

PM BROWNE REFUSES TO BACK DOWN *after ABWU demands apology*

Story on Page 3



Before the devastation caused by Lethal Yellowing Disease which first began to take its toll on Antigua and Barbuda in the early 2010s, the breathtaking Morris Bay, located in Old Road, was famous for its expansive, white sand beach and stunning shoreline which was covered by a lush, green coconut grove. (Photo credit: Look/robertharding) **Story on Page 6.**

ABWU fires back at PM Browne over Sir George National Hero remarks

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union (ABWU) held a press conference on Tuesday to respond to comments made earlier this week by Prime Minister Gaston Browne concerning the decision of the former United Progressive Party administration to induct Sir George Water to the prestigious ranks of Antigua and Barbuda's National Heroes.

In a prepared statement read by ABWU General Secretary David Massiah, the organisation called Prime Minister Browne's comments an "unfortunate and disgraceful attempt to denigrate" Sir George's "epic" contributions to Antigua and Barbuda.

Prime Minister Browne accused the UPP government of being envious of the achievements and elevation of men and women who hail from within the ranks of the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party who have given outstanding service to their country and have been recognised for their sacrifices.

In an appearance on

Pointe FM, Browne continued that Sir George was undeserving of the honour of National Hero as his legacy is one of advancement as a result of nepotistic advantage, betrayal and scandal.

Today, however, Massiah accused the prime minister of corrupting history as, contrary to his accusations, Sir George's career was "characterised by struggle and major accomplishments, particularly after he was unanimously elected to the position of General Secretary [of the Antigua Trades and Labour Union (AT&LU)] on January 3, 1960."

Following a falling out with then President of the AT&LU, Sir Vere Bird Sr. which led to his dismissal from the union in 1967, Sir George was instrumental in the formation of the ABWU.

Three years later in 1970 Sir George became leader of the Progressive



Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union General Secretary, David Massiah

Labour Movement (PLM) and then, a mere twelve months hence, ousted the Antigua Labour Party, led by Sir Vere, to become Antigua and Barbuda's second premier.

As fate would have it, he would only serve one term before his party was removed by the electorate making way for decades of unbroken government by the ABLP until their removal in 2004.

Making his case why Sir George ought not have been made a National hero, PM Browne referenced his

incarceration after being ousted from government on charges of what he claimed were "public mischief".

General Secretary Massiah, however, rebuffed this as more of the prime minister's "delusional revision of historical facts".

"Prime Minister Browne's reference to Sir George Walter's incarceration failed to note that the judicial body exonerated him from all the charges, and in fact, concluded that they were the result of a politically motivated witch hunt aimed at destroying his character," Massiah retorted. He continued, "We at the Antigua and Barbuda Workers' Union again denounce and condemn the unwarranted and vulgar attack on Antigua and Barbuda National Hero, Sir George H. Walter, by Prime Minister Gaston Browne."

"We call for an immediate apology and retraction of the vulgar comments made."

Wed 12 | Day

79°



40%

E 13 mph

Partly cloudy in the morning. Increasing clouds with periods of showers later in the day. High 79F. Winds E at 10 to 15 mph. Chance of rain 40%.

Humidity
73%

UV Index
8 of 10

Sunrise
6:39 am

Sunset
5:52 pm

Wed 12 | Night

73°



33%

ESE 8 mph

A shower or two possible early with partly cloudy skies later at night. Low 73F. Winds ESE at 5 to 10 mph. Chance of rain 30%.

Humidity
78%

UV Index
0 of 10

Moonrise
1:48 pm

Moonset
2:11 am

Waxing Gibbous

PM Browne claps back at ABWU: “Shoot the messenger, but the facts remain!”

On Tuesday afternoon the Antigua and Barbuda Workers’ union responded to comments made this week by Prime Minister Gaston Browne who was critical of the United Progressive Party (UPP) administration’s decision to bestow the honour of National Hero on the nation’s second premier, Sir George Walter.

During the press conference, ABWU General Secretary David Massiah demanded an apology from Prime Minister Browne who the union described in a not so thinly veiled jab as “unreasonable and reprobate.”

The prime minister’s remarks were in response to the views expressed by UPP Chairperson, D. Giselle Isaac, in an Observer Newspaper article on Monday in which she was critical of his administration’s decision to rename a number of landmark buildings for prominent national figures who happen to be aligned with the ruling Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party (ABLP).

These include the former Mount St. John’s Medical Centre which was renamed the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre after the passing of the country’s former prime minister, Sir Lester Bird, in 2021.

Late on Tuesday night following the ABWU’s press conference, which also saw an appearance



Prime Minister Gaston Browne

by former prime minister, Baldwin Spencer, under whose watch Sir George was elevated to the status of National Hero, the ABLP leader issued a response to the union’s demand for “an immediate apology and retraction of the vulgar comments made”.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne’s response to the ABWU is printed below in full.

“My statement was made in response to an article in the Observer, penned by D.Gisele Isaac, dated January 4, 2022, in which she challenged the naming of certain buildings to celebrate the contributions of Sir, Lester, Sir Novelle Richards and Sir John St Luce.

She conceitedly argued that they were not deserving. In response, I reminded her and others how they lowered the bar to national hero for Sir George.

I stand by my statement and my opinion; that Sir George’s one term as premier, his brief stint as GS of the AT&LU and his unfortunate incarceration for misbehaviour in public office, involving the steel frame; does not rise to the level of National Hero.

His greatest fleeting success was his utilisation of the office of GS in the AT&LU to undermine Sir Vere to achieve power.

This is a statement I made when the UPP made him a national hero and several years later, I am still of

the same opinion.

In addition, the assertion that most of our secondary schools were established during his tenure as premier, is a monumental fabrication.

Ottos Comprehensive was constructed under the PLM tenure and Pares Secondary which started under Labour was completed during the PLM years.

The period Sir George served as premier was one of the most difficult periods of economic hardship experienced by Antiguan & Barbudans.

Those who are of different view should post the biography of Sir George with his contributions (no fabrications please).

Educate us on his representation, the causes he championed, the speeches he made, the initiatives to empower our people.

I was told that Alister said that George use to “knock down” disrespectful employers. That sounds like a celebration of violence.

Conferring National Hero status, should be based primarily on contributions and not on political affiliation.

An objective, non-partisan review of Sir George’s limited contribution would support my opinion.

I stand by my opinion.

You can shoot the messenger, but the facts remain.”

Insidious COVID-19 infiltrates Cabinet yet again

It has been confirmed that another government minister and the Cabinet Secretary have contracted COVID-19.

The name of the minister has not been revealed.

When contacted, Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister, Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst provided confirmation of this information in a brief statement.

The minister will now be required to quarantine at least for the next 14 days, until multiple tests have returned negative results.

Relatives and other persons they may have inter-



acted with closely will also be required to quarantine as per standard COVID-19 protocols.

This now brings to two, the number of Cabinet Ministers who have tested positive for the virus.

Last week, Attorney General Steadroy Benjamin revealed he, and ten members of his family, test-

ed positive for COVID-19 following Christmas dinner which they shared together.

