

UPP TRIO STILL TO FACE MORE MUSIC!

PAGE 7

INSIDE:

- UWI Five Islands awards pair of scholarships
- PM reaffirms rock-solid CARICOM ties with Cuba
- Ruling PNM takes shellacking in Tobago elections

It may be some ways away in the slow march of time under the grinding weight of this pandemic. But preparation are vigorous and rigorous for Antigua Sailing Week 2022 to start off our 2nd Quarter after 2 years of nothing doing. Sailing Week would mark a welcome return to action packed high energy on the plentiful seas that surround us.

STORY ON PAGES 6-7

Statement by PM Browne on 49th Anniversary of CARICOM Cuba relations

DECEMBER 8, 2021

– It is my distinct honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), to address the people and governments of CARICOM and Cuba on the 49th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between our countries.

Today reminds us of that symbolic and courageous historic act of Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago on 8th December 1972, that has evolved over the years into a fruitful and mutually beneficial relationship based on solidarity.

CARICOM and Cuba have a lot of which they can be proud. A growing friendship spanning almost half of a century is a rare milestone in the history of any relationship. The Member States of the Community place great value on the strong and enduring bonds between CARICOM and Cuba, and the excellent spirit of cooper-

ation that has been of great assistance, both bilaterally and regionally, particularly with regard to human capacity-building and the provision of health care – critical inputs to improving the welfare of our people.

[With] regard to the latter, the provision by the Government of Cuba of public health personnel to Caribbean nations to reinforce their response capacity in addressing the public health challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, is a vivid example of Cuba's continuing solidarity in the face of its own challenges, arising from the longstanding and universally-condemned US embargo.

The relationship has been bolstered by the formal engagements developed over the years, South-South Cooperation, and efforts to strengthen trading links – an area in which more can be accomplished by both sides. We both also place great emphasis on the Caribbean



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, and Chairman of CARICOM, Hon. Gaston Browne; and Cuba's Ambassador to Antigua and Barbuda, H.E. Maria Esther Fiffe.

remaining a Zone of Peace, without which the sustainable development for the benefit of our people will not progress.

Today, the 49th Anniversary of these relations provides an opportunity to look back and to take stock of this exemplary relationship of good neighbourliness and South-South Cooperation – a relationship that has blossomed over the years, despite the test of time and the vicissitudes of regional and international geopolitics.

The Caribbean Community is confident that our relations with Cuba will continue to flourish in the years ahead, despite the challenges we both face. I extend our best wishes for the wellbeing and prosperity of the Government and People of Cuba. I also take this opportunity to reiterate CARICOM's unwavering commitment to the further strengthening and enhancement of the bonds of friendship, cooperation and solidarity which unite us.

15 students receive scholarships at UWI Five Islands

The University of the West Indies is continuing to assist students with access to higher education in Antigua and Barbuda through the award of scholarships. This semester, the Five Islands Campus awarded fifteen (15) scholarships to students currently enrolled at the campus.

The UWI 5K scholarships were awarded to Bernella Vidal, who is pursuing studies at the School of Business and Management and Kemoya Dennis, who is enrolled in the Bachelor of Science in Nursing programme at The Five Islands Campus.

These scholarships will cover one year of tuition at the Five Islands Campus.

The CB Group UWI 5K Run/Walk event held in 2020 was a collaboration between the Mona, Open and Five Islands Campuses of The UWI. All proceeds from the CB Group UWI 5K go directly towards the education of the most talented and in-need students and the development of sports at The University.

In 2022, The UWI Five Islands will host its own 5K in Antigua and Barbuda.

Thirteen students also benefitted from scholarships through the donation of the Institutional Advancement Division of The UWI. The awards known as 'The UWI Toronto Benefit Gala Scholarships' were

awarded to students enrolled at The Five Islands Campus in the amount of 500 Canadian Dollars each.

The 13 awardees were selected through The UWI Five Islands Scholarship Committee and are drawn from the School of Humanities & Education, the School of Business & Management, and the School of Health & Behavioural Sciences. Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor Densil A. Williams noted that these awards will ensure easier access to higher education at the institution for these students. He encouraged more students to enrol in



Kemoya Dennis and Bernella Vidal receive their letters of award from Principal of The UWI Five Islands Campus, Professor Densil A. Williams.


accessing the educational opportunities afforded by having a landed campus in their home country.

Professor Williams also expressed his gratitude to The Institutional Advancement Division and its Executive Director, Mrs. Elizabeth Buchanan-Hind,

for the work they are doing with partners to create these opportunities. He also thanked the CB Group UWI 5K Team and the UWI Toronto Gala Team for their generosity, despite the economic effects of the ongoing pandemic.


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the wagons roll on"



A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Government statement on the passing of Rastafarian elder, King Frank-I

The Government of Antigua and Barbuda has expressed its condolences to the family of Ambassador Frank-I Francis, and especially to his daughter Denise and the members of his Danika on his death early ... Monday [morning]

December 6, 2021. Franklyn Francis, known as King Frank-I among the Rastafarian and national communities, has been a fixture in the fields of cultural revival, religious discovery, and superb broadcasting. King Frank-I has been a

friend of Prime Minister Gaston Browne when the Parliamentary Representative of St. John's City West was still a boy. At that time, King Frank-I and his partner Lumba operated an I-tal restaurant on Lower Bishopgate

Street. Youthful Gaston Browne ran errands for the two entrepreneurs and helped cleaning the calabash and coconut utensils; in exchange for which the youthful Point Village resident would be provided with sauce and dread bread

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for his remuneration. King Frank-I was also deemed an outstanding intellectual, a Rastafarian elder, and a leader of the sect that endured many threats and discrimination. Yet, he never relented in his determination to find broad acceptance of the Rastafarian faithful. The drumming and singing that took place by the Rastafarian community on July 31 each year until midnight, the dawn of August 1, at one of the plantations on which ancestors were enslaved and died early deaths, reflects the Rastafari attempt to change minds and to embrace history. He was a sports-caster who could be relied upon to paint pictures with his words during cricket matches. King Frank-I appeared on ZDK each weekday morning with Sly-J, providing analysis and commentary on news events. Upon the assumption of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP) to office in 2014, several steps were taken to give recognition to the Rastafarian faith. King Frank-I was appointed Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassa-

dor to Ethiopia. He was dispatched to Washington, D.C. to address the Organization of American States (OAS) Permanent Council. Embracing the apology of Prime Minister Browne for the discrimination and violence visited upon the Rastafari in years prior, Ambassador Frank-I spoke passionately about the new role for the Rastafari faithful in Antigua and Barbuda, and other Latin American and Caribbean States. He was very well received. Ambassador King Frank-I was also instrumental in moving the Legislature to decriminalize possession of small quantities of cannabis, and allowing households to plant four cannabis plants in their backyard. He would also be persuasive in encouraging the legalization of medicinal cannabis in Antigua and Barbuda. Ambassador King Frank-I was a treasured son of the soil. His passing has left a void in the leadership of the twin-island state, and in the Rastafarian community. May his soul rest in peace with the ancestors.



