

THRONE SPEECH: GOV'T TO ADDRESS WATER SHORTAGE; EXCITING NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS BILL

On Thursday His Excellency, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams presented the 2022 Speech from the Throne. See story on page 2 [Photo credit: Takumi Media]

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Local News

POINTE PRESS

Throne Speech: Gov't to address water shortage; exciting new Telecommunications Bill

On Thursday morning, the 2022 Speech from the Throne was delivered by His Excellency, Governor General Sir Rodney Williams.

This annual exercise marks the beginning of a new Parliamentary session and outlines the government's agenda and focus for the forthcoming session.

While the theme of this year's Throne Speech was, 'Managing the COVID-19 Challenges: Growing the Economy and Building Resilience', what set the nation abuzz in its aftermath was the promise that the government will seek, in the coming year, to address the long standing issues surrounding the shortages and availability of a reliable water supply.

The other was the announcement of a Telecommunications Bill which will be passed that will bring mobile phone service most notably, along with other areas, in line with practices long implemented elsewhere in the world.

With regard to the water issues, Sir Rodney stated that ongoing drought conditions, the result of climate change, and consequent lower than average rainfall, were to blame for the country's inadequate water supply.

Notwithstanding this, the Governor General indicated that the government implemented measures in an attempt to address the issue, but increased local water demand proved that those steps would not be adequate.

"Seven years ago, when the current administration was first elected, Sembcorp produced a maximum of 3.5 million gallons of potable water daily and was owed more than \$22,000,000 by the APUA. Fast forward to today when as part of its capacity building policy, APUA is now the sole owner of the Sembcorp plants.

"Further, APUA has through its stra-

tegic planning process, doubled potable water production to 7 million gallons per day by bringing more reverse osmosis or R/O plants online. The reality is that sustained drought conditions and an expanding economy have resulted in an increased demand for water from 6 million gallons per day in 2013 to 8 million gallons per day in 2020," he said.

"To meet growing demands for potable water, APUA has reported that they have now moved beyond planning and will be in their implementation phase this year as they pursue their goal to produce an estimated 10 million gallons per day, well in excess of the expected daily demands of 8 million. The future looks promising," the Governor General continued.

Consequently, the government has provided the following line up for improved water production:

a. A Japanese funded R/O Plant which brings the complement of units at Ffreyes Beach to four, will begin its commissioning process from this weekend with the expectation to be operational within the first quarter of this year. Our nation's production capacity will increase by 350,000 gallons per day when this unit comes online.

b. The Fort James R/O Plant, with a capacity of 500,000 gallons per day will be commissioned by June 2022. The plant has been paid for and is already containerized for shipment.

c. The Bethesda R/O Plant, with a capacity of 3.2 million gallons per day, will be commissioned in September 2022. My government has been assured by APUA that payments for this plant have been accelerated to facilitate its expeditious delivery to our shores and to avoid any delays in the supply chain.

These new plants are expected to



Governor General Sir Rodney Williams [Photo credit : Takumi Media]

significantly enhance the units at Crabbes, Camp Blizzard, Barnacle Point, Pigeon Point and the three (3) existing units at Ffyres Beach.

Governor General Williams further acknowledged the difficulties being faced by consumers in the country's highlands who, even when running water is available, do not receive service as a result of low water pressure. He also addressed the situation with the promised St. John's sewer system and other issues related to the management of water related matters going forward.

"My Government is aware that in spite of these significant improvements in production, many are not experiencing the expected flow of water through their taps and a small number of households on higher elevations have water flow and pressure challenges. The APUA Water Division has given my government assurances that they have identified the existing distribution system as being the bottleneck in the water supply process.

"Our existing system has done its time; it is inefficient and inadequate for the consistent supply of quality, potable water. A sustainable solution, to include the installation of a sewer system in St. John's City, had already been designed but delays occasioned by the COVID 19 *cont'd on pg 4*

Local News PAGE 3 **Jamaican National becomes** first road fatality of 2022

The 29 year-old who died after being struck by a car yesterday morning on Friars Hill Road has been identified as Yorks resident Lashauna Bridgen.

The Jamaican national is the country's first road fatality of 2022.

Reports are that Bridgen was employed as a security guard with Hawkeye Security and Surveillance Systems Limited.

According to a statement from the Strategic Communications Department (STRATCOM) of the Royal Police Force of Antigua and Barbuda, allegations are the woman was walking from west to east of Friars Hill Road when she was struck by a car travelling from south to north.

It happened in the vicinity of Vil-



lage Walk sometime around 5:45 am.

Unconfirmed reports suggest the woman may have been exercising at the time she was hit by the vehicle. Further, allegations are that the driver may not have seen her as Bridgen was wearing dark clothing.

Police have reported the woman was transported by EMS to Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre, where she was pronounced dead by a medical doctor.

The driver of the vehicle that struck her is assisting police with their investigation.

Last week, head of the traffic department, Assistant Superintendent of Police, Rodney Ellis, expressed concern over the increase in accidents involving pedestrians.

In 2021, 34 pedestrians were involved in accidents, an increase of 21. when compared to 13 in 2020.

Of the 34 in 2021, three people died.

ASP Ellis has appealed to the media for assistance in educating pedestrians on the use of the roads and the importance of being aware of their surroundings in order to help reduce such unfortunate incidents.



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Local News POINTE PRESS **Health Minister looks toward** higher vaccination numbers

Minister of Health, Wellness and the Environment, Sir Molwyn Joseph, says while he is pleased with the latest vaccination figures, which have hit the 60,000 mark, he was hoping for a higher number.

The COVID-19 Dashboard issued by the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environment on Wednesday evening placed the number of fully vaccinated people at 60,022 and partially vaccinated at 3,007.

The government faced an uphill struggle attaining that level due to vaccine hesitancy and resistance from anti-vaxers.

Sir Molwyn Joseph, although slightly disappointed with the vaccination numbers, said considering the prevailing conditions, Antigua and Barbuda has done remarkably well in inoculating its citizens and residents.

"I was hoping we would get at least 70 percent. How-

cont'd from pg 2

pandemic have slowed the implementation process. My government and the APUA Water Division asks for the further patience of its residents and customers as it continues to press toward the achievement of its goal," he said.

The other major standout was that of the Gaston Browne-led government's intention to introduce the Telecommunications Bill 2022.

The new legislation will, among other things, seek to modernise telecommunications services in the state.



Sir Molwyn Joseph

ever, when you look across the whole Caribbean, Antigua is leading. So to that extent, I have to be pleased that Antiguans have responded to the call to be vaccinated," the minister said.

He credited the government's vaccine mandate for making a difference and maintains its benefits outweigh the disadvantages.

"Even though it [vaccine mandate] was criticized severely in certain circles, one must now look at the benefits. As a result of what we have achieved in terms of

the mandate, getting people vaccinated, we are able to accommodate more visits for instance by cruise ships and even by planes with overnight visitors to our country.

"So Antigua and Barbuda is in a better position epidemiologically, to be able to take certain levels of risks to accommodate visitors to our country," Sir Molwyn argued.

Minister Joseph continues to appeal to those who are not yet vaccinated to inoculate themselves against the COVID-19 virus.

He is reminding the population that vaccines are available at no charge.

He is further urging the public to be mindful of the fact that the vaccines have an expiration date, therefore the government encourages persons not to let the available doses go to waste.

Sir Molwyn believes if the country can achieve a vaccination rate of 80 percent, "we would have really served a serious blow to COVID-19".

The health minister pointed to hospital admissions as evidence that the vaccines are making a difference.

"Notwithstanding the large surge we are seeing, we only have about 19 people in hospital and there is only one of the 19 that is seriously ill.

