

PRIORITISING MENTAL HEALTH: CALL TO ACTION

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Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson, left, and Sir Curtly Ambrose were both presented with honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of the West Indies. *Story on page 7.*

Gaston Browne | Prioritising mental health: Call to action for the Caribbean and beyond

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Sunday 13 October, 2024

We observed World Mental Health Day on October 10, and we have been reminded that mental-health challenges can touch many families and communities. For most people, mental-health care is about ensuring that those who suffer receive the treatment they need to lead as normal a life as possible — one where they can overcome their struggles and are no longer



viewed as a threat to themselves or others but as accepted and valued members of society.

On a personal note, my

sister and I experienced the stigma surrounding mental illness first-hand. Our late mother struggled with mental-health challenges

for much of her life, and society’s reaction was often cruel. Yet we loved and cared for her, unashamed of her condition. We refused to let societal scorn define our relationship with her. Her struggles taught us resilience, compassion, and the power of love.

Mental illness, like any other health condition, demands kindness, understanding, and care. Yet in too many of our Caribbean societies, individuals facing mental-health challenges

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are met with apathy, stigma, and at times even hostility. This response only deepens their suffering and worsens their conditions, perpetuating a cycle of neglect and social exclusion.

The recent editorial by The Gleaner, calling for a CARICOM-led initiative on mental health, was visionary and necessary. Mental health is now a global crisis, and our region is not immune. In fact, the Caribbean has one of the highest rates of mental-health conditions in the world, with approximately 16 per cent of our population affected. The economic cost is staggering, amounting to billions of dollars in lost productivity globally — and likely hundreds of millions regionally. But beyond the economic toll is the untold emotional and societal cost to our families and communities.

The editorial was a timely reminder of how our Caribbean societies, including our governments, have failed to offer those with mental illness the dignity, care, and respect they deserve. I applaud The Gleaner for sounding the alarm and for appealing to our collective conscience. The call for a CARICOM Summit on Mental Health is one that I fully endorse, and I am personally committed to leading efforts to make mental health a regional and global priority.

One of the greatest barriers to mental-health care is stigma. Too often, mental

illness is treated as a personal failing rather than a medical condition. Public-education campaigns must aim to dismantle this stigma and replace it with empathy, understanding, and inclusion. Every individual with a mental-health condition deserves love, support, and timely interventions — just as those with physical illnesses do.

In Antigua and Barbuda, my Government is taking concrete steps to close the gaps in mental-health care. We recognise that mental-health care must be an integral part of our national health-and-wellness programmes. Therefore, we are investing \$8 million in a new mental-health facility, with plans to invest a further \$10 million to ensure that it provides first-class care. That care will include not only medication, but also therapeutic interventions, lifestyle changes focusing on diet, exercise, and substance-abuse management. We also plan to include a farm that will serve both as therapy and as a source of sustainable food production.

Regionally, we have advanced discussions with CARICOM Heads of Government to host a Summit on Mental Health. We have also engaged the World Health Organization (WHO) to prioritize mental health as a standalone issue rather than an adjunct to other health conditions. I am pleased to say that Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, director general of WHO, has agreed

to establish a high-level dialogue on mental health at the next UN General Assembly. Furthermore, Antigua and Barbuda will introduce a mental-health resolution at the UNGA, with the support of the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO).

Globally, the conversation about mental health is evolving, but it must translate into action. We have a responsibility as leaders, as citizens, and as human beings to care for the most vulnerable among us. As Mahatma Gandhi observed: “The true measures of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.” In other words, how a society treats its most vulnerable is the defining

measure of its humanity.

Gaston Browne writes: Mental illness, like any other health condition, demands kindness, understanding, and care. Yet, in too many of our Caribbean societies, individuals facing mental health challenges are met with apathy, stigma, and at times even hostility.

Let us commit to working together — locally, regionally, and internationally — to build societies where mental-health care is not a luxury but a priority. Together, we can empower individuals with mental-health challenges to lead productive, fulfilling lives and contribute to the development of our nations.

The time to act is now.

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Local News



PM Browne: Debt to GDP ratio should drop to below 60 percent by yearend

Prime Minister Gaston Browne, who is also the country's minister of finance, is predicting a further reduction in the country's Debt-to-GDP ratio to under 60 percent, which is the international benchmark.

Speaking on the Browne and Browne show on Saturday, PM Browne noted that this confirms the government's careful management of the country's economy to have this all-important ratio reduced to about 58 per-

cent by year end, lower than what is acceptable internationally.

"It is important to note that under the UPP Administration, public sector debt rose to up to 104 percent of GDP and while we were able to bring it down significantly, it grew to approximately 100 percent under our administration because of the COVID19 pandemic. We have been able however, to see a remarkable turnaround to have it reduced to 58 per-

cent in about four years," he exclaimed.

The prime minister explained that this healthy report of the state of the economy means that the country is paying back more loans than it is borrowing. He noted, for instance, that those years when the UPP government recorded some growth, much of this was financed by borrowings.

"Nobody can say that the growth that we have been experiencing has been



Prime Minister Gaston Browne as a result of borrowings, as was the case for decades, under several administrations, especially under the UPP. The growth that they experienced, for the few years that they did, was because of the \$2 billion they borrowed which kept the debt increasing to the point where it was at the unsustainable at 104 percent of GDP," PM Browne further explained.

According to PM Browne this is another area of success for his government. Next, he said the area of focus will be the debt service ratio, which he said was still too high.

The plan is to get a consolidation loan to clear off the smaller high interest loans and replace these with a longer term amortization arrangement. "We hope to have this done by first quarter of next year and this will in turn reduce the current cash flow problems," he remarked.

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New UWI Chancellor urges graduates to ‘think globally’

Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Dodridge Miller, is urging the class of 2024 graduates to dream big and to think with an open mind, noting that their academic journey had exposed them to information that allows them to see the world through a broader lens.

Chancellor Miller, who took up his appointment on August 1, 2024, was at the time delivering his first address, as head of the university, to a UWI graduating class.

“The examples and illustrations you’ve encountered during your study are not just theoretical props designed for purpose of obtaining a degree; they reflect a real, interconnected

world, the afterglow of the consciousness of millions of people going about their daily lives. Your local environment is part of this larger global space, where events and decisions made thousands of miles away can have a significant impact locally,” he noted.

However, the Chancellor reminded the graduates that, the knowledge they gained at The University of the West Indies has prepared them to meet these events with confidence, whether they originate locally or are influenced by global circumstances.

“Approach issues from a broad perspective, even as you plan and act locally,” he advised.

