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## POLICE: OVER \$2 MILLION COLLECTED IN TRAFFIC PENALTIES

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A breathtaking photo of St. John's just after dusk. The brilliantly lit shillouette of a cruise ship in port serves as a symbol of the revival of Antigua and Barbuda's tourism sector which suffered tremendously in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. [Photo: Eric Magloire]

## **Local News**



# G'ovt rakes in millions from traffic fines and fees

Millions of dollars in revenue went into the government's coffers last year from the issuance of tickets and fines to vehicle owners and operators.

A significant portion of the fees paid were related to the violation of traffic regulations.

Tickets written by traffic wardens and the police were estimated at a record total of \$2,320, 810; the highest revenue intake ever made.

In 2020, a total of \$1, 439,450 in traffic related penalties was reported while in 2019 it stood at \$781,950.

Head of the Traffic Department, Assistant Superintendent of Police Rodney Ellis, said in 2021 13, 296 tickets were issued for various



Assistant Superintendent of Police Rodney Ellis

breaches, compared to just over eight thousand in 2020 and 5,688 in 2019.

He further detailed traffic matters tried before the Magistrates' Court in 2021 yielded \$207, 625, down from

the \$336,000 collected in 2020.

According to Ellis, the decline registered last year is associated with the closure of the courts as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, fewer matters were heard.

For tickets that were unpaid, or were not challenged in court, (ticket warrants), these amounted to \$138,945, an increase over 2020's \$101,000. Other fees collected included the movement of heavy duty equipment - \$89,060 last year - a decline from 2020 when the amount was \$109, 180.

There was also a decline in the fees for license plate replacements in 2021; \$29,600. In 2020, revenue totalled \$56,050.



### **Local News**

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# Jetblue suspends Newark route, Fernandez concerned

Jetblue has become the latest airline to announce plans to cut back on its service to Antigua and Barbuda.

This is a devastating blow to the tourism industry which is fighting to recover from the fall out of the pandemic.

The change Jetblue will implement is to affect the Newark to Antigua route. Flights into the country from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York remain unaffected.

The year began with similar news from Air Canada after it announced that it was suspending flights to the Caribbean destination for at least the next ninety days over concerns related to the most recent wave of COVID-19 infections in the North American country.

However the Canadian market is not entirely closed off to Antigua and Barbuda as Canada-based airline, Sunwing, announced earlier this month that it will resume services to Antigua and Barbuda this weekend.

Jetblue, however, has indicated that its decision to suspend the Newark service



to the twin-island destination boiled down to this: the route simply is not as profitable as it used to be.

While the airline did not quantify exactly how much business to the region has been lost since the start of the pandemic, it did say that its losses over the past two years played a major role in the decision to cancel service to Antigua and Barbuda.

Antigua and Barbuda's Minister of Tourism, Charles "Max" Fernandez said the news from Jetblue is a devastating blow to the local tourism industry.

Ultimately, Fernandez

believes the hard business decisions being taken by the airline industry are a direct result of the ongoing pandemic.

"It is not good news for air arrivals. In my view, it is all a result of what is happening with the situation of the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 outbreak.

"It is very contagious and there is a tremendous amount of absenteeism and I totally believe they are cutting back as they have no other staff," said the tourism minister.

Antigua and Barbuda is not the only destination affected as Jetblue's cutbacks will impact sixteen other destinations in the region.

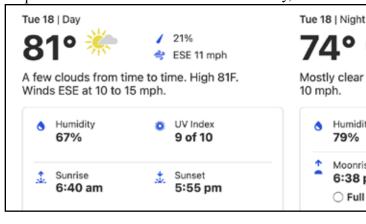
Despite the disappointing news, Minister Fernandez remains optimistic.

Commenting last week on the announcement of Sunwing's coming airlift into Antigua and Barbuda he said, "One hundred and forty passengers will be on the flight. This is eventually good and exciting news to put alongside what is happening.

"Within the time period of another month or so, it is believed that the fourth wave of the contagious COVID-19 will have started to decline, and we are anticipating that this would allow for those who postponed their holidays to reschedule."

Aviation authorities reported a global reduction in scheduled flights of 43.5 percent between January 6 2020 and January 4 2021.

A whopping 65 percent of the flight reductions were estimated to have impacted airlift to the Caribbean and Latin America.



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### **Local News**



## Minister Chet Greene addresses 22nd meeting of CELAC

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Immigration and Trade, E. P. Chet Greene recently addressed the XXII Meeting of Foreign Affairs Ministers of the Community of Latin America and Caribbean States (CALAC) held in Argentina.

The CELAC meeting of 6 - 7 January, 2022 heralded the start of Argentina's turn at the helm of the organisation as Pro Tempore President (PTP). The outgoing PTP is Mexico.

In his presentation to the body, Minister Greene acknowledged the challenges of the past two years while recognising the work done by the group to cope with and come up with solutions to the immense strain the COVID-19 pandemic has placed on the region.

Greene went on that the present challenges, which are far from over, will require resiliency and the full cooperation of CELAC member states to ensure that the region can overcome its present dilemma.

"Last year was a difficult year for all of us. Countries faced immense challenges, and unfortunately, our resilience is still being tested. The Omicron strain is now proving to be another game-changer, as countries struggle to combat and contain this new variant.

"The COVID-19 pandemic is a burden that we all share. It has exacted a heavy human and economic toll on countries around the globe, leaving devastating consequences in its wake. As such, Antigua and Barbuda commends the proposed Work Plan for 2022 put forth by Argentina.

"We look forward to engaging in comprehensive discussions with CELAC Member States to work towards a post-COVID 19 economic



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

recovery that is inclusive, and reduces long-standing inequalities and vulnerabilities.

"In addition, Antigua and Barbuda looks forward to improving regional self-sufficiency in health matters, as outlined in the Work Plan, especially given the stockpiling and hoarding of coronavirus supplies and vaccines by the world's wealthiest countries," said the foreign affairs minister.

Greene noted that continued cooperation on several key areas will be vital as plans are formulated by CELAC in the present year and beyond.

He also called the group's larger members' attention to the unique challenges Small Island Developing States (SIDS) continue to face, many of which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

"We laud the efforts by Member States to encourage collaboration in science, technology and innovation, as evidenced by the vital cooperation in healthcare, as well as the signing of the Convention establishing the Latin American and Caribbean Space Agency (ALCE). We are also eager to strengthen the regional disaster risk response to enhance resilience to natural and man-made hazards, and protect lives, property and livelihoods.

"With regard to the 2022 Work Plan, Antigua and Barbuda applauds the PTP for identifying gender equality as a vital component for sustainable recovery in a Post-Covid-19 world. The meaningful participation of women, and other vulnerable groups, such as youth, must guide sustainable and durable recovery efforts, as the region seeks to build back better, and leave no one behind.