"So that too demonstrates that with the vaccine, you might still get the virus, but the chances are you will not get severely ill."

"Although the new law will be all-encompassing, the time has come to separate the competitors from the regulator and allow improvements in telecommunications that are objectively managed," said Governor General Williams.

According to Sir Rodney, this will give mobile phone users the ability to, "...change their telephone carriers while keeping their existing numbers, called number portability, will soon be a reality and the provision of fiber-optic to the home will also be completed in 2022."

With respect to broadband internet services, he continued, "APUA is investing more than \$100 million in an undersea cable to enable the improvement of our broadband services so that my government can fast track Antigua and Barbuda's forward trajectory to a developed-country status.

"COVID has caused many plans to be delayed, but my government is confident that this will be temporary and our gifted policy makers and technicians will find creative ways to work smartly within the new paradigm."



Due to the increase in Covid-19 cases and in keeping with the social distancing protocol, we have a reduced number of Representatives available at our Bill Payment, Customer Service Stations and Contact Centers (directory assistance and fault reports). This will affect our Service Technicians for water, electricity and telecoms. Please note that this will impact wait times for in-office or telephone interactions and service delivery. Please be assured that these changes have been made in an effort to continue providing uninterrupted service to you our valued customers and ensuring the safety of our Staff.

Alternatively, customers are encouraged to utilize our online portal to view electricity and water bill balances and make payments at **www.apua.ag** and through Online Banking with our banking partners or credit unions.

Call our Customer Service Department at **480-7150** or email **customerservice@apua.ag** for bill balances and general queries. Please have your account number available when contacting us.

We thank you for your understanding and we sincerely apologize for any inconvenience caused. We encourage everyone to continue adhering to the established safety protocols.



Instructions for Apua Online Portal:

HOW TO REGISTER! HOW TO PAY ONLINE!

STEP 1: Go to www.apua.ag STEP 2: Click 'Pay Water & Electricity'.

Get your bill in hand and find the following:

- Your account number. This is your
- Location No. & Customer Number. For example: E123456789-123456789
- Meter number
- For example: A12345678
- STEP 3: Click 'Register', fill in your 'Login Details' and 'Personal Details'. Make sure your email address is active.

STEP 4: Click 'Register Now'.

STEP 5: Confirm your email address to activate then login and proceed!

- **STEP 1:** Login to your APUA account. **STEP 2:** View your current balance and clic
- STEP 2: View your current balance and click (\$ Pay Bill'. STEP 3: Enter the amount you wish to pay. Click
- STEP 3: Enter the amount you wish to pay. Onck '\$ Pay My Bill' then click 'Continue'.
 STEP 4: Fill in your card information. Click

'Submit Payment'

Payment complete! Your receipt will be emailed to you.

Please note that payment updates will be shown on the account the following business day.

For customer support, please email us at customerservice@apua.ag or call (268) 480-7150.



Instructions for *inet* **Home** Online Portal:

HOW TO PAY ONLINE: STEP 1: Go to www.apua.ag STEP 2: Click 'Pay inet'. STEP 3: Select Account Number or Telephone Number STEP 4: Complete Form

STEP 4: Complete Form STEP 5: Click 'Make Payment' PAGE 6

Guest Editorial

Democracy in Barbados fully entrusted to new Mia Mottley government

By Sir Ronald Sanders

(The writer is Antigua and Barbuda's Ambassador to the United States and the OAS. He is a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Commonwealth Studies, University of London and Massey College in the University of Toronto. The views expressed are his own)

Rejecting the accusations of bullying and despotism that were levelled at Mia Mottley, the overwhelming majority of the electorate of Barbados returned her and her Barbados Labour Party (BLP) to government for a second consecutive term at general elections held on January 19.

Not only did the majority demonstrate their confidence in her, they returned her to office unanimously. As occurred in the general elections of 2018, they gave her and the BLP every seat in the 30-member House of Representatives.

This result also put to rest any allegations that the majority of the people of Barbados are unhappy about their country becoming a Republic. If this unhappiness existed, the general election was the time to demonstrate it by voting against Mottley – that did not happen. While the Constitution of Barbados does not require a referendum, it may be that many persons might have been unhappy that one was not held to allow them to vote on the matter, but any discontent was clearly not profound enough to cause the majority not to support her.

And, make no mistake about it. The January 19 general election was most definitely about Mia Mottley's leadership. The BLP campaign placed her front and centre of the elections contest, declaring "Safer with Mia" as its principal slogan. The main opposition, Democratic Labour Party (DLP), also made her leadership style the target of their crusade.

So, if the elections were a judgement by the people of Barbados on Mottley's stewardship of the country's affairs, it should now be obvious to all, except the disgruntled leadership of opposition parties, that the majority of the electorate are satisfied with her performance.

On the issues that mattered to the Barbadian people when Mottley was



Sir Ronald Sanders

elected in 2018, she and her government tackled them successfully in the 3 years and 8 months they held office. These included: overflowing sewage on the South coast of the island; poor commuter service because of insufficient buses; inadequate garbage collection resulting from an inadequacy of collection trucks; poor and deteriorating water supply; disrepair of roads; and decline in foreign reserves necessary to cover imports of goods, including food. She inherited these issues from the government of her predecessor, Freundel

Stuart. He undermined the chances of his Democratic Labour Party in the January 19 general elections by declaring its 10-year period in office, between 2008 to 2018, mostly under his leadership, as "glorious". The electorate manifestly did not agree with him in 2018, nor in 2022.

POINTE PRESS

As for restoring respect for the country in the international community, very few would dispute that Mia Mottley quickly established high regard for Barbados that redounded to the benefit of the country's im*cont'd on pg 7*

Guest Editorial

cont'd from pg 6

age. She has been fearless in her representation of the rights of small states and her advocacy for attention to their interests.

While at the time of writing the official figures are not available, it seems that the turn out at the poll for the January 19 elections was low - possibly around 45%. At the 2018 elections, the voter turn out was 60%, and the average between 2003 to 2018 was 63.9%. Three things could have accounted for the smallness of the poll, among them: fear by older citizens of contracting the COVID-19 virus; conviction by traditional DLP supporters that their hastily assembled team, including those who were rejected in 2018, was not electable; and some disaffection by BLP supporters.

Whatever the reason for the low poll, Mia Mottley and the BLP won all 30 seats in the House of Representatives for a second time, and they did so democratically in a transparent process. The Prime Minister and her government now have a mandate to implement the programmes and policies detailed in the manifesto they presented to the Barbados people.

One of the accepted principles of democracy is "a belief in shared power: based on a suspicion of concentrated power (whether by individuals, groups or governments)". In the absence of an official opposition in the parliament of Barbados, power of government has been concentrated in Prime Minister Mottley and the BLP.

The Prime Minister and her government have to be acutely aware that the majority of the electorate of Barbados have trusted them with the proper stewardship of the nation's affairs. Given this great trust that has been placed in them, they now have an obligation to consult widely and deeply with representative bodies, including the private sector, trade unions and specialist non-governmental organisations in their administration of the affairs of the Barbadian people.

Such proper stewardship requires the inclusion of all in the society to equal opportunity; openness in listening to the views of groups and taking account of their positions; and structured machinery for frank discourse.

The Prime Minister and her government have a great chance to demonstrate to the people of Barbados - and the world -that democracy and democratic principles can be deliberately and thoughtfully upheld and strengthened, particularly when the electorate has entrusted them so fulsomely with the power of government.

In accomplishing this, Mia Mottley can win another 'first' among all the other firsts that she has already attained as a warrior for people's rights and a champion of democracy.

Responses and previous commentaries: <u>www.sirronaldsanders.com</u>



CONGRATULATIONS!



