



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

# POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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# COVID-19 CLAIMS FIRST VICTIM OF 2022

Story on Page 2

## Billionaire Leonardo Del Vecchio makes large donation to SNRA



Senior government and education officials with Prime Minister Gaston Browne (centre), and Leonardo Del Vecchio (2nd from right of PM). Photo Credit: Office of the Prime Minister. [See story on Page 6.](#)

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**Pg 4 - Anthony Deyal Guest Editorial: 2022 & All That**

**Pg 11 - Black, Hispanic women face increased risk of dementia**



## Latest dashboard reveals first 2022 COVID-19 death

COVID-19 has claimed its first life this year.

The COVID-19 dashboard published by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment on 9th January revealed that one person lost their life to the virus following its last update on 8th January.

Additional information related to the circumstances of this death were not revealed.

This brings the total deaths in Antigua and Barbuda to one hundred and twenty (120).

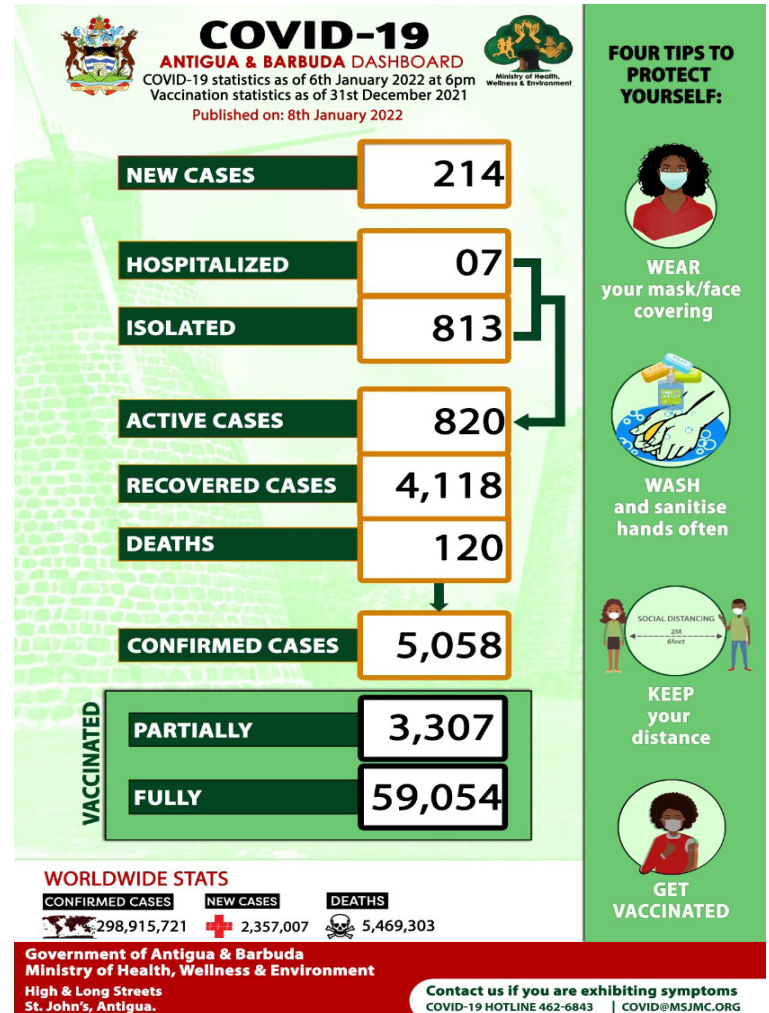
As of Thursday 6th January, 2022 at 6pm, the ministry disclosed two

hundred and fourteen (214) new laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda with three hundred and forty (340) samples having been processed.

Seven (7) recovered cases were recorded.

Consequently, the total number of persons with laboratory confirmed COVID-19 cases in Antigua and Barbuda is five thousand and fifty-eight (5,058); which is inclusive of eight hundred and twenty (820) active cases.

There are seven (7) hospitalised cases; four (4) moderate and three (3) mild.



*It's not the destination*  
**IT'S THE JOURNEY."**

**It's Not A Race**  
**Drive Safe!**

SAFER ROADS

**HAPPY MONDAY**

**ABTB**  
 ANTIGUA & BARBUDA TRANSPORT BOARD  
 A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

## Gaston Browne: “I don’t know what the bru-ha-ha is about!”

Prime Minister Gaston Browne has brushed aside criticism surrounding the rental of his home at Jolly Harbour.

The tenancy agreement between Mr. Browne and Victor Singh of Metropolitan University College of Medicine Incorporated that lists the monthly rent at US\$20,000 a month was made public last week by political aspirant Algernon Watts.

This sparked debate in some quarters over Browne’s decision to enter such an arrangement.

The main opposition United Progressive Party’s leader, Harold Lovell, said the prime minister has gone about enriching himself through “creative means”, having negotiated the university deal with Mr. Singh and his associates. Lovell posits that the prime minister should have refrained from conducting private business with Mr. Singh and ought to have referred Metropolitan’s principals to real estate agents as the villa rental constitutes a conflict of interest and “rape of the institutions of Antigua and Barbuda.”

But on his radio programme at the weekend, Prime Minister Browne said the arrangement he entered with Victor Singh is above board.

“It is a private property owned by myself and my

wife. We are renting it to another private person. It has nothing to do with government,” Browne assured. “We didn’t buy anything from government, the house is not on government property, the land was not a government piece of land. We pay our own utilities to Jolly Harbour.”

Mr. Browne explained the property was rented after his family decided against moving from Hodges Bay to Jolly Harbour. This decision was taken after his wife, Minister Maria Bird-Browne, expressed worry over security, following the series of events involving Mehul Choksi.

“She [Maria Bird-Browne] has actually placed us in a position where she has to now go and get a mortgage to build a house somewhere, because I can’t go and get another mortgage in my old age.”

“I’m the only Antiguan who has a beach property at Jolly Harbour that’s available



Prime Minister Gaston Browne.

for rent. So I want to know: if my white neighbours can rent their properties for US \$ 3,000 a night, collecting US\$90,000 a month, I want to know why I can’t rent my own on a long-term basis for US \$ 20,000?” Mr. Browne asked.

The Prime Minister told his listeners he believed he knew the source of the leak of the lease agreement as there were only two ways in which the agreement could have

been leaked: through the real estate company, which he ruled out or the bank. He did not reveal, however, the name of the bank where the rent is deposited.

Despite the revelation of the agreement and the attention it has drawn, Prime Minister Browne is unfazed. He said proper procedure was followed with precision with respect to the agreement so he’s still not sure what the uproar is about.

Mon 10 | Day

**82°**  15%  
 E 15 mph

A few clouds from time to time. High 82F.  
 Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.



Humidity  
**66%**



UV Index  
**8 of 10**



Sunrise  
**6:39 am**



Sunset  
**5:50 pm**

Mon 10 | Night

**73°**  14%  
 ENE 7 mph

Clear skies. Low 73F. Winds ENE at 5 to 10 mph.



Humidity  
**74%**




UV Index  
**0 of 10**



Moonrise  
**12:33 pm**



Moonset  
**12:32 am**

 Waxing Gibbous

Monday 10th January, 2020 ([weather.com](https://www.weather.com))



# Guest Editorial

ANTHONY AND BARBARA  
**POINTE PRESS**  
WATER NEW AND REMOTE VIEWS



**By Anthony Deyal**

Earlier this week, I started preparing myself mentally for today, the first day of the year 2022. My starting point was that life, although sexually transmitted, should never be taken too seriously because nobody gets out of it alive. Apart from death and taxes, the only other certainty is that while you can be only young once, you can be immature forever. Perhaps this is why I ask myself whether life is really the “walking shadow” that Shakespeare claimed it is or is it just another four-letter word like “this”, “that”, “what” and “when”? Or why do we call swollen veins in the lower rectum “haemorrhoids” instead of “assteroids”?