"Inclusive digital transformation is also a vital part of recovery. We must continue to bridge digital divides to meet the needs of the younger generation and vulnerable groups. Trends

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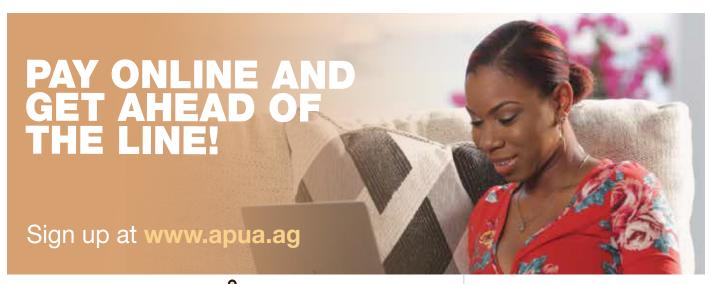


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STEP 5: Click 'Make Payment'

### **Local News**



# Plans take shape for boosting room stock

Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez has indicated plans are apace to boost the country's room stock, a key element in the expansion of the tourism industry.

Late last year, Mr. Fernandez projected there will be a shortage of rooms due to the demand that was developing and that by January, 2022, the need will be greater.

The de-commissioning of two hotels on the island, Jolly Beach Resort and Halcyon Cove contributed to the shortfall, since combined the properties accounted for approximately 500 rooms. But the tourism minister said attention is being given to the properties, with the aim of putting them back in operation.

"I know the Halcyon aspect of it they are going to hopefully start within another thirty to sixty days. They are ironing out all the plans and everything, Fernandez said.



Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez

At Jolly Beach, he revealed several people have shown interest in the resort and there are expected to be new developments in short order.

"I know that the Nikki Beach is going to be part of it, they have already indicated an interest and we're pretty close to finalizing with them," he added.

"There is another hotel group One & Only that is looking at the other part of Jolly Beach, so right then and there you are going to have two 5-star hotel chains that will be on Jolly Beach, which undoubtedly is-if not the best, one of the best beaches on the island."

Mr. Fernandez, describing the plans as "promising news" said the one downside is that the plans will not be implemented this year.

Despite the drawbacks, he is optimistic about the summer months.

"Our team in the tourism authority has done a tremendous job in terms of marketing. Dean Fenton and his team in the New York office have done a tremendous job. They have basically pushed Antigua and Barbuda very heavily. They have done a lot of road trips and so all of these things I think came together to put us in good stead," the tourism minister concluded.

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indicate that 2022 will be the year for the enhanced development of the Internet of Things (IoT), Artificial Intelligence, e-commerce, and blockchain technologies, and other digital areas that proved helpful, and resilient during the pandemic.

"As we work together, Antigua and Barbuda requests continued solidarity, and high-level advocacy for the sustainable development of Small Island Developing States (SIDS). Considered the most vulnerable to exogenous shocks, SIDS have been disproportionately affected by the effects of the pandemic and climate change," the minister said.

Further, Greene outlined the specific issues which are of paramount importance to Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS, and his hopes for cooperation with their larger CELAC partners.

"For tourism-reliant nations, such as Antigua and Barbuda and other SIDS, the impact of the pandemic on socioeconomic 'lifelines,' such as tourism and travel, has resulted in significant GDP losses.

"In addition, access to concessional financing remains a top priority for SIDS to create new pathways, especially within the context of COVID-19 and climate change mitigation, where the rescheduling of debt payments and debt forgiveness has become an even greater necessity for survival. The promotion and development of a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index by International Financial Institutions is crucial, as we strive for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals

(SDGs).

"The pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing disparities regarding access to critical resources. In the Caribbean, we need more testing kits, and oxygen supplies and equipment, which all play an essential role in treating COVID-19.

"Other matters of priority include climate change, and the issue of 'de-risking,' where foreign banks have been scaling back on activities in our jurisdictions, despite comprehensive compliance efforts," Minister Greene concluded.



## **Local News**



# Antigua Sailing Week welcomes new sponsor

Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) has announced their new relationship with BVI Yacht Sales as an official sponsor of this year's regatta.

Commenting following the announcement of the new partnership, BVI Yacht Sales' managing partner and yacht broker, Brian Duff said, "We are thrilled to be a sponsor of the 2022 edition of Antigua Sailing Week.

"As the leading Yacht brokerage in the Caribbean we are excited to use the guidance of new ownership to stretch our services even more fully into new territories with full time representation in Antigua, Grenada and USVI on top of our long standing BVI presence. We have always sold more boats around the Caribbean than anyone. Now we are in place to do it even better.

"Our goal is to help sellers get the best possible sale of their boat, anywhere in the Caribbean. Supporting events like Antigua Sailing Week help us express our core value of being the informative Brokers, we are here on the ground in your area to help advise you through all things boat in the islands."

Manager of ASW, Rana Jamila-Lewis, noted



the importance of the involvement of companies like BVI Yacht Sales in the success of events like ASW.

"Facilitation of yacht ownership in the Caribbean is an important strategy in maintaining sailing events' relevance and increasing the pool of participants for regattas," she said.

"Having the sponsorship of BVI Yacht Sales helps raise the visibility of the event to a regional audience who are definitely interested in sailing, which makes for a smooth transition to racing and chasing."

Following two consecutive event cancellations, and with less than four months to go until the start of the Peters & May Round Antigua Race, a fleet consisting of 64 boats have committed to participate in Antigua Sailing Week 2022.

The 53rd edition of the world.

ASW will commence with the Peters & May Round Antigua Race on Saturday, April 30, 2022.

It will be followed by five days of competitive racing off the rugged south coast of Antigua and conclude on Friday, May 6, 2022.

Antigua Sailing Week is considered one of the Caribbean's most prestigious regattas and is also ranked among the best in the world.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS APPLY

### **Health Feature**



# Men living alone are at greater risk of inflammation, study says

#### By Madeline Holcombe

The study, published in the journal BMJ, looked at both years living alone and number of breakups because the end of significant relationships are often followed by periods of living alone, the researchers wrote. Looking only at divorces was not sufficient to track loss of partnerships because of the growing number of people who have significant relationships but do not marry, according to the study.

A connection between feeling lonely and adverse health impacts has been well documented, said Dr. Peter Libby, a cardiovascular medicine specialist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, who was not involved in the study. This study strengthens the link experts have seen between the nervous system and inflammation, which is a significant contributor to heart disease, Libby said.

"There is increasing understanding of fundamental links between psychological stress and biological variables related to inflammation," Libby said.

The women who participated in the study did not show as strong of an association between living alone or many breakups and inflammation, but Davidsen noted that might partly be a result of the smaller number of female participants compared to males involved in the study.

The levels of inflamma-



Women in the study did not see the same connection between living alone and inflammation. [CNN]

tion in the participants might also have looked different if they were measured at more advanced ages, Davidsen added. The average age of those studied was 54.5 years old, and it is possible that the impacts of the breakups and years lived alone would have continued as the participants aged, she said.

#### Being alone versus feeling alone

What's someone living solo -- whether by choice or circumstances -- supposed to do? Davidsen said knowing that information can be valuable to doctors who are treating them.

"One (suggestion) might be to advise health professionals to be aware of this atrisk group that might be living with an additional social risk factor not usually taken into account," she said.