According to the Chan-



Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Dodridge Miller, right, with Sir Curtly Ambrose.

cellor the often-used statement “think global, act local” is good advice. “The UWI, even with its limited resources, cannot afford to view the world only as a

local or regional construct. To do so would fail its graduates and the region. We must engage the world and participate in important research and conversations on matters of global consequence. By doing so, we will continue to produce graduates with the academic competence and critical and strategic thinking to operate in any environment of their choosing. You, the members of the graduating class of 2024, are the beneficiaries of this global thinking,” he stated.

Chancellor Miller noted The UWI had no choice but to prepare graduates with the skills necessary to function in their local situations both to function equally well at both the regional as well as the international levels



Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Dodridge Miller, right, with Ambassador Walton Aubrey Webson.

Dr. Walton Webson uses his life's challenges to inspire UWI FIC graduating class 2024

Antigua and Barbuda's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson, delivered a moving address to the graduating class of the University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus at Saturday's graduation exercises held at the St. John's Pentecostal Church.

Dr. Webson delivered an address to graduates moments after both he and cricket legend, Sir Curtly Ambrose were presented with honorary doctorate degrees from The UWI.

The multifaceted and multi-talented diplomat, used his life story to put life and meaning into the word, resilience. Dr. Webson was a young boy in English Harbour when he lost his sight in an instance.

He recalled that many had advised his mother to 'get rid of him' as at that time, nearly sixty years ago, there were no facilities

nor the expertise to properly care for someone with his condition.

According to Dr. Webson, his mother, a woman of strong faith, 'circled the wagon' by getting the family members together to plan a course of action. He was sent off to Trinidad to live where the facilities existed within which he could thrive.

While in Trinidad, Dr. Webson developed two attributes that would shape his life profoundly; he developed a strong sense of social activism and 2. A sense that he was never to be constrained by his physical disability.

From leading a demonstration in front of Red House in Port of Spain, Trinidad, to holding discussions with at least two prime ministers here in Antigua and Barbuda to becoming the first blind, and black head of Perkins



International; one of the leading NGO's serving children with blindness and other disabilities and now the first blind person to be named permanent representative to the UN, Dr. Webson's life has been one of activism and breaking 'glass ceilings'.

To the graduating class, Dr. Webson underscored the importance of resilience.

"For me Graduates, resilience is not just a word; it is a way of life, I have often said, you can be knocked down but not knocked out. Resilience is not about never falling; it is about rising every time you do. It is about adapting and learning from failure and using those lessons to forge a brighter path ahead. My ancestral story is not about failure, it is about resilience, because for us, resilience is the heartbeat of our people. It is the story of communities coming together after hurricanes, rebuilding stronger than before. It is the tale of individuals who, despite facing economic hardships and social injustice, uplifted themselves and their families through education, creativity, and hard work. You, the graduates, are the embodiment of this," he declared.



Two outstanding native sons honoured by The UWI

Two of Antigua and Barbuda's outstanding native sons who have made indelible marks on the world stage in their individual fields of endeavor have received honorary Doctorate Degrees from the University of the West Indies.

Social activist turned diplomat, Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson and cricket legend, Sir Curtly Ambrose were presented with the awards at the 2024 graduation exercises held by the UWI Five Islands Campus on Saturday.

The UWI describes Dr.

Webson as 'a man with no sight, but with extraordinary vision'. "A legend of our Caribbean region whose talents and skills create a kaleidoscope of abilities raging from basket craft to management, coaching of sports, cooking, championing policies, spearheading initiatives, designing educational programmes, teaching and so much more, a testament of brilliance," the profile contained in the graduation booklet of October 12 observed.

It also drew attention to his academic achievements



Sir Curtly Ambrose, left, and Dr. Walton Aubrey Webson

which have been wide and extensive. Dr. Webson holds a doctorate degree in management from Case Western Reserve University, a post graduate diploma in Organisational Development, a

agement of Non-Profit Organisation and a Bachelor of Science in Management.

Dr. Webson has been Antigua and Barbuda's permanent representative to the United Nations, a role in *cont'd on pg 8*



UWI FIC Valedictorian calls on fellow graduates to 'build on the strong legacy' of the Caribbean civilization

The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus 2024 Valedictorian, Ockelia McFarlane, has called on the 2024 graduating class to embody the spirit of resilience for which Caribbean people have become synonymous.

In her Valedictorian address to the graduating ceremony on Saturday, McFarlane, a First Class Honours graduate from the School of Nursing, noted that despite the challenges of meeting assignment deadlines and other pressures of academic life, with perseverance and resilience, they all made it through to the end.

"Our journey to this point hasn't been without its challenges. We've faced sleepless nights, moments of doubt, crammed for exams, go two little UWI link up and leaned on each other for support. But like our ancestors, we rose to meet every obstacle. We've shown the resilience that is the hallmark of our heritage. And today, we



Valedictorian, Ockelia McFarlane

stand not just as graduates, but as proud bearers of a legacy that spans generations," she remarked.

McFarlane also expressed appreci-

ation on behalf of the graduating class to the lecturers who helped to guide them through the academic journey.

"Your wisdom and patience have been our compass. You pushed us when we needed it and believed in us even when we struggled to believe in ourselves. Thank you for going above and beyond to ensure we, like our forefathers, became thinkers and leaders," she stated.

Noting that there is a world of possibilities awaiting the graduates, McFarlane expressed the view that following their academic journeys, they are ready for what lies ahead.

"I believe we're ready. Let's step into the unknown with the tools given to us and the mindset to make a positive difference.

"Let's be innovators like Alfranique Joseph is with her music, and change-makers like Marcus Garvey was with his vision," she declared.

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which he has demonstrated much skill and dedication. He headed the committee that successfully planned and hosted the 4th Conference of Small Island Developing States (SIDS4) held in Antigua in May this year. He has also sat on several UN committees representing the interests of Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS countries.

The other honorary doctorate degree was presented to Sir Curtly Ambrose, who was one of the most feared fast bowlers of his time when he played for the West Indies Cricket team.

Sir Curtly represented the West Indies in 98 test matches where he took 405 test wickets and in 176 One Day Internationals taking 225 wickets.

"Ambrose's career is marked by

several iconic performances. One of the most memorable feats came in 1992-93 when he took 7 wickets for 1 run against Australia, leading the West Indies to victory. Another standout performance was his 6 wickets for 24 runs against England in 1994 where he bowled out the opposi-

tion for 46 runs," the literature recalled,

Following his on-the field exploits, Sir Curtly has turned to coaching and music as he is a member of the Spirited Band, which performs on the hotel circuit as well as tour the Caribbean and further afield.



Four secondary schools named for finals of Junior Chef cook-off competition

Teams representing four of the nation's secondary schools have now advanced to the final round of the Taste of Wadadli Junior Chef Competition scheduled for November 8.

The 'Final Four' were selected at the end of the preliminary rounds of the highly anticipated competition held last Friday at the Sir Novelle Richards Academy. The competition showcases the culinary creativity and talent of some of Antigua's most promising junior chefs. The Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Institute will host the finals 'cook-off'.

