pass.

The Liberal Party, which holds 153 seats, voted against it, while the Conservative Party, which holds 119 seats, voted in favour.

The bulk of the other seats are held by the NDP and the Bloc Québécois - both of whose members voted to defeat the motion.

In the end, the motion was defeated by 211 votes against it.

Pierre Poilievre, who has been leading in various national polls, had urged fellow MPs to vote in favour of the motion by outlining his vision for Canada under a Conservative government.

His plan, he said on Tuesday in parliament, is "to bring home the promise of Canada, of a powerful pay-

cheque that earns affordable food, gas and homes and safe neighbourhoods".

But Singh, the NDP leader, said he would vote against Poilievre's motion because he believes the Conservative Party will cut social programmes like dental care and pharmacare if it comes to power.

The Bloc Québécois - a party whose aim is to represent the interests of Quebec, Canada's French-speaking province - has said it believes it could work with the Liberal government to secure assurances for Quebec-focused social programmes.

Trudeau was at the UN General Assembly earlier this week in New York City, where on Monday he appeared as a guest on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert.

In his interview with Colbert, Trudeau acknowledged that Canadians were going through "a really tough time" and struggling to afford gas, groceries and rent.

But he defended his leadership, saying that his government had invested in Canadians and would continue to do so.

"I'm going to keep fighting," he said.



# Putin proposes new rules for using nuclear weapons

By Frances Mao

Vladimir Putin says Russia would consider an attack from a non-nuclear state that was backed by a nuclear-armed one to be a “joint attack”, in what could be construed as a threat to use nuclear weapons in the war in Ukraine.

In key remarks on Wednesday night, the Russian president said his government was considering changing the rules and preconditions around which Russia would use its nuclear arsenal.

Ukraine is a non-nuclear state that receives military support from the US and other nuclear-armed countries.

His comments come as Kyiv seeks approval to use long-range Western missiles against military sites in Russia.

Ukraine’s President Volodymyr Zelensky has travelled to the US this week and is due to meet US President Joe Biden in Washington on Thursday, where Kyiv’s request is expected to be top of the agenda.

Ukraine has pushed into Russian territory this year and wants to target bases inside Russia which it says are sending missiles into Ukraine.

Responding to Putin’s remarks, Zelensky’s chief of staff Andriy Yermak said Russia “no longer has anything other than nuclear blackmail to intimidate the world”.

Putin has threatened the use of nuclear weapons before. Ukraine has criticised it as “nuclear sabre-rattling” to deter its allies from providing further support.

Russian ally China has also called for calm, with reports President Xi Jinping has warned Putin against using nuclear arms.



The Russian president has previously threatened the use of nuclear arms but his new proposal expands those scenarios.

But on Wednesday, after a meeting with his Security Council, Putin announced the proposed radical expansion.

A new nuclear doctrine would “clearly set the conditions for Russia to transition to using nuclear weapons,” he warned - and said such scenarios included conventional missile strikes against Moscow.

He said that Russia would consider such a “possibility” of using nuclear weapons if it detected the start of a massive launch of missiles, aircraft and drones into its territory, which presented a “critical threat” to the country’s sovereignty.

He added: “It is proposed that aggression against Russia by any non-nuclear state, but with the participation or support of a nuclear state, be considered as their joint attack on the Russian Federation.”

The country’s nuclear arms were “the most important guarantee of security of our state and its citizens”, the Kremlin leader said.

Since the end of World War Two, nuclear-armed states have engaged in a policy of deterrence, which is based on the idea that if warring states were to launch major nuclear strikes it would lead to mutually assured destruction.

But there are also tactical nuclear weapons which are smaller warheads designed to destroy targets without widespread radioactive fallout.

In June, Putin delivered a warning to European countries supporting Ukraine, saying Russia had “many more [tactical nuclear weapons] than there are on the European continent, even if the United States brings theirs over.”

“Europe does not have a developed [early warning system],” he added. “In this sense they are more or less defenceless.”

At the time he had hinted of changes to Russia’s nuclear doctrine - the document which sets out the conditions under which Moscow would use nuclear weapons.