Minister Benjamin, who self quarantined following his diagnosis, said yesterday, "We are fine thanks. We are all negative".

Having suffered no complications, Benjamin believes being fully vac-

inated and receiving a COVID-19 vaccine booster shot served as protective barriers for him against the most severe effects of the virus.

This latest development means today's meeting of the Cabinet, the first for 2022, will be convened via Zoom.

In recent times, the meetings have been held both in person and virtually, but with the recent spike in cases and two vaccinated members of the decision making body contracting the virus, future meetings are likely to be held exclusively online.

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ATB
A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Sir Clare calls for the judiciary to embrace technology

Veteran Antiguan lawyer Sir Clare Roberts is appealing for the use of technology throughout the court system in the Eastern Caribbean.

The Queen's Counsel's call comes as the higher courts have put mechanisms in place to continue operating remotely, after the COVID-19 pandemic forced changes in the way business is conducted.

Addressing the virtual special sitting of the opening of the new law year, 2022 yesterday, Sir Clare said the Magistrates' Courts should be included in what has been achieved technologically in



Dame Janice Pereira

the High and Appeals Courts.

"A reimagined judicial system is one that is technologically driven. Every effort must be made to bring the same technology at work in the High Court and the Court of Appeal to the Magistrate Courts in the OECS," Sir Clare told the gathering of legal minds.

"This reimagined, technology driven system must be complemented with personnel with updated skills, with lawyers who are aware that in this new dispensation, the law is not to be in the volumes on the shelves in our conference rooms and law libraries, but in LexisNexis, Westlaw, Justice, Carilaw and the other search engines."

The former Attorney General, appearing at the opening ceremony as a representative of the Inner Bar and Antigua and Barbuda, credited Chief Justice of the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court, Dame Janice Pereira,



Sir Clare Roberts

for taking the initiative to forge ahead with advanced technology within the judicial system, adding that her idea was already in motion at the start of the pandemic.

"Truth to tell, our Chief Justice had already embarked on this road of technology to lessen delay and increase competence, but the pandemic

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WestJet to bridge gap in Canadian market

The Canadian market remains open to Antigua and Barbuda despite Air Canada's service suspension to the destination.

Last week, the Canadian flag carrier announced that a surge in COVID-19 infections forced the decision to suspend all Air Canada flights to the region, from 24th January to 30th April, 2022.

While the decision will negatively impact the local tourism industry, all is not lost, since WestJet continues to serve the destination with weekend flights.

CEO of Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James, says so far, WestJet has not indicated they intend to pull their service, so there continues to be connectivity to mainland Canada. He remains hopeful there will be improvements in the fight against the pandemic and that by then Air Canada will revisit its decision.

"We are disappointed, but we remain hopeful. The numbers from Canada were coming back very strongly, but



we foresee that as things settle we will be able to make up the ground and continue the growth we are seeing," James said.

He reiterated Canada remains an important market for tourism stakeholders in Antigua and Barbuda and the Tourism Authority continues to ensure the destination receives maximum promotion there.

A large group of 150 Canadians was expected to begin arriving in St. John's from yesterday for a five-day meeting that will be held at Royalton Antigua. Mr. James views it as "big business" for the country, similar to what they were able to generate in the first two months after the market reopened.

"We are still hopeful. We are doing a lot of work on the ground and we look



Colin James

forward to that decision being reversed in quick time and we resume the growth we saw returning to the island," the CEO added.

While acknowledging there are concerns surrounding the recent rise in COVID-19 cases, and the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, James remains optimistic and is relying on the fact that some people are determined to take vacations as a means of relieving themselves from the stresses of the pandemic.

Additionally, he believes the country's vaccination rate is giving tourists confidence that they are heading to a safe location.

Coconut rehabilitation programme begins

The Ministry of Agriculture's Forestry Unit has commenced a coconut tree rehabilitation programme intended to help replenish the palm stock which was devastated by the Lethal Yellowing Disease.

Antigua and Barbuda, along with many neighbouring countries, suffered an attack of the aggressive Lethal Yellowing Disease which targets and devastates many species of palms, including some commercially important species such as the coconut and date palm.

In the Caribbean it is spread by the *Haploxybus crudus*, an insect which is native to Florida and parts



of the Caribbean.

The coconut tree rehabilitation project forms part of the Forestry Unit's 2022 Urban Forestry Work Programme.

According to Senior Forestry Officer, Adriel Thibou, the initiative will target forty-one sites for replantation of coconut palms.

Last week, the unit began their work at the Jabberwock Beach by pruning trees and shrubs and cutting back the undergrowth to make it a more pleasant environment for beach goers.

This beautification exercise also serves another purpose as it will result in better visibility in the area,

thus reducing the opportunity for felonious individuals to seek refuge in the area's overgrowth.

When the clearing work has been completed, a total of twenty coconut palms will be planted to enhance the beach's flora.

The exercise will be carried out mindful of the fact that the Jabberwock Beach is a nesting place for sea turtles.

This means that a number of shrubs and bushes will be pruned, but will otherwise remain intact, to ensure that turtles do not wander off from their nesting areas and run the risk of becoming disoriented or lost inland.

New recruits begin training at Police Training Academy

A group of fifty men and women have begun the required training to become police officers.

Upon the successful completion of a six month basic police training course, the members of Course #48 will join the ranks of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda (RPFAB).

Their training got under way on Monday at the Sir Wright F. George Police Training Academy in Cedar Grove.

The announcement was made earlier this week by Commissioner of Police, Atlee Rodney.

That new officers will soon be available to supplement the force of more than 800 is welcome news, as this is the first cohort to commence training since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.. The last course began in June and ended in December 2019.



Course #48 began basic police training at the Sir Wright F. George Police Training Academy on Monday

About 600 men and women serve as police officers while approximately 200 are assigned to the fire services.

Late last year, minister with responsibility for police, Steadroy Benjamin said the coming cohort of recruits would be critical to boosting the manpower of the RPFAB which will in turn aid in increasing the presence of the police around the country.

"The police have put in place a programme which will ensure that there is more police visibility on the streets of St. John's, its environs and in the districts.

"Not only will you feel the police, not only will you see the police, but when you commit crime they will come and get you!" said Minister Benjamin.

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
- 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

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

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

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Local News

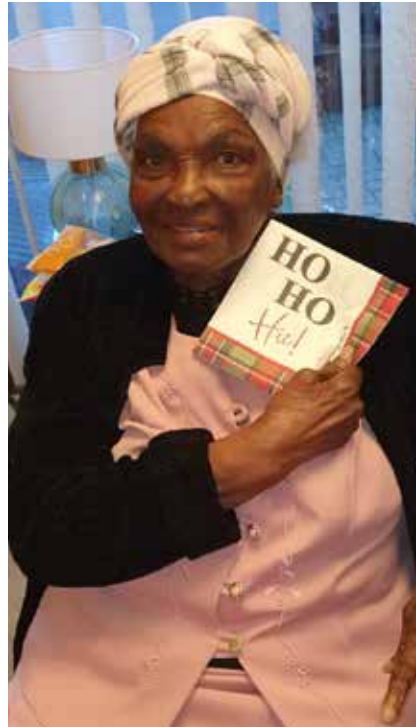
100 not out! Happy birthday Verna Frederick!

