



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

POINTEXPRESS

TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

MONDAY 31ST JANUARY 2022

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 21

WWW.POINTVILLE.AG

HAROLD LOVELL: "THE DUDE IS A FAILURE!" SAYS GASTON BROWNE



Story on Page 2

Gaston Browne: Is Harold Lovell a man you can trust to run this country?

Over the weekend Prime Minister Gaston Browne revealed that he did in fact follow the United Progressive Party's drive-in political campaign launch last week.

While he dismissed the meeting as empty and a waste of time with very few actual policy issues addressed, he went in hard on the UPP's political leader, Harold Lovell, whom he says cannot be trusted to run the country.

Browne tore apart Lovell's track record as Minister of Finance blaming the 66-year-old politician for the late 2000s collapse of the local economy which was compounded by the global recession during that same period.

According to PM Browne, if after borrowing close to one billion dollars Mr. Lovell could not re-energise the economy, and in fact made it worse by negotiating inexplicably foolish loans and contracting the country's \$4 billion economy by \$1 billion, he has proven that he is incapable of leading the nation.

"I am asking the reasonable people of Antigua and Barbuda, if this is a man that you can trust to run this country.

"Let us not forget that the same Harold Lovell borrowed \$320 million from the IMF, borrowed \$135 million from Vene-



zuela, then they borrowed \$135 million from CDB (Caribbean Development Bank), \$600 million to repair the economy, and what do you think Harold Lovell did? He collapsed the economy by 25 percent after he borrowed \$600 million!" said Browne.

The prime minister posited that the quality of the UPP's candidates, starting with their leader and others of its membership who have a record of failure, proves the sheer audacity of the organisation.

He went on that the brazenness of the UPP is a clear indication that they believe the people of Antigua and Barbuda have short memories.

"That is how brazen they are!. So they allow a little time to pass and then they come back and try to reinvent themselves as some kind of saviour, some kind of redeemer."



UPP's political leader, Harold Lovell

Mr. Browne went on that Mr. Lovell's failures were not confined to his tenure as minister of finance. He said he also failed the people of St. John's City East as their parliamentary representative.

"Harold Lovell represented an area called City East. He can't point to one single project that he presided over in that constituency in ten years as their representative.

"The earthen drains and all the flooding and so on that was taking place over the decades, didn't cause him to move to repair those drains. And now that Melford [Nicholas] has gone in there and has actually put in some proper drainage so that there will be no flooding, and he provided loans for people in the area, Harold Lovell is saying the drains them not good enough when he had ten years and failed to

put in even a single drain! The dude is a failure!" said Browne.

Mr. Browne continued that the people of City East's rejection of Mr. Lovell on seven of the nine occasions he has run for office is indication enough that he is unsuitable to lead the nation.

According to Browne, Lovell's two terms in office were the result of the national swing against the ABLP back in 2004, not because the people of St. John's City East had confidence in him as a leader.

"If a man can't win his seat, how you going justify having him as a prime minister? If the people of City East [are] saying to the nation, "" We do not want this man! Don't bring him back,"" and [you're] bringing him back again to get beaten a third time, then what is the point?" said PM Browne.

Budget exceeded for water system upgrade, govt commits to forging ahead

Cabinet spokesman Melford Nicholas insists the government will not place a cap on funding for the upgrade of the country's water system.

He was speaking on Thursday during the post-Cabinet press briefing, where it was revealed that the budget allocated for upgrading APUA's water system has been exceeded, even before the commencement of the programme.

Approximately \$30 million were set aside to facilitate the upgrade that will include repairing leaking pipes and replacing decades-old corroded iron pipes with polyethylene. But a complete overhaul will cost more than the fraction that was set aside from an ACB loan received by the government to facilitate the process.

Minister Nicholas explained the allocated bud-

get has been exceeded because of adjustments to the original plan that will likely be made once the upgrade commences.

With costs likely to double the initial estimate, Mr. Nicholas said the government is determined to rectify the ongoing water woes and will not be constrained by the overall cost.

“Again it’s an ongoing project, it’s a moving target and the government is committed through and through to ensure that at the end of the day, all businesses and all residents and all who will require potable water, including our farmers ... so we want adequate water supply for all those particular reasons and our commitment is for as long as it takes, and how much ever it takes to get us to that position,” he noted.

APUA's system upgrade will also include the
















Cabinet spokesman Melford Nicholas

commissioning of several reverse osmosis plants.