As we get older, just trying to survive and make sense of the world are enough to swell not just our veins but also our brains. I remember when my wife had the air-conditioning on at full blast but still didn't like me to sleep in my socks. I reluctantly made a resolution to sleep barefoot but after the first night I got cold feet. Globally, the most popular resolution is to “exercise more” followed by “lose weight”, “get organised” and “learn a new hobby or skill”. Somehow this does not go well with the fifth

## 2022 and all that

which is “live life to the full-est” and even worse, number six, which is “save money” or “spend less money.” I did better with the seventh in that I quit smoking many years ago and with the eighth, spending more time with family and friends. Number nine is “travel more” and while COVID and unemployment made that and going to the gym impossible, they helped me move number ten – “read more”- right to the top of the tree.

Actually, McVitie's, the biscuit makers, crunched the numbers and found that out of 28 million (61%) adults who make New Year's resolutions, only 9% keep them for a whole year. In fact, nearly a third (29%) of people who make resolutions drop out in less than a week. This is why, as the Irish poet and playwright Oscar Wilde said, “Good resolutions are simply cheques that men draw on a bank where they have no account.” Mark Twain added, “Now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paying hell with them as usual.” Actually, the best thing to do is to become a vegan for a day and then very quickly learn that it was a missed steak.

Like Twain and other humourists, I am an escapist. Generally, all resolutions go into one year and come out the next. The only one I have ever kept is the one I made to never make any. My New

Year's resolution is to procrastinate so I'll start tomorrow, ok? When I was younger, women used to kiss me on my lips but it's all over now. My son Zubin calls me “Pop” and makes me want to tell him, “Son, that is what the little champagne bottle calls his father.” As I head into my 77th year, my version of the “Serenity Prayer” is, “God grant me the senility to forget people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones that I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.”

Last night I stayed up until midnight, not to welcome the New Year but because of the pressure we all suffered in 2021, I wanted to make sure it had gone for good. And then, before falling asleep I said the prayer that was especially designed for today, “Dear Lord. So far this year I've done well. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or overindulgent. I'm very thankful for that. But in a few minutes, Lord, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm probably going to need a lot more help. Amen.” In fact, I already remember 2021 like it was yesterday.

For a while, my first resolution used to be not to expect too much from life. That was because I read about the female student whose biology teacher asked her, “What portion of the human anatomy swells to ten times its

normal size during periods of agitation or emotional excitement?” Blushing, she stammered that she would rather not answer the question because it was kind of personal. The teacher, pointing out that it was not at all personal, explained, “The correct answer is the pupil of the eye, and your response tells me two things: First, that you didn't read last night's assignment, and second, that marriage is going to leave you a tremendously disappointed young woman.”

The second was never to wish too much for company because that always got me into trouble. The third, and most important for me, especially given my love of reading is never to judge a book by its cover. I learnt that lesson from a friend who was into sexy books like the “Kama Sutra” and “Perfumed Garden” and bought one named “Twenty Ways To Mate: Translated from the French with Original Illustrations.” It turned out to be a book about Chess.

This is why for three reasons I am going to start my New Year by re-reading (for the tenth time) DUNE, the Frank Herbert book that I bought and immediately read when it was released in 1965. First, what the new year brings to us will depend a great deal on what we bring to the new year. Secondly, time flies and each of us is our own pilot. Thirdly, in my

*cont'd on pg 6*

# VACANCY – ELECTRICITY PLANT ENGINEER

## BARBUDA POWER STATION

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the above position within the Electricity Business Unit:

**Overview:** The Green Barbuda Power Plant will be commissioned in Barbuda shortly. The Plant Engineer will be based in Barbuda and responsible for managing all aspects of the operation and maintenance of this Solar Hybrid Power Plant.

**Key tasks include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Providing day-to-day oversight of the technical and administrative functions of the plant.
- Ensuring the plant meets the required availability, reliability, efficiency & safety targets.
- Managing the maintenance program including breakdown, preventative and predictive maintenance.
- Maintaining adequate inventory levels of fuel, spare parts, tools and equipment.

**Suitable candidates for the Electricity Plant Engineer role should possess the following:**

- A Minimum of a Bachelor's Degree or equivalent in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering from a recognized tertiary institution.
- A minimum of ten (10) years' experience in supervising the operation and maintenance of a Power Plant.
- Experience in Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) Systems within a Power Plant or similar operation.
- Experience in the operation and maintenance of a Solar Plant.
- Demonstrated knowledge of Electrical and Mechanical Generation principles.
- Knowledge and working experience with Battery Systems within a Solar Plant would be an asset.

**Additionally, the role requires candidates to have:**

- Strong communication, analytical, critical thinking, strategic and report writing skills.
- The ability to provide guidance and supervision to a large team. This includes identifying training needs, motivating & inspiring the team to meet unit goals and objectives while managing performance in accordance with the set guidelines of the Authority.
- The ability to effectively prepare management documents including budget estimates and monthly reports
- The ability to multitask and work under pressure to set deadlines.
- The ability to work flexible hours, if required, including weekends and holidays
- The physical and mental ability to withstand the rigors of the role.

Interested persons are asked to apply in writing to:

The Human Resources Manager  
Antigua Public Utilities Authority  
P.O. Box 416  
Independence Ave. & High Street  
St. Johns, Antigua

or Email: [hr@apua.ag](mailto:hr@apua.ag)

Deadline for application is **Monday 10th January, 2022**

\*\* Only suitable applicants will be acknowledged \*\*

"APUA is an equal opportunity Employer"



## Fifth Form Block Commissioned at SNRA

A new fifth form and physical education (PE) block has been added to Sir Novelle Richards Academy through a donation from Italian billionaire businessman, Leonardo Del Vecchio, through his foundation Pavillon Foundazione Leonardo Del Vecchio.

Constructed at a cost of US\$ 1.6 million, the building was dedicated last Friday with government and education officials in attendance.

Addressing the ceremony, Prime Minister Gaston Browne said initially, the funding was earmarked to facilitate improvements in the health sector, specifically cardiac and renal facilities but it was determined upgrading of the school was necessary to accommodate fifth formers.

He thanked the Del Vecchio's for their generosity and for assisting Antigua and Barbuda

in its "developmental quest" by exercising corporate responsibility.

"I hope that other very wealthy people who would have made Antigua and Barbuda their home will follow your lead to make similar contributions," the prime minister told the audience.

He also pointed out that the project, from discussion to construction, will be used as a model in approaching others for assistance.

"There are many wealthy people who have lived in Antigua and Barbuda over the decades. Many of them at Mill Reef Club, Jumby Bay and other areas on the island, but unfortunately have not been well integrated into the society. Our government is making a special effort to engage these individuals, to



Prime Minister Gaston Browne and Leonardo Del Vecchio unveil the dedication plaque on the new 5th Form SNRA block. Photo Credit: Office of the Prime Minister

have them integrated into the society and to obviously have them contribute to the upliftment of our people, especially our youth," the head of government asserted.

Minister of Education and Sports, Daryll Matthew, applauded Mr. and Mrs. Del Vecchio for their tangible contribution to the country's development, declaring: "This is another step in building out our education system to meet the needs of Antiguan and Barbudans for generations yet unborn."

Sir Novelle Richards Academy was opened in 2017 and is today one of the most highly sought after public secondary institutions by

parents of secondary school aged children.

Minister Matthew is confident that with the latest expansion and continued build out of the school, Sir Novelle Richards Academy will eventually become the largest school in the country.

Mr. Del Vecchio was in attendance at Friday's ceremony. His wife said they are "happy and proud" to contribute to the construction of the fifth form and PE Block through their foundation.