# Sports News



## More wins for H. Wright Promotions and Anjo Wholesale in Business Basketball League

H. Wright Promotions and Anjo Wholesale maintained their perfect records in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business Basketball League on Tuesday night.

H. Wright Promotions extended their unbeaten run by romping to their fifth win with a 65-56 victory against defending champions, the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board, in the last game of triple header at the JSC Sports Complex.

Donte Trimmingham sank 17 points and snatched nine rebounds; Javonte Daley had 11 points, nine rebounds, and seven assists; and Jevonte Valerie scored 10 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for H. Wright Promotions.

Marlon "Buju" Charles produced 18 points, 13 rebounds, and five assists; Devorn Benjamin scored 13

points; and Ndegwa Malone converted 10 points and grabbed eight rebounds for the Transport Board, which suffered their second loss in four games.

Anjo Wholesale recorded their fourth win in as many games with a 72-61 victory against the Fearless Crew in Tuesday's opening encounter.

Steven Matthew converted 25 points and snatched six rebounds; Jaheem James sank 18 points; Rolando Hamilton produced 12 points, 16 rebounds, and six blocks; and Gabriel Perez scored 11 points for Anjo Wholesale.

Takeem Martin sank 16 points and grabbed 16 rebounds, and Joel Christian scored 16 points for the Fearless Crew, who lost for the third time in four encounters.

The Board of Education recorded their second win in three games with

a 62-54 victory against the Sledge O'Ballers in Tuesday's second encounter.

Dalelonte Phillip sank 19 points and grabbed seven rebounds, and Sadiq Phillip scored 10 points and snatched eight rebounds for the Board of Education. Kareem Edwards scored 13 points, and Michael Jeffers sank 11 points for the Sledge O'Ballers, who suffered their third loss in four games.

The business basketball league will continue with a triple header at the JSC Sports Complex on Thursday (today).

Eye Mobile Vision Care will face the Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board at 6:30 pm, the Board of Education will take on the Fearless Crew at 7:30 pm, and H. Wright Promotion will meet Anjo Wholesale in a top-of-the-table clash at 8:30 pm.

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## CWI congratulates Aguiliera on prestigious national award

Cricket West Indies (CWI) has extended warmest congratulations to former West Indies Captain Merissa Aguiliera on her remarkable achievement of receiving the prestigious Hummingbird Medal (HBM) Gold Award at the 2024 National Awards of Trinidad & Tobago.

The awards ceremony took place on Tuesday, September 24, at the President's House in St Ann's, Port-of-Spain. CWI President, Dr. Kishore Shallow congratulated the former captain on behalf of the organisation.

Dr. Shallow said, "On behalf of the CWI Board and Management, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Merissa for the well-deserved recognition conferred upon her. Merissa's exemplary dedication and outstanding contributions serve as an inspiration to us all.

"As she embraces and embarks on other influential roles in cricket, particularly to develop other young athletes, we express our gratitude for her ongoing commitment and wish her continued success."

The Hummingbird Med-



Merissa Aguiliera

al Gold Award is one of Trinidad and Tobago's highest honours, recognising loyal and devoted service beneficial to Trinidad and Tobago, in any field of human endeavour or for gallantry or other humane action.

Aguiliera was recognised not only for her immense contributions as a Trinidad and Tobago national to the West Indies team, but for her contributions to the sport on the island.

In spite of her retirement 2019, Merissa Aguiliera remains an inspiring figure for

aspiring cricketers, particularly women in the sport.

Her journey and achievements highlight the growth of women's cricket and the impact of dedicated athletes in challenging traditional norms. As a player and a leader, Aguiliera has left an indelible mark on the game, paving the way for future generations.

Aguiliera played in over 100 One Day Internationals (ODIs) and captained the West Indies Women from 2009-2015, a period during which she led the team to the

final of the ICC Women's World Cup in India 2013; the semi-finals of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in 2010, 2012, and 2014; and was part of the 2016 ICC Women's T20 World Cup winning team in Kolkata.

In her primary role as a wicketkeeper, Aguiliera has claimed over 100 dismissals in ODI cricket, achieving the magical three figures during the home series against South Africa Women in September 2018.