King Frank-I (left) with Prime Minister Gaston Browne one year ago during the launch of the first medicinal marijuana license at Seatons.

PROBATE

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION FORM P7
Rule 15

THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN SUPREME COURT
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
(Probate)

In the Estate of WINCHESTER MEADE late of
All Saints Village, St. John's, Antigua, Deceased

ADVERTISEMENT OF APPLICATION FOR GRANT
FIRST PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE that an application has been filed by MARSHA MEADE of 238 Walker Street, Apt. 40, Atlanta, Georgia, USA 30313 for a Grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant who is the daughter of the deceased, the deceased having died intestate on the 26th day of October, 2021.

Any person having an objection to the grant of Letters of Administration to the Applicant shall file an objection within fourteen (14) days of the publication of this Notice.

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2021.

Denise Parillon
.....
Denise Parillon
Jonas Parillon & Co. Inc.
Attorney at Law of the Applicant

Filed by Jonas Parillon & Co. Inc., Attorneys-at-Law, whose address for service is Sir Sydney Walling Highway, St. John's, Antigua, e-mail: denisepar@yahoo.com and telephone number: (268) 562-6530.

Grand return for Antigua Sailing Week

With less than five months to the start of Antigua Sailing Week (ASW), over 60 boats are already on the scratch sheet including mono-hulls and multi-hulls. A huge variety of sailors from around the world are relishing a grand return to action at the Caribbean's oldest premier regatta.

ASW Racing Manager, Jaime Torres looks at the impressive classes set for the big regatta. "The main criteria for racing class splits are performance and planing ability; length is a secondary parameter to speed,"

commented Torres, who has competed at Antigua Sailing Week in a huge variety of boats.

"The race management team is looking at class splits based on boat type, rather than overall length. This will create classes that will have really exciting boat-on-boat racing.

Antigua Sailing Week has its 'silver foxes'; skippers who have raced at the regatta for decades. Local heroes to add to the heady mix will include Sir Hugh Bailey's Rebel, Bernie Evan Wong's Taz, Sir Richard Matthews' ST37 Holding Pattern, Geof-

frey Pidduck's High Tide, and Sandy Mair's Cricket.

Seven teams are already entered for the Sportboat Class, including three 1720s from Antigua and four Melges 24s from Antigua, St Bart's, and Sint Maarten.

"The Sportsboat Class is open to all types of planing boats around 26-28 feet. Although racing under CSA, we are considering offering prizes for classes with 3 or more boats that meet one-design criteria," continued Torres.

The plan is to start the Sportsboat Class from the same Committee Boat the cruising classes. The cruising boats will typically set off on long courses, leaving plenty of time and space to run multiple short, sharp races for the Sportboats.

Antigua Sailing Week is a challenging regatta for Sportsboats, you are basically offshore in big waves. One of the keys to success is going to be really good communication between the race committee and the sailors to decide rest between races and the course style and length."

"We have made a big effort to reach out to the sportsboat community in the Caribbean and it has paid off. It is great to see we will have the biggest Sportsboat Class ever for Antigua Sailing Week. I am very hopeful that we will have more sign-ups in the coming months as there are plenty more sportsboats in

the Caribbean."

CSA Club Class

The Club Class is really designed to be just like the origins of Antigua Sailing Week. Back in the early days, Antigua Sailing Week was popular with cruising boats, enjoying a finale at the end of the Caribbean Season.

"Club Class is designed with a format that is affordable, inviting, and non-aggressive," confirmed Torres. "Club Class boats use the easy and inexpensive to get CSA Simplified rating and is scored using the Variable Handicap, so your rating changes every day according to your prior performance. This gives every team a better opportunity to taste the sweetness of a podium finish.

"Typically, the Club Class race on scenic coastal courses and has the thrill of the start line, but more reaching legs, designed for laid back, exhilarating sailing. There are many boat owners in Antigua that watch the raceboats go out and wish they could take part; Club Class is designed to get them involved."

CSA Bareboat

Over 20 Bareboat teams have already entered for Antigua Sailing Week with teams expected from Brazil, Germany, Ireland, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Three CSA Bareboat classes are planned for racing as Jaime Torres explains.

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“No other Caribbean regatta has as many Bareboats racing in their own classes against people from all over the world. It creates an awesome mix of people and sailing skills. As several of the classes are composed of identical boats, the effort to get just a fraction of a knot faster is all down to the team that sails the best.

“Our goal is to give each class a regatta that feels like it is their own,” concluded Jaime Torres. “We are really focusing on catering for racing that suits different types of

boats. The style of racing will differ across the wide spectrum of classes at Antigua Sailing Week. We would also love to run a Double-Handed Class and I am hoping that teams racing Class-40s and other teams will come forward.”

Racing action in Antigua kicks off on April 30 with the Peters & May Round Antigua Race – a standalone race which is the perfect warm up for Antigua Sailing Week. The main event will run from May 01-May 06, with a lay day on Wednesday 04 May.



JigSaw-Oyster 53, winners of 2019 Club Class

Buses case against UPP trio seems definitely headed for appeal

At least one other local media house was reporting yesterday that, “The Office of the Director of Public Prosecution has filed to appeal the judge’s decision to dismiss the bus [conversion] matter against former government ministers Harold Lovell, Jacqui Quinn and Wilmoth Daniel.”

The case was dismissed on a technicality which defense counsel used as the basis for a no-case submission that was upheld by the trial judge. The three were accused of converting as many school buses that were donated to the State by the Government of South Korea for their personal use by having them registered, licensed and

insured at if they were personal property.

The vehicles were donated by Seoul via Antigua and Barbuda’s Ministry of Affairs, but they somehow wound up being released to the three then ministers who assumed functional ownership of them – using them as part of their re-election campaigns.

According to reports, Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Anthony Armstrong and his team will mount their appeal on no less than 12 grounds in which they believe High Court judge Colin Williams erred in striking out the case against the three high profile defendants.



Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr. Anthony Armstrong.