Knowing that inflammation risks may be increased, Libby said he advises patients to strive for a healthy lifestyle.

"When faced with adversity of any sort, regular phys-

ical activity and a healthy diet may help well-being, both psychological and biological," Libby added.

Like most things, living alone comes with its risks and benefits.

Loneliness has been linked to reductions in health, well-being and cognition -- but living alone does not always mean being lonely.

In recent years, research has shown more people are not married and are living alone, and yet data has revealed that loneliness decreased from age 50 to about the mid-70s, said Louise Hawkley, a senior scientist at the nonpartisan research organisation NORC at the University of Chicago. Hawkley was not involved in the study on inflammation.

A diverse social network, as well as a sense of control over one's own life, had a significant impact on how lonely a person felt, according to Hawkley's 2019 research.

#### Single and satisfied

For some, being single is even an advantage, according

to Elyakim Kislev, an assistant professor at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Kislev analysed US and European databases, including the US Census Bureau and the European Social Survey, as part of an examination of trends in singlehood and what made some singles happy.

He studied relationship mores in over 30 countries and conducted more than 140 interviews with single people in the US and Europe -- people between ages 30 and 78 who together represented a mix of genders, sexualities, and socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds.

He found key differences between happy singles and unhappy singles generally depended upon whether they internalised stereotypes about being single or shrugged them off.

Some happy singles' solitude was also offset by procuring exciting experiences, such as travelling or finding new hobbies. They used their time alone to "replenish themselves" and "be empowered by focusing on themselves in these moments," Kislev said.

The most recent study may shine a light on the risks of men living alone, but health is multi-faceted and monitoring risk factors, maximising wellness, and treating inflammation that does arise with the help of your doctor can help patients live healthy lives, Libby said.

## **Workplace Wellness**

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# Why hard work alone isn't enough to get ahead

By Kate Morgan

This article contains strong language some readers may find offensive

Last summer, author Kate Lister had a realisation that resonated. On Twitter, she wrote: "How old were you when you realised your original plan of being really nice, working really hard, & taking on much more than you should in the hope you would be automatically rewarded for this without asking, was totally shit?"

Cynical or not, the sentiment resonated: more than 400,000 people have liked or retweeted it.

Despite adages and advice that tell people from a young age hard work will get you everywhere, it really won't, says Jeff Shannon, an executive coach, and author of Hard Work is Not Enough: The Surprising Truth about Being Believable at Work. He believes "hard work is a good start", and early in your career, it can certainly help you establish yourself in a job.

But it's not enough to take you all the way to the top. "At a certain point you look around and realise, wow, everyone works hard at this level. Expertise and hard work just become the expectation, and will not help you up the ladder."

So, yes, it's unfair the system doesn't simply value hard work flat out – but it's an important reality for workers to grapple with, especially if they're struggling to climb the ladder. To really get ahead, you need to be doing more than just your job. Realisations like Lister's often come on the heels of watching colleagues with similar (or fewer) abilities soar, while your career stagnates. More often than not, those who rise are the ones willing to politick their way to the top, while you were too busy just working hard to



We're constantly taught the recipe for getting ahead is to put our heads down and outwork everyone else. But that's not quite right.

notice you should be working the room.

Hard work, says Shannon, doesn't much matter if no one recognises you're doing it. To translate that effort into promotions and advancement, especially in a changed world of work, you have to make people notice it – and you.

#### The 'tiara effect' trap

Hard work is still very important, says Carol Frohlinger, president of US-based consulting firm Negotiating Women, Inc. But simply waiting for someone to pick up on it is detrimental.

Frohlinger calls this tendency the "tiara effect" (a term Sheryl Sandberg also cited in Lean In).

"People work really hard and deliver fabulous results and hope that the right people notice and come along and place a tiara on their heads. But that usually doesn't happen," she says. "One of the things that can happen to people who do good work and nothing else is that they're under the radar. So, when there's an opportunity for promotion, nobody thinks of them. They're just forgotten, in a benign sort of way."

This flies in the face of societal training that begins as early as primary school, when students are taught that the quiet, hard workers are those most likely to prosper. Because teachers reward such qualities in early years, we tend to expect our eventual bosses will, too. It's frustrating, then, to enter the working world only to discover this engrained lesson is often incorrect.

In fact, as Shannon notes, hard work alone typically goes unnoticed after a certain point, because everyone around you is working at or about the same level. If you don't draw attention to yourself in other ways, it's easy to fade into the background.

While both men and women are susceptible to supervisors overlooking their hard work, Frohlinger says women are often more negatively impacted, because it's generally seen as more acceptable for men to talk about their accomplishments. "For women, it can be seen as bragging, and bragging women can be punished," she says.

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#### **Environment**

POINTE PRESS

# Can seaweed help solve the world's plastic crisis?

#### By Jacqui Palumbo

After you finish your fries, eat the ketchup packet. When you add your pasta to boiling water, toss the bag into the pot, too.

If these instructions sound confusing to you, it's only because you haven't yet heard of Notpla, a London-based startup company that is designing a seaweed-based replacement for single-use plastic packaging. Founded in 2014, the company closed

a £10 million (\$13.5 million) Series A financing round last month, led by the VC firm Horizons Ventures, to scale and further develop its product line.

Notpla's products are meant to be composted or dissolved after use -- though some are edible, too. Current offerings include sachets for condiments, water and even alcohol; a film wrap for products in your pantry or bathroom, like coffee or toilet pa-

per; and takeaway boxes that replace plastic-based coating with seaweed lining to make them fully biodegradable.

Notpla design director Karlijn Sibbel says they look to nature as inspiration "for the ideal packaging," like the skin on a fruit. "A peel will eventually be used (as nutrients) by nature, and disappear and become a part of the cycle," she said.

The approach feels especont'd on pg 13



Jacqui Palumbo

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To climb the ladder, it's necessary to be not just a great worker, but a bit of a politician. So, how do you get around the stereotype?

The answer – for men as well as women – is to find a way to draw attention to your endeavours without waiting for something as infrequent as a yearly review or performance self-assessment.

"What happens in a lot of companies and organisations is that you wait until the very end of the year, when you do the 'I love me' [self-assessment] memo," says Frohlinger. "But you just can't wait a year."

She suggests giving the boss more frequent, albeit succinct, updates, and being sure to put accomplishments in context. "It could be just a quick email with some bullet points: here are my wins, and here's what they did for us," she says.

"Here's why it was helpful for our team, or how it saved the company money." Frequency and word choice matter, adds Frohlinger. "Nobody wants to hear it every day. Using phrases like 'my team and I' helps you make yourself look good while also sharing the kudos."

Framing is important, too. A boss may find it odd to get an unsolicited update singing your own praises, but it'll go over better cast as a check-in or a way to "keep them in the loop", says Frohlinger.

#### The value of politics

Yet in most offices and industries, proven ability alone isn't enough to help you get ahead, because you also need to be likeable and memorable. "If you want to have impact and influence, people need to trust and believe in you," says Shannon, the same way they do a candidate they support.

Basically, to climb the ladder, it's necessary to be not just a great worker, but a bit of a politician.