Leonardo Del Vecchio owns Luxottica, the largest eye glasses conglomerate in the world. It includes popular brands such as Ray-Ban, Oakley and Sun-Glass Hut.



The new SNRA 5th Form block.

*cont'd from pg 4*

case, I like the dreams and visions of the future better than the history of the past. We cannot change the past but can learn from it. These are some of the reasons DUNE is, for me, the best Science Fiction book ever written. What impressed me from the beginning is that it is not centered on technology but on people and their relationships with one another, nature, life and the earth itself. This is why I have always encouraged my children to read it. Zubin, my youngest,

had initially resisted because, unlike me, he sees no value in fiction. However, he is now a convert to Dune and as we sat watching it on TV a few nights ago, I repeated to myself the "Litany Against Fear" from the book. I have found it a useful way of dealing with the uncertainties that the future dumps on us and the fear that we cannot help but feel as COVID keeps coming up with new variants, "I must not fear. Fear is the mind-killer. Fear is the little-death that

brings total obliteration. I will face my fear. I will permit it to pass over me and through me. And when it has gone past, I will turn the inner eye to see its path. Where the fear has gone there will be nothing. Only I will remain."

*\*Tony Deyal was last seen repeating, "I have only one resolution. To re-discover the difference between wants and needs. May I have all I need and want all I have. Happy New Year to all of you!"*



# VACANCY – WATER PLANNING ENGINEER

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority is now seeking applications from suitably qualified persons for the above position within the Planning, Standards, Maintenance & Construction (PSMC) Department:

**OVERVIEW** This role actively engages in engineering works and provides direction, coordination and oversight within the PSMC Water Planning Section. This includes producing engineering solutions and supervising and scheduling a variety of water utility engineering tasks using Computer Aided Designs (CAD) and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assist with water infrastructural development in Antigua & Barbuda. The role is also responsible for forecasting distribution demands, liaising with contractors and developers on water requirements and responding to public enquiries and requests.

**Key tasks include, but are not limited to, the following:**

- Observing developmental trends, contacting and communicating with private and public developers, contractors and relevant authorities.
- Identifying, coordinating and planning water source development.
- Producing detailed and finished drawings for water facilities from preliminary sketches and field notes.
- Researching, updating and digitizing water facility records and data.
- Upgrading engineering plans & records, conducting investigations and collecting data.
- Preparing engineering designs, costing and scheduling projects.
- Maintaining up to date information and trends related to GIS and CAD software for water systems design and modelling.

**Suitable candidates for the Water Planning Engineer should possess the following:**

- A Bachelors' degree or equivalent in Civil/Agricultural Engineering, Geography or Environmental Engineering along with certification in GIS.
- A Masters' degree in any of the above mentioned fields would be an asset.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience in coordinating water distribution development, CAD drafting & design, and demonstrated leadership skills.

**Additionally, the role requires candidates to have:**

- Strong communication, analytical, critical thinking, strategic and report writing skills.
- The ability to provide guidance and supervision to a large team. This includes identifying training needs, motivating & inspiring the team to meet unit goals and objectives while managing performance in accordance with the set guidelines of the Authority.
- The ability to effectively prepare management documents including budget estimates and monthly reports
- The ability to multitask and work under pressure to set deadlines.
- The ability to work flexible hours, if required, including weekends and holidays
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# Antigua & Barbuda leads CARICOM with highest vaccination rate

Recently released statistics from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) reveal that Antigua and Barbuda is ahead of its CARICOM partners with respect to the rate of vaccination.

According to CARPHA sixty-three percent of the eligible population of Antigua and Barbuda has received at least the first dose of one of the approved, available COVID-19 vaccines while sixty percent are fully vaccinated.

The numbers are based on Antigua and Barbuda's reported population of 97,928.

The CARPHA report dat-

ed 2nd January, 2022 is based on final statistics reported to it by each CARICOM member country at the end of December 2021.

Belize follows in second place with 49% fully vaccinated and 57% with at least one dose.

Barbados is third with 50% and 54%, Guyana is fourth at 37% and 52%, and St Kitts and Nevis follow in fifth with 48% and 52%.

Jamaica with 19% and 24% and Haiti with 1.1% with at least one dose are 14th and 15th respectively.

Some CARICOM associate states however have made drastically more headway in

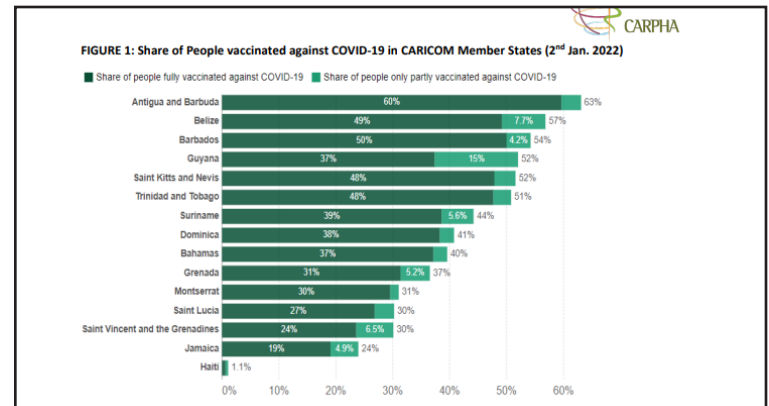


Photo Credit: Caribbean Public Health Agency

vaccinating their populations. 56%.

The Cayman Islands have a vaccination rate closing in on 90%. Bermuda reports 71%, the Turks and Caicos stand at 70%, Anguilla, 61%.

The British Virgin Islands reports the lowest of the Caricom associate members at

In other parts of the region, Aruba has reported a vaccination rate closing in on 80%. As of 9th January 2022, Antigua and Barbuda has reported 3,307 partially vaccinated with 59,054 fully vaccinated.

## A & B makes another destination travel list

Antigua and Barbuda has made it onto another list of top destinations to visit in 2022.

The Caribbean Journal is an online travel magazine which produces original content and video which focuses on travel and tourism across the Caribbean basin. It also covers travel and trade news as it relates to the region.

On the heels of CNN's top destinations to visit in 2022 just one week ago,

The Caribbean Journal has also identified Antigua and Barbuda as one of its top Caribbean destinations to visit this year.

Well known for its famed 365 beaches, Antigua and Barbuda made the list of twenty-two destinations for its unique ability to make visitors to its shores feel at home.

According to the magazine: "It's been called the best honeymoon desti-

nation in the Caribbean, but the reality is Antigua is perfect for just about any kind of Caribbean vacation.

"Yes, there are 365 beaches on Antigua and its sister island of Barbuda; but what travellers come here for is the vibe, the friendliness, the beach bars, the history, the rum punch, the authentic hotels and resorts and the feeling that, in the age of the pandemic, you can always find your own space."

The twin-island nation was the first in the region to reopen its borders on 1st June, 2020 after the start of the pandemic in late 2019 when many parts of the world were still in the grip of the first wave of the disease. At the time it was a daring move which many questioned due to the uncertainty surrounding COVID-19.

As a result, Antigua and Barbuda has, in many respects, been the model for other nations in the region with



Hammock Cove is one of Antigua's newest luxury, all inclusive resorts

*cont'd on pg 9*



## Elective and Non-Essential Services Restricted at SLBMC

The Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre (SLBMC) has made the decision to suspend all elective and non-essential services at the hospital.

This change came into effect today, Monday January 10, 2022 and will remain in place until further notice.

According to a statement, this decision was taken in response to the latest increase in COVID-19 cases, "In an effort to keep our patients, staff, and communities safe."

The services at SLBMC affected include elective surgeries and outpatient clinics, routine laboratory services and non-emergent radiological services.

The hospital said patients who are affected by this restriction will be contacted by its care team.

Acknowledging the inconvenience the decision will create, SLBMC Medical Director, Dr. Albert Duncan asked for the public's under-



Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre standing as: "The safety of our patients and visitors remains a priority. We continue to make decisions in the best interest of those in our care and those who love them".