National road safety makes monumental decisions

The Ministry of works in conjunction with the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) has embarked upon a Socially Inclusive Road Safety Awareness Communication Strategy.

The goal of the campaign is to change the behavior of drivers of Government vehicles in terms of seatbelt-wearing, in an effort to achieve 100% compliance by 2030.

During a recent meeting, the National Road Safety Council endorsed a total of three campaigns. These include the Government Agency Seat-belt Campaign targeting drivers and passengers of Government vehicles; a National Road Safety Council Logo and Slogan Competition for tertiary students; and a Seat-belt Behavior Change Campaign for the general public.

The meeting featured spirited dialogue between Council members representing eight Government agencies.

A recent local study found that fewer than four out of 10 Govern-

ment vehicle drivers wear a seat belt. This means that 60% of Government vehicle drivers do not wear a seatbelt.

The same study also revealed that improving seat-belt use in vehicles will reduce insurance costs and also provide a positive behavior model, because wearing a seat-belt reduces the risk of fatal injury by up to 50% for front seat occupants and up to 75% for rear seat occupants.

Antigua and Barbuda is a signatory of the United Nations 2030 Global Road Safety Voluntary Performance Targets.

The next step in the Socially Inclusive Road Safety Awareness Communication Strategy is a series of workshops targeting civil society groups. These interactive workshops will serve to inform the National Road Society Council's priorities.

The outcomes from these working sessions will determine how the National Road Safety Council proceeds with efforts for safer Roads in Antigua and Barbuda.



RLNC 5

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of the
Act

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LAND REGISTRY
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Antigua and Barbuda

LAND REGISTRY
Antigua & Barbuda

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

p-2 TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on *25th* day of *October* ~~May~~, 2021 by **JARID HEWLETT of WATT, DORSETT, HEWLETT LAW** of 55A Newgate St., St. John's, Antigua the Applicants herein for the replacement of Land Certificates dated the *8.9.87* ~~8.9.87~~ and issued to **Leonardo Benjamin**, being the owner of the above-mentioned property, which has been lost or destroyed.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of a Land Certificate who has knowledge of the original Land certificate must within the period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue a new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the *25th* day of *November*, 2021

[Signature]
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Police promise heightened security for the Christmas Season

The concern for safety and security remains high on the agenda of the police administration and, as such, the public can look forward to seeing the implementation of several crime-fighting measures, including a heightened number of police officers on the streets, going into the

Christmas season.

Some of these measures will include intense foot and mobile patrols, as well as regular 'stop-and-search' exercises and traffic checks in targeted areas.

Meanwhile, the police are appealing to the public to be more vigilant and pay close-

er attention to their personal safety, as well as the security of their properties.

Members of the public are advised against carrying and exposing excess cash in public places. Residents should also be on the alert for counterfeit currencies and report any suspicious activity to the police without delay.

Be extremely cautious when using Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) and avoid disclosing your PIN. If, while in the process of using an ATM, you observe that it was tampered with, discontinue the process and report the matter to the management of the financial institution.

Homeowners are urged to properly lock and secure their homes – especially if they are likely to be away for an extended period. Business owners are [likewise] encouraged to install proper working

security systems on their businesses and report any suspicious person to the police.

Owners of vehicles are asked to desist from leaving items of value in plain sight inside their vehicles. The practice has not only caused damage to vehicles but, in some cases, resulted in thefts.

Street vendors within the city and elsewhere are asked to take extra precautionary measures to ensure that their surroundings are safe when conducting business.

Residents are further reminded that it is a criminal offence to purchase stolen items; hence, it is important that one pays [close] attention to [whoever] they are conducting business with.

The police administration pledges its continued commitment to work together with the general public and is looking forward to the cooperation and support of every citizen.

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OECS Ambassador makes courtesy call on WTO Director General

OECS Press Room - Ambassador Colin Murdoch, the Permanent Observer of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) to the United Nations Office in Geneva, paid a courtesy call on Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), on Friday, December 3, 2021.

Ambassador Murdoch was accompanied by Mr. Joel Richards, senior technical specialist at the OECS Mission in Geneva. Also present was Mr. Stephen Fevrier, senior advisor to the WTO Director-General.

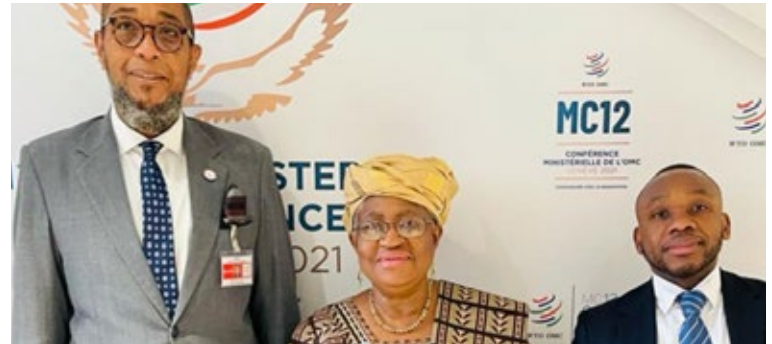
Ambassador Murdoch and Dr. Okonjo-Iweala discussed a range of issues, including bringing the fisheries subsidies negotiations to a successful conclusion; agreeing on a WTO response to the COVID-19 pandemic; WTO reform; development issues; and maintaining momentum toward reconvening the 12th Ministerial Conference of the WTO.

The OECS' chief spokesperson in Geneva assured the WTO Director General that the region remains supportive of her agenda and has not wavered in its commitment to support meaningful outcomes at the WTO.

Ambassador Murdoch also indicated that key to the success of the WTO was the

rebuilding of trust among its membership.

The WTO Director-General thanked the OECS Ambassador for the visit and called on the region to continue to play a constructive role in the work of the WTO.



V. C. Bird International Airport and Codrington Airport are managed by Antigua and Barbuda Airport Authority.

It is the strategic goal of ABAA for V. C. Bird International Airport to be the gateway of choice to the Eastern Caribbean and beyond.

ABAA is seeking individuals to fill the positions listed.

The deadline for applications is December 23, 2021.

NB: Only qualified applicants will be acknowledged.

Send applications and curriculum vitae to:

Vacancy: ABAA Senior Managers
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Email: jobs@coreconsultinc.com

NB: Selected applicants will be required to complete psychometric assessments.