Craig Marshall, Chairman of the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association (ABHTA), was impressed by the level of skill demonstrated by the participants. He noted, "There was so much talent on display that we made the decision to increase the number of teams going to the finale from three to four. The ABHTA continues to be excited about this partnership and we are



Pares Secondary being presented by Jessica Russell, ECAB



All Saints Secondary being presented by Jessica Russel (ECAB)



Glanvilles Secondary being presented by Jessica Russell (ECAB)

pleased to have had the support of the Sir Novelle Richards Academy in hosting this wonderful event."

The four teams advancing to the finale prepared these mouthwatering treats during the preliminary round:

Pares Secondary School
 Junior Chef: Tamarlie Williams,
 Assistant: Jamesha Burnette, Teacher: Shennette Whyte

Dish: Curried Chicken Tacos with Pineapple Zucchini Carrot Slaw
All Saints Secondary School

Junior Chef: Nyiema Williams, Assistant: Nathan Henry, Teacher: Katrin Edwards

Dish: Island Curry Kebabs with Herb-infused Mashed Potatoes

Glanvilles Secondary School
Junior Chef: Italis Christian, Assistant: Drayton Payne, Teacher: Maria Ditzen

Dish: Curried Chicken and Eddoes, Liquid Roti, Fried Eggplant
St. Joseph's Academy (Defending

Champions)

Junior Chef: Calbert Francis III, Assistant: Joshua James, Teacher: Chanda Joseph

Dish: Breadfruit Flatbread with Spicy Fish in a Coconut Curry Lemongrass Sauce, served with a side of Green Papaya and Carrot Slaw

In the final round, the junior chefs will be tasked with taking a local staple, dumplings, and reimagining it in a contemporary Antiguan way that can be showcased on the international market.

The competition will culminate in an exciting awards ceremony, where teams will compete for top prizes across three tiers:

Tier 1: School Prizes

1st place school: EC\$10,000 sponsored by Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank (ECAB)

2nd place school: EC\$5,000 sponsored by Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU)

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3rd place school: EC\$2,500 sponsored by CHIEF brand products

4th place school: EC\$2,500 sponsored by the ABHTA

Tier 2: Student Prizes

All four finalist students will receive a scholarship to the Antigua and Barbuda Hospitality Training Institute (ABHTI), providing them with an opportunity to further develop their culinary skills.

Tier 3: Teacher Prizes

1st place teacher: Luxurious staycation at a leading local resort

2nd place teacher: Day pass for two at a leading local resort

3rd and 4th place teachers: Dinner for two at a leading local resort

The ABHTA, along with its partners—Eastern Caribbean Amalgamated Bank, Mega Distributors/CHIEF, the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union, the Ministry of Education, Sport and Creative Industries, and the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation, Transportation and Investment—is proud to support this competition, which highlights the remarkable talent and potential of Antigua and Barbuda's youth. Their support helps ensure that young culinary minds are given the platform to excel and become leaders in the hospitality industry.



SJA, being presented by Jessica Russell, ECAB

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Antigua and Barbuda's Leycia Samuels elected as President of JCI West Indies

The Antigua and Barbuda delegation has returned from the just-concluded JCI National Convention in Guyana where president of the local chapter, Leycia Samuels, was elected as President of JCI West Indies.

It was a highly successful convention for the Antigua and Barbuda delegation as another member of the chapter, Laurel Jonas, was elected as Vice President. Reports from Guyana are that the Antigua and Barbuda delegation made quite an impression at the convention.

Notably, according to the reports, with a 35-member strong group, JCI Antigua had the largest delegation and received multiple recognitions and awards across various categories.

Here is a listing of some of the categories won;

Recognition for serving in their respective positions

Leycia Samuel - Executive Vice President

Senator Andrea Smithen Henry - Senator Chairman

Senator Clovis St. Romain - Advisor
Senator Leslie Emmanuel - Advisor

Participation certificates in the following:

- National Fundraiser
- Ten Outstanding Young Persons (TOYP) - Caleb Gardner
- Creative Young Entrepreneur - Chanel Imhoff
- World Clean Up Day



Representation in;
Public Speaking Competition - Past Vice President Byron Christopher
Debate Finalist - Vice President Ayan Dorsette , Chairman Kenrick George and Suria Ambrose .

Awards and recognition for:
Public Relations Champion
100 % Efficiency Champion
Largest Visiting Delegation
JCI Antigua
Most Reliable National Councilor / Local President

Therese Mills
Most outstanding board officer
Laurel Jonas
Most helpful board officer
Leycia Samuels
Winner Best international cooperation project road safety campaign
Best local community impact Programme finalist
Senator Leandra James Cancer Awareness Campaign

Finalist Best local growth and development program
Aspire to Inspire
Finalist Best local global goals
Recycle and Create
Best JCI Rise Project
Bizmix
Best inter organization collaboration project - Project Vent
Best local business and entrepreneurship program -
Professionalism in Customer Care Seminar
Best local individual and development program-
JCI Antigua Training Series (all training sessions)
Most outstanding new member
Alisha Sheppard
Most outstanding member
Colette Edwards
Most outstanding local president
Therese Mills
Most outstanding local organization
JCI Antigua

President Therese expressed immense pride in these accomplishments, acknowledging the challenges faced. She extended her gratitude to the members for their commitment and dedication, as well as to the partners and supporters for their ongoing contributions. Therese highlighted that these awards are a testament to the hard work and perseverance of all members.



Opinion



Trump and swallow truth

By Tony Deyal

The idiom “blowing your own trumpet” means to boast about your achievements or abilities in a way that makes you proud as punch. Unfortunately, when Donald Trump shows his personal Trumpet, people laugh at his front from behind his back. Actually, Jimmy Kimmel, the top television host, gave the pornographic film actress, Stormy Daniels, a plate of carrots and after she sized them up, she picked the smallest one. Jimmy explained that in terms of Trump, “no one has been this let down by two inches since Stormy.”

In fact, one night in 2006, Trump supposedly had a night with Stormy. Whatever they had that night was not as stormy as what happened after Trump’s former Attorney, Michael Cohen, paid US\$130,000 to Stormy to stop her from storming even more.

While Stormy was considered a Strumpet, the blower of his own trumpet, Trump himself, got trumped by a trumpet player who had created an iPhone app to teach people how to play the Trumpet. After six years, Trump had to pay. In other words, he is more than a trumpet, he is a flute with a whistle mouth-piece and seven finger-holes. Around him are wind instruments and recorders who suck up to him with false information. For me, in Trumpeting terms, this is what I see as the “Bb Trumpet” which is

a common type of brass also known as the “ABC”.

The next is a ‘TC Trumpet’ which has a slightly brighter sound than an ABC, and is more than enough to show you what kind of person Trump is. He was addressing a political rally in Pennsylvania when he was lucky to escape an assassination attempt.