Persons who require access to essential treatments at SLBMC such as cancer care, antenatal (high-risk) care, and kidney dialysis will not be affected by the change and they are assured that their treatment programmes will continue. Additionally, the emergency department will remain open around the clock and the hospital will also continue to accept urgent physician referrals.

Rather than presenting themselves to the hospital and risking exposing others, people who suspect they may have been exposed to COVID-19 are being asked to phone the COVID Hotline: 46-COVID (462-6843) OR 562-9764 for advice and help.

Individuals are being asked to only present to the hospital if their symptoms are severe or if a health professional has advised them to do so.

## Centenarian celebrates 101st birthday today

Hermena Joseph Goodwin, also known as Winifred or Winnie, was born December 28th, 1920 according to her mother, however, her official date of birth, however, is recorded as January 10th, 1921. She was born on the historic Betty's Hope Estate to parents Clementina Benjamin and Edward Joseph.

Mrs. Joseph-Goodwin, who was a seamstress for most of her adult life, is the mother of 7 children and stepmother to 5.

She now lives in All Saints Village where she is surrounded by her grand-

children and great grandchildren and is an active member of the All Saints Anglican Church. These days she amuses herself by watching African films, Judge Judy, Justice TV and the news on ABS TV.

She also enjoys listening to Healthy Living and Old Time Something on Observer Radio, Radio Lighthouse and Sly J on ZDK.

Mrs. Joseph-Goodwin is also fond of the plays staged by the Police Drama group which she attended every year up until 2019. Unfortunately the pandemic has



Hermena Joseph Goodwin

put a stop to this excursion.

When asked the key to a long life, she responded, "Go to Church, read your Bible and don't stay out late at night!"

Happy birthday Mrs. Hermena Joseph Goodwin from all of us here at Pointe Xpress Newspaper!

*cont'd from pg 8*

regard to best practices in an effort to restore some degree of normalcy and economic stability in the face of the planet's first pandemic in more than 100 years.

While many countries stayed closed to the world in an effort to keep COVID-19 from spreading throughout their populations, the bold move Anti-

gua and Barbuda took to reopen its borders paid off, however, as it was able to breath life into its faltering tourism sector and provide an option to people who still wished to travel for holiday or business.

The COVID-19 virus inevitably did make its way into the country which has had to cope with lockdowns, curfews and other measures intended to

reduce the spread of the disease.

However, even before the widespread availability of vaccines, Antigua and Barbuda was also among the first in the region to return its population to work, its children to school, both face to face and utilising virtual classroom technology and even resume entertainment with measures implemented to ensure the safety of those in attendance.

# Concerns grow over disunity in Barbuda

The Barbuda Council Chairperson, Jackie Frank, is bemoaning growing disunity among some sectors of the population on the sister isle.

In a recent appearance on the Barbuda Channel, Frank said the lack of togetherness is hampering the work of the decision making body in advancing Barbuda.

The chairperson indicated the Council is experiencing difficulties with disunity and is vowing to deal with the issue.

“People have recognised and pointed out to the Council that the body of Council is not as unified as it could be and not as unified as it probably once was in the past, which is true. We as Councillors, we have recognised that and are taking that on board and we’re finding ways to work together to improve this, so that going forward, Barbuda can achieve even more,” Frank stated.

Noting that the internal



*Barbuda Council Chairperson, Jackie Frank*

disharmony must be addressed with urgency, Frank further pointed out that the present situation puts at risk the island’s progress at a time when as Councillors they must together forge ahead and leave behind their present difficulties.

The challenges of disunity are not limited to Barbuda’s decision makers; it is also an issue within the workforce. In this sphere however, it concerns the poor work ethic of some employees.

Jackie Frank said there is a stark contrast between

employees of the Council and those employed by private companies. The less than desirable level of productivity of Council employees, she revealed, has now become an issue in the community.

“How is it when a developer or an outsider comes and when they expect a certain amount of engagement with the work they get it, but at the same time it doesn’t happen with Council?”

“That is a challenge and something the Council will be addressing in the coming days and weeks.”

The chairperson questioned whether the challenges the executive body face are of deliberate design. She is of the opinion there may be an attempt by some developers to “divide and conquer”.

Frank said the Council is willing to work with developers in the interest of the sister isle, but she wants a direct relationship that excludes the central government.

Frank noted that Barbuda’s laws are special, specific and enshrined in the country’s Constitution. Therefore, developers must operate with this in mind and show their willingness to cooperate with the Barbuda Council.

“At the moment the challenge is some of the developers do not yet recognise that fact and are not behaving that way, so it is leading to and causing some disunity within the community and that isn’t good for Barbuda.”



*Malik Scotland*

## Missing Old Road boy found

Late Sunday afternoon, the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RP-FAB) issued a public appeal for help locating a missing child.

Malik Scotland, 12, of Old Road was reported missing by his family on Sunday morning.

He was last seen two days earlier on Friday at about 3pm in Old Road in a yellow shirt and blue pants.

While the report to police was delayed, Pointe Xpress learned that the

child’s mother and other family members conducted their own search, visiting the homes of his usual playmates and school friends to determine if Malik was with them.

The Urlings Primary School 6th grader was eventually discovered at a friend’s house on Sunday afternoon.

Apparently the child spent the weekend playing electronic games and watching television at the home of the friend where he was discovered.



## Black, Hispanic families hit hardest by dementia

By Laura Williamson,  
*American Heart Association News*

It can begin with the occasional missed bill payment. An inability to remember names. Telling the same story repeatedly. There may be personality changes or mood swings. Confusion. Over time, it's as if the person who once was slowly disappears.

Dementia. As the population ages, a growing number of families face this debilitating condition, which can be both emotionally and financially exhausting, and require near-constant supervision from spouses or adult children. It can be tough on any family, but in the United States, Black and Hispanic communities are hardest hit.

"We don't exactly know why," said Jason Resendez, executive director for the UsAgainstAlzheimer's Center for Brain Health Equity in Washington, D.C. "More and more evidence is pointing to a mix of factors that are health-related, such as disparities in diabetes and heart disease. But there are also social and economic factors, such as education, social isolation, smoking, low income and other inequalities."

While dementia risk in the United States has been relatively stable over the past two decades, racial disparities have remained high, according to research published last year in *JAMA Neurology*. Other data suggest Black adults, from age 50 onward, are two to three times more likely than their white peers to be diagnosed with dementia; Latinos are at 1.5 times greater risk.

Research shows many of the risk factors can be reduced. In fact, efforts to do so are meeting with some success – but less so for people of colour. For example, a 2017 study in *JAMA Neurology* found cholesterol-lowering drugs could reduce dementia risk by 23%, but

they were less effective for Black and Latino adults than for their white peers.

Up to 40% of all cases of dementia could be reduced by lowering 12 risk factors, according to a report by the Lancet Commission. These include high blood pressure, obesity, smoking, diabetes, physical inactivity, depression, hearing loss, less education, air pollution, social isolation, excessive alcohol consumption and traumatic brain injury.

Nearly all of these factors "are intertwined with social inequities," Resendez said. "We are not all born with the same opportunity for brain health."

Black and Hispanic adults, for example, are more likely to have blood pressure levels uncontrolled than white adults, said Dr. Deborah Levine, an associate professor of internal medicine and director of the Cognitive Health Services Research program at the University of Michigan. Black adults also tend to have more severe high blood pressure and develop it at an earlier age than white adults.

Levine led a 2020 study showing Black adults' cumulative high blood pressure rates might explain their faster cognitive declines compared to white adults. High blood pressure also significantly increases the risk for stroke – a risk that is higher among Black and Hispanic adults than it is for their white peers, she said. And stroke doubles the risk for dementia. Levine led another study that showed cognitive function declines faster following a stroke than it does in people who haven't had one.