Verna Celestina Frederick was born on 12th January 1922 to parents Princess Amelia Richards and Charles (Charlie) Frederick, in Greenhill, Liberta.

Verna is the second eldest of eight siblings and is blessed to still have with her her eldest sister, Veda Evanegline Joseph, who also resides in Greenhill.

Verna, a mother of seven, is a God fearing woman who regularly attends church. She starts and ends her day with prayers, scriptures and hymns and can often be heard singing her favourite choruses throughout the day.

Happy birthday from all of us here at Pointeville Communications Mrs. Frederick!



Verna Celestina Frederick

cont'd from pg 5

ic hastened the process and provided justification for the necessity of it.

"I imagine that the judicial system will continue on its technological path and the urge to go back to paper will be resisted," the veteran attorney said.

Highlighting the importance of Magistrates' Courts in the judicial system, Chief Justice Pereira, in her address at the opening of the 2022 law year, urged member states and territories to make preparations for the conduct of remote hearings at the magisterial level.

"Efforts are ongoing to expand the portal [E-litigation] to accommodate matters filed in the Magistrates' Court during the second phase of implementation. To this end, rules are being drafted for e-filing and e-serving of complaints at the Magistrates' Court level and to otherwise guide the use of the portal in a manner best suited to the summary nature of the magistracy."

While Grenada and Anguilla will have to introduce legislation for this to become a reality, other territories are being told to acquire video conferencing equipment and the like to retrofit their courtrooms.

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Let's bring the Caribbean struggle for reparations to Britain

By Mohammed Elnaiem

Britain has heard the call for reparations and ignored it for decades.

When the case for reparations is made, we are told to “move on” as then-British Prime Minister David Cameron put it to Jamaican politicians four years ago. When statues of imperialists and slaveowners come down, we are told that we are “trying to bowdlerise or edit our history” as Boris Johnson said.

In other words, the conservatives insist we “move on” when the conversation of colonialism or slavery comes up, and when the statues that memorialise them come down, we are condemned for trying to “move on” from history. They cannot seem to make up their mind, but that should not be an obstacle to self-determination in its former (and some current) colonies. And that is what the case for reparations is about: self-determination.

On July 6th 2020, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) – an organisation of 15 countries in the Caribbean – renewed its calls for reparations, emphasising their importance for the second stage of independence in the Caribbean.

“We were not given a development compact,” Prime Minister Mia Mottley of Barbados argued, “we were given political independence.” According to her, the Caribbean has made great strides to reverse legal inequalities. But only reparations could help overcome the psychological,

sociological, and economical inequalities that exist within Caribbean countries and between them and their former colonisers.

Here in Europe, progressives should understand that this is a call to action.

In his reflections on his friendship with Pan-Africanist George Padmore, the late Trinidadian scholar CLR James recalled that roughly 10 of his friends, mostly West Indian, were the ones that were agitating for the independence of Africa. They reared, trained and prepared young Africans to take the reign of government. They were all based in London, including several people who would become the first heads of states in their own independent countries.

“Most of the people,” he recalled, “looked upon us as well-meaning but politically illiterate West Indians.” The conversation for independence had not yet become mainstream, and some even said it would not happen for another 100 or so years. That was in 1935, only 20 years before the process would begin. Now there are two reasons why this history is instructive. First, because the case for reparations, inspired by the works of thinkers like CLR James, Eric Williams, and Walter Rodney, is itself rooted in radical West Indian tradition that led to the agitation of African and Caribbean independence, and is indeed a continuation of that struggle.

Second, because that leg-

acy of bringing the fight to London implied that the struggle could not be waged in the Caribbean and Africa alone. If the Caribbean right now is advancing the cause for reparations, then we need to bring that frame of thought and action back. People of African descent everywhere have to see this struggle through. There has never been a more opportune moment than the present, when we are fighting for the cause of Black lives.

At the University of Cambridge, there is a continuing inquiry into the legacies of slavery set to finish in 2022. In the best-case scenario, if all of the constitutive colleges get their act together and stop pedalling the simplistic lie that their only contribution to the slave trade was to train abolitionists, then the inquiry will follow the lead made by Glasgow University.

In 2019, Glasgow University publicly acknowledged its links to slavery and promised to raise and spend \$26m in a “reparative justice programme”, which would include the establishment of a research centre to be shared with the University of the West Indies (UWI). UWI's Vice Chancellor Hilary Beckles praised them for taking the bold step of saying “we are not going to research and run, we are going to research, and then we are going to stand up and repair”.

Students, staff and faculty at Cambridge should do what they can to ensure the inquiry does not entail the “research and run” approach and that it



Mohammed Elnaiem is a PhD student at the University of Cambridge.

should, in fact, move in the direction of Glasgow. But educational partnerships, and other forms of aid, cannot be rebranded as reparations either. That is just a PR exercise. We are at risk here of stripping that word of its meaning. Cambridge ought to deal with Beckles – not in his capacity as UWI vice chancellor but as the chairman of the CARICOM reparations commission. The student governments of each Cambridge college ought to demand that the inquiries in their colleges come with a promise of reparations and that those reparations be provided directly to the CARICOM Reparations Commission.

Now, this admittedly would require a shift in perspective among many students. The biography of Eric Williams, the first prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago, and the man whom Beckles credits with developing the case for reparations, is replete with his experiences of facing racism as a student in Britain. But like many of his peers, he focused less on making the university a hospitable space for Black students and prioritised self-determination in the British colonies.

The two, are of course, not mutually exclusive. Imag-

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Guantanamo 20 years on: A legacy of 'injustice' and 'abuse'

Advocates reflect on the 'disturbing legacy' of the detention facility and urge US president Joe Biden to take action and close it down.

On the 20th anniversary of Guantanamo Bay, advocates say the US military detention facility represents two decades of injustice – and must be shut down.

Established at an American military base in Cuba in 2002 by the administration of President George W Bush, the prison was meant to deprive detainees from the post-9/11 "war on terror" of the constitutional rights they would enjoy on US soil.

Its location – in an American-owned enclave of the Caribbean island – muddled the waters on the applicability of international law and rules of war on the treatment of prisoners.

And over the years, the prison earned a reputation as a place of abuse and injustice outside the rule of law.

US President Joe Biden has promised to close the facility, but reports on the construction of a new, secret courtroom at Guantanamo have exacerbated concerns that the administration may not be serious



A view of Guantanamo Naval Base from the air. (Credit: US Navy)

about shutting it down. There has been only one transfer out of the prison over the past year.

The facility that once housed nearly 800 detainees now holds 39 prisoners, with 13 already cleared for transfer. Most have been held without formal charges.