However, a brave firefighter was shot dead after he tried to protect his family. Art collectors and investors, John and Amy Phelan, held a function that raised US\$38 million to help the family. Trump made a speech, “So they’re going to get millions of dollars but the woman, the wife, this beautiful woman, I handed her the check...and she said, ‘This is so nice, and I appreciate it, but I’m much rather have my husband.’”

Now I know some of the women in this room wouldn’t say the same. I know at least four couples. There are four couples ... that I know and you’re not one of them. At least four couples here would have been thrilled, actually.” Someone, who was very unhappy when Trump “escaped”, said publicly that Trump narrowly escaping death is like trying to reach the last bus - “unfortunately, just missed.”

Another shouted on stage, “Don’t miss Trump next time!” Unfortunately, the after-the-fact gets nowhere. In dealing with this Trumpet, you must under-



Tony Deyal

stand that George Washington couldn’t tell a lie. Richard Nixon couldn’t tell the truth. And Donald Trump can’t tell the difference.

Now we come to the “Bb Pocket Trumpet” which is supposedly unique with a more refined sound. This is where Barack Obama pocketed the prize for eviscerating the Trumpet with, “A 78-year-old billionaire who hasn’t stopped whining about his problems since he rode down his golden escalator nine years ago. It’s been a constant stream of gripes and grievances that’s actually gotten worse now that he’s afraid of losing to Kamala,” Obama continued speaking while holding his hands a few inches apart, a joke about anatomy over crowds, “The childish nicknames and crazy conspiracy theories and weird obsession with crowd size. It just goes on and on. The other day, I heard someone compare Trump to the neighbour who keeps running his leaf blower outside your window

every minute of every day.” At this point, Obama paused and added that Harris “is not the neighbour running the leaf blower- she’s the neighbour rushing over to help when you need a hand.”

Shot number four, the ‘Flugel Horn’, is a distinctive wider more conical bore. Enough, in fact, to floor Trump. He and Obama ended up at the same barber shop. As they sat there, each being worked on by a different barber, not a word was spoken. The barbers were both afraid to start a conversation for fear that it would turn nasty.

As the barbers finished their shaves in silence, the one who had Trump in his chair reached for the after-shave. But Donald was quick to stop him, jokingly saying, “No thanks. My wife, Melania, will smell that and think I’ve been in a brothel.” The second barber turned to Barack and said, “How about you, Mr. Obama?” Barack replied, “Go right ahead! My

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wife, Michelle, doesn't know what the inside of a brothel smells like."

Then there is the "pTrumpet" and seeing that Barack Obama had just dumped the Trumpet in the "p", we should consider 'p' as 'plastic'. In 1990 Ivana Trump said under oath that her husband flew into a fit of rage due to the pain and displeasure with a scalp reduction surgery, performed in 1989.

Also known as alopecia reduction, the surgery is intended to correct balding, and involves cutting the bald spot out and sewing the remaining skin back together. The tightened scalp can cause headaches and swelling. Then Trump subsequently had liposuction on his chin and waist. Perhaps this is why Trump showed off his "figure".

Fortunately, Jimmy Kimmel was there and said that Trump first claimed to weigh 215 pounds and then made himself lighter than his last physical test when he was president. This caused Kimmel to say that either Trump was ly-

ing or "flying his chicken in Ozempic". Ozempic is a weekly injection that helps lower blood sugar by helping the pancreas make more insulin. It is not approved for weight loss, but some physicians prescribe it. Most likely they might be supporters of J.D. Vance, Trump's next in line, who with many others, might be betting on the Ozempic to win the battle. Without trying to "p" on Trump, Kimmel said, "I saved Trump's life at the rally. I yelled Donald Duck."

The "D Trumpet" which comes next is more piercing. It was break time and the doctors were sitting together. An English doctor bragged, "We are so clever that we transplanted a heart into a patient, and he was able to function properly in a few months!"

A German doctor replied, "That is nothing. Our country is so advanced that we were able to replace a man's backbone and in a few weeks he was able to walk!" A Russian doctor interrupted them. "My country is above all of you. My patient needed a whole brain trans-

plant and in a few days he was able to walk and find a job." An American doctor came in and said, "We are the most clever people. We treated a man with no heart, no backbone and no brains and he became our president overnight!!!"

The "Piccolo Trumpet" is the smallest member of the whole Trumpet family. Marco Rubio, one of Trump's rivals, pointed out, "He is taller than me, he is 6' 2" but his hands are the size of someone who is 5' 2." Rubio then asked, "Have you seen his hands? And you know what they say about men with small hands" The crowd erupted and then Rubio added, "You can't trust them."

The final one is "The Bugle" which is a brass instrument for the military. Unlike Trump they know what they have to do when the new President takes over and the Trumpet goes marching home or some other place.

Tony Deyal was last seen asking what Donald Trump said when he couldn't find his Viagra? The erection is rigged!

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Chris Brown concert shines spotlight on violence against women in South Africa

Chris Brown's forthcoming concert in South Africa has led to renewed focus on the country's shocking levels of violence against women, with campaigners saying it sends the wrong message given his history of abuse.

In less than two hours, the Grammy-winner managed to sell out tickets to the FNB Stadium in Johannesburg - the largest stadium in Africa with over 94,000 seats. Demand was so high that a second December date was added.

Despite the massive interest, the R 'n' B star has experienced a backlash from people who did not want him to perform due to his violent past.

"When I saw the news that Chris Brown was coming to South Africa, I was shocked and deeply disappointed," said Sabina Walter, executive director of Women for Change, an organisation that advocates for the rights of women and children in South Africa.

The group has started a petition to stop the US artist from performing. It currently has over 20,000 signatures.

"The petition was started to send a strong message that we will not tolerate the celebration of individuals with a history of violence against women," said Ms Walter, especially in a country like South Africa.



Chris Brown has been accused of several cases of violence.

South Africa has one of the highest rates of femicide and gender-based violence in the world.

A rape is reported in the country roughly every 12 minutes and it is assumed that many more go unrecorded.

"When someone like Chris Brown is given a platform in a country where GBV is at crisis levels, it sends a damaging message - that fame and power outweigh accountability," said Ms Walters.

The most well-known instance in Chris Brown's history of abuse is the domestic dispute with singer Rihanna in 2009.

Chris Brown, who was 19 at the time, pleaded guilty to assault and was sentenced to five years probation, community service and domestic violence counselling.

Although Rihanna for-

gave him and the pair briefly dated again after the incident, Chris Brown has also been accused of violence by other women - and men.

Women for Change says it wants to know how the Department of Home Affairs could grant "a convicted abuser" a visa.

For Ms Walter, the decision is "concerning and indicative of a systemic failure".