BDO Eastern Caribbean is pleased to recognize the achievement of Justina Sappleton-Goodwin on the successful completion of her ACCA Examinations. Justina, who is currently an Audit Senior, is now an ACCA Affiliate having completed the ACCA Program which is a significant step in her educational achievements and professional development. We congratulate Justina on her achievement arising from her hard work and determination and we look forward to her continued contribution as a valuable member of our Assurance Team.

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Local News

POINTE PRESS

Antigua & Barbuda to host global women's conference in May

A number of women will converge in Antigua and Barbuda later this year for the first annual Caribbean Women Inventors & Innovators Network (CaribWIIN) Conference and Awards Ceremony.

The 18th and 19th May, 2022 event is being put on by the UK based organisation, Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GlobalWIIN).

Women in leadership, business, influencers and others will come together in Antigua and Barbuda where they will have the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues affecting female entrepreneurs while capitalising on networking opportunities that will be available to them during the conference.

According to GlobalWIIN, its mission is to identify and reward women inventors and innovators across the globe and raise their global profile.

Ahead of the event, founder and

Chief Executive Officer of GlobalWI-IN, Dr. Bola Olabasi, said the goal is to put the "spotlight on the advancement of many ingenious services, processes and products by women".

Dr. Olabasi added, "This occasion provides an opportunity to learn the views of the inventive and innovative minded on their acquired knowledge, research and development as well as the hands-on technologies that help solve pressing global issues.

"It is based on open and constructive dialogue and on real and practical experiences while fostering a better understanding of the world's best practices and policies."

Regarding the decision to host the first event in Antigua and Barbuda Dr. Olabasi said, ""It is about time that the world takes notice of the captivating, unique and innovative remedies, concepts, products and processes that women from the Caribbean develop



Dr Bola Olabisi, Founder & CEO, Global-WIIN

for social and economic growth, regionally and globally.

According to the GlobalWIIN website, its "ethos is to facilitate diversity, education and capacity-building while supporting women in taking their ideas into the competitive market".

Anderson Carty jailed for failing to appear in Court

Industrial Relations Officer Anderson Carty was sent to jail yesterday after a bench warrant was issued for his detention.

He was expected to remain in lockup last evening before re-appearing in St. John's Magistrates' Court this morning.

According to reports, the bench warrant was issued and executed after the aspiring politician failed to attend court on several occasions in connection with an outstanding civil matter.

At the time of the execution of the bench warrant,



Carty, who is contesting the St. John's Rural West seat in the upcoming general election as an independent candidate, was moving from the Greenbay house he was renting after being served

with an eviction notice.

On Thursday morning, at least three bailiffs from St. John's Magistrates' Court, along with an attorney, went to Carty's home to execute a Warrant of Possession issued against him for the non-payment of rent.

Allegations are he has been living in the property for about 15 years but was not up to date with his payments.

As a result of the non-payment of rent, the landlord took him to court where an order was made against him in the amount of \$25,000 for which he was indebted.

He was given until January 15, 2022, by the court, to vacate the premises, however he failed to do so and was forcefully removed.



Parenting

POINTE PRESS

How to help your young child cope with the pandemic

By Claire McCarthy, MD, Senior Faculty Editor, Harvard Health Publishing

The COVID-19 pandemic has been stressful for all of us, and this includes our youngest children.

It's easy, and tempting, to think that infants, toddlers, and preschoolers aren't affected by the pandemic. The truth is, though, that that life has changed for them, too - and for some of them it has changed dramatically. Even if the change is mostly positive for them - such as having their parents home all the time - it's still a change that can be confusing and unsettling. Young children are less able to understand the nuances of all of this; for them, the world truly is all about them. And they also have very acute radar when it comes to the emotions of their caregivers.

As a paediatrician, I've been hearing from families about young children who are having trouble sleeping, whose eating habits have changed, who are crying or throwing tantrums for no good reason, or are just generally crankier and more irritable than usual. Some are more clingy, which can get tough for parents who are working from home.

So what can a parent do? It should be said up front that there are no magic answers or quick fixes; this is a hard time, and it's going to stay hard until case numbers go down a lot or there is a vaccine, or both. But that doesn't mean that there aren't some strategies that can help.

Talk to your children about the pandemic — but keep it simple and optimistic

Obviously, this is more about preschoolers than infants and toddlers, but you need to have an explanation for why you can't go on the swings or visit Grandma, or why you have to do a Zoom meeting instead of playing with blocks. Tell them that there is a germ that can make some of us sick, and we want to be sure that we don't catch it or give it to someone else without realising it.

As much as you talk about this, talk about how lots of people are working very hard to make the germ go away and keep us safe. Talk about all the things that you as a family are doing, like wearing masks (for children over the age of 2) and washing hands and staying a safe distance from others. It's important to talk positively, not just because you want to keep things positive now, but also because at some point we will be going out more, and if you haven't laid the groundwork, kids may be frightened when they begin to do things they weren't allowed to do before.

Be mindful of the media your child is exposed to — and the things you say when they are in hearing distance. Little ears can be easily worried and confused.

Build routines into your day

Life has been upended for all of us in some way or another, and it's tempting to, well, wing it. But kids do best with some degree of predictability, so keep to a regular sleep and meal schedule. Create a schedule that includes fun and playtime. If a child knows that they will have that time with you, they may be more willing to play independently while you work.

As you are building routines, build in some exercise. It's good for everyone's health, and it blows off steam too; something like a walk around the



Photo credit: Getty Images block playing I Spy can be both playtime and exercise for everyone.

Cut yourself slack

A little extra screen time for your kid so that you can get some work done may just be inevitable. Playtime may not be particularly inspiring (it's totally fine to turn chores into games, in fact it's a great idea). Meals don't need to be inspiring either. We can only do our best — and as I said at the beginning, this is hard on all of us.

Take care of yourself

Children really do notice when their parents are stressed or sad and may worry that it's their fault. And when we snap (or worse) at our children because we are feeling bad, it can make everything harder. So as you build those routines, build in some time for the things you need and enjoy. Don't try to tough it out if you are feeling bad, too; reach out for help. While all of us need to take care of our physical and mental health during the pandemic, it's even more important for caregivers — because others are counting on them.

If you have any worries about your child or your child's behaviour, call your doctor. Even though some offices have limited hours, there should always be someone you can talk to.

Entertainment

Brandt roasted, praised for description of T&T's poor

By Kimoy Leon Sing

Trinidad and Tobago's Miss World representative Jeanine Brandt's recent statements at the Miss World Pageant in Puerto Rico have come under heavy scrutiny from Trinbagonians over her depiction of Trinidad and Tobago.

The Palmiste beauty from San Fernando, during the Beauty with A Purpose segment on Monday, said that there were thousands of children in Trinidad and Tobago living in abject poverty with no access to running water, electricity, and unable to go to school.

She added: "They have no access to healthcare, and they don't even know where their next meal is coming from."

The video clip of Brandt making the statements began circulating on social media yesterday, stirring a lot of emotions among citizens, who either agreed with Brandt's depiction of Trinidad and Tobago or were angered by her statements – calling it lies.

In the two-minute and 19-second video clip, Brandt said: "I formed the Brandt Beauty Foundation to break the cycle of poverty among these families, and these little girls to give them opportunities to realise their dreams.

"There are so many issues we are facing right now. I decided to embark on several projects throughout my coun-



Jeanine Brandt's comments about T&T's poor have come under fire

try because there is no one solution to these problems. I conducted several empowerment sessions with girls to teach them vocational skills. I built a home for a family of seven to create a safe environment for them to live in. I distributed thousands of sanitary napkins to women and girls throughout my country. Yes, we were giving out food hampers, but no one was thinking about feminine hygiene.