"You need to be seen as a leader," says Frohlinger. "You need to be liked: by people at your level, by people above you and by people below you. When you evaluate work, the research is quite clear – people who are liked get better ratings, even if their work is the same."

And therein lies the unfair truth: you and a colleague may have the exact same skills and work ethic, but if they've spent more time making friends and influencing people, they'll look bet-

ter at their job. Bosses are human, too, and it's simply a basic instinct for them to favour people they like.

However, it is very possible to increase your political capital at work. There are basic tactics that can make you a well-liked member of the office, simply by paying attention to your colleagues. "You need to think about how to connect with people other than just on the work," says Frohlinger.

"Do we have a shared hobby or interest? Let's say I know you like gardening, and I see this gardening article and I send it to you. That's pretty simple, but you're going to like me more."

While it may seem a bit manipulative, that kind of glad-handing doesn't actually hurt anyone, and it's what may be necessary to get ahead. It may require a reorganisation of priorities for those who'd rather focus on their to-do list over socialising.

But going against that instinct can be beneficial. It's all part of career maintenance, which Frohlinger says is every worker's responsibility.

"If you don't take care of your career," she says, "nobody else is going to do it."

#### **Environment**

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cially relevant as the world is coming to terms with the effects of decades of unfettered plastic production. According to the UN, 300 million tonnes (331 million tons) of plastic waste are produced globally each year, and out of the estimated 8.3 billion tonnes (9.15 billion tons) of plastic produced since the early 1950s, about 60% has been landfilled or discarded outdoors. Microplastics -- tiny particles that are often the result of larger plastics breaking down -- pollute the ocean, the air and our bodies.

Over the past few years, there has been a growing movement against single-use plastics as many experts have argued the products are unnecessary and harmful, and businesses have come under fire for using them excessively -- like in 2019, when Whole Foods' peeled and individually wrapped oranges went viral. In the US, some municipalities and states have taken action: New York banned most plastic shopping bags, and in Miami Beach, plastic straws have been outlawed. Overseas, the European Union put a broad ban on single-use plastics into effect this summer, and India plans to follow suit next year, the government announced in August.

"It's getting more and more clear how big the plastic problem is," Sibbel said. "Manufacturers are "using materials that last for thousands of years," she explained, but for products that are only in use "for a few minutes."



A compostable seaweed takeaway box and an edible Notpla condiment pod. [Green Queen]

"That mismatch is something that we need to solve," she added.

#### **Rethinking plastic**

Notpla's founders, Rodrigo García González and Pierre Paslie, initially looked to seaweed as the solution to the world's plastic problem because it is abundant, grows quickly, doesn't compete with land crops, and sequesters carbon from the air, Sibbel explained.

There are also many different seaweed species, and it can be harvested or farmed. (Notpla uses farmed plants.)

"Seaweed doesn't use land; it doesn't use pesticides," Sibbel said. "It can grow into the ocean and the sea, where it actually has a lot of positive benefits so it can create new ecosystems for other organisms to thrive in."

Since its founding, the startup has been awarded grants from the British government agency Innovate UK and the circular economy nonprofit Ellen MacArthur Foundation for its first product, the Ooho sachet, which holds single servings of liquids. The new financing round will go toward ramping up the production of the

Ooho and Notpla coating, while further developing their new seaweed paper and multipurpose film wrap.

The paper is made from the fibres left over from creating other Notpla products and can be used to make items like gift wrap or clothes tags, while the film wrap can hold most dry goods or wet goods with low water content.

"The exciting thing is that this is a film that can replace most of the flexible packaging that you see around," Sibbel said. The potential contents could include coffee grounds, toilet paper or the screws included for furniture assembly. For food items, such as pasta, they have even experimented with adding flavours to the packaging, so that dissolving the bag could add seasoning to the skillet.

"You can cook with it. And you can really start to rethink what we can do with these materials," she explained.

#### **Industry shifts**

Some of Notpla's products are available online, but the company has also landed some major partnerships in the UK and around Western Europe to provide beverages at festivals like DGTL in Amsterdam and Glastonbury in Somerset. In 2019, Notpla distributed 36,000 Oohos filled with the energy drink Lucozade Sport during the London Marathon, and it provided edible Glenlivet capsules at London Cocktail Week.

Last year, the startup tested 30,000 takeaway boxes at different UK restaurants in collaboration with the online food ordering service Just Eat, and plans are underway to offer the boxes around Europe in 2022.

As they scale up, Notpla's team hopes seaweed could replace single-use plastic in the supply chain more broadly, Sibbel said, but with the volume of plastics used around the world, she understands the enormity of such a task.

"I don't think one material (or) one solution is going to solve everything, but we think that seaweed really ticks the right boxes," she said.

Rethinking when and why we used plastic will be crucial to Notpla breaking into other industries, Sibbel said. "Plastic can do a lot of things," she added. But it's about asking, "Is it really necessary for this application?"

She points to packaging for produce like tomatoes, which have holes to let the food breathe.

"You don't have to have the properties of plastic. Why are we using plastic?" Sibbel asked, laughing. "I really hope to see the industry move and also embrace (change) in a positive way."

## **Regional News**



### **CTO Hopeful of Gradual Rebound Despite Onset of Omicron Variant**

CMC- The Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) said Thursday it remains positive about the continued rebound of the tourism industry even in the face of the uncertainty caused by the ongoing pandemic.

Despite the region grappling with the effects of the new Omicron variant which is affecting international travel adversely, the CTO said it is heartened by the recovery experiences and the lessons learned in 2021.

"Over the past eighteen months, Caribbean destinations, without exception, have shown their resilience in creating strategies for recovery, incorporating frequently updated travel protocols, and collaborations with regional and international partners in the areas of health and economic support and development. Recovery in each instance has taken place while ensuring the health and safety of residents and visitors alike.

"The year 2021 has given us an indication that there is light at the end of what has been a long tunnel which began in March 2020.... While the results to date have not indicated a return to 2019 levels, the exceptional results recorded in the summer to year-end period of 2021 show that a scaled or gradual rebound is likely and



very possible by the end of 2022.," it said in a statement.

The CTO noted that by mid-2021, there was a turnaround in tourism activity, with the Caribbean exceeding the global average for stayover arrival growth and tourism's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP). During the third quarter of 2021, there were 5.4 million tourist arrivals to the region, almost three times the arrivals for the same period in 2020, but still 23.3 per cent below 2019 levels.

"Preliminary reports suggest that this progress continued through to the end of the last quarter. Consequently, it is estimated that tourist arrivals for 2021 will exceed 2020 levels by 60 to 70 per cent," the regional tourism organisation stated.

"These experiences and lessons have taught us that travel and hospitality can co-exist with the pandemic affecting both our destinations and markets."

According to the CTO, recovery strategies, continuously being adapted to existing circumstances, based on continued partnerships and collaboration, advocating for safe and healthy visitor experiences and prioritizing the health of residents, have proven to be the formula for recovery of the sector.