According to South African law, having a previous conviction can result in a visa being denied. But there can be an exception for "good cause" and those are cleared by the Director General of the Department of Home Affairs.

Chris Brown has previously been banned from entering other countries, including the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, and New Zealand, although he

has subsequently gone on to play in the UK and elsewhere in Europe.

But his South African fans are undeterred.

Former University of Cape Town vice-chancellor Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng shared on X that she would be attending the Chris Brown concert.

"I am totally against GBV and condemn it. I believe that those who perpetrate GBV should face the full might of the law without exceptions or leniency.

"But let me be clear, just in case the message didn't sit well: I am going to attend Brown's concert if he comes. These two things are not mutually exclusive.

"To suggest that enjoying a concert aligns you with every past action of the artist is, at best, simplistic and, at worst, intellectually dishon-

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Guyana: Film commission to be set up for world-class production

CMC - President Irfaan Ali says his administration is laying the groundwork for a national film commission in an effort to inspire a world-class film production environment in Guyana.

He said the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports is currently negotiating a co-production agreement with one key international partner, an agreement that will precipitate the establishment of a national film commission in the area of heritage.

Another cultural initiative that has been given a boost is the Guyanese Prize for Literature initiative, which is now an annual event that recognises and rewards local literary talent in a rapidly growing list of categories.



President Irfaan Ali.

The president also highlighted the Creative and Cultural Industries Grant, which remains unmatched in the Caribbean in terms of size and scope and has awarded over US\$450,000 to local artists and entrepreneurs for a variety of creative goods and services.

“There has not been a better time for culture and creativity in Guyana,” President Ali said, noting that

local performing artists have become a prominent feature in state events, helping them gain both income and exposure.

Looking ahead, the government plans to launch a public consultation in 2025 on a revised National Cultural Policy.

This framework will address issues such as integrating culture into development, heritage preserva-

tion, and the growth of the creative industry, while also considering the impact of the digital ecosystem and AI on culture.

In relation to heritage, President Ali reaffirmed his government’s commitment to honouring Guyana’s diverse history.

He referred to last year’s commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the 1823 Demerara Rebellion which he said, played a significant role in advancing the fight for emancipation.

The president said future investments will focus on projects such as the first regional cultural market at Palmyra, the development of music and entertainment synergies, and the creation of recording studios to nurture local talent.

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est,” she said.

Prof Phakeng explained that “music is bigger than the individual”.

She added that boycotting Chris Brown’s concert wouldn’t end GBV in South Africa.

“Attending the concert does not magically erase our moral stance on GBV.”

Although this is not Chris Brown’s first concert in South Africa, there is huge excitement among his fans.

One said on X: “Chris Brown coming to South Africa??... I’ll take a loan for a meet & greet.”

“Chris Brown you don’t know us yet... but my wife and I will be those two microscopic fans in the stands singing and dancing to every jam!!!!”

said another.

Ms Waters said she had even received threats because of her campaign against the US star.

“Supporters of Chris Brown seem ready to defend him at any cost,” she said.

“The criticism we are facing for our petition speaks volumes and actually reveals a deep disconnect in how we, as a society, view violence against women.”

She said that too often people were willing to “excuse abusive” behaviour when it comes to celebrities they admire.

Selective outrage is dangerous because it perpetuates the rape culture and high levels of violence women face every day, said Ms Walters.

President Cyril Ramaphosa accepts that South Africa has a huge problem with gender-based violence and in August, he called on the country’s men to take a stand.

“Our ultimate goal is to end gender-based violence altogether,” he said.

Yet this goal remains a distant one - little has changed five years after he called for action to tackle the country’s “rape crisis”.

This year alone, Women for Change has honoured over 200 women who have lost their lives to femicide.

“This fight isn’t just about this concert. It’s about changing the narrative in South Africa, where abusers are held accountable and where violence against women is never excused, overlooked, or forgotten.”

Regional News



New CDB EU financed programme to strengthen Caribbean food security

CMC - The Barbados-based Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) says it remains “deeply committed” to food and nutrition security in the region as it launched the call for proposals of the European Union-CDB Regional Food Security Programme.

CDB’s acting director of projects, L O’Reilly Lewis, speaking at the launch of the initiative that formed part of the Caribbean Week of Agriculture (CWA) that ends later on Friday in St Vincent, noted that food and nutrition security are vital pillars for the agricultural sector and are key to maintaining the health and well-being of communities, particularly among the most vulnerable.

“The Caribbean Development Bank is deeply committed to this objective, and we are excited to continue working with our private sector, development, and finance partners to foster sustainable economic growth through food security,” Lewis said.

As part of the EU’s global response to the food crisis, in July 2022, it mobilised EUR 600 million (One Euro=US\$1.29 cents) to strengthen food security and develop sustainable and resilient food systems across the African Caribbean and Pacific countries, with EUR 36.5 million allocated exclusively for the Caribbean.

The EU-Caribbean Regional Food Security Pro-



gramme, which ends in 2027, aims to enhance food system resilience, focusing on improving the livelihoods and food security of vulnerable populations.

The programme will invest EUR 19 million, implemented through key regional partners namely the CDB, International Trade Centre, Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture, and EU member state agencies (FIIAPP and CPVA).

The programme’s general objective is to enhance the sustainability and resilience of food systems in the Caribbean, promoting food and nutrition security, particularly for vulnerable groups.

Specific goals include improving food production systems with a focus on gender sensitivity, enhancing food processing and distribution, expanding social protection systems for agricultural actors, and ensuring equitable access to nutritious diets across the region.

The CDB says it has been

actively working with regional and international agencies to assist with the Caribbean Community’s (CARICOM) 25 by 2025 initiative which seeks to reduce the region’s rising food import bill, improve intra-regional trade, and create wealth and economic opportunities for the 15-member grouping.

The recent pandemic and climatic events have impacted agricultural productivity with the passage of Hurricane Beryl in July contributing to deepening social inequalities with Grenada, Jamaica and St Vincent and the Grenadines suffering massive losses.

In St Vincent and the Grenadines, the banana and plantain industries suffered losses of up to 98 per cent, while Jamaica’s agriculture sector incurred US\$15.9 million in damages, affecting over 45,000 farmers.

Grenada saw 98 per cent of its infrastructure on the islands of Carriacou and Petite Martinique destroyed. These events have slowed progress

towards the regional shared goal of reducing food imports by 25 per cent by 2025.

The new food security programme will, through a series of projects ranging between EURO 400,00 – 570,000 for national projects and up to 670,000 will support agri-MSMEs and producers by providing access to finance, fostering innovation, and improving distribution systems to enhance competitiveness and resilience.

The Team Leader Regional Cooperation and Trade Support at the EU Delegation to Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, Felipe de La Mota says the project forms part of a larger envelope of funds to augment regional efforts by CARICOM and the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to clear bottlenecks related to food security.