"I was able to establish a hydroponic system to create food sustainability and an income for 100 families. I was able to provide a solar panel to a family who was in desperate need of electricity."

Brandt released a statement on Tuesday to address the issue. She said, "My intention was never to portray our twin island nation in a negative light or to bring ill repute to the Miss World Trinidad and Tobago Franchise.

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"On Monday 17th January 2022, a video clip of my presentation for the Beauty With A Purpose Head-to-Head Challenge from the Miss World 2021 pageant was circulated on social media platforms. I was asked to present in under two minutes my beauty with a purpose project to a panel of judges. As the Miss World Representative for Trinidad and Tobago, I appreciate the significance of my role. I can and have attested to all the beauty our nation has to offer; however, in this instant I was asked to present on a societal issue I was passionate and purposed about. Over the past two years I have worked assiduously through my NGO The Brandt Beauty Foundation to aid and support underprivileged communities," she said.

Brandt is one of 98 contestants from around the world who is vying for a shot at the coveted title.

The beauty queen was in the headlines just last month after she was one of several delegates who tested positive for COVID-19, a day before the initial December 16 finals. The pageant was shifted to a new date, March 16, 2022, for the grand finale.

Sean Paul, Most Streamed Jamaican Artiste on YouTube in 2021

By Nekisha Cyrus

Men lie, women lie, but numbers don't! And yes the numbers are in for the moststreamed Dancehall artiste on YouTube in 2021 and according to a report from Reggaeville.com, Jamaican Superstar Sean Paul has successfully claimed that spot.

Sean Paul lands in the No.1 spot with a total of 1.6 billion views and plays globally in 2021 as revealed by the official YouTube Music Charts. When it comes to his most viewed songs, in first place we have his 2017 collaboration alongside English Singer & Songwriter Dua Lipa 'No Lie, which is almost at 1 billion views with 239 million views coming from 2021 alone.



Sean Paul [Photo credit: Invision]

Entertainment

POINTE PRESS

Grammy Awards moved to April 3 in Las Vegas

Reuters - The Grammy Awards ceremony honouring top performances in music has been rescheduled for April 3 in Las Vegas, the Recording Academy and broadcaster CBS said in a statement on Tuesday.

The awards had been set to take place on Jan. 31 in downtown Los Angeles, but organisers scrapped that date as the Omicron variant sparked a new wave of COVID-19 infections.

Comedian Trevor Noah will host the ceremony, which will be televised and streamed live from the MGM Grand Garden Arena

Nominations for the 2022 Grammys were announced in November. Pianist and bandleader Jon Batiste led a field that ranged from rap to jazz music and embraced newcomers from teen pop sensation Olivia Rodrigo to veteran crooner Tony Bennett, 95, who won his first Grammy in 1963.

The 2021 Grammy Awards also were postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ceremony was staged in March instead of January and included a mix of pre-recorded and live segments in front of a small, socially distanced audience.

Organisers provided few details about 2022 show beyond the new date and location.

The new Grammys date forced a switch for CMT Music Awards for country music, which had been scheduled for April 3. They will now take place later in April, CBS said.



Pointe Xpress Weekend Puzzle

- 1) Word with "age" or "race" Flower that blooms in the
- fall
- Number cruncher
- 14) Archer's missile 15) Wind-borne item
- 16) "Bobby Hockey"
- 17) Sports broadcast VIP
- 19) Extinct bird of New
 - Zealand
- 20) Spread a rumor
- 21) Evening meal
- 23) Mexican snack
- 26) Dry, as bubbly
- 28) First name of a Sally Field
- character
- 29) Blood classification letters
- 30) Fond du , Wisc.
- 32) League division, often
- 33) Closemouthed
- 34) Phone number parts 38) Everlasting
- 55) Eyeball, in a way 56) Bronzed from the beach 58) Ornithological 60) Bristle on barley or rye

40) Panting for a potable

45) Letters from the hole?

49) It's nothing in soccer

50) "... ____ finest hour"

52) Very large birds

46) Related to the ear

48) Southwest info

43) Poetic Emily

- 61) Capable of igniting and
- burning
- 66) Mighty small
- 67) Chat room persona non
- grata 68) Blue expanse
- 69) Staples in magazines



- Yolk (egg part) Seasoned veteran
- 3) Upper limb
- Small band
- 5) Painting pitcher
- Up and about
- 7) Pancake flipper
- 8) Day care attendee
- 9) Archer on Olympus
- 10) What many incumbents do 11) Applying pressure
- 12) Literary prefaces
- 13) Ark landfall 18) Well-used pencil
- 22) Type of line or plant
- 23) Break from the wild side?
- 24) Share a border with
- 25) Funny females
- 27) Diplomacies
- 31) Salmon variety 34) Mandela's org.
- 35) Leave leaveless
- 36) Upper class "type"
- 37) Racket
- 39) Poisonous protein in the castor bean
- 41) Labor strenuously
- 42) Time of "comfort and joy"
- 44) Can be identified
- 46) Home of senators
- 47) Ceased to be frozen
- 51) Cyma (molding type) 53) Throat dangler
- 54) Potential aunt, for short
- 55) Reserved or preserved
- 57) Village or hamlet
- 59) Like _____ of bricks 62) Day of many a fed. holiday
- 63) One that serves the queen
- 64) Young fellow
- 65) Widths of some spaces

By Corey Bowers

70) Breathing interruption 71) More than desires

Entertainment

André Leon Talley, influential fashion journalist, dies aged 73

The Guardian - André Leon Talley, the influential fashion journalist and former editor-at-large of US Vogue under Anna Wintour, has died at the age of 73.

TMZ reported that Talley had passed away on Tuesday at a New York hospital, of an unknown illness. His death was later confirmed by his literary agent, David Vigliano.

A larger-than-life character – and six foot seven inches tall – Talley was a pioneering figure in the fashion world, as known for his biting comments and flamboyant presence as the statement kaftans, hats and robes he frequently wore. In a career that spanned six decades, Talley used his position to champion diversity on the runway and behind the scenes in the fashion world.

Designer and close friend Diane von Furstenberg was among those to pay tribute on Wednesday. "Goodbye darling André ... no one saw the world in a more glamorous way than you did," she wrote. "No one was grander and more soulful than you were."

Playwright Jeremy O Harris wrote: "For a little black gay boy who reached for the stars from the south there were few people I could look up to up there amongst the stars who looked like me just more fab except for you André.

"For a generation of boys André Leon Talley was a beacon of grace and aspiration.

Born in 1948 and raised in North Carolina in the Jim Crow era, Talley was a lifelong advocate of fashion, recalling in his 2020 memoir The Chiffon Trenches how he would visit his local library to read copies of Vogue magazine, which came to em-



André Leon Talley, a pioneering figure in the fashion world and former editor-at-large of US Vogue, has died at the age of 73. Photograph: Joshua Bright/The Guardian

body a world in which "bad things never happened".

Speaking to the Guardian in 2020, Talley recalled students at his university stoning him as he crossed campus on Sundays to buy Vogue.

His career in fashion began with an internship for former Vogue editor Diana Vreeland at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in 1974.

Vreeland, impressed with his skills, introduced Talley to contacts at Andy Warhol's Factory and Interview magazine, where he worked as a receptionist.

He began writing for publications including W and the New York Times, but it was at US Vogue that he made his name, rising up the ranks to become the magazine's news director, then creative director until 1995 when he left. He returned to the magazine three years later and remained the editor-at-large until 2013.