It added that there is a demand for the region's tourism product, as shown by its ability to outpace the global growth average for arrivals, and "it is our responsibility to ensure that we continue to position the region to meet this demand in new and refreshed ways".

"Even as we work on our shortterm strategies for recovery of the sector, we urge longer-term approaches to promote sectoral sustainability. Building on our 2021 World Tourism Day message, we encourage moving towards social inclusion and creating smart destinations based on smart businesses as key planks which will lead to sustainability," it said.

Noting that the region's human resources are critical to the success of the sector, the CTO said that during 2022, it hopes "to build on a regional study of human resources to maintain the excellence of our hospitality".

#### New Study Highlights COVID-19 Vaccine **Hesitancy in 6 Caribbean Countries**

CMC - The typical profile of a Caribbean national refusing the vaccine to combat COVID-19 is someone who is out of formal work, and educated to secondary

This is the finding of a new study on vaccine hesitancy in six Caribbean Community countries.

The study was commissioned by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and funded by the United States Agency for International Development.

of, and reasons for, vaccine hesitancy and whether the minds of vaccine hesitant persons can be changed.

The study, conducted by the Barbados-based Caribbean Development Research Services Inc (CAD-

It examines the extent RES), was conducted in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominica, Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

> These countries have indicated that between 40 and 46 percent of their populacont'd on pg 15

## **Regional News**

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## Dominica: PM rules out COVID-19 lockdowns

Loop - Coronavirus infections on Dominica may have spiked in recent weeks but that will not force the government to implement lockdown measures similar to what occurred last year.

Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit announced the development last evening during his weekly television program.

"There is really no need to go to any lockdown stage," Skerrit stated.

"I believe what we need to do as Dominicans is to practice the basics. Washing our hands, wearing our masks and avoiding crowds. If you don't have to go somewhere, don't go."

Keeping the economy open is a priority for Skerrit as he noted businesses and regular Dominicans have taken a severe hit from COVID-19.

As of January 14, active COVID-19 infections on the island is around 647.

Skerrit said his government anticipated the spike in infections following Christmas and New Year events.

The prime minister has encouraged Dominicans to get vaccinated against the virus since it will put them in a better position if and when they become infected. Over 28,700 Dominicans are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

As more countries and territories across the Caribbean are imposing vaccine mandates in some sectors, Skerrit said his government will not be imposing one at this time.

But he noted: "I do not know what the future holds in this regard."

Skerrit said he wants to avoid a situation where there is a division between the vaccinated and unvaccinated in society.

Since April 2021, Dominica has had vaccines available for its citizens over 18



Prime Minister of Dominica, Roosvelt Skerrit

years old.

"It is left to us to decide as citizens what do we want. We cannot want things to get back to normal as citizens and at the same time we are not prepared to take one of the most important actions that can bring comfort to the mind. That is vaccinations," the prime minister said.

#### cont'd from pg 14

tion have been vaccinated.

More than 5,000 people were surveyed and according to the study 24 percent of the unvaccinated respondents believe the vaccines were developed too quickly and are uncertain about what is in them.

One in five said taking the vaccine is a choice and they simply choose not to do so.

Fifty-one per cent of the respondents cite the need for more medical and scientific information, over 40 per cent want to know more about side effects and efficacy, while 30 percent want information on the impact of the vaccine on sexual health and their ability to have children.

In addition, 39 per cent said they may re-think their position if they required the COVID-19 vaccination to travel overseas, while 34 percent may reconsider if it was necessary to get or



to keep a job.

The study also highlighted respondents' thoughts on vaccinating their children. Whereas 62 per cent across the six countries said they were vaccinated themselves, most were against vaccinating their children, with only 24 percent at pre-school, 31 percent at primary level and 48 percent at secondary level.

The need to tailor vaccine promotion interventions was highlighted. The study found that what works with one country and with one person doesn't necessarily work with another and that finding ways to reach the typical vaccine-hesitant individual –

young and not working in the formal sector – with targeted interventions is seen as vital.

"This report will help feed into our behaviour change management program. So your profile of the unvaccinated in Trinidad and Tobago will certainly help us come up with a more focused policy intervention and communications strategy," said Trinidad and Tobago's Health Minister Terrence Devalsingh.

UNICEF's Representative for the Eastern Caribbean Area, Dr. Aloys Kamuragiye, pledged strengthened commitment.

"I urge you to take this data seriously. I urge you to continuously invest in research. UNICEF stands ready to support you as you seek to develop evidence-informed interventions and I look forward to our continued collaboration in 2022 as we address vaccine hesitancy," he added.

## International



#### Anxious wait for news after Tonga cut off

BBC - Tongans living overseas are facing an anxious wait for news of loved ones after a volcano triggered a tsunami.

The underwater volcano erupted on Saturday, about 65km (40 miles) north of the capital Nuku'alofa.

The eruption, which was heard as far away as the US, caused waves higher than a metre to crash into Tonga.

The authorities have not confirmed any deaths but communications are crippled, making it difficult to establish the scale of the destruction. But the brother of a British woman said she died after being swept away in the waves. Angela Glover, 50, was washed away while trying to save her dogs.

More than 10,000km away, two people drowned off a beach in northern Peru amid abnormally high waves.

Both New Zealand and Australia sent surveillance flights to find out more, with New Zealand saying there had been "significant damage" along the western coast of Tongatapu, Tonga's main island. But the Red Cross gave some cause for hope, saying reports suggested the damage was not as bad as had been feared.

"We believe that from the information that we can put together that it is not as catastrophic in those major population centres as we first thought that it might be, so that's really good news," said Katie Greenwood, who is coordinating the organisation's response from Fiji.

Internet and telephone communications in Tonga are extremely limited and outlying coastal areas remain cut off.

For many Tongans living overseas, it has been two days since they have been able to speak to family and friends.

The Ha'atafu Beach Resort on Tongatapu was "completely wiped out" and "the whole western coastline completely destroyed", according to a post on the resort's Facebook page written by contacts overseas.

The post said those living there "just managed to get to safety running through the bushes and escaping", and were "not able to save anything".

The Pacific correspondent for Television New Zealand, Barbara Dreaver, wrote on Facebook that it would take "at least two weeks before international phones and internet are working again", due to damage inflicted on a critical submarine cable as a result of the volcanic eruption.

The Red Cross said even satellite phones, used by many aid agencies, had poor service due to the effects of the ash



cloud. The organisation estimates that up to 80,000 people may have been affected by the tsunami.

The dust from the volcano could contaminate water supplies, with locals advised to drink bottled water and wear masks.

Some officials have voiced concerns over relief efforts resulting in a spread of Covid in the country, which only recorded its first case in October.

"We don't want to bring in another wave - a tsunami of Covid-19," Tonga's deputy head of mission in Australia, Curtis Tu'ihalangingie, told Reuters.

Tonga is made up of 170 islands scattered over about 700,000 sq km. About 100,000 people live in Tonga, the bulk of them on Tongatapu Island.

## Greece punishes unvaccinated elderly with monthly fines

AlJazeera - Greece has imposed a vaccination mandate for people over age 60, as coverage remains below the European Union average while a recent spike in infections pressures hospitals.