The EU’s global gateway has allocated EUR 19 million to the Caribbean for food production and resilience ini-

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Drone attack kills four Israeli soldiers and injures more than 60

Four soldiers have been killed and more than 60 other people injured in a drone strike targeting an army base in northern Israel, the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) has said.

The IDF added seven soldiers had been severely injured in the attack on a base “adjacent to Binyamina” - a town around 20 miles (33km) to the south of Haifa.

Hezbollah has claimed responsibility for the attack, which it said targeted a training camp of the Israeli Defence Forces’ (IDF) Golani Brigade in the area, which is based between Tel Aviv and Haifa.

The armed group’s media office said the strike was in response to Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon and Beirut on Thursday.

The group said it targeted the camp in northern Israel using a “swarm of drones”.

The Israeli ambulance service, Magen David Adom (MDA), said 61 people had been injured in the attack - including three critically. It added 37 of them had been taken to eight regional hospitals, either by ambulance or helicopter.

In a statement before the IDF confirmed the deaths, MDA said that



alongside the three critically injured, 18 of the victims were in a moderate condition, 31 sustained mild injuries and nine people were “suffering anxiety”.

The reason for the discrepancy in the number of critical injuries between MDA and the IDF is not clear.

Israeli censorship rules had initially prevented media outlets reporting exactly where or what was targeted, before the IDF confirmed it was the Binyamina base.

Some Israeli media outlets have reported the base was hit by a low-level drone launched from Lebanon - a relatively unsophisticated weapon that appears not to have activated early-warning alarms.

Throughout the evening, television bulletins, social media posts and online reports showed footage of emergency vehicles, including helicopters, taking casualties to hospitals across northern Israel.

Many of the wounded have been evacuated to Hillel Yaffe Medical Centre in nearby Hadera - with others being taken to hospitals in Tel Hashomer, Haifa, Afula and Netanya.

Details are still scarce but many of the injured appear to have been in a communal canteen at the time and were caught completely by surprise. Images circulating on social media appear to show an empty mess hall with a hole in the roof.

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 tiatives.

“We are working together with our implementing partners and stakeholder colleagues, other institutions and governments... who know the region... to identify those sectors and bottle necks that we can help unlock.”

Lewis said addressing food security at a regional level is crucial, as no single member state can solve these

issues alone, particularly smaller islands with limited resources.

“Through CARICOM’s unified market and congruent national and regional policy implementation, we can ensure that food production, supply, and consumption are sustainable and that we move closer to food sovereignty,” he said encouraging stakeholders to work together to ensure no country is left be-

hind.

The Manager Agricultural Health, Food Safety and Quality Programme at the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Dr José Urdaz, spoke of the impact of global volatility on food and nutrition security.

Urdaz said the IICA will continue to partner with organisations to improve Caribbean food security focus-

ing on ensuring that food traded is safe, adding this can be accommodated through strategic initiatives to reduce non-technical trade barriers, sanitary and phytosanitary measures and by implementing capacity building.

“IICA will work with programme partners to improve food processing capabilities to increase regional distribution of agricultural and fisheries products.”



President Joe Biden speaks in Tampa, Florida after an aerial assessment of Hurricane Milton's damage.

Biden pledges half a billion to restore power for reeling Floridians

By **Brandon Drenon**

President Joe Biden visited the Tampa area of Florida on Sunday to conduct an aerial tour of the destruction caused by Hurricane Milton, the second major storm to hit the area in as many weeks.

On his visit, Biden pledged more than \$500m (£380m) to help restore the state's damaged electrical grid.

Roughly three million businesses and homes in Florida lost power at the storm's peak, which made landfall on 10 October, and over 825,000 are still off the grid, according to power-outage.us.

Milton, and Hurricane Helene that arrived before it, have placed an immense strain on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (Fema).

After President Biden's aerial tour on Sunday, he said: "Thankfully, the storm's impact was not as cataclysmic

as we had predicted."

He then said: "For some individuals, it was cataclysmic."

Biden thanked first responders and other local officials for their effort, while offering his empathy to residents whom he said he knows are "heartbroken and exhausted".

The president's pledge to provide over half a billion dollars to help repair Florida's electrical grid comes amid rising tension over budgeting on Capitol Hill.

Some US lawmakers have urged Congress to return to session early to negotiate additional disaster relief funding for Fema.

However, House Speaker Mike Johnson, the highest-ranking official in the US House of Representatives, said Congress's return "can wait".

Johnson said Congress will return to session as planned, after the elec-

tion on 5 November, and address the need for more funding when states have completed their assessments of the storm's damage.

"Before Hurricane Helene made landfall... Congress appropriated \$20bn (£15.3bn) to Fema so that they would have the resources to address immediate needs," Johnson said, speaking on CBS News, the BBC's media partner, on Sunday.

"I just checked this morning, less than 2% of that funding has been distributed," he said.

In Florida, Biden said he had been "talking to Congress to see if they can get the money quickly."

"It's important," he said.

The known death toll from Helene, which hit multiple states - including Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Florida - stands at 227.

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West Indies beat Sri Lanka in T20 series opener

DAMBULLA, Sri Lanka (AP) — Openers Brandon King and Evin Lewis scored half-centuries and shared a 107-run stand in 55 balls on Sunday to guide West Indies to a five-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the first of their three Twenty20 matches.

Sri Lanka scored 179 for seven in their 20 overs after West Indies captain Rovman Powell won the toss and chose to field at Rangiri Dambulla Stadium.

In reply, West Indies reached 180 for five with five deliveries remaining to take an early lead in the series.

King smashed a six and eleven fours in his innings of 63 runs off 33 deliveries, while Lewis hit four sixes and five fours for his 28-ball 50.

The pair at times maintained a run rate of more than 13 runs per over to lay a solid platform.



West Indies' Brandon King, left, and Evin Lewis bump fists during the first Twenty20 cricket match between Sri Lanka and West Indies in Dambulla, Sri Lanka, Sunday, Oct. 13, 2024. (AP)

After Lewis was out in the 10th over — caught by Chamindu Wickramasinghe off fast bowler Matheesha Pathirana — the hosts took two more wickets for 21 runs to threaten a comeback. But West Indies' middle

order maintained the momentum to take their team over the line. Pathirana took two wickets for Sri Lanka.

Earlier, captain Charith Asalanka (59) and Kamindu Mendis (51) led Sri Lanka's batting in posting a competitive total.

Asalanka faced 35 deliveries and hit nine fours, and Mendis hit two sixes and five fours in his 40-ball knock. Fast bowler Romario Shepherd took two for 39 for the West Indies.

The second match will be played at the same venue on Tuesday.

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Hurricane Milton, which made landfall in west Florida on 10 October, hit many of the same areas as Helene, leaving at least 17 people dead.