The troubling statistics on these health disparities are not explained by genetics, said Chandra Jackson, a research investigator with the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, part of the National Institutes of



*Black people face a 28% greater risk of dementia*

Health. "These disparities are the manifestation of historical and contemporary forms of structural racism."

Years of discrimination in housing, education, employment, earnings, benefits, credit, media and criminal justice have all contributed to making people of color more vulnerable to the conditions that foster poor health, she said.

"The places where people live, learn, work and play affect dementia risk," said Jackson, who also is an adjunct investigator with the National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities at the NIH. Researchers call these the "social determinants of health."

A report last year by the Urban Institute and UsAgainstAlzheimer's highlighted the role social inequities play. It compared counties with the highest rate of Alzheimer's disease – the most common form of dementia – among Black and Latino adults to those with the lowest rates.

Counties with the highest rate of Alzheimer's also had the highest percentage of families living in poverty, fewer opportunities for exercise and people with less education and health insurance.

The stress of living with racism likely also plays a role, said Lynn Rosenberg, a professor of epidemiology at Boston University and epidemiologist at its Slone Epidemiology Center. She is a principal investigator for the Black Women's Health Study. Her team

*cont'd on pg 13*

# Regional News

The Guardian - General Máximo Gómez, a key figure in Cuba's 19th-century wars of independence against Spain once said: "Cubans either don't meet the mark – or go way past it."

A century and a half later, the aphorism rings true. This downtrodden island struggles to keep the lights on, but has now vaccinated more of its citizens against Covid-19 than any of the world's major nations.

More than 90% of the population has been vaccinated with at least one dose of Cuba's homegrown vaccines, while 83% have been fully inoculated. Of countries with populations of over a million, only the United Arab Emirates has a stronger vaccination record.

"Cuba is a victim of magical realism," said John Kirk, professor emeritus of Latin American studies at Dalhousie University, Canada. "The idea that Cuba, with only 11 million people, and limited income, could be a biotech power, might be incomprehensible for someone working at Pfizer, but for Cuba it is possible."

Like most Latin American countries, Cuba knew it would struggle to buy vaccines on the international market. So in March 2020, with foreign exchange reserves plummeting due to the loss of tourism revenue and ferocious new US sanctions, the island's scientists got to work.

The gamble paid off: this spring Cuba became the smallest country in the world to successfully develop and produce its own Covid vaccines. Since then its well-staffed, if dilapidating universal health service, has rolled out injections at a fast clip, inoculating even young children (all vaccination on the island is voluntary).

Both vaccines are over 90% effective, according to Cuban-run clinical trials conducted last spring. Successful rollout has brought infection rates down



*People receive booster doses of the Cuban-developed Abdala vaccine against Covid-19 in Havana last month. Photograph: Reuters*

from among the highest in the western hemisphere last summer to low levels today.

Last August the island reported hundreds of Covid deaths per week; last week there were three.

The vaccine success is all the more striking when set against the parlous state of the healthcare service in other areas. With hard currency inflows cut in half over the last two years, antibiotics are now so scarce that 20 pills of amoxicillin trade on the black market for the equivalent of a month's minimum state salary. Out of plaster cast, doctors in some provinces now resort to wrapping broken bones in used cardboard.

"Ever since the 1959 revolution, Cubans have embarked on these grand crusades which are quixotic yet often successful," said Gregory Biniowsky, a Havana-based lawyer.

A prime example, Biniowsky said, was Fidel Castro's pipe dream of investing one billion dollars in biotech after the Soviet Union disintegrated. "Any rational adviser would have said this was not the time to invest resources in something that might bear fruit in 25 years. And yet here we are now ... where these fruits of the biotech investment are saving lives."

Other quests have dramatically failed: the Ten Million Ton Sugar Harvest of 1970 aimed to produce an unprecedented amount of sugar to spur growth. But to cut the cane, workers

were pulled from their regular jobs, paralysing industry and wreaking havoc on the economy.

Last year Cuba harvested seven times less sugar than in 1959.

"As a nation there's a tendency to get really good with the big things, and awful at the everyday things," said Hal Klepak, professor emeritus of history and strategy at the Royal Military College of Canada.

"The whole idea of electrifying the country [in under a decade], abolishing illiteracy in 2.5 years, and medical internationalism – these were all just mad schemes. And they did it."

On Friday Cuba posts tens of thousands of doctors and nurses doing humanitarian work abroad – but fails to grow enough potatoes for the population. Cuba's highly centralised, state planning system – one of the last in the world – goes some way to explaining this paradox. When there is political will from the top, objectives can be driven forward; when there's a lack of direction, the island's rigid, Kafkaesque bureaucracy can elevate passing the buck to an art form.

"In capitalism you tend to have, even with very little things, somebody to fill the market," said Klepak. "The difference with Cuba is that for [most economic] decision-making, there isn't anyone but the state."

After registering less than 100 cases a day for weeks, infection rates are now rising due to the highly contagious Omicron variant. Cuban scientists have not released data on the efficacy of their vaccines against Omicron but have begun work to update their vaccine against the variant.

In the meantime, the Cuban ministry of public health has fast-tracked its booster campaign, and aims to give almost the entire population an extra shot of vaccine this month.



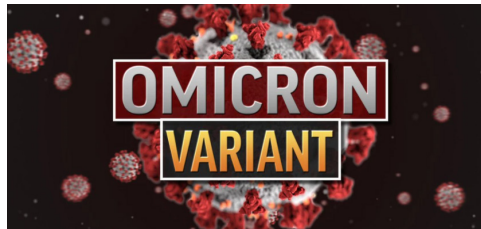
## T&T records first Omicron case: woman quizzed, charges expected

Trinidad Express - Charges are expected to be laid against a woman who brought the first recorded case of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 into Trinidad and Tobago.

The woman was interviewed by police on Saturday. A statement was taken and the police team was expected to approach officials in the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for instructions on how to proceed.

The Express was told by police investigators that the investigative team, led by ACP Williams, was waiting for the woman to complete her quarantine period before moving to question her.

The penalty for falsifying information on a TTravelPass is six months in prison and a fine of \$350,000 or six



*Photo credit : Associated Press*

months' imprisonment upon summary conviction.

The woman was allowed to board a flight in New York, to Panama. She presented a negative antigen test to local authorities on December 9, which she took in Panama, even though Trinidad's entry conditions require PCR tests be submitted. However, this was flagged upon her arrival in Trinidad.

Minister of Health Terrence Deyalsingh explained during a news confer-

ence that she did not make it past Port authorities, who took note of a positive PCR test which she had also taken.

As a result, she was quickly isolated and tested. The sample was retrieved on December 10, and the findings were presented on the evening of December 11.

"The individual was flagged at the airport, and once the individual was flagged our protocols worked, and hats off to our Port health workers, and the person was sent immediately to a step-down facility. So, at no point in time was anybody in the general public, her family, village, community exposed to her," he said.

Fourteen passengers who were nearest to this person were ordered to self-isolate.

## Montserrat schools to remain closed until January 18

Montserrat GIS - The Montserrat Ministry of Education announced on Friday that all schools in Montserrat will remain closed until Tuesday January 18, 2022.

In a statement, the ministry said the decision was taken after a review of the

latest reports by the Ministry of Health on the status of COVID-19 cases on the island. As of 12 noon Friday January 7, the number of active cases of COVID-19 on the island was 62.

The Ministry further noted that the Government of

Montserrat (GoM) School Management Team (SMTs) will contact parents by Tuesday January 11, 2022 regarding accommodation for learning and instruction.

"GoM Early Childhood staff will provide some resources for stimulation activ-



ities for children. GoM Primary Schools will produce resource packages for distribution. The Montserrat Secondary School (MSS) will activate its online education procedures," explained the Ministry of Education.