Here, Al Jazeera speaks with human and civil rights advocates on the legacy of Guantanamo:

Mansoor Adayfi, former inmate: '20 years of injustice, torture, abuse'

Mansoor Adayfi is speaking from personal experience when he says Guantanamo represents "20 years of injustice, torture, abuse, lawlessness and oppression".

Adayfi spent more than 14 years at the prison, where he says he endured torture, humiliation and abuse. A Yemeni native, Adayfi was conducting research in Afghanistan when – at the age of 18 – he was kidnapped by Afghan fighters and handed to the CIA on allegations that he was a much older recruiter for al-Qaeda.

Adayfi maintained his innocence throughout the ordeal, which he describes as dehumanising, and was released in 2016 to Serbia, where he continues to advocate for closing down Guantanamo and ensuring justice for the detainees.

"Guantanamo is one of the biggest human rights violations of the 21st century," Adayfi, who last year released a memoir titled *Don't Forget Us Here: Lost and Found at Guantanamo*, told Al Jazeera in a phone interview. "And also it is [abusive] to the American justice system, to the American people. Guantanamo hasn't achieved any justice for anyone – not for the 9/11 victims, not for Americans, not for the detainees."

For his own experience with torture and wrongful detention, Adayfi said the path

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ine if university students in Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow, which Williams identified as the three cities that provided the link between early industrial capitalism and slavery, stood with the CARICOM reparations commission. What a force would that be?

Today, Black and minority ethnic (BME) politics cannot be merely about making sure

we get more scholarships and hires for Black people in universities in Britain. This is important, but should not be our only goal. As the Caribbean announces its fight for its own Marshall Plan, we ought to return to an older pro-independence legacy here as well: In our universities, in our neighbourhoods and parliament, we should agitate in solidarity with the struggle for reparations.

cont'd from pg 10

to justice would begin with closing Guantanamo and ending the secrecy around abuses and legal proceedings that took place there.

"Justice means reparation, means acknowledgement, means apologising," he said.

Hina Shamsi, ACLU: Guantanamo a 'symbol of American injustice'

Hina Shamsi, director of the National Security Project at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and a prominent critic of the civil rights violations that accompanied the "war on terror", called the Guantanamo Bay prison a "legal, moral and ethical failure".

"It is a global symbol of American injustice, torture and disregard for the rule of law," Shamsi told Al Jazeera via email, adding that Biden must be held accountable to his campaign promise to close down Guantanamo.

"Prisoners who are indefinitely detained without charge must be transferred, starting with those who have been cleared for transfer for years. The Biden administration needs to resolve the broken and unconstitutional military commissions by pursuing plea agreements that would account

for defendants' torture by our government while providing a measure of transparency and justice, as 9/11 family members have urged," she said.

"If President Biden is serious about upholding human rights, racial equity, and justice, he needs to take action by finally closing Guantanamo."

Daphne Eviatar, Amnesty International USA: Guantanamo's legacy is 'Islamophobia and impunity for torture'

Daphne Eviatar, director of the Security with Human Rights Program at Amnesty International USA, said the fact that Guantanamo has been open for 20 years is "itself a very disturbing legacy".

"Until the United States is willing to shut the prison down, transfer detainees to places where their human rights will be respected, and acknowledge and provide reparations for the abuses that happened at Guantanamo, the legacy of the US prison at Guantanamo Bay will continue to be one of flagrant human rights abuses, racism and Islamophobia and impunity for torture," Eviatar told Al Jazeera in an email.

Eviatar said the way forward to shut down the prison is "clear" and "not particularly difficult" – freeing detain-



'It is a global symbol of American injustice, torture and disregard for the rule of law,' the ACLU's Hina Shamsi says of Guantanamo Bay prison

ees cleared for release, trying those charged with "internationally cognizable crimes" in regularly-constituted US federal courts, and transferring inmates who have not been charged to other countries where they would not face rights abuses.

"President Biden has no excuse for not taking that path," she said.

Yumna Rizvi, Center for Victims of Torture: 'Hypocrisy and arrogance'

Yumna Rizvi, policy analyst at the Center for Victims of Torture, an advocacy group for torture survivors, including Guantanamo detainees, said the prison's legacy is "dark and haunting".

"Many of the Muslim men detained behind its bars have been subjected to unspeakable human rights violations by the United States and have suffered irreparable damage," Rizvi told Al Jazeera in an email.

"Guantanamo highlights the hypocrisy and arrogance of the U.S, which has deliberately turned its back on the rule of law, creating a faux legal system where impunity, injustice, and disregard for human rights reign."

Robert McCaw, CAIR: A prison designed to deny Muslim suspects their rights

Robert McCaw, government affairs director at the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), a civil rights group, said the prison highlights the anti-Muslim bias of US government policies in the post-9/11 era.

"The highest security prison that the United States government maintains is in Guantanamo. And it's designed to only house Muslim men that are being held without charge on the suspicion of supporting terrorism," McCaw told Al Jazeera.

"The psychological impact of having such a prison designed to detain Muslim men indefinitely and deny them their rights shows the status of Muslims in the US legal system, and how far the government is willing to go to treat Muslims in US custody," McCaw said.

"And so, as long as this prison remains, it's not only a stain on our nation's human rights record but a testimony to the different treatment that Muslim suspects have in the US judicial system." (AlJazeera)



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

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

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

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Haiti Presidential Assassination Suspect Reportedly Visited PM Ariel Henry's Home

Daily Telegraph - The prime minister of Haiti reportedly maintained contact with a key suspect after the assassination of the country's president.

Ariel Henry was connected to former justice official Joseph Felix Badio, who is suspected of involvement in organising the attack that killed President Jovenel Moise on July 7, the New York Times reported.

Mr Badio visited Mr Henry's official residence twice, at night, about four months later while he was being sought by police, two Haitian officials told the newspaper.

Phone records also showed Mr Henry and Mr Badio spent seven minutes talking in two phone calls the day after the assassination, the newspaper reported.

A spokesman for the prime minister told the newspaper he did not speak to Mr Badio following the assassination. The spokesman said the prime minister had no relationship with Mr Badio.

A suspect in the investigation Rodolphe Jaar, a Haitian businessman, told the New York Times that Mr Badio had described Mr Henry, 72, as his "good friend" who he had "full control



Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry attends the signing ceremony of the "Political Agreement for a peaceful and effective governance of the interim period" with the opposition, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. September 11, 2021. REUTERS/Ralph Tedy Erol

of". According to the report Mr Badio contacted Mr Henry to help him escape after the assassination and Mr Henry said he would "make some calls."

Haitian officials involved in the investigation told the New York Times Mr Henry would currently be a suspect if he was not the head of government.

Mr Jaar also reportedly said he believed the intention of those responsible for the assassination had been to depose, rather than kill, the president and swear in a judge in his place.

Mr Jaar was reportedly detained in the Dominican Republic on Friday.

Phone calls between Mr Henry and Mr Badio were first disclosed in September by a Haitian prosecutor who was later fired.

A spokesman for Mr Henry said the prosecutor was fired for pursuing a political agenda.