Milton's ripping winds combined with deadly storm surges flattened west and central Florida homes, flipped cars and stripped power lines.

It also added to the destruction caused by Helene.

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis had ordered emergency crews to work around-the-clock to remove debris caused by He-

lene ahead of Milton's arrival. Much of it still remained as Milton made landfall.

The hurricanes have added to the brewing political storm as the US presidential election is in full swing.

Donald Trump has made false claims that the Biden administration "stole Fema money... so they could give it to their illegal immigrants that they want to have vote for them this season."

Kamala Harris, who is running against Trump, responded by saying his remarks are "the height of irresponsibility and, frankly, callousness".

Hector gets West Indies Women's Academy contract

In her quest to revive her cricketing career, Antigua and Barbuda's only professional female cricketer, Shawnisha Britney Hector, has earned a one-year contract with Cricket West Indies (CWI) Women's Academy.

Hector and fellow Antiguan male fast bowler Kelvin Pitman are among 30 male and female players from across the region that have been given 2024 to 2025 CWI Academy contracts.

These contracts, which run from October 1, 2024, to September 30, 2025, are a critical part of CWI's long-term vision to ensure both male and female players are well-prepared to represent the West Indies on the international stage.

Hector's contract with CWI is a major step for the Antiguan all-rounder, who has revived her fledgling career after overcoming injury problems.

In an effort to resuscitate her career, Hector plied her trade in the Victorian Premier Cricket and Kookaburra Women's Premier Seconds in Yarrambat, Victoria, during the 2023-24 Australian domestic cricket season.

Hector played a total of 17 matches, comprising T20 and one-day encounters for Plenty Valley Premier Women's 2nd XI.



Antiguan Shawnisha Britney Hector in her Plenty Valley Premier Women's 2nd XI uniform.

In October 2019, Hector was named in the West Indies' squad for their series against India, and she became the first Antiguan female cricketer to be selected for the West Indies women's team.

Hector made her Women's One Day International (WODI) debut for the West

Indies against India on November 1, 2019, in Antigua.

In May 2021, Hector was awarded a central contract from Cricket West Indies but was unable to represent the West Indies due to injury problems.

Hector has worked hard to overcome her injury problems and returned to

competitive domestic and regional cricket in 2022. She was drafted and represented the Trinbago Knight Riders in the inaugural Women's Caribbean Premier League in 2022.

She also represented the Leeward Islands in the CWI West Indies Senior Women's Championships that same year.

However, Hector was controversially omitted from the Antigua and Barbuda women's team for the Leeward Islands tournament in 2023.

Subsequently, she was also overlooked by the Leeward Islands for the 2023 CWI Senior Women's Championships. Hence, Hector turned to league cricket in Australia to relaunch her promising cricketing career.

Her efforts are being rewarded as Cricket West Indies announced the awarding of full-time, one-year contracts to 30 young players as part of its ongoing commitment to nurturing emerging talent in the region.

For the first time, the Men's Academy cohort will be based full-time at the CWI-owned Coolidge Cricket Ground (CCG) in Antigua, while the Women's Academy players will continue their high-performance development in their

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Attacking Saints, Earthquake triumph in Warriors Cup

Favourites Attacking Saints lived up to their billing with a comfortable win, while Earthquake withstood their opponents as the Warriors Cup 2024 kicked off on Thursday at Mack Pond Playing Field in All Saints.

The Attacking Saints, newly promoted to compete in the Premier Division this season, signaled their intentions to win the title with a comfortable 4-1 victory over Young Lions of Old Road in the opening fixture of a double-header.

Earthquake held onto an early goal to prevail 1-0 against the Young Warriors to join the Attacking Saints on three points at the top of the standings.

Forward Joshua Samu-

el netted twice, including a penalty, to increase the Attacking Saints' advantage after Michael Stowe and Shakeem Dublin had given the home side a 2-0 lead inside the first five minutes.

Zavier Joseph scored a late consolation for the Young Lions on the stroke of full-time.

Earthquake profited from Raheim Andre's sixth-minute strike before staving off the Young Warriors' efforts to equalize as the Fort Road side's stalwart player/coach Arnold "Keegan" James ably marshalled their rearguard.

The Warriors Cup was slated to conclude on Sunday night at the Mack Pond Playing Field in All Saints.



Joshua Samuel scored twice for the Attacking Saints against the Young Lions of Old Road. (Photo courtesy of the Young Warriors FC)

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home territories with regular training camps at CCG throughout the year.

This year marks a significant step for the Men's Academy, with 15 players under the age of 23 receiving dedicated, year-long coaching and training.

These young men will have access to world-class resources, including a dedicated technical team, as they prepare for the rigors of regional and international cricket.

The Women's Academy, which was launched during the 2023/24 season, continues to offer young female cricketers critical development opportunities.

The 15 women awarded contracts for this season will benefit from specialized training with Talent Pathway coaches and ongoing high-perfor-

mance initiatives in their respective territories and CCG, as well as experiencing an international tour.

The Women's Academy continues to demonstrate CWI's strong commitment to growing women's cricket. In line with CWI's broader strategic goals, the Women's Academy programme emphasizes regional development, with contracted players receiving tailored support in their home territories, training camps at CCG, and international series, giving them the tools they need to advance their careers.

The Men's Academy continues to play a vital role in developing young cricketers, with three graduates from last year's cohort earning franchise contracts.

The programme offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes

on-field skill enhancement as well as off-field elements like personal development, leadership training, and media engagement.

2024/25 Men's Academy Contracts: Ackeem Auguste, Jediah Blades, Joshua Bishop, Teddy Bishop, McKenny Clarke, Rivaldo Clarke, Mavendra Dindyal, Nathan Edward, Justin Jaggarsar, Johann Layne, Zishan Motara, Michael Palmer, Kelvin Pitman, Renico Smith, and Carlon Tuckett.

2024/25 Women's Academy Contracts: Asabi Callendar, Jahzara Claxton, NaiJanni Cumberbatch, Shabika Gajnabi, Jannillea Glasgow, Realeanna Grimmond, Briana Harricaharan, Shawnisha Hector, Trishan Holder, Djenaba Joseph, Nyia Latchman, Samara Ramnath, Shunelle Sawh, Steffie Soogrim, and Kate Wilmott.

Sports News



PMS crush SASS in U-20 boys schools' football

Princess Margaret School (PMS) has trounced St. Anthony's Secondary School (SASS) 10-0 in the Under-20 Boys Division in the Ministry of Sports, Cool and Smooth, Joma Patrick C. Whyte Cup.

Player of the Match Howayne James scored four times, and Greg Williams got a hat-trick of goals for Princess Margaret School in Friday's encounter at the PMS playing field.