Furthermore, there will be some customisation, accommodation and flexibility based on the resources of grades and this will be communicated by forms, class and/or subject teachers.

As it relates to private education centres, these schools will update parents accordingly. Further updates, it continued, will be provided to the public following consultations with the Ministry of Health.

### *cont'd from pg 11*

found women who reported experiencing the highest levels of racism in their daily lives measured lower on tests of cognitive function than those who experienced less racism. Other studies have shown everyday stress increases dementia risk.

Eliminating the disparities in dementia and other health risks will require tackling structural racism on a societal level, Jackson said. It also means creating communities that promote healthier living through greater access to economic stability, healthy

foods, opportunities for physical activity and better social support for families and caregivers. But research shows there also are steps individuals can take to improve brain health: stop smoking, eat a healthier diet, stay active, lose weight and maintain good blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar levels.

"These are steps people should take long before they reach their senior years," Resendez said. "We need to target people in their 30s and 40s. Their actions today affect their brain health 20 years from now."

## At least 200 dead in bandit attacks in northwest Nigeria

AlJazeera - An estimated 200 people were killed and 10,000 displaced in attacks by armed bandits in the northwestern Nigerian state of Zamfara following military air raids on their hideouts last week.

A spokesperson for Sadiya Umar Farouq, minister of humanitarian affairs, said more than 200 bodies were buried.

"We are very saddened by this incessant invasion ... and we also worried about the displaced persons who are fleeing in their hundreds from their communities," Nneka Ikem Anibeze said on Sunday.

Farouq called the past week's attacks in Zamfara state "horrific and tragic," giving the first official toll after details began filtering out early Saturday.



*Gunmen have preyed on residents in the northwestern Nigerian state of Zamfara over the past week [AFP]*

The minister said more than 10,000 people were displaced when "their homes were razed by the bandits while scores are still missing".

The state government had previously said 58 people were killed in the attacks.

Locals returned to their villages on Saturday to organise mass burials.

The military conducted air attacks

on Monday on targets in the Gusami forest and west Tsamre village in Zamfara, killing more than 100 bandits including two of their leaders.

More than 300 gunmen on motorcycles stormed eight villages in the Anka local area in Zamfara on Tuesday and started shooting sporadically, killing at least 30 people.

Attackers also rampaged through 10 villages in Anka and Bukkuyum districts on Wednesday through Thursday, firing at residents and looting and burning homes.

Babandi Hamidu, a resident of Kurfa Danya village, said the assailants were shooting "anyone on sight".

"The search for more bodies is ongoing because many people are unaccounted for," Hamidu told AFP news agency.

## At least seven dead after Brazil cliff collapses on boats

BBC - At least seven people have been killed after part of a cliff collapsed onto leisure boats on a Brazilian lake.

Another three are missing and 32 injured following the accident in the south-east of the country.

Video circulating online shows the moment the rock detaches from the cliff face as onlookers try to yell warnings to the boats beneath.

At least one of the boats appears to have sunk, while others managed to escape.

The collapse at 11:00 local time (14:00 GMT) fol-

lowed days of rain in Minas Gerais state, which had made the cliffs more susceptible to collapse, local fire officials told reporters.

"That piece will fall out," a woman can be heard saying in a video of the accident. "Get out of there," warns another, before the cliff collapses onto the boats.

Three vessels were hit by falling rock, Lieutenant Pedro Aihara told reporters. Out of the 32 injured, nine people were in hospital.

Divers and helicopters are searching the water for any more survivors.

Twenty people were ini-



*Rescue teams are searching for survivors*

tially reported missing, but Lt Aihara said most were accounted for after checking hospital lists.

Alessandra Barbosa told news outlet EPTV that she is seeking news of her uncles, who were spending the weekend at the site and decided to take a boat tour of

the cliff.

"I called local hospitals. So far I haven't had any information about them. We are distressed, very concerned," she said.

"We get nervous because we have no information and it's family, right? Family is everything to us."



## Major fire in Bronx apartment building leaves 19 people dead, including 9 children, officials say

CNN - A major fire in a residential apartment building in the Bronx in New York City on Sunday left 19 people dead, Mayor Eric Adams told CNN. Nine of them are children, a city official with direct knowledge told CNN.

The blaze sent 32 people to hospitals with life-threatening conditions, FDNY Commissioner Daniel Nigro said earlier Sunday. A total of 63 people were injured.

It remains unclear what started the fire, but it is not believed to be suspicious, Nigro said.

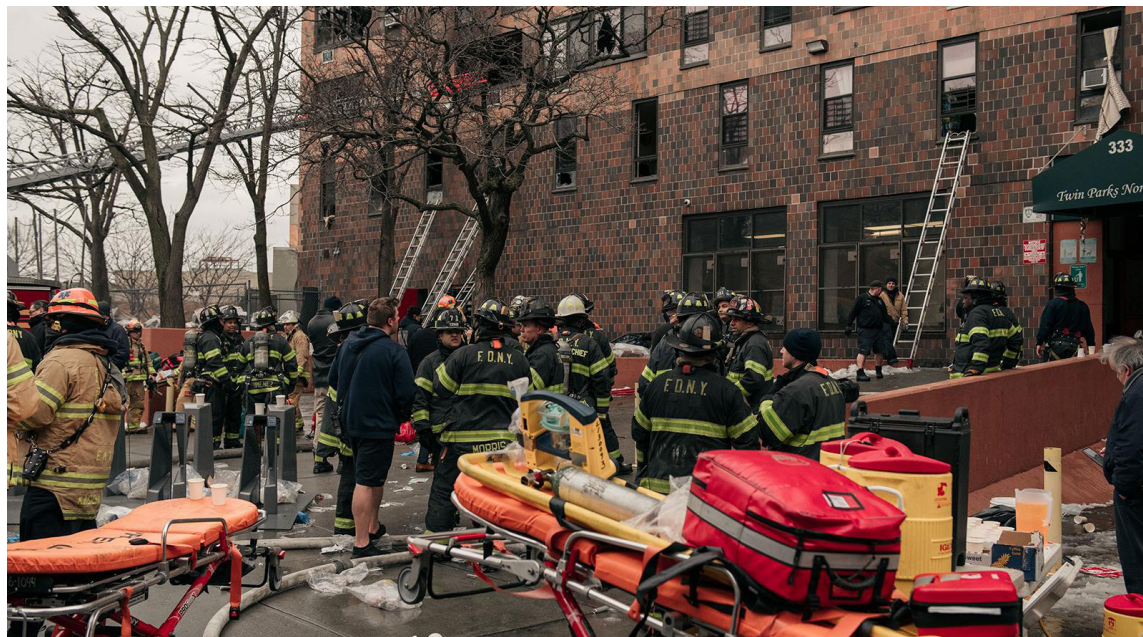
"This is a horrific, horrific, painful moment for the city of New York, and the impact of this fire is going to really bring a level of just pain and despair in our city," Adams said.

About 200 members of the New York City Fire Department were on scene of the fire at a 19-story apartment building at 333 East 181st Street.

The fire began a little before 11 a.m. in a duplex apartment on the 2nd and 3rd floors of the building and has been "knocked down," the FDNY said.

The door to the apartment was left open, and smoke then spread to every floor of the building, he said.

Firefighters were met



by "very heavy smoke, very heavy fire" in the hallways.

Victims were found in stairways on every floor of the building, many in cardiac arrest, in what Nigro said could be an unprecedented loss of life. The injuries were predominantly from smoke inhalation, he said.

The FDNY posted several images of the scene showing ladders extending into apartment windows as well as a number of broken windows.

"This is going to be one of the worst fires that we have witnessed during modern times here in the city of New York," Adams said.