Haiti's Senate reconvened on Monday for the first time in a year as it prepares for elections following the assassination.

Mr Henry has pledged to hold general elections this year, but he has not provided a specific date.

The elections were originally scheduled for last year, but they were delayed by the pandemic, a spike in gang violence and the killing of Mr Moise.

Last week Mr Henry said he was targeted in an assassination attempt during recent national day celebrations.

He said: "An attempt has been made against me personally. My life has been put in the crosshairs."

Photographs provided by Mr Henry's office showed a bullet mark on the windshield of his armoured vehicle.

Guyana teachers shun 'Isolation Day'



Pupils and teachers at school on Monday (Credit: Guyana Chronicle)

Guyana Chronicle - The Ministry of Education has reported that 74 per cent of its teachers reported for work and delivered their lessons on Monday, despite calls from the Guyana Teachers' Union (GTU) to stay away from classes by observing what it called 'Isolation Day'.

"This figure represents 84 per cent of the schools

for which the ministry has received data at this time.

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said that this generation of children and youth cannot afford any more disruptions to their education. The Ministry of Education believes the same, and has arranged for the return to face-to-face classes at all levels, al-

cont'd on pg 14

Tobago nurses reject 3-year contract; demand permanent employment

T&T Newsday - President of the Trinidad and Tobago Registered Nurses Association (TTRNA) Idi Stuart has described the new three-year contracts to be offered to Tobago Regional Health Authority (TRHA) temporary staff as insufficient.

Stuart said on Monday the nurses deserve permanent employment.

He said: "The association, whilst pleased with the announcement by the chief secretary, while we are glad that they, employed by the TRHA under short-term contracts, will be given a bit more stability with new three-year contracts, I think the nurses would have done their duty and deserve a longer form of employment. In our view, while it's a good move, it is not enough."

Stuart said the new contracts offer little reprieve as they were still short-term employment.

"We see no difference between the three months, six months, one year, two

years or three years – all of them are still temporary forms of employment. We see it as a minimum for where nurses and midwives ought to be...It is just bringing them in line with all the other short-term nurses and midwives who operate within the TRHA."

He said the TRHA is known for not hiring anyone permanently, noting that staff who are permanently employed with the TRHA are those who would have been hired 15 years ago.

"So there is really no one under 15 years of the service of the authority who is permanently employed in the TRHA. Barring those who would have transferred with their permanency from other RHAs in Trinidad, everyone else who would have been hired is temporarily employed."

He believes Chief Secretary Augustine is focusing on those who were called to duty in the parallel health-care system, working with



Nurses of the Scarborough General Hospital protested in 2021, calling on the government to end short-term contracts in favour of permanent employment. (Credit: CCNTV6)

covid19 patients.

"I guess those are the ones he's eager about. However, we want a more comprehensive statement with regard to all of the other nurses who are working general and have been getting repeatedly two- and three-year contracts."

Stuart said the focus should not only be on the upgrade of the healthcare infrastructure on the island.

"It cannot be enough that we are willing to build permanent structures in Tobago – billion-dollar health-care facilities in Scarborough and in Roxborough,

which our children will have to be paying back, yet those persons who are working inside of those facilities are given two-year and three-year forms of employment. It's a total irony. There is no justification for it."

He recalled that Finance Minister Colm Imbert, after the TTRNA's nationwide demonstration in October 2021 lobbying for permanent employment for all nurses and midwives, promised government would regularise all nurses across the board.

Contacted for comment, BYisrael said the three-year contracts are not only for nurses.

"The 133 individuals who were listed as temporary within the TRHA spanned a large number of professions, so the contracts will need to be tailored to the various tasks. The specifics will be worked out with the TRHA and the THA human resource management teams."

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though in different proportions as we have recognized, too, that school closures have harmed the education and development of our pupils," the ministry said in a release.

The ministry also said that it is extremely grateful to those teachers who continue to support and facilitate this process, especially after school doors were closed for 18 months.

"We understand the difficult time we are living in, and appreciate their contin-

ued and unwavering service. The Ministry of Education stands ready to provide any assistance schools may need to ensure they can remain open, and continue to function effectively for the benefit of the children of Guyana," the release said.

With schools reopening on January 3, 2022, the Ministry of Education has been constantly monitoring the situation in schools to give the necessary support and guidance to teachers, parents and the school administration.

World Bank warns global economy faces grim outlook

BBC - The global economy faces a “grim outlook”, World Bank president David Malpass has warned, as the aftershocks of the pandemic continue to weigh on growth - especially in poor countries.

His organisation’s latest forecast predicts global growth will slow to 4.1% this year from 5.5% in 2021. It attributed the slowdown to virus threats, government aid unwinding and an initial rebound in demand fading.

But Mr Malpass said his greatest worry was widening global inequality.

“The big drag is the inequality that’s built into the system,” he told the BBC, noting that poorer countries were especially vulnerable to economic damage from efforts to fight inflation. The outlook for the weaker countries is still to fall further and further behind. That causes insecurity.”

Separately, the World Economic Forum (WEF) warned that divergent economic recoveries were making it harder to collaborate on global challenges such as climate change.

“Widening disparities within and between countries will not only make it more difficult to control Covid-19 and its variants, but will also risk stalling, if not reversing, joint action against shared threats that the world cannot afford to overlook,” the WEF said in its annual global risks report on Tuesday.

The World Bank’s Global Economic Prospects report said that in 2021 the world’s economy bounced back from the pandemic with the strongest post-recession expansion in 80 years. But the gains are expected to slow this year, as virus variants and



World Bank president, David Malpass, warned rate rises could hit growth in weaker economies

rapidly rising prices for items such as food and energy weigh on households. Globally, inflation is at its highest rate since 2008, the report says.

The bank, which lends to countries around the world, also warned that supply chain bottlenecks and the unwinding of stimulus programmes posed risks.

The slowdown in the second half of 2021 was already larger than the bank had expected in its June forecast due to the spread of the Omicron and Delta Covid variants. It expects a “pronounced slowdown” this year, and predicts global growth will decelerate further in 2023, to 3.2%.

“The reality is that Covid and the shutdowns are still taking a huge toll and that’s especially true on people in poorer countries,” Mr Malpass said. “Just a grim outlook.”

Driving the global slowdown are China, where the rate of growth is expected to drop to 5.1% from 8% last year, and the US, which is forecast to expand by 3.7% this year compared with 5.6% in 2021. In the eurozone,

expansion will slow to 4.2% this year from 5.2%, the bank predicts.

India presents a bright spot, with the growth rate expected to rise from 8.3% to 8.7% this year. But many emerging markets continue to struggle with additional challenges, such as lower vaccination rates.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, for instance, growth is expected to slow to 2.6% in 2022, from 6.7% last year.

By 2023, economic activity in all advanced economies, such as the US, Euro area and Japan, is likely to have recovered from the hit it took during the pandemic, the bank said. But output in developing and emerging countries is expected to remain 4% lower than it was before Covid struck.