VACANCIES

SENIOR ACCOUNTANT

JOB SUMMARY

To administer the daily operations of the Finance and Accounting Department maintaining timely and ensure the accurate financial statements.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Commerce or Finance
- A minimum of five (5) years experience in a senior or managerial accounting position
- Chartered Accountant, Certified General Accountant or Certified Management Accountant is an asset.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

JOB SUMMARY

To administer the operations, ensure safety and compliance in accordance with various aviation standards and participate in strategic management

QUALIFICATIONS

- Relevant Bachelor's degree, professional certification, or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Certification in International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) authorized skill sets, an asset
- Disaster Preparedness Management, an asset
- Logistics Management, an asset
- Project Management, an asset

The changing context of work: The HR role

During a recent Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development (CIPD) webinar on leading through crisis, the UK government's chief people officer, Rupert McNeil and the CIPD's CEO, Peter Cheese discussed the need for senior leaders to avoid the natural disposition to 'snap back' following this period of significant change, recalling the quote, 'Never let a

good crisis go to waste'. Such moments in history bring to the forefront new concepts and ideas, forcing us all to think differently and outside of our comfort zones.

In an article we wrote a year ago we admonished all to become more creative with how we do business and cater to our customers' needs. But how have we been preparing ourselves as human resource (HR)

practitioners to meet the changes that are ahead? The World Economic Forum in its 2018 Future of Jobs Report, identified the drivers of change. Their list included technological advances such as high-speed mobile internet and artificial intelligence; emerging in-demand roles and the imperative to upskill.

As HR practitioners we have been essential to the fight against the effects of the Pandemic in our various organizations and the process of preparing our team members and ourselves for what lies ahead has to be deliberately taken on by us. Traditionally, HR is not looked upon as being strategic and now is the time for us to rise to the challenge. We must be able to encourage our leaders in the C-Suite to appreciate the partnership of strategy, performance and empathy. In order to do this, we must first understand the need to be agile and adaptable to change, bearing in mind our organization's own cultural habits towards problem solving.

Then we must be willing to study the data and do the work to convince our leaders of the importance of making the appropriate adjustments based on this data.

According to Dr. Jackie Jeffrey, an experienced People Management expert with a passion for learning and development, "We react to change based on our mindset, so we have to move from a fixed mindset where the focus is on what we do, to a new future where we focus on why we do what we do and then take individual and collective responsibility for making changes".

We need to also pay attention to technology and how it is changing the way we work. As HR practitioners, we now have the technology to automate several of our processes. This frees us from being bogged down with administrative tasks and shifts our focus to ensuring the development of our people for their advancement. This will eventually lead to a shift of the HR role being seen as just to



DELAYED DELIVERY OF PHYSICAL BILLS

APUA would like to advise our customers that due to unavoidable circumstances, there is a delay in printing the November bills for zones B, C and D. Affected customers can access copies of their bills online via our Online Payment Portal at <https://myutilities.apua.ag/> or via our website at www.apua.ag. Alternatively, customers may request their bill balance or a copy of their bill from our Customer Service Department at email customerservice@apua.ag or call 480-7150.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause.

hire, fire and sometimes inspire to one of a strategic, advisor and advocate.

We are experiencing an evolution in HR and many of our traditional roles are becoming obsolete with the advent of new technologies that automate and augment how we previously functioned. So, the transition involves identifying the future role that will be required and then developing the training plan that will address the knowledge gaps. The future of HR must be data driven to both attract

and retain diverse talent. We must also be able to use analytics to guide succession and talent development.

The role of HR has changed and some of our jobs are under threat. This should motivate us to act now and prepare ourselves for what will be the future of work for us if we are to remain relevant to our organizations. Are we ready? Are we doing what is necessary to compete in a global community? Are we strategic enough in our approach to achieve organizational purpose?



**HUMAN
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AND
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The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations

as well as independent consultants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.

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Suriname seeking funds from the IMF



CMC - The executive board of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will meet on December 22 to consider a request from Suriname for a 36-month agreement under the External Fund Facility (EFF).

IMF Mission Chief for Suriname, Ding Ding, said apart from considering the request for the

EFF, the executive board will also discuss the request for access of 366.8 percent quota of their special drawing rights (SDR) or US\$688 million.

“If approved by the IMF Executive Board, SDR 39.4 million, about US\$ 56.4 million, would be immediately available for Suriname,”

said Ding, adding that a Staff-Level Agreement on this Fund-supported programme was reached on April 29, 2021.

He said the Executive Board was updated on developments pertaining to Suriname on July 29 this year.

In July, the IMF said that President Chan

Santokhi’s administration inherited a very difficult economic situation.

It said – to restore macroeconomic stability – it has undertaken a broad range of policy actions, including delivering on most of the prior actions that were agreed in the Staff-Level Agreement reached in April.

Tobago has new leadership as PDP wins THA election landslide



Watson Duke, political leader of the Progressive Democratic Patriots (PDP), celebrates after his party's historic win in the THA elections.

Loop TT - Tobago has new leadership.

The People's National Movement (PNM), which had majority control of the Tobago House of Assembly (THA), lost to the Progressive Democratic Patriots (PDP) in the THA elections on Monday.

Preliminary results indicate the PDP went away with a staggering nine out of a possible 15 seats.

There's a tie in the Plymouth/Black Rock district where the PDP and the People's Na-

tional Movement (PNM) both have 229 votes. The Innovative Democratic Alliance could provide a tiebreaker with the three votes they were able to garner in that district.

This was the second time Tobagonians returned to the polls after the first election on January 26 ended in deadlock. Since then, three more seats were added under the Tobago House of Assembly (Amendment) Bill 2021.

The PDP is led by Watson Duke and his deputy Farley Augustine who

is slated to become the new Chief Secretary of the THA.

Speaking in his victory address, Augustine issued a warning to Prime Minister Keith Rowley, who is also from Tobago.

"Let this be a resounding message, a strong message that we have rejected your notion that we are only good enough to earn \$200 million a year and we must resort to being beggars of the national purse. Let this be a strong message, Mr. Prime Minister, that we in Tobago have reject-

ed your bullying tactics, that the kind of bullying that is part of the political culture in Trinidad is not welcomed in Tobago," he said.

Augustine expressed hope for a cordial relationship with the Government, urging Rowley not to spite Tobago since they are mighty enough to also get rid of him.

The swearing-in ceremony for the new THA leadership will be held on Thursday.

The THA oversees the administration of Tobago.

Murder accused allegedly offered cash to Jamaica police to avoid extradition to Saint Lucia

Jamaica Observer - Determined not to be extradited to St. Lucia to answer murder and gun charges, 27-year-old Orville Purnell of Belgium Road, Buff Bay in Portland, made an offer of \$3 million to police personnel and inmates at Kingston Central Police Station to assist in his escape from custody.