"I am horrified by the devastating fire in the Bronx today," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said on Twitter. "My heart is with the loved ones of all those

we've tragically lost, all of those impacted and with our heroic FDNY firefighters. The entire State of New York stands with New York City."

## Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle Solution

### IN THE TRENCHES

By Jerry Berns

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# Colin James to produce magazine in honour of Ambassador King Frank-I

By Elwin Francis

Commissioner of Sports and media practitioner, Colin “Tin Tin” James, will soon unveil a project intended to honour the life of the late Antiguan and Barbudan Ambassador to Ethiopia and Rastafarian Elder Franklin “King Frank-I” Francis.

The nation of Antigua and Barbuda bid farewell to Francis, who was also a veteran sports journalist and broadcaster, in an official funeral at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium last Friday.

James, who is also an experienced sports journalist, said he will recognise the work of his friend and former media colleague in the form of a magazine that will be released during the first Test match between the West Indies and England at the Sir Vivian Richards Cricket Stadium scheduled for March 8th through 12th.

James said he decided to produce the magazine as a tribute intended to highlight King Frank-I’s significant contributions to journalism over his 40 year career.

“I am in the process of producing a magazine for the Test match in March and a chunk of that magazine will be devoted to the life and times of King Frank-I,” said James in a guest appearance on Pointe FM’s Sports Overflow programme last Friday.

“On the morning of his



*Antigua and Barbuda's late Ambassador to Ethiopia and Rastafarian Elder Franklin 'King Frank-I' Francis. (Photo courtesy Office of the Prime Minister)*

death, I began to write an article and I got so much enthused into what I was writing that I had to tell myself, look, rather than just making this a spur of the moment tribute, let me go and do a proper research and documentation on my association with the King; let me go and do some proper research and documentation on his life; and let me make sure that whatever I am putting out there, is also supported by photos that I would have taken of the King and have never been seen before in any publication.

“I have been going through my archives over the last two weeks and, I tell you, there is so much information about the King.

“If you would have listened to the tributes that were paid at the funeral, there is so much about the life of King Frank-I that I don’t think that I would

have done justice with, maybe, penning 500 words on a Facebook post in honour of the King.

“So I am really going to try to back myself [so] that I may be able to come forward with a proper tribute.”

James shared many experiences with King Frank-I as they often worked together during a wide range of sporting events in Antigua and Barbuda, especially in the coverage of national, regional and international cricket and football.

He said King Frank-I also impacted the lives of many other journalists across the entire Eastern Caribbean.

“It is not only for me, because King Frank-I had so many positive effects on other journalist colleagues across the Caribbean. You speak of journalists such as Keith Holder in Barbados, the late ‘Ras B’ down in Anguilla might not be

around, but you can go to any Leeward Island and any Windward Island and many journalists in these islands can tell you of their great working experiences with King Frank-I,” James said.

King Frank-I had one of the most recognisable voices on many topics, ranging from sports to politics.

The Rastafarian Elder of the Nyabinghi Theocracy Order was also a sportscaster on ZDK Radio, producing and hosting the radio station’s flagship “Sport-sline” programme for more than three decades.

He was appointed Antigua and Barbuda’s Ambassador to Ethiopia by the ruling Gaston Browne-led Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Government in 2014.

During his tenure, Ambassador Francis created history in Washington DC on May 14, 2018, when he became the first Rastafarian to address the Organization of American States’ (OAS) Permanent Council.

King Frank-I also led efforts in Antigua and Barbuda in the fight for the decriminalisation and legalisation of cannabis.

The ambassador also lobbied for the legalisation of medicinal cannabis in Antigua and Barbuda.

Ambassador Franklin “King Frank-I” Francis passed away on December 6th 2021 at the age of 72.



## England clings on to draw Fourth Ashes Test

SYDNEY (AP) - England's tailenders resisted Australia's bowlers in fading light yesterday to clinch a draw on a dramatic final day of the fourth Ashes Test at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

Jack Leach, Stuart Broad and then Jimmy Anderson batted out the final 10 overs under immense pressure after Pat Cummins and Scott Boland took three quick wickets in the final session before Steve Smith removed Leach with two overs remaining to set up a nervous finale to a gripping Test match.

At stumps, England finished on 270 for nine with Broad unbeaten on eight and Anderson not out on nought to give England their best result of the five-match series that Australia leads 3-0.

"It's a small step forward," said captain Joe Root.

"I think coming into the game I spoke a lot about putting some pride back into English cricket and into the test performance.

"The fight, desire and character shown today and throughout the five days has done that in a small way."

With the final hour approaching, Cummins removed Jos Buttler and Mark Wood in the space of three balls to turn the Test on its head after it was looking increasingly likely that England would earn a draw after their most determined batting effort of the series.

Boland then continued his rapid start to Test cricket by having first-innings centurion Jonny Bairstow caught by Marnus Labuschagne for 41.

It was Boland's 14th wicket in just his second Test after making his Test debut in the third Test at Melbourne



*James Anderson, left, and Stuart Broad saw out the final 12 deliveries as England secure a draw in the Fourth Ashes Test in Sydney yesterday. (Photo courtesy cricinfo)*

where he was named man of the match.

But Broad and Leach saw out the remaining 10 overs despite Australia having all their fielders around the bat in catching positions as the fading light meant Australia had to bowl spinners Nathan Lyon and Steve Smith in the final three overs.

"From the position we found ourselves in at certain points in this game, to be able to sit here having drawn... was going to take a good performance and I'm really proud of the way the guys dug in and managed to do that," Root said.

Earlier in the session, Stokes, no stranger in proving to be an immovable object for Australia after his heroics in the 2019 Ashes series in England, did not appear to let the pain of his left side injury curtail his attacking shots as he crushed ten boundaries and a six as part of his 60 runs, to go with his 66 in the first innings.

Lyon eventually made the vital breakthrough as he caught Stokes in two minds as to whether to play at a ball or leave it. In the end, he did nei-

ther and guided a simple chance to Smith at slip.

It was the ninth time that Lyon has taken Stokes' wicket, including twice in this match.

As the final hour loomed, Cummins (two for 80) made a breakthrough when trapping Buttler lbw for 11.

On-field umpire Paul Reiffel initially rejected the appeal before Cummins referred to the TV umpire, who reversed the decision.

Two balls later Cummins dismissed Wood with a vicious in-swinging delivery that hit the tail-ender on the foot for a much easier lbw decision for Reiffel to confirm.

Boland then had Bairstow caught to expose England's tail, but Leach and Broad and then Anderson found a way to survive despite up to nine fielders in close catching positions.

It was the third time in the past 12 months that Australia's attack has failed to bowl out a team on the final day, having twice squandered winning positions against India last season, and again here at the SCG yesterday.

# CWI appoints Sarwan to senior men and youth selection panels

CWI - Ramnaresh Sarwan has joined men's chief selector Dr Desmond Haynes and head coach Phil Simmons on the senior selection panel of Cricket West Indies (CWI).

Sarwan, a former West Indies captain, has been appointed as a selector to the West Indies men's senior and youth selection panels until 2024.

Sarwan's appointment was confirmed during a Cricket West Indies board

meeting on January 6, 2022. He will serve as a member on both panels until June 2024.

He will step down from his current position with the Guyana Cricket Board's Senior Selection Panel to focus on role with CWI.

The former top-order batter joins batting great Desmond Haynes, the newly-appointed West Indies men's lead selector, and head coach Phil Simmons on the senior panel and



*Ramnaresh Sarwan has been appointed as a selector to the West Indies men's senior and youth selection panels until 2024.*

former leg-spinner Robert Haynes on the panel to handle youth selection. giving me this opportunity to again serve West Indies

"I want to thank CWI

*cont'd on pg 19*

*cont'd from pg 20*

Maginley, a 2011 graduate of the Antigua Grammar School and 2012 graduate of Laurel Springs Online Preparatory School, was able to achieve a career high ATP singles ranking of 1021 on October 21, 2019, which also gave him his best ITF Men's World Tennis Tour singles ranking of 760.