Mr Malpass blamed stimulus programmes in the richest countries for worsening the divide by driving global inflation. While officials in many countries, including the US, are now expected to raise interest rates to try to rein in price increases, Mr Malpass

cont'd on pg 17

COVID-19: Too soon for virus to be treated as flu-like illness, WHO warns

Sky News - It is too soon for countries to be treating COVID as an endemic illness like flu, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has warned, because there is still a "huge amount of uncertainty" regarding the spread of the Omicron variant.

Omicron is on track to infect more than half of Europeans in the next two months, WHO's Europe director Hans Kluge told reporters on Tuesday.

It comes after Education Secretary Nadhim Zahawi suggested the UK could be one of the first countries to "transition" from a pandemic to endemic.

Europe saw more than seven million new reported cases in the first week of 2022, more than doubling over a two-week period.

"At this rate, the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation forecasts that more than 50% of the population in the region will be infected with Omicron in the next six to eight weeks," Mr Kluge told a news briefing, referring to a research centre at the University of Washington.

Fifty out of 53 countries in Europe and central Asia have logged cases of the more transmissible variant.

Since it was first reported by scientists in South Africa in November,



The WHO insists the COVID pandemic is "certainly not at the point" where it could be called an endemic

the COVID-19 strain has spread internationally and is now known to be in at least a third of countries.

Several studies have shown the risk of hospitalisation from Omicron is lower than from Delta. But the WHO has cautioned more studies are still needed to prove this.

Spain's Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez said on Monday that it may be time to track the ongoing COVID crisis in a similar method to the flu due to its lethality falling.

He said: "I believe that we have the conditions for, with precaution, slowly, opening the debate at the technical level and at the

level of health professionals, but also at the European level, to start evaluating the evolution of this disease with different parameters than we have until now."

On Sunday, Mr Zahawi told Sky News: "I hope we will be one of the first major economies to demonstrate to the world how you transition from pandemic to endemic, and then deal with this however long it remains with us, whether that's five six, seven, 10 years."

WHO's senior emergency officer for Europe, Catherine Smallwood, has since warned against treating the virus as endemic.

She said: "We still have a huge amount of uncertainty and a virus that is evolving quite quickly, imposing new challenges. We are certainly not at the point where we are able to call it endemic."

Mr Kluge said 26 European countries reported that more than 1% of their populations are being infected with COVID each week, before urgently warning there is a "closing window of opportunity" for countries to prevent their health systems from being overwhelmed.

He added: "Omicron moves faster and wider than any (previous) variant we have seen."

Man gets genetically-modified pig heart in world-first transplant

BBC - A US man has become the first person in the world to get a heart transplant from a genetically-modified pig.

David Bennett, 57, is doing well three days after the experimental seven-hour procedure in Baltimore, doctors say. The transplant was considered the last hope of saving Mr Bennett's life, though it is not yet clear what his long-term chances of survival are.

"It was either die or do this transplant," Mr Bennett explained a day before the surgery.

"I know it's a shot in the dark, but it's my last choice," he said.

Doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center were granted a special dispensation by the US medical regulator to carry out the procedure, on the basis that Mr Bennett - who has terminal heart disease - would otherwise have died.

He had been deemed ineligible for a human transplant, a decision that is often taken by doctors when



Surgeon Bartley P Griffith pictured with David Bennett earlier this month

the patient is in very poor health.

The pig used in the transplant had been genetically modified to knock out several genes that would have led to the organ being rejected by Mr Bennett's body, the AFP news agency reports.

For the medical team who carried out the transplant, it marks the culmination of years of research and could change lives around the world.

Surgeon Bartley Griffith said the surgery would bring the world "one step

closer to solving the organ shortage crisis". Currently 17 people die every day in the US waiting for a transplant, with more than 100,000 reportedly on the waiting list.

Dr Christine Lau, chair of the Department of Surgery at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, was in the operating theatre during the surgery.

"He's at more of a risk because we require more immunosuppression, slightly different than we would normally do in a human-to-human transplant.

How well the patient does from now is, you know, it's never been done before so we really don't know," she told the BBC.

"People die all the time on the waiting list, waiting for organs. If we could use genetically engineered pig organs they'd never have to wait, they could basically get an organ as they needed it. Plus, we wouldn't have to fly all over the country at night-time to recover organs to put them into recipients," she added.

The possibility of using animal organs for so-called xenotransplantation to meet the demand has long been considered, and using pig heart valves is already common.

In October 2021, surgeons in New York announced that they had successfully transplanted a pig's kidney into a person. At the time, the operation was the most advanced experiment in the field so far. However, the recipient on that occasion was brain dead with no hope of recovery.

cont'd from pg 15

warned higher borrowing costs could hurt economic activity - especially in weaker economies.

"The problem with rate hikes is it hurts people that need floating rate money... and that's usually new businesses, women-owned businesses, developing country businesses," Mr

Malpass said.

He said he would prefer to see central banks focus on unwinding pandemic-era stimulus programmes, which buy assets such as mortgage-backed securities.

helps people at the upper end of the income curve, but doesn't do much at all for people in lower in-

comes or in developing countries," he said.

"An improvement, I think, would be if they bought less of that kind of asset and allowed the stimulus to taper in a way that would be beneficial for people more in the middle incomes, in the lower incomes and in developing countries."

Sports News

Development camp participants inspire organiser

Chief organiser of a recently concluded sports development camp, Colin “Tin Tin” James, has said the programme has given him fresh enthusiasm to work in the field of sports with young people.

The week and a half camp, which was sponsored by Community First Credit Union, was held at the Mack Pond Sports Complex where the participants were given introductory lessons to tennis, basketball and netball.

James, who has been coaching and organising sports events for over three decades, said he has been inspired to continue working with young people in the community.

“I must say that I have been so enthused about what I have seen over the last week or so of this sports development camp. It basically spurred a new enthusiasm for sports for me. And especially when it comes to that age group between 5 and 16 years,” James said.

“Maybe about 15 years ago, a pioneering advocate for teaching the game of football by the name of Alfred Galustian, came to Antigua with the former Scotland player Charlie Cooke to teach the Coerver Coaching programme. They were saying the golden age for the teaching of any sport is between the age of 5 and 15.

“So when I saw the five-year-olds at this sports development camp take an interest to a sport in which they have never even [held]

a tennis racquet before and playing tennis, I said Antigua must have some Serena Williams out there, some Novak Djokovic, some Rafael Nadal and some Roger Federer because these kids picked up the racquet and just started playing tennis.

“And they are not on any professional court. It’s a hard surface and sometimes we play on grass and they are just loving it.

“And I am seeing young people take up a basketball, and I wouldn’t say there is a LeBron James, a Kobe Bryant or there is a Stephen Curry, but you can see that there is talent there,” James beamed.

James, who is also the nation’s Commissioner of Sports, said he will be expanding the development camp with the addition of other sports.

“We are going to be adding other sports like netball, volleyball, and I also think baseball because we have some baseball equipment that

are being stored somewhere in an apartment in the United States. But they are going to come to Antigua shortly,” James said.