Talley's long working relationship with Vogue editor Anna Wintour would become the big selling point of his second memoir, The Chiffon

Trenches, in which Talley took unsparing potshots at his former boss. Talley felt he had lost favour because "I had suddenly become too old, too overweight and too uncool". Wintour, he wrote, was incapable of "simple human kindness" and "never really passionate about clothes. Power was her passion." In the book he also detailed the sexual abuse he endured as a child, and the racism and sizeism he encountered throughout his life.

He felt "at home" in the fashion world, he once told the Guardian, because "there were no victims, only high-octane egos".

In 2021 he was softer on Wintour, telling the Cut: "She's the empress. She's worked hard. She's gone through many battles. She deserves everything they give her. At 72, to have that job, is very, very, very impressive. I wish her all the best."

Talley also served as a judge on America's Next Top Model and, in 2008, became the Obama family's fashion advisor.

Entertainment

POINTE PRESS

Microsoft buys game maker Activision Blizzard for about \$70B

By Matt O'brien

Microsoft is paying the enormous sum of nearly \$70 billion for Activision Blizzard, the maker of Candy Crush and Call of Duty, a deal that would immediately make it a larger video-game company than Nintendo while raising questions about the deal's possible anti-competitive effects.

The all-cash \$68.7 billion deal will turn Microsoft, maker of the Xbox gaming system, into one of the world's largest video game companies. It will also help it compete with tech rivals such as Meta, formerly Facebook, in creating immersive virtual worlds for both work and play.

If the deal survives scrutiny from U.S. and European regulators in the coming months, it could be one of the biggest tech acquisitions in history.

Dell bought data-storage company EMC in 2016 for around \$60 billion.

Activision has been buffeted for months by allegations of misconduct and unequal pay. Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella addressed the issue Tuesday in a conference call with investors.

"The culture of our organization is my No. 1 priority," Nadella said, adding that "it's critical for Activision Blizzard to drive forward" on its commitments to improve its workplace culture.



The Activision Blizzard Booth is shown on June 13, 2013 during the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles. Microsoft bought Activision Blizzard on Tuesday for \$68.7 billion to gain access to blockbuster games including Call of Duty and Candy Crush. The all-cash deal will let Microsoft accelerate mobile gaming and provide it building blocks for the metaverse, or a virtual environment. (AP Photo/Jae C. Hong, File)

Activision disclosed last yearit was being investigated by Securities the and Exchange Commission over complaints of workplace discrimination and in September settled claims brought by U.S. workforce discrimination regulators. California's civil rights agency sued the Santa Monica-based company in July, citing a "frat boy" culture that had become a "breeding ground for harassment and discrimination against women."

Wall Street saw the acquisition as a big win for Activision Blizzard Inc. and its shares soared 25% in trading Tuesday, making up for losses over the past six months since California's discrimination lawsuit was filed. Shares of Microsoft slipped about 2%.

Last year, Microsoft

spent \$7.5 billion to acquire ZeniMax Media, the parent company of video game publisher Bethesda Softworks, which is behind popular video games The Elder Scrolls, Doom and Fallout. Microsoft's properties also include the hit game Minecraft after it bought Swedish game studio Mojang for \$2.5 billion in 2014.

The Redmond, Washington, tech giant said the latest acquisitions will help beef up its Xbox Game Pass game subscription service while also accelerating its ambitions for the metaverse, a collection of virtual worlds envisioned as a next generation of the internet.

While Xbox already has its own game-making studio, the prospect of Microsoft controlling so much game content raised questions about whether the company could restrict Activision games from competing consoles, although Nadella promised the deal would help people play games "wherever, whenever and however they want."

The acquisition would push Microsoft past Nintendo as the third-largest video game company by global revenue, behind Playstation-maker Sony and Chinese tech giant Tencent, according to Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives.

Meta, Google, Amazon and Apple have all attracted increasing attention from antitrust regulators in the U.S. and Europe, but the Activision deal is so big that it will also likely put Microsoft into the regulatory spotlight, Ives said. Microsoft is already facing delays in its planned \$16 billion acquisition of Massachusetts speech recognition company Nuance because of an investigation by British antitrust regulators.

Microsoft is able to make such a big all-cash purchase of Activision because of its success as a cloud computing provider. But after years of focusing on shoring up its business clients and products such as the Office suite of email and other work tools. Ives said Microsoft's failed 2020 attempt to acquire social media platform TikTok may have "really whet the appetite for Nadella to do a big cont'd on pg 15

Entertainment

Ti Spencer: Antigua & Barbuda's Master Mixologist!

Altino 'Ti' Spencer is one of Antigua and Barbuda's premier Master Mixologists. If you ever have the pleasure of enjoying one of his refreshing and absolutely delicious masterpieces, you will quickly realise that he doesn't just offer you a drink: it's an experience.

Ti's drinks are always so well presented that after taking a quick picture of your glass it really can be quite difficult to decide to down the work of art!

When asked what drives his excellence as a mixologist, Ti is quick to explain, "Bartending is not just my job; it's my passion!"

In 2020, when the world was just beginning to grapple with the fallout of COVID-19, the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority asked the Antigua and Barbuda award-winning mixologist to create a new cocktail to transport people to Antigua and Barbuda and he did not disappoint when he unveiled his unique invention, "The Lift Off".

When Pointe Xpress approached the All Saints Village native with the request to feature one of his delicious cocktails, he was only too willing to accept.

Best of all, he shared with us his most recent recipe which we hope you will try at home, especially as



Master Mixologist, Ti Spencer. (Photo credit: Ti Spencer's Instagram)

COVID-19 has put a damper on socialising.

Some of the ingredients you probably already have at home, others may require a trip to the store but, believe us when we say it will be worth the effort!

The Gin & Galliano Sour has a very unusual ingredient for a cocktail: an egg white! But Ti says don't be squeamish and skip it!

"I never knew it would be so good! Add the egg white!" he said.

Remember, we encourage you to drink responsibly!

Gin & Galliano Sour By Ti Spencer Ingredients:



Ti's latest invention, the Gin & Galliano Sour

1 1/2 oz beefeaters gin1/2 oz Galliano1/2 oz lemon juice1/2 oz simple syrupEgg white from one egg

Instructions:

Dry shake all the ingredients first for extra fluff then add ice strain and serve!

cont'd from pg 14

consumer acquisition." Pushback against the

deal was immediate from consumer advocacy groups.

"No way should the Federal Trade Commission and the U.S. Department of Justice permit this merger to proceed," said a statement from Alex Harman, competition policy advocate for Public Citizen. "If Microsoft wants to bet on the 'metaverse,' it should invest in new technology, not swallow up a competitor."

Started in 1979 by former Atari Inc. employees, Activision has created or acquired many of the most popular video games, from Pitfall in the 1980s to Guitar Hero and the World of Warcraft franchise. Bobby Kotick, 59, has been CEO since 1991.

Microsoft said it expects the deal to close in its 2023 fiscal year, which starts in

July.

It said Kotick will continue to serve as CEO. After the deal closes, the Activision business unit would then report to Phil Spencer, who has led Microsoft's Xbox division and will now serve as CEO of Microsoft Gaming.

Regional News POINTE PRESS Mottley, Marshall sworn n after BLP 30-0 win

Nation News- Moments after being sworn in for a second time as Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Amor Mottley said she would spend this weekend fine-tuning a new Cabinet.

Mottley and Dale Marshall became the first political leader and Attorney General respectively to be sworn in taking the country's new oath, which had only been done in a ceremonial context at National Heroes Square when the country became a republic on November 30 last year.

The Prime Minister and Attorney General were sworn into their positions by The Most Honourable, Dame Sandra Mason, the President of Barbados, during a brief ceremony just after 11 yesterday morning.