He achieved a career high ATP doubles ranking of 509 on 14th October, 2019, and a career best ITF Men's World Tennis Tour ranking of 101 on 11 November, 2019.

In 2011, Maginley moved to the United States to attend the Bill Adams Tennis Academy in Pembroke Pines, Florida after which he attended the Saddlebrook Tennis Academy in Tampa Bay, Florida.

Prior to his move to the US, Maginley, the son of Giselle and former national, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) and Davis Cup player John Maginley, was a student of the Halcyon Tennis Club, under the tutelage of Coach Cordell Williams.

In 2013, Maginley was successful in gaining a four-year scholarship,

beginning in the Spring semester, as a Norse Freshman at Northern Kentucky University, a National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) division one university in Highland Heights, Kentucky, USA.

Maginley said it was in his final year at Northern Kentucky University in 2017 that he began his quest to play tennis at the professional level.

"My first match on the tour I was in Indian Harbour, Florida. So the way you get into these professional tournaments is firstly it goes by ATP ranking. If you don't have one, it goes by your national ranking. At the time I didn't play nationals because I was in college. I didn't have a national ranking and I didn't think I would get into the tournament, Maginley said.

"I played a warm-up tournament and I ended up winning a wild card to get into the draw. So I played, I think, five matches in three days just to gain entry into the tournament.

"I then won three matches beating two guys with ATP points. I think one of them was like, maybe 800 in the world at the time, so I remember that

being like a huge confidence booster for me, being it was my first tournament and I was already beating some of these guys that have been established on the tour for a few years.

"So it was a good run for me. I think I won three matches, lost one and I only had two days off before the next event and I won a few again.

"After two weeks my body was broken down because I hadn't played that many matches in my life. So it was a big encouragement, I started really well, which helped a lot," he added.

The ITF Men's World Tennis Tour (formerly known as the ITF Men's Circuit) is a series of professional tennis tournaments held around the world that are organised by the International Tennis Federation.

The tour represents the lowest rung of the men's professional tennis ladder. ITF tournaments are incorporated into the ATP Rankings, enabling young professionals to progress on to the ATP Challenger Tour and ultimately the full ATP Tour. Nearly every professional player has spent some time on the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour.



## Windies secure 24-run win over Ireland in first ODI

A 155-run stand between Shamarh Brooks and Kieron Pollard helped the West Indies to a 24-run victory over Ireland in the first One-Day International at Sabina Park on Saturday.

The hosts were struggling on 62 for four before Brooks (93) and skipper Pollard (69) put on a decisive partnership.

West Indies were dismissed for 269 and Ireland were well set on 165 for one before the fall of Andrew Balbirnie (71) triggered a collapse.

Romario Shepherd took 3-50 as the tourists were bowled out for 245.

Ireland were already missing key batsman Paul Stirling and Shane Getkate

because of Covid-19 before Simi Singh and Ben White were ruled out on Saturday morning after testing positive - the pair are awaiting results of PCR tests.

The Irish elected to field in the World Cup Super League game and it looked like a good decision before Brooks and Pollard brought the Windies to 217 for four.

The final six wickets fell relatively cheaply and the Irish were very much still in the game.

Mark Adair (three for 38) and Craig Young (three for 56) were the best of the Irish attack and they gave their side a decent chance of repeating the famous victory over the West In-

dies at the 2015 World Cup.

William Porterfield fell for a duck before Andy McBirne (39) retired hurt after being hit on the helmet with the score on 62 for one, but it was only a temporary setback as Harry Tector (53) impressed at number four.

Balbirne and Tector flourished as they added 103 runs but Ireland slumped from 165-1 to 194 for six to put the hosts in control.

Mark Adair smashed an unbeaten 21 from just nine balls but Ireland finished 24 runs shy with five balls remaining.

"I thought the fielding effort was good, but I thought we could have



West Indies batsman Shamarh Brooks. (cricinfo)

bowled a bit better up the top and made them play on the front foot a bit more, just for that bit of nip there was early on," said Balbirnie.

"In the chase, when myself and Harry got out it turned the tide of the match. That was disappointing for both me and Harry - we talk about guys winning matches for Ireland and it was one of those opportunities for one of us to do that.

"We set up a run chase that is pretty much our blueprint, so not to get over the line is hard to take at the moment, but we've got two more games to put it right."

The teams meet again in the second ODI tomorrow with the final match of the Sabina Park series three days later.

### cont'd from pg 18

cricket, as a member of the selection panels. I'm passionate about the game of cricket and especially West Indies cricket and once asked to contribute, I didn't hesitate," Sarwan said.

"I look forward to working with my colleagues, The Most Hon. Dr Desmond Haynes and Mr Robert Haynes, and the two Head Coaches, as well as everyone else involved in the development of this sport we love and respect so much," he added.

During his two-and-a-half-year tenure, Sarwan will select the squads for four marquee ICC events including, two T20 World Cups (2022 and 2024), an ODI World Cup (2023) and the World Test Championship Final (2023).

The former skipper, who played 87 Tests and 181 One-Day Internationals between 2000 and 2013, will be stepping down from

his current role as the chairman of the Guyana Cricket Board's senior selection panel to focus on his new job and avoid conflict of interest.

CWI president Ricky Skerritt said: "I am delighted to confirm that Ramnaresh Sarwan has agreed to accept the post of selector on CWI's Men's Senior and Youth Panels.

"He is a student of the game, and knows what is required of our young cricketers in order to achieve international success.

"The board of directors are confident that Mr. Sarwan will add enormous value to the cricket system."

Sarwan scored 5,842 runs in Tests, including 15 centuries and 5,804 runs in ODIs, including five centuries.

He was a member of the West Indies team which won the ICC Men's Champions Trophy in 2004.

*Photo caption: Antigua and Barbuda's overseas-based professional men's tennis player Jody Maginley. (Photos courtesy Jody Maginley's Facebook)*



## Maginley prepares for new season

**By Elwin Francis**

Antigua and Barbuda's overseas-based professional men's tennis player, Jody Maginley, is preparing to resume his campaign in the second and third tier tournaments in this year's Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Tour.

The ATP Tour, organised by the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), comprises a three-tier system which uses a player's current ranking to determine which level each player is eligible to compete in.

Although, Maginley, 26, is currently the only national tennis athlete with ATP Ranking points, he is only eligible to compete in the second-tier ATP Challenger Tour and the third-tier ITF Men's World Tennis Tour.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as sustaining a back injury which required surgery, Maginley was only able to participate in six tournaments in 2020.

In 2021 his tournament participation fell to three when he competed in Colombia, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

Speaking on Pointe FM's Sports Overflow programme, however, Maginley said he has recovered from his injury and he is now preparing to play a full schedule this year.

"So the way it works is the highest level is the ATP Tour. So that's the grand slams, all of the ATP's 100. The grand slams obviously being the Australian Open, the French Open, Wimbledon and the US Open. And then they have the ATP Tour under that, then below that they have the ATP Challenger Tour and then the Futures Tour," Maginley explained.

"So currently I play mostly futures and a little bit of the ATP Challengers. So I would say I play against guys ranked mostly between 300 in the world all the way down to into the thousands.

"And occasionally I would play challengers and play some of those higher ranked guys. But through COVID-19 - and then last year I had injuries - I really didn't have the opportunities to play that many events.



"So I am healthy now and this year I will be able to play a full schedule. Hopefully, 25 to 30 weeks out there I will be competing and give myself the best shots to get up to the ATP tournaments."

Maginley, who is based in Florida in the United States of America, currently has an ATP men's singles ranking of 1326 and in 1025 in doubles. In the ITF Men's World Tennis Tour he is ranked 967 in singles and 205 in doubles.

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