But that came after he forked out \$50,000 to inmates who were able to convince their cronies to throw cutting implements inside the yard of the police lock-up so that he could cut his way out of the jail. A special investigation by the Jamaica Observer has revealed that Purnell boasted – while he was in the lock-up – that he would not be extradited before he successfully escaped last Wednesday, December 1.

“First there were reports that he offered \$50,000 to any inmate who could get the tools he needed to cut his way out of the cell. The money was paid and the police had information that he was planning to escape from the less-than-secure Cell 6 on the short side of the lock-up.

“At that point he was moved to Cell 9 on the more secure long side of the lock-up,” said an Observer source.

“Days later it was found that he had started cutting the ventilation grill, which is how several prisoners have escaped from police lock-ups in the past,” added the source.

Purnell was then moved to Cell 1, also on the long side of the lock-up, where it was assumed that it would be more difficult for him to cut the grill undetected.



“It was then suggested to the powers that be that this man should be transferred to the maximum security section of the lock-up, where there are three cells. One of those cells is housing a notorious gangster, another houses a suspected multiple murderer, but one [cell] is free.

“When that recommendation was rejected, it was then suggested that he be moved to the Horizon Remand Centre, as it was clear that Purnell was determined to escape. I don’t know why all those suggestions were rejected,” added the source.

An inmate, who serves as a jailer, later reported that the key for the cell block where Purnell was being held had gone missing.

“The police knew that and no attempt was made to change the lock, and no investigation was launched to find the missing key. But there are many people who had access to that bunch of keys, including a recently convicted inmate who served as a jailer and was given a run of the place, even setting duties for police,” charged the source.

According to the source, days later Purnell was caught on camera boasting that he had “the golden key to freedom”.

“It was obvious that this man now

had his escape plan, but still nothing was done. The camera shows that the day before his escape he gave away all his personal belongings, including clothes, shoes, toiletries, and snacks to fellow inmates,” alleged the source.

“The man just pull him cell and left the custody of the police with no one knowing who collected the \$3 million that he had offered, or if he paid more than that,” the source said, disappointment obvious in his voice.

The police Inspectorate & Professional Standards Oversight Bureau is investigating the escape, while a number of police personnel have been transferred awaiting the outcome of the probe, which includes examination of CCTV footage.

Purnell was arrested in Buff Bay on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 by investigators from the police Fugitive Apprehension Team. He was held on a warrant for murder, illegal possession of firearm and ammunition, and escaping custody in St. Lucia in August 2020.

According to investigators, Purnell was in custody in St Lucia for the offences. However, he escaped in October 2020 and subsequently fled to Jamaica where it is believed he had been hiding until his capture.

Purnell is of dark complexion, medium build, and approximately 180 centimetres (5 feet 11 inches) tall. He has several tattoos on both arms. At the time of his most recent escape he sported dreadlocks. However, investigators believe he may cut his lock

Barbados PM Mia Mottley wins UN's top environmental award for defence of islands

THE NATIONAL - The prime minister of Barbados has been awarded the UN's highest environmental honour for her work highlighting the threat from rising sea levels to small islands around the world.

Mia Mottley was described as a "driving force for climate action" across Latin America and the Caribbean, who has set ambitious environmental targets for her country, including a fossil fuel-free electricity sector by 2030.

Rising temperatures and sea levels are affecting Barbados by shrinking its already-limited water supply, forcing villages to relocate from the coastline, and contaminating existing freshwater reserves with sea water.

The award marks the conclusion of a remarkable week for Ms. Mottley who led the ceremonies as Barbados stopped pledging allegiance to the UK's Queen Elizabeth II and became a republic for the first time in its history.

In recognition of her leadership, Ms. Mottley was named as one of the four winners of the award, all

women, announced on Monday by the UN's Environment Programme.

The announcement came after Ms. Mottley delivered a stark warning to the UN's climate change conference in November, telling delegates that a 2°C rise in global temperatures above pre-industrial levels would be a "death sentence" for nations such as Antigua, the Maldives, Fiji and Barbados.

"We do not want that dreaded death sentence," she told the conference. "We have come here today to say try harder, try harder."

She has been a harsh critic of wealthier countries for their failure to pay for the impact of climate change through the scale of their emissions.

"The moral position has always been that the polluter must pay," she said last week.

"Now what's the reality? The G20 countries have contributed 80 percent of greenhouse gases and have contributed virtually nothing" to help finance mitigation efforts.

She highlighted how central banks of the world's

wealthiest countries have injected \$25 trillion into their economies to stimulate their economies and said that similar amounts were needed to adapt to climate change.

The Sea Women of Melanesia, a group in Papua New Guinea and the Solomon Islands that trains local women to monitor the state of coral bleaching on some the world's most endangered reefs, has also been declared the winner of UN environment award. The other winners are, Dr. Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, the first wildlife vet of the Uganda Wildlife Authority and an authority on primates and diseases that spread from animals to humans; and Maria Kolesnikova of Kyrgyzstan, an environmental activist who heads a group that monitors air quality in central Asia.

The award, instituted by UN environment programme in 2005, has been conferred on 101 groups and people, including 25 world leaders.

"As we enter into a decisive decade, to cut emissions and protect and restore ecosystems, Unep's

Champions of the Earth demonstrate that all of us can contribute," said Inger Andersen, executive director of the UN agency.

"This year's Champions are women who not only inspire us, but also remind us that we have in our hands the solutions, the knowledge and the technology to limit climate change and avoid ecological collapse."



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley at the UN's climate change conference, Cop26, in Glasgow last month.

Chris Cuomo reportedly planning to sue CNN if it doesn't pay him \$18 million remaining on his contract

Yahoo News - Chris Cuomo hired a lawyer to sue CNN for \$18 million, the remaining value of his former contract with the network, several reports said.

On Saturday night, CNN announced it had fired Cuomo, its top primetime anchor, in light of new information about how he helped his brother, former New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, to fight sexual harassment allegations.

Documents from the New York Attorney General's office showed that Chris Cuomo's efforts went further than he had initially claimed. It included using media sources to learn more about one of his brother's accusers, as Insider's Azmi Haroun, Charles Davis, and Jake Lahut reported.

Citing unnamed sources, both the New York Post and Matt Belloni of the tech-and-media-focused outlet Puck News reported Monday that Chris

Cuomo has hired lawyer Bryan Freedman.

Freedman's company did not immediately respond to Insider's request for comment.

According to the Post, Cuomo seeks to secure the remainder of the salary in his contract with CNN. The anchor signed his latest contract with CNN in April 2020, according to Variety.