Mottley, who led the Barbados Labour Partv to a resounding back-toback 30-0 win at the polls Wednesday, said she would take over responsibilities for the Ministry of Health over the next few days, until her new Cabinet is revealed



In a 30 seat clean sweep, Prime Minister Mia Mottley secured a 2nd term in office for the BLP on Thursday.

on Monday.

She said between yesterday and Monday she would put her mind to forming a team of innovative thinkers to comprise the new Cabinet.

The swearing in ceremo-

ny was attended by Leader of Government Business in the House of Assembly, Santia Bradshaw, general secretary of the party The Most Honourable Jerome Walcott, and general secretary of the Barbados Work-

ers Union, Toni Moore, and a handful of constituents.

The Prime Minister's parents, Elliot Mottley QC and Amor Mottley were also on hand for the ceremony at State House, Government Hill, St Michael.

Bermuda lifts curfew but keeps limits on crowd sizes and gatherings

Loop - Bermuda has lifted the tions will remain in place for another curfew that was imposed to slow the spread of coronavirus.

This was announced by Minister of Health Kim Wilson on Wednesday.

From today, the following restric-

two weeks:

Maximum group sizes will remain at 20 people.

Household mixing is strongly discouraged.

Masks must be worn indoors and, also, outdoors when you are within 6 feet of another person.

For restaurants, bars and clubs, tables will be limited to a maximum cont'd on pg 17

Regional News PAGE 17 POINTE PRESS Former Haitian senator, family captured in Jamaica remanded

Jamaica Gleaner - The former Haitian Opposition senator linked to the assassination of president Jovenel Moïse was this morning remanded on immigration charges when he appeared in the Kingston and St. Andrew Parish Court.

John Joel Joseph, was apprehended in St Elizabeth along with his wife Edume, their 18-year-old son Schopenhauer, and their 9-year-old daughter on January 14.

They too were remanded until February 15 after their lawyer, Donahue Martin informed the Senior Parish Judge Lori-Ann Cole Montaque that he needed more time to have further



Former Haitian senator, John Joel Joseph discussions.

According to a senior police officer, Joseph was listed among five fugitives for whom Haiti's Justice Minister Rockefeller Vincent said the country would offer six million gourdes for their arrests.

The other key suspect, ex-Colombian military officer Mario Antonio Palacios, was deported from Jamaica on January 3 in keeping with an order by the Supreme Court here after his

immigration breach conviction.

Palacios was intercepted in Panama by US law enforcement agents and taken to Florida where he was charged with various crimes related to Moïse's assassination.

Moïse was killed at his private residence overlooking the capital on July 7, 2021. He was reportedly shot 12 times and had bullet wounds to his forehead and several to his torso.

His left eye had been gouged out and bones in his arm and in his ankle had reportedly been broken.

His wife. Martine Moïse, was also shot in the incident but survived.

cont'd from pg 16

of 10 people and must be spaced 6ft apart. A SafeKey will continue to be required for these indoor settings.

Employees who are able to work remotely from home are encouraged to do so. Employers are asked to use antigen tests to ensure employees who must be at the workplace are not infected with the coronavirus.

Churches will be open; however, all members must wear masks - the officiants, congregation and choirs.

Gyms can remain open - but a SafeKey must continue to be used, and physical distancing must be observed.

Personal care services – a SafeKey is recommended for those services that require masks to be removed.

Omicron is responsible for a surge of new infections on the island and Wilson said the government's decision

to remove the curfew but keep limits on gatherings was done after looking at the impact that the variant had on persons.

She noted the island's SafeKey initiative "remains a valuable tool to help reduce the risk of coronavirus transmission."

"From 15 February, persons will require a booster in order to be eligible for this automatic renewal process if their second dose was received more than 6 months ago," Wilson said.

"In addition to using SafeKey, wear your mask properly, practice good hand hygiene and keep physically distanced from those not in your household. Take an antigen test before you go out to know your status. A home test is a quick, easy way to determine whether you are infectious."

The minister added that appoint-



Bermuda's Minister of Health, Kim Wilson

ments for COVID tests at government sites have been limited to a daily maximum until turn-around time at the MDL Lab returns to 24 hours.

The lab's testing capacity is expected to be restored by this weekend.

International AROUND THE WORLD

Former Pope Benedict failed to act over abuse, new report finds

BBC - Former Pope Benedict XVI failed to act over four child abuse cases when he was archbishop of Munich, a German probe into the Catholic Church has alleged.

Pope Benedict, then called Josef Ratzinger, held the position from 1977 to 1982. He has denied the accusations.

But a new report into historical abuse allegations carried out by a German law firm incriminated the former pontiff.

Abuse continued under his tenure, it is alleged, and the accused priests remained active in church roles.

The former pope, now aged 94, became the first Church leader to resign in more than 600 years in 2013, citing exhaustion. Since then, he has led a largely quiet life in the Vatican City and is known as pope emeritus.

The new report from German law firm Westpfahl Spilker Wastl was commissioned by the Catholic Church.

"Two of these cases concern abuses committed during his tenure and sanctioned by the state," lawyer Martin Pusch said as he announced the report.

"In both cases, the perpetrators remained active in pastoral care."

In one instance, it is alleged he knew about a priest accused of abusing



Pope Benedict XVI

boys who was transferred to his diocese, but who then continued to work in pastoral care roles - this often involves visiting and supporting people within the community.

The former pope is reported to have submitted dozens of pages of answers to the law firm's questioning, in which he expressed support for the inquiry but denied any knowledge or lack of action around the abuse allegations.

The report, however, contains minutes which strongly suggest he was present at a meeting at which the subject was discussed. The Vatican said in a statement that it would examine the details of the report once it had been published.

"As we reiterate the sense of shame and regret for the abuses on minors by priests, the Holy See expresses its support for all victims and it confirms the path to protect minors, guaranteed safe spaces for them," the Vatican added.

A previous report into historical abuse in Germany concluded that more than 3,600 people nationwide had been abused by clergy members between 1946 and 2014. Many of the victims were very young and served as altar boys. The new report looking into the Munich and Freising areas specifically found at least 497 abuse victims from 1945 to 2019.

POINTE PRESS

In addition to the former pope, the report criticised other Church figures, including the region's current archbishop, Cardinal Reinhard Marx. He was found to have failed to act in two cases of alleged abuse.

The cardinal already offered Pope Francis his resignation in June 2021, saying he should share responsibility for the "catastrophe" of abuse which was coming to light. Pope Francis, however, refused to accept the resignation. Days earlier, the pope had changed the Vatican's criminal laws, toughening the Church's stance on sexual abuse.

<u> Vacancy – Legal Consultant</u>

Through the project "Creating an Enabling Environment for Early Warning Communications," the National Office of Disaster Services seeks a suitably qualified legal consultant

to

draft the legislative framework for early warning systems and communications

For further information and the terms of reference, please visit: http://nods.gov.ag/job-opportunity-legal-consultant/



North Korea slams US, hints at resuming nuclear, ICBM tests

International

AP - Accusing the United States of hostility and threats, North Korea on Thursday said it will consider restarting "all temporarily suspended activities" it had paused during its diplomacy with the Trump administration, in an apparent threat to resume testing of nuclear explosives and long-range missiles.

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency said leader Kim Jong Un presided over a Politburo meeting of the ruling Workers' Party where officials set policy goals for "immediately bolstering" military capabilities to counter the Americans' "hostile moves."

Officials gave instructions to "reconsider in an overall scale the trust-building measures that we took on our own initiative ... and to promptly examine the issue of restarting all temporarily suspended activities," the KCNA said.