J'quan Shoy, Johnathan Shoy, and Iseah Lloyd were the other goal scorers for PMS, which claimed their second win in as many games.

Defending champions Antigua State College also made in two wins in as many games by snatching a 2-1 victory against All Saints Secondary at the Mack Pond playing field in All Saints Village.

Jevaughn Jarvis put All Saints Secondary ahead by converting a penalty in the fourth minute. But goals by player of the match Kylano Isaac in the 35th minute and Johnathan Johnson in the 42nd minute snatched victory for State College.

The Antigua Grammar School recorded their first win in two encounters by snatching a 1-0 victory against Ottos Comprehensive School at the Radio Range playing field in Ottos.

Kvonte Lewis scored the only goal of the match in the 14th minute to secure victory for Antigua Grammar School.

The secondary schools' football league will continue with five second-round matches in the Under-16 Boys Division on Monday (today).

Antigua Grammar School will face defending champions Princess Margaret School in the first game of



Player of the Match Howayne James, right, scored four times, and Greg Williams, left, got a hat-trick of goals for Princess Margaret School in their Secondary Schools' Football Under-20 Boys encounter against SASS at the PMS playing field on Friday, October 11. (Photo courtesy of the Ministry of Sports)

a double header at the PMS playing field at 2:15 pm.

St. Joseph's Academy and St. Mary's Secondary School will clash in the second game at 3:30 pm.

Irene B. Williams will take on Clare Hall Secondary in the first game of a double header at the Mack Pond

playing field in All Saints at 2:15 pm. Ottos Comprehensive School will tackle All Saints Secondary in the second encounter at 3:30 pm.

Sir Novelle Richards Academy will clash with Glanvilles Secondary School at the Keithley Sheppard Recreational Park at 2:15 pm.

Mixed fortunes for Transport Board in Business Basketball League

Defending champions Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board had mixed fortunes in their latest two matches in the Antigua and Barbuda Basketball Association's (ABBA) Cool and Smooth Business Basketball League. The Transport Board suffered their fifth loss in 10 matches, losing 55-61 against the Board of Education at the JSC Sports Complex on Saturday.

Xavier Meade sank 20 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, and David Hernandez converted 19 points and claimed nine rebounds for the Board of Education, which claimed their sixth win in nine encounters.

The Transport Board re-

corded their fifth win in the 13-team round-robin league with a 73-69 victory against Lion Feast in their previous encounter. Devorn Benjamin sank 14 points, and Shawn Williams scored 11 points for the Transport Board.

Adrian Carnegie converted 21 points and claimed seven rebounds; Felix Hamilton scored 19 points; and Baldwin Anthony Jr. sank 11 points and grabbed 22 rebounds for Lion Feast.

Lion Feast suffered their eighth loss in 10 games, losing 48-60 against Antigua Power Company on Saturday.

Sergio Symister converted 13 points and grabbed nine rebounds, and Ezekiel

Francois had 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Antigua Power Company, which claimed their sixth win in nine encounters.

Former champions Richie's Shooterz claimed their seventh win in eight matches with a 66-61 victory against Health First Pharmacy Fearless Crew in their latest outing.

Point guard Tavarus Benta shot a game-high 26 points with six assists and five rebounds; Darnell Azille sank 17 points and grabbed 26 rebounds; and Yannick Samuel scored 10 points for Richie's Shooterz.

Ronel Gomez converted 15 points; Takeem Martin sank 11 points and grabbed

15 rebounds; and Joel Christian scored 10 points for the Fearless Crew, who suffered their ninth loss in 10 games.

Lava Smoke Shop secured their third win in nine games with a 65-51 victory against the Sledge O'Ballers.

Lincoln Weekes converted 27 points; Jules Frederick sank 14 points; and Marlon Davis produced 12 points, nine rebounds, and five assists for the Lava Smoke Shop.

Bernard Andrew sank 18 points and grabbed 14 rebounds, and Harry Jules and Shamari Bascus each converted 10 points for the Sledge O'Ballers, who suffered their seventh loss in nine encounters.

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Wells scored his second from the right side of the box in the 18th minute, doubling the lead for the hosts.

Wells converted a penalty kick in the 26th minute to complete his hat-trick.

Zeiko Lewis gave Bermuda a 4-0 lead in the 49th minute when he scored after intercepting a rebound from a previously blocked attempt.

Travist Joseph scored the lone goal for Dominica in the 61st minute with a strike inside the penalty area, earning his second goal of the campaign.

Knory Scott added a fifth for Bermuda in the 85th minute by connecting inside the box with an assist from Nahki Wells.

Jai Bean added his name to the scoresheet in the 90th minute with a left-footed strike in the box to complete the Bermudans dominant victory.



Ronaldo Vásquez, center, fends off Antigua and Barbuda's defender Zafique Drew, left, to beat goalkeeper Nick Townsend, right, and scored the third goal for the Dominican Republic in the CONCACAF Nations League Group D of League B match at the National Sports Centre in Hamilton, Bermuda, on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

Dominica remain in third place in Group D with three points after suffering their second defeat in three matches.

Dominican Republic crush Benna Boys in CNL

Antigua and Barbuda's Benna Boys crashed to their third consecutive loss in Group D of League B in the CONCACAF Nations League (CNL) on Saturday.

Antigua and Barbuda suffered a crushing 5-0 defeat against Group D leaders Dominican Republic at the National Sports Centre in Hamilton, Bermuda.

César García opened the scoring for the Dominican Republic in the 11th minute with a header at the far post from a corner kick.

Dorny Romero extended the lead in the 13th minute after being persistent to win a contested ball in the box.

Ronaldo Vásquez added the third goal of the day in the 39th minute, receiving a ball over the top from Luiyi de Lucas and finishing with a right-footed strike to the bottom left corner.

Júnior Firpo scored his first of two goals in the 88th minute with a left-footed strike inside the penalty area. Michael Sambataro provided the assist after recovering the ball from a blocked attempt.

Firpo collected his brace in the second minute of added time (90+2 minutes) by converting a penalty kick.

Antigua and Barbuda remain at the bottom of Group D without a point after suffering their third loss in as many games.

The Dominican Republic retains their position at the top of Group D by advancing to nine points after winning their third consecutive encounter in



Antigua and Barbuda's forward Eugene Kirwan (#10) chases Dominican Republic's striker Júnior Firpo (#3) during their CONCACAF Nations League Group D of League B match at the National Sports Centre in Hamilton, Bermuda, on Saturday, October 12, 2024.

League B of the 2024/25 Concacaf Nations League.

Nahki Wells scored a hat-trick as host Bermuda romped to a 6-1 win against Dominica in Saturday's second game at the same venue to remain in second place, advancing to six points

and moving within three points of first place in Group D.

Wells opened the scoring in the 9th minute with a right-footed strike inside the box to connect with a long ball over the top from Roger Lee.

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