In addition, she has over 70 dismissals in 95 T20 internationals (T20Is). Having made her ODI debut against the Netherlands Women in July of 2008 and her T20I debut against South Africa in June of 2009, Aguiliera played 112 ODI matches, amassing 1,752 runs at an average of 20.61. She also played 95 T20Is, scoring 768 runs at an average of 14.49.

In 2023, CWI Vice President Azim Bassarath and former West Indies two-time world champion Samuel Badree also received The Hummingbird Medal Gold Award.



# 2024

## MATCH SCHEDULE

FRI 27 SEP
TKR
v
BR
7:00 PM
TRINIDAD



The Antigua and Barbuda senior national women's netball team currently contesting the ECCB International Netball Series at the Beausejour Indoor Facility in Gros Islet, St. Lucia.

## Second loss for Antigua at International Netball Series

Antigua and Barbuda's senior female team suffered their second successive defeat at the Fourth Eastern Caribbean Central Bank (ECCB) International Netball Series in St. Lucia on Tuesday.

After losing 38-55 to host St. Lucia on Monday, Antigua and Barbuda suffered a 37-68 defeat against St. Vincent and the Grenadines in their third outing at the Beausejour Indoor Facility in Gros Islet.

Goal shooter Rayana Regis sank 34 of her 37 attempts, and goal attack Amey Lake scored three of her seven shots for Antigua and Barbuda.

Goal shooter Mary-Ann Fredericks scored 55 of her 60 shots, and goal attack Kristiana Christopher scored 13 of her 20 attempts for St. Vincent and the Grenadines, which won for the third time in as many games.

The Cayman Islands, St. Lucia,

and Grenada also recorded wins in the other third-round matches in the eight-team round-robin regional competition.

The Cayman Islands notched up their second win with a 62-37 victory against the Commonwealth of Dominica, which lost for the second time in three matches.

Goal shooter Kay Copeland sank 53 of her 56 attempts, and goal attack Rose Wilson converted seven of her 12 shots for the Cayman Islands.

Goal attack Galeine Gordan-Seraphine scored 18 of her 21 attempts, and goal shooter Ann-Maria Panthier converted 18 of her 20 shots for Dominica.

St. Lucia made it three wins in as many games with an 88-12 drubbing of Anguilla, which suffered their third consecutive loss.

Goal shooter Merlessa Alfred converted 29 of her 42 attempts; goal

attack Dasha Eugene sank 22 of her 24 shots; Semaj Marguerite converted 20 of her 26 attempts; and veteran Shem Maxwell scored 13 of her 14 shots for St. Lucia.

Goal shooter Desiree Antoine scored six of her nine attempts, and Tishan Depass-Smith converted five of her 11 shots for Anguilla.

Defending champions Grenada recorded their second win in three outings by romping to a lopsided 82-8 victory against Montserrat, which lost for the third time in as many games.

Goal shooter Carlene Alexander scored 50 of her 55 shots, goal attack Celine Brown converted 17 of her 19 shots, goal attack Amy Nixon sank nine of her 12 attempts, and Tiffany Frederick scored six of her seven shots for Grenada.

Goal shooter Juana Osbourne scored four of her 15 shots for Montserrat.



## Charles leads Kings to victory over Knight Riders in CPL

The St. Lucia Kings laid down an imposing marker to the other three sides to make the 2024 Republic Bank Caribbean Premier League (CPL) playoffs at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad, on Tuesday.

The Kings racked up 218 runs off their twenty overs and reduced the Trinbago Knight Riders to 138 for nine to win by 80 runs and remain top of the latest standings in the CPL.

It could have been a heavier defeat than it was for the Knight Riders as Kings Captain Faf Du Plessis hit 53 off 43 balls and his opening partner Johnson Charles smashed the ball to all parts in Tarouba in a brilliant 89 off 40 balls.

They shared a 145-run opening partnership saw the ball flying to the boundary multiple times, which perhaps also explained why the first innings took over two hours to complete.

The Knight Riders were made to do plenty of leather chasing and had to wait un-

til the 13th over before they could “celebrate” a wicket – Charles departing for a magnificent innings – caught by a juggling Chris Jordan on the long on boundary off a Jayden Seales slower ball.