Older people failing to get vaccinated will face penalties, starting at a 50-euro (\$57) fine in January and followed by a monthly fine of 100 euros (\$114) after that.

About two-thirds of



Greece has the seventh oldest population in the world, as measured by share of residents aged 65 and over [Getty Images]

) af- Greece's 10.7 million population is currently fully vacof cinated — the EU average is

just more than 70 percent.

The rate of death and daily hospitalisations has in-

creased following the recent spread of the Omicron variant, though pressure on ICU capacity has eased slightly.

Health Minister Thanos Plevris said fines would be collected through the tax office with the money to be used to help fund state hospitals.

"The age factor is important because of its impact on the public health service," Plevris told private Open TV on Sunday.

cont'd on pg 17

## International

**PAGE 17** 

## UAE pledges to retaliate after three killed in Houthi attacks

The UAE has pledged reprisals after a drone attack claimed by Yemen's Houthi rebels triggered a fuel tank blast that killed three people in Abu Dhabi.

The United Arab Emirates is part of a Saudi-led military coalition that supports Yemen's government against the Iran-aligned Houthi rebels, who have repeatedly targeted Saudi Arabia with cross border attacks.

But Monday's attack is the first deadly assault on its own soil acknowledged by the UAE and claimed by the rebels, who said they had fired ballistic missiles and deployed armed drones.

Two Indians and a Pakistani working for oil giant ADNOC died as three petrol tanks exploded near a storage facility, while a fire also ignited in a construction area at Abu Dhabi airport in the heart of the UAE.

"Preliminary investigations indicate the detection of small flying objects, possibly belonging to drones, that fell in the two areas and may have caused the explosion and fire," the police said in a statement carried by state news agency WAM, adding that they had opened an investigation.

Meanwhile, Yahya Saree, the military spokesman of the Houthis said the group had "carried out ... a successful military operation" against "important and sensitive Emirati sites and installa-

tions" using both ballistic missiles and drones.

He also urged civilians and foreign firms to "stay away from vital installations" in the UAE for "their own security".

Emirati presidential adviser Anwar Gargash condemned the "heinous" attack.

"UAE authorities ... are dealing ... with the heinous Houthi attack on some civilian installations in Abu Dhabi," he tweeted.

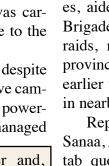
UAE Foreign Minister Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan also described the attack as a "heinous criminal escalation".

"We condemn the Houthi terrorist militia's targeting of civilian areas and facilities on UAE soil today ... this sinful targeting will not go unpunished," he said in a statement.

The UAE had largely scaled down its military presence in Yemen in 2019 but continues to hold sway through the Yemeni forces it armed and trained.

Al Jazeera's Hashem Ahelbarra, who has reported extensively on Yemen, said the Houthi attack was carried out as a "show of defiance to the Saudis and the Emiratis".

"The Houthis are saying despite more than seven years of massive campaigns against us, we are more powerful than before ... we have managed



#### cont'd from pg 16

A vaccination mandate was imposed for health care workers last year. Starting February 1, vaccination certificates for adults will expire after seven months unless the holder receives a booster shot. New infections sharply surged in early January and have eased over the past week.

The mandate for over-60s was

announced in late December and, according to government data, some 41.5 percent of the 530,000 people targeted by the measure are now fully vaccinated.

Greece has the seventh oldest population in the world, as measured by share of residents aged 65 and over, according to the US-based Population Reference Bureau.



Abu Dhabi police identified the dead as two Indian nationals and one Pakistani [Screengrab Al Jazeera]

to further upgrade our military capabilities to the point that we can launch daring attacks inside Saudi Arabia and the UAE."

The Houthis have used bomb-laden drones to launch crude and imprecise attacks at Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The group has also launched missiles at Saudi airports, oil facilities and pipelines, as well as used booby-trapped boats for attacks on key shipping routes.

Yemen's government-aligned forces, aided by the UAE-backed Giants Brigades and with help from Saudi air raids, reclaimed the entire southern province of Shabwa from the Houthis earlier this month and made advances in nearby Marib province.

Reporting from Yemen's capital, Sanaa, Al Jazeera's Mohammed al-Attab quoted the Houthis' minister of information as saying that the "attack inside the United Arab Emirates is to teach them a lesson, in order to stop their involvement and participation in the Saudi-led coalition".

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation all condemned the "terrorist" attack.



## **BE THERE**

**ANTIGUA & BARBUDA** 

#### **SUPER LEAGUE**

Quarter-final 1	January 26	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Quarter-final 4	January 27	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Quarter-final 3	January 28	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Quarter-final 2	January 29	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Loser QF 2 v Loser QF 3	January 30	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Loser QF 1 v Loser QF 4	January 31	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Semi-final 1	February 1	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
Semi-final 2	February 2	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
5th / 6th Play-off	February 3	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
7th / 8th Play-off	February 3	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
3rd / 4th Play-off	February 4	Coolidge Cricket Grounds
Final	February 5	Sir Vivian Richards Stadium
10F - 0 t Final		

\*QF = Quarter Final

PARTNERS

























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# China says tickets for Winter Olympics will not be sold to general public due to Covid-19

CNN - Tickets for the upcoming Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games in Beijing will not be sold to the general public in response to Covid-19 but will instead be distributed by authorities, the Beijing Winter Olympics Organising Committee announced Monday.

"In terms of the grim and complex situation of epidemic prevention and control [and] in order to protect the health and safety of Olympic personnel and spectators, we have decided to change the original plan of public ticket sales," the committee said.

Groups of spectators will be invited on site throughout the Games and will be required to "strictly comply with Covid-19 prevention and control requirements before, during and after watching the Games."

In a statement on Monday, the International Olympic Committee said those in attendance will be residents of China's mainland who have the required "Covid-19 countermeasures."

The announcement comes after Beijing reported its first case of the highly transmissible Omicron variant on January 15.



Photo credit: [Reuters]

The Beijing Winter Olympics are set to begin on February 4, before the Paralympic Winter Games start March 4.

Organisers intend to hold Beijing 2022 in a closed loop system which will only be accessible for Games participants -- a plan that has remained in place amid the rapid spread of the Omicron variant.

As outlined in a Games playbook published in December, the closed loop system will encompass venues, official hotels and

the event's own transport service.

Fully vaccinated participants will be able to enter the closed loop without quarantining, while those who aren't vaccinated will need to quarantine for 21 days upon arrival in Beijing.

Medical exemptions, considered on a case-by-case basis, may be granted to those who are unvaccinated. Some countries, such as the US and Canada, have mandated that all team members be vacci-

nated.

During the Games, participants will be subject to daily health monitoring and testing and will have no contact with the general public.

Returning a confirmed positive test will mean participants cannot compete or continue their role in the Games; those who are symptomatic will stay at a designated hospital for treatment, while those who are asymptomatic will be transferred to an isolation facility.



## Osaka, Nadal advance in Australia after Djokovic flies home

AP — The first test of Naomi Osaka's new approach to tennis might have been when she completely whiffed an overhead to give her opponent a break point on Day 1 of the no-Novak Djokovic Australian Open.