Experts say Kim is reviving an old playbook of brinkmanship to extract concessions from Washington and neighbours as he grapples with a decaying economy crippled by the pandemic, mismanagement and U.S.led sanctions over his nuclear ambitions.

The North has been ramping up its weapons demonstrations recently, including four rounds of missile launches just this month, in an apparent effort to pressure Washington over a prolonged freeze in nuclear diplomacy.



People watch a TV showing a file image of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un during a news programme on Thursday. (AP Photo/Ahn Young-joon)

The North's Foreign Ministry had already warned of stronger action after the Biden administration last week imposed fresh sanctions over its continued missile tests. The U.N. Security Council scheduled a closeddoor meeting for Thursday to discuss North Korea and non-proliferation matters.

South Korea said its military was closely monitoring the North as it urged its rival to return to dialogue.

China, North Korea's main ally, repeated its denouncement of U.S. sanctions through a Foreign Ministry briefing on Thursday, calling them a source of tension on the Korean Peninsula. China has avoided criticizing the North over its recent missile launches and endorsed a return to multinational disarmament talks hosted by Beijing that have stalled since 2008.

Kim announced a unilateral suspension of his nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests in 2018, as he initiated talks with then-President Donald Trump in an attempt to leverage his nukes for badly needed economic benefits.

Their summits followed a provocative run in North Korean nuclear and intercontinental range ballistic missile testing in 2017 that demonstrated Kim's pursuit of an arsenal that can target the American homeland. He also exchanged threats of nuclear annihilation with Trump.

But negotiations have stalled since their second summit in 2019, when the Americans rejected North Korea's demand for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

At the end of that year, Kim returned to familiar threats and said the North was no longer obligated to maintain its suspension on nuclear and ICBM tests, which Trump touted as a major achievement. However, the pandemic thwarted many of Kim's economic goals as the North imposed a lockdown and halted most of its trade with China.

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North Korea appeared this month to have resumed railroad freight traffic with China that had been suspended for two years.

It conducted its sixth and last test of a nuclear explosive device in September 2017. and its last launch of an ICBM was in November that year.

Some experts say that the North could dramatically raise the ante in weapons demonstrations after the end of February's Winter Olympics in Beijing.

They say Pyongyang's leadership likely feels it could use a dramatic provocation to move the needle with the Biden administration, which has offered open-ended talks but showed no willingness to ease sanctions unless Kim takes real steps to abandon his nuclear and missile program.

Saying that U.S. hostility has reached a "danger line" that can no longer be overlooked, the North Korean Politburo members called for practical measures to "more reliably and effectively increase our physical strength for defending dignity, sovereign rights and interests of our state," the KCNA said.

They criticised United States of continuing its military exercises with South *cont'd on pg 20*

International AROUND THE WORLD

Ukraine tension: Biden says he thinks Putin will 'move in'

BBC - US President Joe Biden has said he thinks his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin will "move in" on Ukraine but does not want "full-blown war".

He told a news conference Mr. Putin would pay a "serious and dear price" for invading, but indicated a minor incursion might be treated differently.

The White House later stressed any Russian military move would be met with a swift, severe response from the West.

The Kremlin warned the comments could further destabilise the situation.

Russia has some 100,000 troops near the border but denies planning an invasion.

President Putin has made a series of demands to the West, insisting Ukraine should never be allowed to join Nato and that the defensive alliance abandons military activity in Eastern Europe.

cont'd from pg 19

Korea and arming its ally with advanced weaponry and claimed — apparently falsely — that Washington is continuing to send strategic assets to the region to pressure the North.

The United States since 2018 has dramatically scaled down its combined exercises with South Korea, which have mostly been reduced to computer simulations, to make room for diplomacy with North Korea and over COVID-19 concerns.

Kim Jong Un in recent years had showcased some new weapons he may

"We have made it clear that any further eastward expansion of Nato is unacceptable," Mr. Putin said at a televised press conference last month.

Mr. Putin's exact reasons for the buildup of Russian troops near Ukraine's border are unknown, but many believe it is an attempt to force the West to take Russia's security demands seriously.

On Thursday, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken is meeting foreign ministers from Germany, France and the UK to coordinate Western strategy over a potential invasion of Ukraine. He has previously warned that Russia could attack Ukraine at short notice.

At his news conference on Wednesday, Mr. Biden said: "There are differences in Nato as to what countries are willing to do, depending on what happens.

"If there's Russian forces crossing the border... I think

wish to test, including what appeared to be North Korea's largest ICBM that was rolled out during a military parade in October 2020.

He also issued an ambitious wish list of sophisticated weaponry early last year while setting a five-year plan to develop military forces, which included hypersonic missiles, solid-fuel ICBMs, spy satellites and submarine-launched nuclear missiles.

If the North does stage another nuclear test, it may use it to claim it acquired an ability to build a nuclear warhead small enough to fit on a purported



US President Joe Biden that changes everything.

"What you're going to see is that Russia will be held accountable if it invades and it depends on what it does," he said. "It's one thing if it's a minor incursion, and then we end up having to fight about what to do and not do etc."

White House officials rushed to clarify the US position after Mr. Biden's comments. "If any Russian military forces move across the Ukrainian border, that's a renewed invasion, and it will be met with a swift, severe, and united response from the United States and our Allies," Press Secretary Jen Psaki said.

POINTE PRESS

In response, the Kremlin said that any warnings of disastrous consequences for Russia would not help to reduce tensions, and could even destabilise the situation further.

Russia says the West and Ukraine are creating an information campaign to cover for their own aggressive actions. A foreign ministry spokesperson, Maria Zakharova, warned that it could have "the most tragic consequences for regional and global security".

hypersonic missile it tested twice so far this year, experts say.

Last week, the U.S. Treasury Department imposed sanctions on five North Koreans over their roles in obtaining equipment and technology for the country's missile programs.

The State Department ordered sanctions against another North Korean, a Russian man and a Russian company for their broader support of North Korea's weapons of mass destruction activities. The Biden administration also said it would pursue additional U.N. sanctions over the North's tests.

Sports News

Djokovic owns major share in COVID-19 biotech developer

Novak Djokovic has an 80% stake in a biotech firm that is developing treatments for COVID-19.

The revelation comes in the wake of Djokovic's deportation from Australia after a long-running visa feud which began when the unvaccinated tennis star travelled Down Under with a medical exemption.

Djokovic owns a majority stake in a biotechnology company which is working on a way to immunise people against COVID-19 without using a vaccine.

The Serbian tennis star has been vocal in his opposition to jabs, and appears to be actively invested in finding a way for others like himself to be protected without the need for a needle.

It was revealed by Reuters on Wednesday that Djokovic has purchased an 80% share of QuanBioRes, which is headquartered in Copenhagen.

The firm is working on a way to counter the virus without the need for people to get one of the vaccines currently on offer.

Djokovic has been a vocal opposer of vaccines, a subject which was brought up by his lawyers during those court appeals.

It appears he has long been invested - both personally and financially - in helping to find a way for people to get protection from the virus without the need for a vaccine.



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Novak Djokovic has an 80% stake in QuanBioRes which is developing treatments for COVID-19



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Sports News

POINTE PRESS

Hero CPL viewership passes 500 million once again

The viewership of the Hero Caribbean Premier League (CPL) passed the half a billion mark for the second successive season in 2021 with strong numbers across the globe. The total viewership was 517.4 million across linear TV and digital channels.

The 2021 Hero CPL took place in St Kitts & Nevis with all 33 matches taking place at Warner Park, Basseterre. The home franchise, the St Kitts & Nevis Patriots, emerged victorious in a thrilling final against the Saint Lucia Kings, which was the most watched game of the tournament with the semi-final between the Patriots and Guyana Amazon Warriors the second most viewed match.