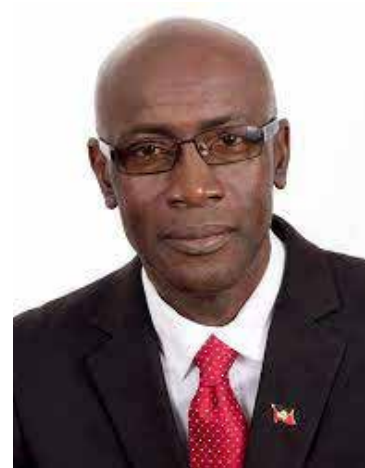
“This is not going to be a one-off. The camp was to test the waters to see what is out there, and having tested the waters, we now know that there is talent and there is enthusiasm among the young people here.”

The camp came to an end with a closing ceremony at the Mack Pond Sports Complex over the weekend.

During the ceremony, the participants took part in a final session of drills, exercises and games. Over 50 youngsters attended the camp and they all received Certificates of Participation.

Outstanding participants were also presented with medals and other prizes.

James said the camp was initially slated to be held last summer, but was rescheduled for December 29, 2021, due to a spike in COVID-19 in-



Colin “Tin Tin” James

fections in Antigua and Barbuda.

The organisers are expressing sincere gratitude to their sponsors Community First Credit Union, Cool and Smooth, Heritage Sports, Sell World and others who contributed to the successful staging of the event.

James is also expressing thanks to facilitators and coaches in former national basketball player Osllyn “Pigeon” Gregory, Coach Guy Yearwood, veteran tennis coach Larry Michael and volleyball coach Rosalie Lewis.

Djokovic, Barty confirmed as top seeds for Aussie Open

MELBOURNE (AP) - The uncertain status of top-ranked Novak Djokovic didn’t stop Australian Open organizers from listing him as the top seed for the Grand Slam tournament beginning next Monday at Melbourne Park.

As expected, homegrown talent and top-ranked Ash Barty was given the No. 1 seeding in the women’s singles draw when the list was released yesterday. Defending champion Naomi Osaka is seeded 13th.

Djokovic won a court battle to compete in the Australian Open but still faces

the threat of deportation because he is not vaccinated against COVID-19.

He’s level with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal with 20 Grand Slam singles titles each. A 10th Australian Open win on Jan. 30 in the men’s final would give him the men’s all-time record.

Federer is not playing in Melbourne while he continues his recovery from right knee surgery.

Daniil Medvedev, who beat Djokovic in the U.S. Open final last year to prevent

cont’d on pg 19

Taylor ends Test career in style

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) - Ross Taylor ended his 15-year Test career by taking a wicket with his part-time off-breaks that clinched a victory for New Zealand over Bangladesh by an innings and 117 runs and tied the two-match series yesterday.

In dimming light and with Bangladesh nine wickets down, the crowd at Hagley Oval began baying for Taylor, the 37-year-old batter retiring from Test cricket after his 112th match, to be given a rare chance to bowl.

When the light became too poor for the quicks to continue, New Zealand captain Tom Latham bowed to the crowd's demand and Taylor's third ball brought a false shot from Ebadot Hossain, who skied the ball to Latham.

Taylor had bowled only 16 overs in all of his previous tests for two wickets,



Ross Taylor, left, celebrates after taking a wicket that clinched a victory for New Zealand over Bangladesh in the Second Test at Christchurch yesterday. (Getty Images)

the last time eight years ago, but fate conspired to bring his career to an extraordinary end.

First mobbed by his teammates and then presented the match ball, he walked from the field through an honour guard formed by Bangladesh, providing one

last rich memory of an outstanding career.

"We needed to win this game to stay in the series and I thought we played fantastically well," Taylor said.

"Bangladesh put us under pressure at various times and that was probably a fair

reflection of where the series was at."

A defiant 102 by wicketkeeper Liton Das made Bangladesh a hard nut to crack, forcing a match which many thought would be over quickly into the final session of the third day

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the Serbian player from capturing a calendar-year Grand Slam, is seeded second, followed by Alexander Zverev at No. 3, Stefanos Tsitsipas at No. 4 and Andrey Rublev at No. 5.

Nadal is seeded sixth, followed by Matteo Berrettini. Felix Auger-Aliassime is at No. 9 and Denis Shapovalov 14th. The pair combined to win the ATP Cup for Canada last Sunday.

Taylor Fritz leads the American men's contingent at No. 20, followed by John Isner at 22 and Reilly Opelka at 23. Alex de Minaur is the only Australian man among the seeded players, taking up the 32nd and last position.

The 25-year-old Barty has two Grand Slam singles titles - the 2019 French Open and last year's Wimbledon - but she dearly wants to win a major on home soil. No Australian woman has won the title here since Chris O'Neill in 1978.

Barty's best finish at Melbourne Park was in 2020, when she lost in the semi-finals to eventual champion Sofia Kenin. She reached the quarter-finals last year.

Barty won the Adelaide International title last week while Sabalenka is off to a contrasting start, losing in the first round of both her pre-Australian Open tune-up events.



As expected, homegrown talent and top-ranked Ash Barty was given the No. 1 seeding in the women's singles draw for the Australian Open, Tuesday. (Getty Images)

Garbiñe Muguruza will be No. 3 seed, Barbora Krejčíková No. 4 and Maria Sakkari fifth. Kenin is the top-seeded American at No. 11.

Salah says Liverpool future is in club's hands

NEW YORK (AP) - Mohamed Salah insists he is not demanding a "crazy" contract as he again stressed his Liverpool future is in the hands of the club.

The Egypt star's deal expires at the end of the 2022-23 season and there has not yet been a breakthrough in negotiations over an extension.

The 29-year-old has previously made it clear he wants to stay at Anfield but that it is up to Reds owners Fenway Sports Group to come to an acceptable agreement.

Speaking to GQ, Salah called on the club to show their appreciation for what he has achieved since signing from Roma in 2017.

"I want to stay, but it's not in my hands. It's in their hands," he said.

"They know what I want. I'm not asking for crazy stuff.

"The thing is when you ask for something and they show you they can give you something, (they should) because they appreciate what you did for the club.

"I've been here for my fifth year now. I know the club very well. I love the fans. The fans love me. But with the administration, they have [been] told the situation. It's in their hands."



Mohamed Salah, centre, insists he is not demanding a 'crazy' contract as he again stressed his Liverpool future is in the hands of the club. (Getty Images)

Salah has been in spectacular form this season, scoring 23 goals and providing nine assists in 26 Liverpool appearances.

In Europe's top five leagues, only Bayern Munich striker Robert Lewandowski (34) has been directly involved in more goals than Salah.

Those two, along with Lionel Messi, are the finalists for The Best FIFA Men's Player Award for 2021, with the winner to be announced on January 17, but Salah was surprisingly only seventh in the final standings for last year's Ballon d'Or as Messi claimed the prize for

a record-extending seventh time.

France Football's award is still something Salah hopes to win, although he suggested "politics" could get in the way.