That four-year contract was worth \$6 million annually, the Post reported, meaning Cuomo will be looking for a further \$18 million if he litigates with CNN. Bryan Freedman is a high-profile entertainment lawyer. His firm, Freedman & Taitelman, has handled cases for Kevin Spacey, Michael Jackson's estate, and Megyn Kelly.

Kelly's case bears some comparison to Cuomo's. She left NBC midway through her contract in acrimonious circumstances in



Chris Cuomo addresses his brother's resignation on CNN's "Cuomo Prime Time" in August, 2021.

2019 but secured its full \$69 million value through her lawyer, CNN reported.

Cuomo may also seek damages, the Post reported. It also cited an unnamed CNN source who said the network had "no intention of paying Cuomo a penny".

CNN's contracts have a morality clause which enti-

ties it to fire anyone who sullies its reputation, according to the Post. Representatives for CNN did not immediately respond to Insider's request for comment.

According to Puck News, CNN is working with Daniel Petrocelli who in 2018 successfully contested a Department of Justice attempt to

block a merger of Time Warner and CNN owner AT&T.

Petrocelli's firm also did not immediately respond to Insider's request for confirmation.

Cuomo also announced on Instagram on Monday that he will also "take a step back" from his weekday radio show on SiriusXM.

New York City sets COVID vaccine mandate for all private employers

The guardian.com - All private employers in New York City will have to require workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, the mayor announced on Monday, imposing one of the most aggressive vaccine rules in the nation.

The move by Bill de Blasio comes as cases are climbing again in the US and the worrisome Omicron variant is gaining a toehold in New York and elsewhere.

“We in New York City have decided to use a pre-emptive strike to really do something bold to stop the further growth of COVID and the dangers it’s causing to all of us,” he said.

De Blasio, a Democrat with just weeks left in office, said the mandate will take effect on 27 December.

Speaking on MSNBC, he said the move was aimed at staving off a surge of infections amid holiday gatherings and as cold weather drives more people indoors where the virus is more like-



ly to spread. Vaccine mandates across states and cities vary widely, with some states resisting any and others requiring shots for government employees or certain sectors that run a particularly high risk such as healthcare workers.

But most officials have not announced mandates reaching as far into the private sector, nor mandates covering so many people.

President Joe Biden sought to impose a similar mandate nationally, applying to businesses with 100 or more workers, but Federal courts have put that on hold ahead of a 4 January deadline.

De Blasio said he expected his new mandate to survive any legal challenges. A spokesperson for the mayor said it would apply to roughly 184,000

businesses in the city which has a population of 8.8 million.

Vaccinations are already required for hospital and nursing home workers and for city employees including teachers, police officers and firefighters. A vaccination mandate for employees of private and religious schools was announced last week.

Also, the mayor announced that anyone 12 or older who wants to dine indoors at a restaurant, go to a gym, or see a show, will have to produce proof of receiving two shots of the vaccine – up from the current requirement of one. In addition, proof of at least one shot will be required for children aged five to 11, de Blasio said.

De Blasio – who has indicated he may run for governor of New

York next year has sought to portray himself as a national leader in the fight against COVID-19.

The mandate will take effect days before another Democrat, Eric Adams, is due to be sworn in as mayor. Evan Thies, a spokesman for Adams, said the mayor-elect “will evaluate this mandate and other COVID strategies when he is in office and make determinations based on science, efficacy, and the advice of health professionals”.

Representative Lee Zeldin, a Republican from Long Island who is seeking the GOP nomination for governor, called the new vaccine requirement a “job-killing, small business-suppressing mandate”.

Zeldin called De Blasio “a far-left, lame-duck politician who is anti-business, one-dimensional, unaccountable, not bright, and has a perpetual ‘I always know best’ attitude ... the worst mayor in America”.

Biden gives Putin stern warning against escalation in Ukraine – top advisor



(CNN) - The White House says President Joe Biden told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday that the United States is prepared to launch strong economic measures should Russia invade Ukraine -- signaling that these new measures would pack a bigger punch than the sanctions issued in 2014 that failed to stop Russia from occupying Crimea.

"I will look you in the eye and tell you, as President Biden looked Putin in the eye and told him today, that things we did not do in 2014 we are prepared to do now," national security adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters Tuesday afternoon after Biden's call with Putin.

During the last several months, Russia has erected supply lines – includ-

ing medical units and fuel – which could sustain a drawn-out conflict should Moscow choose to invade Ukraine, two sources familiar with the latest intelligence assessments told CNN.

And, recent US intelligence findings estimate Russia could begin a military offensive in Ukraine in a matter of months as it amasses up to 175,000 troops along the border.

Sullivan said the administration still believes Putin has not made a decision on whether to launch a military offensive against Ukraine.

Sullivan did not go into specifics, but added that the US is coordinating with European allies "at a deep level of specificity".

He said Biden "was direct and straightforward with President Putin, as

he always is", later adding that, "There was a lot of give and take. There was no finger-wagging, but the President was crystal clear about where the United States stands on all of these issues."

Along with the economic ramifications mentioned on the call, Sullivan said Biden relayed that the US is prepared to bolster defense capabilities in the region.

"He reiterated America's support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He told President Putin directly that if Russia further invades Ukraine, the United States and our European allies would respond with strong economic measures," Sullivan said.

"We would provide additional defensive material to the Ukrainians above and beyond that which we are already providing, and we would fortify our NATO allies on the eastern flank with additional capabilities in response to such an escalation."

The other option, Sullivan said, is de-escalation and diplomacy.

"The United States and our European allies would

engage in a larger discussion that covers strategic issues, including our strategic concerns with Russia and Russia's strategic concerns. We managed to do this at the height of the Cold War and we developed mechanisms to help reduce instability and increase transparency," he said.

Biden and Putin spoke for about two hours over a secure video call earlier on Tuesday.

The two presidents tasked their respective teams with following up on their discussions, with the White House adding that "the US will do so in close coordination with allies and partners."

In addition to the Ukraine issue, the two leaders discussed "the US-Russia dialogue on strategic stability, a separate dialogue on ransomware, as well as joint work on regional issues such as Iran", the White House said.

The two leaders took part in a summit in Geneva last June. Their last publicly known call was in July.

UAE announces 4.5-day workweek

Al Jazeera - The United Arab Emirates announced all government entities will adopt a new work-week schedule consisting of four-and-a-half days with Friday afternoon, Saturday and Sunday forming the new weekend.