Osaka didn't throw her racket. She didn't roll her eyes. She smiled.

"There are situations where I previously would get upset. But at this point in my life, like, I'm here because I want to be here and because I find that it's fun for me," Osaka said. "Might as well enjoy it while I still can."

In Osaka's mind, the drama involving nine-time champion Djokovic's deportation on the eve of the Australian Open was something for the players in the men's draw to worry about. Her title defence began smoothly enough: She won the first five games on the way to a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Camila Osorio.

With so much attention on the 11-day saga of Djokovic's attempt to participate in the year's first Grand Slam tournament, the returns of Osaka and Rafael Nadal have been overshadowed.

Osaka wasn't bothered by that. Nadal didn't seem to be put off by it, either, renewing his bid for a record 21st Grand Slam singles title with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 win



Naomi Osaka of Japan reacts during her first round match against Camila Osorio of Colombia at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Monday, Jan. 17, 2022. (AP Photo/Hamish Blair)

over Marcos Giron.

Nadal is tied with Djokovic and Roger Federer with 20 major singles titles each, the most in the history of men's tennis. With Djokovic unable to defend his crown in Melbourne because he didn't meet Australia's strict COVID-19 vaccination criteria, the door is slightly more ajar to Nadal.

Osaka's main concern, meanwhile, is winning a third Australian title in four years.

"To be completely honest, it didn't really affect me," Osaka said of the Djokovic drama. "My goal, like even before this whole situation, is to just focus on

myself more, what I need to do to become better.

"Me, I'm a tennis player. I'll focus on my matches. You as, I guess, an audience, focus on whatever is in the news, no?"

A potential fourthround meeting with topranked Ash Barty could be waiting. Barty, aiming to be the first Australian woman to win the title in Melbourne since 1978, beat Lesia Tsurenko 6-0, 6-1.

Osaka, after winning the title last year, pulled out of the French Open before the second round, then sat out Wimbledon. She played at the Tokyo Olympics, where she lit the cauldron, but ended her 2021 season early after a third-round loss and a teary news conference at the U.S. Open.

Two of her goals for 2022 are to stay completely composed on the court and off, and to enjoy the game.

And, yes, finally, the focus was on tennis in Australia. It got started in a big way, with a combined 64 singles matches on opening day.

French Open champion Barbora Krejcikova, fifth-seeded Maria Sakkari, No. 15 Elina Svitolina and two-time Australian Open champion Victoria Azarenka all advanced.

Two young American contenders went out in the first round, with 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin losing 7-6 (2), 7-5 to Madison Keys and No. 18 Coco Gauff saving five match points before losing 6-4, 6-2 to Wang Qiang.

Olympic champion Belinda Bencic advanced to a second-round match against Amanda Anisimova.

Men's Olympic champion Alexander Zverev wrapped up the Day 1 program on Rod Laver Arena with a 7-6 (3), 6-1, 7-6 (1) win over Daniel Altmaier and will next play John Millman, who ended 40-year-old Feliciano Lopez's 79th consecutive Grand Slam event in the first round.

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## **ACN Hosts Cameroon cement top spot**

The Indomitable Lions took the lead when captain Vincent Aboubakar drilled home his fifth goal of the tournament after 39 minutes.

Cape Verde equalised eight minutes after the break as half-time substitute Garry Rodrigues stylishly flicked home.

Aboubakar should have won it midway through the second half only to blaze over the bar with the goal gaping.

Unbeaten in their capital since 1988, the result means Cameroon will remain in stronghold Yaounde for their last-16 tie against a third-placed side from Group C, D or E on Monday, 24 January.

Cape Verde finished third in the group on four points, behind Burkina Faso in the table on head-to-head record, and the Blue Sharks face a wait to see if they will progress as one of four best third-placed sides.

At the last Nations Cup, four points was good enough to reach the last 16, just as it was for teams at both the 2016 and 2020 European Championships.

With Cape Verde drawing 1-1 and knowing a point might take them through, their fans must have feared the worst after goalkeeper Vozinha spilled a cross into the path of the tournament's top scorer - only for Aboubakar to flash the ball over the crossbar from ten



Cameroon captain Vincent Aboubakar (right) has five goals at this year's Nations Cup

yards out.

It was a finish that belied the striker's fine form, after the 29-year-old had earlier equalled a national record set by Cameroon legend, and now national FA president, Samuel Eto'o.

The top scorer in Nations Cup history with 18 goals, Eto'o scored five goals in both the 2006 and 2008 tournaments - a record that is looking in danger with four matches possibly left for the five-time champions to play.

Aboubakar had the best of Cameroon's chances, volleying powerfully over early on before forcing Vozinha to tip a long-distance shot around the goalpost.

His goal came after

Moumi Ngamaleu's free-kick was headed away by Cape Verde's Diney Borges, with Aboubakar unerringly finding the bottom corner with a firm left-footed strike as he latched onto the loose ball.

Instead of feeling sorry for themselves after falling behind, Cape Verde instantly rallied towards the end of the first half when goalkeeper Andre Onana was almost caught out by a deep cross as the island nation started knocking on the door.

Their goal silenced a boisterous crowd inside Olembe Stadium, as Rodrigues flicked in Rocha Santos' cutback from the byline with his right heel to leave Onana stranded.

Aboubakar's golden

chance to win the game came shortly after, and his miss was soon followed by Samuel Oum Gouet firing straight at Vozinha as Cape Verde weathered Cameroon's storm.

Forcing a series of corners after coach Toni Conceicao sent on the cavalry in the shape of forwards Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting and Clinton Njie, Cameroon were unable to break down a resolute Cape Verde defence as Njie and another substitute, Olivier Mbaizo, went close.

But Cape Verde held on and will now have to watch on anxiously to see if their four points will be enough to take them into the knock-out stage for only the second time in their history.

POINTE PRESS

# Ireland overcome late West Indies fightback to take series

A half-century by Shai Hope and valiant bowling efforts by spinners Akeal Hosein and Roston Chase were not enough as West Indies went down in the CG Insurance ODIs series decider on Sunday. The result gave Ireland 2-1 win - their first series win over the West Indies. The visitors collected 10 more ICC ODI Super League points. West Indies are eighth place in the 13 team table with 40 points, while Ireland moved to fourth place on 50 points.

Ireland survived a lower order wobble to beat West Indies for only the third time in an ODI. Set 213 for victory they got 59 from Andy McBrine and 52 from Harry Tector, while stand-in captain Paul Stirling chipped in with a breezy 44. The visitors looked on course for a victory at 190-4 in the 40th over when panic set in among the lower order, four wickets tumbling for 18 runs in the space of 23 balls, as West Indies made a huge comeback.

Speaking after the match, West Indies captain Kieron Pollard said:

"As players we take responsibility. As the leader of the team, I take responsibility for our performance on the field. It is no secret we are disappointed with the way we batted. We weren't able to out enough runs on the board. The one game



Ireland were able to defeat the West Indies by 2 wickets in the series' third ODI at Sabina Park, Jamaica. [Photo: CWI]

where we were able to score 269 we got over the line, but 229 and 212 at this international isn't acceptable."