"If you asked me if this was a drive for me to be here? Yeah, of course. I can't really lie and say honestly I didn't think about it," he said.

"No, I think about it. I want to be the best player in the world. But I will have a good life even if I don't win (the Ballon d'Or). My life is okay, everything is fine. Sometimes I feel it's just politics."

cont'd from pg 19

before the last wicket fell 20 minutes from scheduled stumps.

Das batted almost one-handed for much of his innings after being struck on the glove. He weathered a barrage of short-pitched bowling from New Zealand to post his second Test century, from only 106 balls.

Bangladesh rallied around his resilient example to keep New Zealand waiting, but the end came swiftly after his departure as the tourists were dismissed for 278.

It was significant that the final catch was taken by Latham as the captain had an outsized influence on this match.

He scored 252 - his second test double century - in New Zealand's first innings of 521-6 declared, then took six catches as Bangladesh was bowled out for 126 and 278 after the follow-on was enforced.

In doing so, Latham became the first player in test history to score 250 and take six catches in the same

match.

After the match, New Zealand paceman Kyle Jamieson was fined 15% of his match fee using "inappropriate language" after dismissing Yasir Ali on Monday in Bangladesh's first innings, the ICC said.

Jamieson admitted to the offense and accepted the sanction.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

Windies and Ireland revise schedule

KINGSTON, Jamaica – Cricket West Indies (CWI) and Cricket Ireland (CI) have confirmed changes to the match schedule for the ongoing CG Insurance One-Day International Series.

The second CG Insurance ODI will now be played on Thursday 13

January with the third and final CG Insurance ODI on Sunday 16 January at Sabina Park. First ball is 9:30am local time (10:30am Eastern Caribbean/2:30pm Ireland).

The rescheduling occurred following five COVID-19 positive cases, as well as injuries in the Ireland camp

leaving the Ireland squad depleted ahead of the 2nd CG Insurance ODI which was originally scheduled for Tuesday, 11 January.

As a consequence, the one-off CG Insurance T20 International has been cancelled to allow for this revised schedule and to avoid impact on the teams' travel plans and subsequent fixtures.

These ODI matches form part of the ICC ODI Super League with both teams having the opportunity to win points to be one of the top seven teams, excluding hosts India, to gain automatic qualification for the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup.

West Indies lead the three-match series 1-0 following their 24-run victory in the first CG Insurance ODI on Saturday.

Live coverage is available on ESPN Caribbean in the West Indies and BT Sport in the UK and Ireland as well as with CWI's broadcast partners around the world.



West Indies and Ireland will clash in the second one-day international at Sabina Park in Jamaica tomorrow. (Getty Images)

T&T Olympian Deon Lendore dies in car accident

Jamaica Gleaner - Trinidad and Tobago Olympian Deon Lendore has died.

The 400-metre sprinter, it is being reported, died in a car accident in Texas, the news making the rounds on social media just before midnight Monday.

The 44.36-second runner, who made his mark at his first Olympic Games in London, 2012, helped announce T&T as one of the new hubs of 400-metre sprinting as the quartet mined bronze in the event.

Lendore would go on to represent T&T at the Olympic Games in Rio four years later and again in Tokyo just

last year.

Lendore also won for T&T, a silver medal at the IAAF World Championships of Athletics, achieving the feat again in the 4x400 in 2015.

Helping T&T to pull together strong teams seemed to be one of Lendore's strong suits, as he also played a big part in another 4x400 bronze medal, this time at the Pan Am Games in 2019. Those games were held in Lima, Peru.

The one-lap sprinter also excelled indoors, winning three bronze medals at the World Indoor Championships.

As a college student, Lendore enjoyed huge success at the NCAA level,



Trinidad and Tobago Olympian Deon Lendore

winning the Bowerman award in 2014 as part of the famous Texas A&M University track team.

Lendore was also a fantastic junior, winning three Pan Am Junior Championships silver medals as well as a medal of the same colour at the Central American and Caribbean Games.

Tiger targets next Olympics

By Elwin Francis

Antiguan kite boarder, Tiger Tyson, says he will have three opportunities to qualify for the next Summer Olympics which is scheduled to take place in Paris, France from 26 July to 11 August, 2024.

Tyson, who represented Antigua and Barbuda at the 2018 Youth Olympics in Argentina, said kite boarders will use the Continental Qualifiers, the World Championships and another event in 2023 to book a spot at Paris 2024.

"So the qualifiers will start in 2023 and I will have three chances to qualify. We have one attempt at the Continental Qualifiers so I will be competing against all of the North American continent.

"So that consists of the Caribbean, USA, Canada and Mexico so that will be one chance and then you will have another chance at the World Championships in 2023, and towards the end of the year, there is one more event where you can qualify there as well," Tyson said.

However, a country must be ranked in the world's top 15 for any of its kite boarders to get a chance of competing at the Olympic games.

This means they must compete in the Formula Kite World Championships and the Kite Foil World Series to

stand a chance of even competing in the three Olympic Qualifiers.

Tyson was ruled out of the Formula Kite World Championships in Italy last October when he got into an accident the day before the start of the event.

He said his ranking points suffered because he was unable to compete in last year's competition.

"We have two different series in which we get ranking points. One is the Formula Kite Series, which is the Olympic Class and there is another one called the Kite-foil World Series.

"In the Formula Kite, which is the Olympic class, I missed the world championships last year so obviously I don't know what my current ranking is right now.

"It is not very good because I missed the world championships and that's where you get the most amount of points," said Tyson, who was a guest on Sports Overflow programme on Pointe FM's Radio on Monday night.

"But in the Kite Foil World Series I finished in the top six in the males because I did not miss an event in that series."

The Antiguan kite boarder said he plans to compete in as many events as possible this



Antiguan Kite Boarder Tiger Tyson will be taking part in his first competition for 2022 at an event in Florida later this month. (Photos courtesy Tiger Tyson)

year to improve on his current rankings.

"This year I am planning on doing as many events as possible to get my ranking back up. So my season this year will start at the end of January.

"I am going to Florida, doing like a week of training in Florida and then there are two competitions there. Then after that I am going to Mexico for the next event and then to the Dominican Republic," Tyson said.

"Then after that I will have to go back to Europe and I will be in Europe for the rest of the summer where I will be just training and competing. So yes, it is a pretty full and long schedule. I will be competing in probably 20 events."

Tyson said he would be grateful for any form of sponsorship to help fund his partic-

ipation in the upcoming competitions.

"You can reach me on my website tigerkiting.com. I have a whole section for sponsors there. If not, you can go to my Instagram and Facebook social media pages because I often respond to messages there. Those are the three main ways to reach me," He said.

"There is a mixture of things that I need sponsorship for, but a lot of it is for travelling around the world for competitions. The other part is mainly equipment because the equipment is really expensive, and over time, it adds up.

"I need about four to six kites and boards whenever I am travelling so that is what I need help with. My budget for just travelling and equipment will be around 50 thousand EC dollars," Tyson said.