Once again it was India that represented the largest linear TV viewership with the Caribbean close behind. There were major broadcast deals across the globe. In India, Star and Fancode shared the linear and digital broadcast and ensured CPL became the second most watched league after the IPL. In the Caribbean Sportsmax and the major local stations showed the games.

BT Sport in the UK, Fox Sports in Australia, Willow in the USA and Sky in New Zealand were the other major global networks to broadcast CPL. The



Photo credit: Hero CPL T20 tournament was also streamed on Hero CPL's social media channels, ensuring the CPL could be watched anywhere in the world.

The total viewership of 517.4million sees the Hero CPL maintaining the big boost in coverage that the tournament received in 2020, once again showing the worldwide appetite for 'The Biggest Party in Sport'. The 2021 broadcast featured a number of innovations including virtual pitch advertising, live player tracking and the use of Sportcor's Kookaburra Smart Ball for the first time in a live tournament setting.

Pete Russell, Hero CPL's CEO, said: "We were delighted to pass the 500 million viewer mark set in 2020 and to maintain that figure for 2021 when we were competing with so many other sports, is a fantastic achievement.

"These figures show where the Hero CPL sits in world cricket with the tournament now being amongst the most watched cricket leagues in the world. We are very much looking forward to continuing this fantastic success in 2022 and promise to continue to innovate and deliver unforgettable viewing experiences."

Messi to miss 2022 World Cup qualifiers

Argentina's 2022 World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Argentina Football Associa-

Lionel Messi will miss Colombia as he continues to tion (AFA) said on Wednesrecover from Covid-19 the

day.

The news came a day after the Argentina captain returned to training for his club, Paris Saint-Germain, following weeks of inactivity. Messi, 34, has not played since PSG drew 1-1 at FC Lorient in France's League 1 on December 22.

Last week the forward said he had taken longer than expected to overcome the virus. Argentina are second in the 10-team South



Lionel Messi

American qualifying group and are already guaranteed a place at football's showpiece tournament in Qatar, to be played from November 21 to December 18.

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at Imperial Wanderers Stadium, Johannesburg)

Day matches start 10am local time (4am Eastern Caribbean/3am Jamaica)

Day/night matches start 2pm local time (8am Eastern Caribbean/7am Jamaica)

Tuesday, January 25: warm-up match - vs South Africa XI (day)

Friday, January 28: 1st ODI (day/night) Monday, January 31: 2nd ODI (day) Thursday, February 3: 3rd ODI (day/night) Sunday, February 6: 4th ODI (day)

Sports News

Australian Court reveals reasons for Djokovic's deportation

Three Australian Federal Court Judges on Thursday revealed their reasons for backing a government's order to deport tennis star Novak Djokovic, explaining they did not consider the "merits or wisdom of the decision."

The judges on Sunday unanimously endorsed immigration Minister Alex Hawke's decision to deport the 34 year old Serb following an urgent court challenge on the eve of what was to be Djokovic's first match in defence of his Australian Open title.

Djokovic accepted the verdict and flew from Melbourne to the United Arab Emirates hours later.

The court does not consider the merits or wisdom of the decision," the judges said.

"The task of the court is to rule upon the lawfulness or legality of the decision.

"Another person in the position of the minister may have not cancelled Mr. Djokovic's visa. The minister did," they added.

Djokovic had his visa revoked at Melbourne's airport on January 6 hours after arriving because he wasn't vaccinated against COVID-19.

A judge later found that the border officer's decision to cancel the visa was legally unreasonable and restored it. But Hawke used his sweeping discretion under the Immigration Act to cancel the visa again on Friday on the broad ground of public interest.

Meanwhile Djokovic plans a 3.2 million pounds lawsuit against the



Novak Djokovic returned to his homeland Serbia after being deported from Australia last week. Persons deported from Australia normally face a three year ban from reentering the country [Creator: Darko Bandic [Photo credit: AP]

Australian government as the saga takes a new twist including his presumed Aussie Open prize money.

JA ice hockey team secures major sponsorship

The Jamaica Olympic Ice Hockey Federation (JOIHF) has secured a significant sponsorship deal from US based Geneva Financial Home Loans to support its drive towards developing the sport and qualifying the team for the 2030 Winter Olympic Games.

Geneva Financial Home Loans is a mortgage company headquartered in Chandler Aizona with more than 130 branches across 46 states in the US.

In announcing the deal with JOIHF' Rachel Caple, Chief Sales and Revenue Officer and wife of JOIHF board member Sean Caple said "My husband is a board



The Jamaica men's ice hockey team member and the director of hockey operations for JOI-HF, which makes the suc-

cess of the programme all aim is to ensure the team the more personal."

Caple added that their Games of 2030.

makes the winter Olympic

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Anisa Mohammed and Hayley Matthews named in ICC Women's ODI Team Of The Year 2021

Cricket West Indies (CWI) on Thursday congratulated Anisa Mohammed and Hayley Matthews on being named in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Women's One Day International (ODI) Team of the Year.

Experienced off-spinner Anisa Mohammed finished 2021 as the joint-highest wicket-taker with 20 wickets with at an average of 18.00, being one of the most economical bowlers conceding at just 3.61 runs per over. Her best figures in 2021 came in the second CG Insurance ODI against Pakistan Women at Coolidge Cricket Ground in Antigua, where she took 4 wickets for 27 runs in her 9.4 overs bowled.

Talismanic allrounder Hayley Matthews had success with both bath and ball. She scored 380 runs including one century and one half-century, picking up 18 wickets at an average of 22.44. Matthews smashed an unbeaten 100 not out in the third CG Insurance ODI against Pakistan Women at the Sir Vivian Richards Stadium in Antigua for her highest score of 2021. She spun a web over the same opponents on the West Indies Tour to Pakistan in the second ODI at the National Stadium in Karachi where she finished with 4/26, helping the West Indies Women defend their 153 run total to win the three match ODI Series.

On learning of her selection, Mohammed said, "I feel really excited and honoured to be named in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year... I didn't play cricket for almost a year and a half



Hayley Matthews

because of the COVID-19 pandemic, so I just wanted to have fun after not playing for so long. I wanted to go out and do my best and help my team as best as I could, and I was actually shocked when I saw I got most wickets."

While Matthews said,"It's pretty exciting. Going into 2021 I would have set some pretty big goals for myself, so I was happy that I was able to go out there and have a good year. Looking at it from a team stand-point I guess it was good for us to see where we were at last year and looking back now on the growth we've had when it comes down to our bowling, batting, and fielding. It's been really good to see the progress and it's something myself and the team will be looking to build on in 2022."

Both players expressed delight in the increased amount of both match time and preparation camps that the West Indies Women had in 2021. Under the guidance of Head Coach, Courtney Walsh the team was able to have several high-performance training camps in Antigua, as well as two international series



Anisa Mohammed

against Pakistan Women and South Africa Women. 2021 also saw the West Indies Women's A team host an inaugural home series against the visiting Pakistan Women's A team.

CWI President Ricky Skerritt extended congratulations to the players. He said:

"Their selections speak testimony to their own outstanding individual attitudes towards improving their own game, but it also provides an important return to CWI on our refocused Women's program. There is still much work to be done to grow and improve the Women's game in our region, but this global achievement by Anisa and Hayley should provide inspiration to all of their colleagues, and to all stakeholders."

The West Indies women are currently in South Africa where they will take on South Africa Women in a warm-up match and four ODIs starting January 28 to February 6 at the Imperial Wanderers Stadium in Johannesburg.

MATCH SCHEDULE: (all matches *cont'd on pg 22*

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