The move – announced by state news agency WAM on Tuesday – will come into effect on January 1st 2022, making the working week more in line with Western schedules.

The UAE currently has a Friday-Saturday weekend which corresponds with other countries in the region.

The transition is “in line with the UAE’s vision to enhance its global competitiveness across economic and business sectors, and to keep pace with global developments,” the Abu Dhabi government media office said in a statement.

“The UAE is the first nation in the world to introduce a national working week shorter than the global five-day week,” WAM said.

“The extended weekend comes as part of the UAE government’s efforts to

boost work-life balance and enhance social well-being while increasing performance to advance the UAE’s economic competitiveness,” the WAM report said.

Under the new model, employees will have to complete an eight-hour workday from Monday to Thursday but are expected to work for only 4.5 hours on Friday.

Government employees will also be allowed to choose “flexible work or work-from-home options” on Fridays.

Meanwhile, Friday sermons and prayers will be held at 1:15pm.

In predominantly Muslim countries, Friday is usually considered the holiest day of the week. In some of the neighbouring countries, shops and vendors are prohibited from opening before Friday prayers end.

While becoming the only Gulf country not to have a Friday-Saturday weekend, the resource-rich and ambitious UAE now comes into line with the non-Arab world.

Local media reports said more details were expected to emerge in the



The new working week for government employees will come into effect on January 1, 2022.

following days.

Scott Livermore, chief economist at Oxford Economics Middle East, an advisory firm, said the weekend alignment with Europe and Asia “will help internationally orientated business that are an important pillar of the economy and could attract investment”.

At the same time, “A shorter working week does present some challenges in terms of managing output costs, although there is some evidence that a shorter working week can boost productivity of the workforce,” he added.

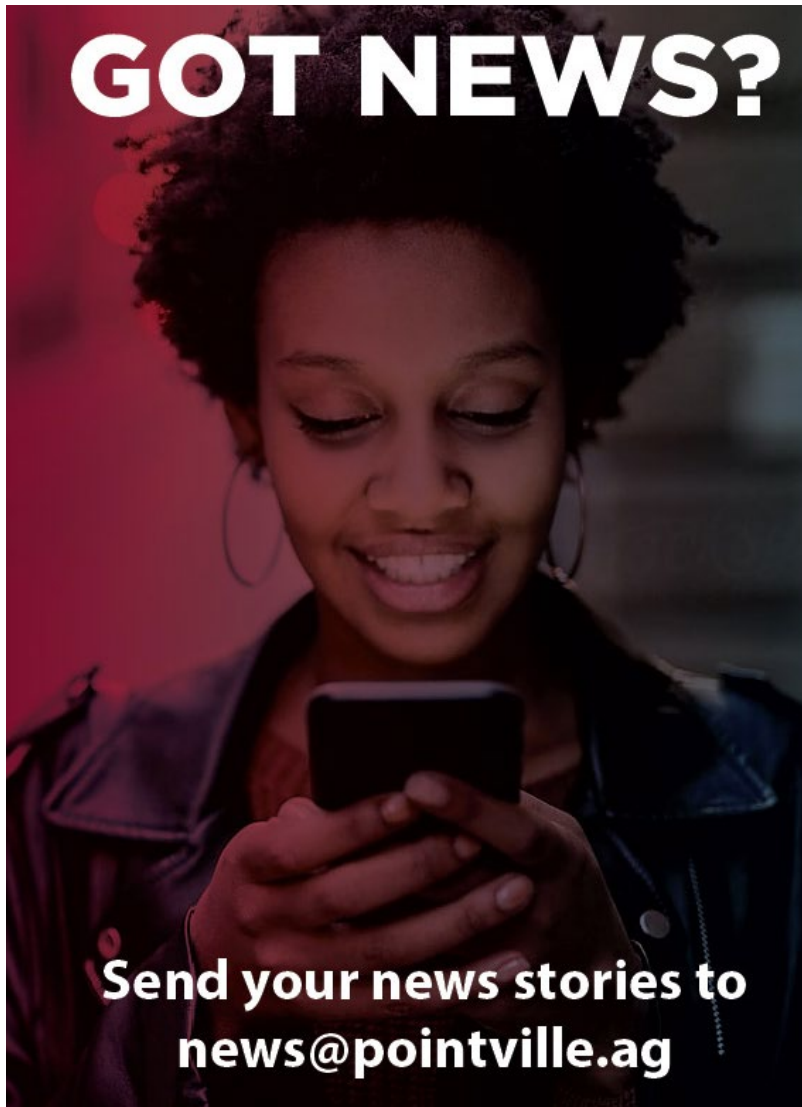
The shift likely will see the private industry and schools follow suit as they did in 2006 when

the week changed from Saturday to Wednesday – a workweek followed in some Muslim-majority countries such as Iran and Afghanistan.

The UAE has in the past year taken measures to make its economy more attractive to foreign investment and talent, including introducing longer-term visas. It has also revised laws regarding cohabitation before marriage, alcohol, and personal status laws.

The changed week was generally welcomed on social media where the subject was trending, and the official announcements were widely retweeted.

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Crandon is Head Coach; Hercules replaces Griffith as Assistant

Kaieteur News- Several changes have been made for next year's Regional four-day first-class cricket tournament which is set to bowl off on February 20 with Guyana – under the new name of Guyana Amazon Jaguars – playing their first three games overseas.

Several other changes – including the length of the tournament; the Guyana coaches; the possible team; the change of the GCB's fitness criteria; and chairman of the senior selection panel, among others – were discussed.

These disclosures were among many made by GCB's President Bissoondyal Singh at the Grand Coastal Hotel on the East Coast of Demerara last Saturday.

This was the first press conference since April when the Minister of Culture, Youth & Sport, Charles Ramson Jr., played a pivotal role in ensuring that the previous Administration – which spent 10 years in power – was defeated; something Singh was quick to point out to the gathering which included the sports media corps who turned up in full force. The 41-year-old Ramnaresh Sarwan, who committed to working with the batsmen, has replaced Ryan Griffith as chairman of the selectors.

Griffith was also replaced as assistant coach by Essequebian Ryan Hercules, while incumbent Esaun Crandon kept his job as head coach of the now Guyana Amazon Jaguars.

Singh told the long-awaited press conference that Julian Moore is now the coach of the national women's team, adding that GCB vice-president, CWI director and the pro-active BCB president Hilbert Foster chaired the committee which selected the coaches.

Singh lamented that the new GCB came into office with \$900 and with \$1.6 million in three accounts, while inheriting bills.