Du Plessis made a half century of his own and after he was out – caught on the leg side fence off the impressive Kieron Pollard – Tim Seifert hit 30 off 17 balls to get the Kings over 200.

The Kings scoring rate did slow up towards the end, with just 45 runs coming off the last five overs.

Pollard was the pick of the Knight Riders bowlers and came to fore admirably in the absence of Sunil Narine. Pollard’s four for 38 in the circumstances constituted excellent figures and meant his side had a chance of chasing down a still sizeable target.

The Knight Riders never really got close. Losing wickets regularly in the first half of their innings saw the Knight Riders reduced to 56 for six as Noor Ahmed’s left arm wrist spin picked up the



St. Lucia Kings' Johnson Charles bats against the Trinbago Knight Riders in their Caribbean Premier League match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on Tuesday, September 24, 2024. (CPLT20/Getty Images)

engine room of Tim David (14), Akeal Hossein (0) and Andre Russell (12) without any damage incurred.

Opener Jason Roy, who made 41 off 29 balls, stayed resolute and started to chip away at the total. But when Roy was brilliantly caught and bowled by Shadrack Descarte in the 14th over and Chris Jordan was removed by David Wiese for 27 off 24 balls in the following over, the game had gone out of sight for the Knight Riders.

Noor Ahmed grabbed three for 39, and David Wiese claimed two for 27.

### *cont'd from pg 22*

from a corner kick by Charles.

Rivaldo Correa struck a header of his own in the 75th minute on another corner for the Dominican Republic side, tying the match at 2-2.

Correa scored the match-winning goal in the 89th minute, connecting inside the penalty area on a through ball from Charles.

As a result, Cibao FC secured the second berth to the semifinals by clinching a top two spot in the group. AC Port of Spain bows out of the tournament after concluding its group stage participation.

First place will be at stake when Cibao FC and Moca FC play their final group stage encounters next Tuesday. Cibao FC will be hosting Ouanaminthe, while Moca FC will be hosting Jennings Grenades.

## Grenades draw again in Caribbean Cup

Sandals and Inet Jennings Grenades of Antigua and Barbuda drew their penultimate match in Group B of the 2024 CONCACAF Caribbean Cup on Tuesday evening.

The Grenades salvaged a 2-2 draw with Ouaganthe FC of Haiti at the Estadio Moca 85 in Moca, in the Dominican Republic.

Captain Quinton Griffith gave the Grenades the lead in the 20th minute when he scored with a header inside the box from a free kick.

Quanaminthe equalized on the stroke of halftime as Joseph Willinx tied the score in the 45th minute from a penalty kick conversion, placing the ball inside of the left post.

In the second half, Willinx scored again giving Quanaminthe a 2-1 lead by converting another penalty kick in the 69th minute.

But the Grenades salvaged a draw as Malcolm Stewart struck inside the penalty area in the 89th minute to snatch the equalizer and rescue a point for the Antigua and Barbuda side.

It was the second consecutive late equalizer for



Joseph Willinx celebrates after scoring one of his two penalty kicks for Ouaganthe FC against Jennings Grenades in their Group B match in the CONCACAF Caribbean Cup at the Estadio Moca 85 in Moca, Dominican Republic, Tuesday, September 24, 2024. (Concacaf)

the Grenades after scoring in the fifth minute of added time in their previous match against AC Port of Spain in Trinidad one week ago.

As a result, Moca FC of the Dominican Republic secured one of the top two qualifying spots from Group B and will advance to the semifinals.

Grenades FC and Ouaganthe FC will conclude their group stage participation next Tuesday against

Moca FC and Cibao FC, respectively.

Cibao FC of the Dominican Republic claimed the other semi-final qualifying spot in Group B after snatching a 3-2 victory against AC Port of Spain at the Hasely Crawford Stadium in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, on Tuesday.

Shackiel Smek Henry placed the home side in the lead in the 38th minute with a header in the penalty area.

Jameel Neptune gave AC Port of Spain a 2-0 lead in the 40th minute with a scissor kick inside the penalty area.

But Herold Charles came off the bench in the 53rd minute to change the game with three assists to spur the Cibao FC comeback.

Jean López cut the deficit for the visitors in the 63rd minute with a header

*cont'd on pg 21*