Stirling said: "We're delighted. It doesn't happen every day. You don't come out on away trips and turn over a side like West Indies every day so I'm very proud of the lads and how they've performed."

Earlier, Hope's top score of 53 – his 20th half-century in the format – looked to be laying the foundation for a large West Indies total after they were sent in. However, his dismissal triggered a decline, the next nine wickets fell for 126 runs, to leave the home side 212 all out in the 45th over. All-rounder Jason Holder played well with an important 44 off 60 balls and Akeal Hosein fought hard for 23. Off-spinner Mc-

Brine, with 4-28 and seamer Craig Young with 3-43 caused major problems.

Hope struck nine fours and a six in a swift 39-ball knock, posting 72 for the first wicket with Justin Greaves (12), before top-edging a hook at Young to fine leg in the 11th over.

Greaves then sliced Young to point in the 13th, Nicholas Pooran (2) and was leg-before-wicket for one in the next over before the inform Shamarh Brooks (1) was also lbw to McBrine in the 16th.

When Pollard (3), Roston Chase (19) and Shepherd (13) followed, West Indies had lost seven wickets for 47 runs, to decline to 119-7 in the 28th over. Holder then anchored an eighth wicket stand of 63 with Hosein before Odean

Smith belted a four and two sixes in a ten-ball unbeaten 20 to hand West Indies precious runs at the end.

In Ireland's innings, McBrine anchored successive half-century partnerships – 73 for the second wicket with Stirling and 79 for the third with Tector. Stirling struck five fours and a six in a 38-ball cameo while Tector completed his third half-century of the series, notching three fours in a patient 76-ball knock.

The left-handed Mc-Brine faced 100 balls and stroked half-dozen fours and a six but it was his dismissal – caught at the wicket off Smith in the 31st over – which triggered the late slide. Spinners Chase (3-44) and Hosein (3-53) then made quick strikes to set up an action-packed finish.

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# Burkina Faso takes 2nd place in Group A at ACN

Cyrille Bayala lobbed keeper Teklemariam Shanko in the 25th minute to give the Stallions the lead.

Ethiopia captain Getaneh Kebede equalised from the penalty spot seven minutes after half-time after Steeve Yago was penalised for handball.

Burkina Faso will face the runners-up from Group C - either Morocco, Gabon or Ghana - in the last 16 on Sunday.

The Burkinabe and Cape Verde both finished on four points in Group A, but the Stallions took second place on head-to-head record.

Cameroon topped the group on seven points after a 1-1 draw with Cape Verde, with Ethiopia bottom on one.

Ethiopia needed to win in Bafoussam to have a chance of progressing and the East Africans had the better of the game, with Burkina Faso lacking fluency in attack despite the return of captain Bertrand Traore from Covid-19.



Burkina Faso finished runners-up at the Nations Cup in 2013

Stand-in Stallions keeper Farid Ouedraogo, starting after first-choice Herve Koffi tested positive for coronavirus, made three good saves to keep Ethiopia at bay in the first half.

The domestic-based back-up dived to his right to keep out a strong effort from Kebede and later gathered Dawa Hotessa's low shot at the second attempt with the game still goalless.

Hassane Bande had missed a glorious chance to put Burkina Faso ahead, failing to connect properly at close range, but the West Africans broke the deadlock when Adama Guira sent a ball over the top of the Ethiopia defence and Bayala converted from the edge of the area with Shanko stranded.

Ouedraogo stuck out his right foot to divert a low shot from Kebede behind 10 minutes before the break but he could not get near the striker's composed penalty, awarded following a video assistant referee review after Yago handled Surafel Dagnachew's freekick at the near post.

Ethiopia probed in search of an equaliser yet could not find the goal which may have given them the opportunity to go through as one of four third-ranked sides.

#### cont'd from pg 24

strengthened the programmes and we gave suggestions.

"I supervised the entire thing, in terms of site visits, making sure that the coaching programmes of the coaches, in preparing their athletes, were sufficient.

"I did not do it with a stick in my

hand, but it was done just to make observations, make suggestions and make recommendations.

"I was fortunate enough to actually be afforded the opportunity to attend the Junior Pan Am Games so I was able to see the work right through to fruition, not just the theory right here in Antigua, but how it played out in Cali, Colombia.

"It was a new concept. The coaches were a bit timid, even apprehensive at first, but then after they got the idea, they got the gist of what was being attempted and what support we were offering, they all warmed up to it and it is a sign of great things to come."

# PAGE 24 TUESDAY 18TH JANUARY 2020



## **TDO** completes development plan for ABNOC

#### By Elwin Francis

Development Technical (TDO) of the Antigua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee (ABNOC) Charles "Chucky" Bellot said he has completed a development plan, which is geared towards improving the twin-island state's athletes' performances at regional, continental, and international competitions.

However, Bellot is reluctant to disclose the contents of the development plan to the general public before it is submitted to the executive body of the ABNOC for its ratification and possible implementation. Bellot said developing the national plan was part of the duties he was asked to undertake when he was appointed to the post by the ABNOC on 19 February, 2021.

"Part of my remit is to develop this plan. The plan has been developed but it has not been placed before the executive and so I am so very cautious to speak out of turn," said Bellot while speaking as a guest on Pointe FM's Sports Overflow programme.

"What I can tell you is, to change the culture of sports, whether it be with me at this particular time or with anyone else and any other organization going forward, we have to treat sports with long term planning in mind," he added.

As TDO of the ABNOC, Bellot is also responsible to design and direct the NOC's Education Programme, Learning for Success (LFS); supervise the NOC's Elite Athlete Coaches Support Programme (EACSP) and supervise the NOC's Youth Athlete Preparation Programme (YAPP).



Technical Development Officer of the Antiqua and Barbuda National Olympic Committee Charles 'Chucky' Bellot, right, at the inaugural Junior Pan American Games in Cali, Colombia, last year. (Photo courtesy ABNOC)

These new initiatives are geared towards strengthening the ABNOC's thrust to provide increased support for the coordinated development of sports to coaches identified by the national fedin Antigua and Barbuda and enhance athletes' preparation for medaling in regional continental, and international competitions.

Bellot said he has also been able to supervise the ABNOC's Elite Athlete Coaches Support Programme, which was launched last year to assist Antigua and Barbuda's representatives at the inaugural Pan American Junior Games in Cali, Colombia, from November 25 to December 5, 2021.

"I was specifically appointed to handle an Athletes Coaches Support Programme, which was launched by the ABNOC sometime last year. That was a programme which, for the first time, offered financial and technical support erations who had athletes identified for possible participation at games which the ABNOC sends delegations," Bellot said.

"So for my tenure thus far, we had interventions with the teams in preparations for the Tokyo (Olympic) Games (in Japan from 23 July to 8 August, 2021), then we launched fully for the recently concluded Junior Pan American Games, which were in Colombia.

"We had a group formed with the coaches that were identified. We went over the plans, we helped each other, we cont'd on pg 23

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