Singh – who revealed that Andre Percival is the chairman of national junior selection panel – informed that GCB had no access to the limited funds and used the money from the GCB grant to pay the Academy players until June.

"It's not only that we came into office paperless with regards to LBI facility. We only have the lease, which we found in the GCB office, but we got an invoice for \$5 million for sand for the LBI ground. CWI sent money to GCI account since CGI owned the franchise team which we can't access and we received not a cent to pay the coach-



The GCB team at Saturday's press conference at the Grand Coastal hotel. President Bissoon Singh is in the middle sitting and to his right is VP Hilbert Foster. The GCB team at Saturday's press conference at the Grand Coastal hotel. President Bissoon Singh is in the middle sitting and to his right is VP Hilbert Foster.

es. All of the Guyana players are now being paid directly which means we sign can't any contracts with them. We are presently in court with GCI so I can't comment on that, but this was the reason we changed the name of the Guyana Jaguars.

"All of the other Boards own their Franchise team but the GCB does not own the Franchise. We have not been in office for 10 years and we have been involved in a number of court cases ...," continued Singh who played a couple of first division games for GCC as a leg-spinner.

Singh declared that next year the GCB will be focusing on its short, medium and long terms plans which include staging schools' cricket

in collaboration with Ministry of Culture, Youth & Sport, the Ministry of Education, and the Guyana Teachers Union. He also spoke of getting female cricket up-and-running in Demerara and Essequibo, since it is only in Berbice that female cricket is currently played.

"We will also have inter-county played at all levels, while 50 overs franchise will be a feeder for county selectors to pick their teams from. In addition to U-15, 17 and 19, we will have an Under-23 to help bridge the game to senior cricket," stated Singh, who noted that he was the one to propose a term limit for the president, secretary and treasurer of the GCB.

Liverpool beat Milan for perfect group stage record

Liverpool became the first English side to win all six Champions League group games as they completed a perfect journey into the knockout stage with victory over AC Milan in Italy.

Manager Jurgen Klopp made eight changes, with qualification for the last 16 already assured as group winners, while the Serie A leaders went in search of the win they hoped would secure their own passage into the next phase.

Milan's hopes rose on the half-hour when Takumi Minamino missed a near-post corner and goalkeeper Alisson could only push the ball out to England defender Fikayo Tomori who scored from close range.

Liverpool's line-up may have had an unfamiliar appearance but they were by far the more accomplished side. Mohamed Salah was in the starting line-up and once again demonstrated his predatory instincts with the equaliser seven minutes later, driving home the rebound after Milan keeper Mike Maignan saved from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain.



Divock Origi's winner was his first Champions League goal since the 2019 final.

It meant the prolific Salah became the first Liverpool player since Ian Rush to score 20 goals in five successive seasons, also scoring the most goals for the club in the group stage of a European competition with seven.

Liverpool continued to dominate and Divock Origi scored his first goal in the competition since the 2019 Champions League final against Tottenham when he headed in after Maignan saved from Mane 10 minutes after the break.

Liverpool's smooth progress

When the draw for Champions League Group

B was made, it was regarded as one of the toughest sections as Liverpool faced Atletico Madrid, Porto and AC Milan. Instead, they made a mockery of suggestions this could be a tight squeeze by ending with an astonishing 11-point advantage over second-placed Atletico who beat Porto to go through with them.

Liverpool are now so well-oiled a machine that Klopp could change the face of his team to such an extent after Saturday's win at Wolves and still put out a side that looked dangerous, well-organised and far too good for one of Eu-

ropean football's biggest names.

Nathaniel Phillips slotted smoothly into defence with Virgil van Dijk left out and – apart from the goal and a late save from Franck Kessie – Liverpool and keeper Alisson survived virtually untroubled, looking far more likely to add to their advantage than concede another goal.

It was another graphic demonstration of the power of the Premier League as Milan, who head Serie A, were out-manoeuvred with ease by a Liverpool side bearing little resemblance to their full-strength team.

Liverpool will enter the last 16 as one of the most feared teams in the tournament, with their biggest threats appearing to come from Premier League rivals Chelsea and Manchester City, along with Bayern Munich and Real Madrid.

Klopp and his players, however, will progress with real confidence that they can once again make it into the latter stages of the Champions League after this latest show of strength.

Bianca Andreescu: Former Grand Slam champion to miss Australian Open

Former world No 4 and 2019 US Open women's singles champion Bianca Andreescu has announced she will miss the Australian Open in Melbourne.

Andreescu took to social media to explain her reasons for skipping the summer swing in Australia. The 21-year-old says she wants to give herself time to "reset" and "recover" from a difficult time for her, "mentally and physically".

"I felt like I was carrying the world on my shoulders," Andreescu, who also said her grandmother spent weeks in ICU due to a Covid infection.

"I could not detach myself from everything that was going on off the court; was feeling the collective sadness and turmoil around and it took its toll on me."

Andreescu became Canada's first Grand Slam singles champion with her 2019 triumph in New York, when she beat Serena Williams in the final, but endured a run of injuries starting with a knee problem at that year's WTA Finals in Shenzhen.


She withdrew from this year's Tokyo Olympics, a decision she put down to all the challenges related to the pandemic.

Andreescu, who last competed on the WTA Tour in October at Indian Wells where her title defence ended in the third round against Anett Kontaveit, did not say when she would return.

"I want to give myself extra time to reset, recover, and grow from this and continue to inspire by doing charity work, giving back and working on myself because I know by doing this I will come back stronger than ever," she said.

"I will therefore not start my season in Australia this year but will take some additional time to reflect, train and be ready for the upcoming 2022 tennis season."

"I will therefore not start my season in Australia this year but will take some additional time to reflect, train and be ready for the upcoming 2022 tennis season."



Canada's Bianca Andreescu will take a mental break from tennis and sit out the start of next season, including the Australian Open

LAMONT MARCELL JACOBS: OLYMPIC 100M CHAMPION TO RETURN TO ACTION IN FEBRUARY

Olympic 100m champion Lamont Marcell Jacobs will return to competitive action in Berlin in February.

The 27-year-old Italian has not raced since the Tokyo Games in August, where he also won 4x100m gold.

He has missed five Diamond League events, but competes at the Berlin indoor meet on 4 February.

His manager Marcello Magnani previously said injury was not a factor in Jacobs' decision to take a break, but the time off is a preventative measure.

Jacobs, who only switched from long jump in 2018, became the first Italian to win the men's 100m Olympic gold with his success in Tokyo.

Lamont Marcell Jacobs won 100m and 4x100m gold at the Tokyo Olympics.

DEWS