“We are not going to be constrained by budget. This is not a matter that’s gonna [sic] be funded, by bilateral arrangement with any particular funding agency, though we have gotten support from our friends in Japan, and though we

have gotten [sic] support from other areas in terms of some of the issues that we are dealing with.

“Assuming that having gotten [sic] to the end where we have now completed the desalination plants and we’re able to generate 10 million gallons of potable water per day, and the pipelines are replaced but then there are still issues in relation to ensuring we have enough pumps to drive the water pressure into the homes, or we may need additional reservoirs, the commitment of the government is to find the resources to be able to make that happen,” Nicholas stated.

<p>Mon 31 Day</p> <p>82°  5%  SE 9 mph</p> <p>Sunny. High 82F. Winds SE at 5 to 10 mph.</p>		<p>Mon 31 Night</p> <p>73°  23%  SE 5 mph</p> <p>A few clouds from time to time. Low 73F. Winds light and variable.</p>	
<p> Humidity 67%</p>	<p> UV Index 10 of 10</p>	<p> Humidity 82%</p>	<p> UV Index 0 of 10</p>
<p> Sunrise 6:38 am</p>	<p> Sunset 6:02 pm</p>	<p> Moonrise 6:11 am</p>	<p> Moonset 5:36 pm</p> <p> New Moon</p>

UPP leader promises to pay LIAT workers' full severance

The leader of the United Progressive Party, Harold Lovell, has promised to pay LIAT workers their full severance should his party win the coming elections.

Lovell gave the "solemn undertaking" during the UPP's first major political rally last week.

"The United Progressive Party is giving you a solemn undertaking that the matter of your severance and your entitlements will be paid and we will treat it as a priority.

"This is not a matter of compassion. This is a matter of a moral, legal and spiritual obligation to the workers of LIAT," he asserted.

While the UPP leader did not indicate where the money would come from to pay off the local ex-workers of the bankrupt airline, he did offer suggestions on how his party's promise could be fulfilled.

"Through negotiation, consultation and compromise with you, the workers and your union representatives, we will get this outstanding matter resolved once and for all," said Lovell.

Following the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the cracks in the faltering regional airline finally gave, and major shareholder governments, including



UPP political leader, Harold Lovell [Photo credit: Harold Lovell]

Barbados and St. Vincent and the Grenadines, finally threw in the towel, taking the position that they would no longer continue to financially prop up the troubled carrier.

The Gaston Browne-led Antigua and Barbuda government, however, made a valiant move to save the airline through legislative manoeuvring, but this meant that a financially wrecked LIAT was not in a position to meet its obligations to its creditors and former staff.

The Browne administration has made millions of dollars available in the form of a "compassionate" settlement to cover up to 50 percent of LIAT's outstanding obligation to its

Antigua and Barbuda based workers.

While more than 100 people have been said to have accepted the payout which takes the form of cash, university scholarships, government issued bonds and land, many others have insisted that anything less than the full amount owed is inadequate.

Those among this number is president of the Leeward Islands Pilots Association (LIALPA) Patterson Thompson.

Earlier this month, Thompson said that both the "compassionate payment" offered by Antigua and Barbuda and a BD\$2000 payout along with another BD\$2000 advance on severance payments by the

Barbados government were unacceptable. He argued for a long term solution to be devised to address the plight of severed LIAT workers.

"It's not an offer of compassion because there is an agreement. I have to give up my rights to anything that can be done in liquidation, so it's not compassionate. Compassion says "Well, I'm going to give you this money unconditionally," so let's take that compassionate talk back. Thompson said.

"We haven't had any money for 21 months. Are you saying we're not worth it? We've been operating the airline – ground crew, mechanics, flight attendants, office staff, pilots – you want us to retool, but we don't have the money to retool. People's homes will now be in stock. People will have to leave school, some may have to leave their islands. How is that compassionate?" Thompson asked.

At present, LIAT is operating limited flights and routes with a skeleton staff who have taken as much as a 50 percent cut in their former salaries.

Approximately 500 people across the region who were directly employed by LIAT were put out of work after the airline's collapse.

Sir Molwyn participates in the major economies forum on energy and climate change

Sir Molwyn Joseph, Minister with responsibility for the Environment, participated in the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF) last Thursday.

The 27th January virtual meeting was hosted this year by US Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, John Kerry.

Minister Joseph participated in the meeting in his capacity as the Ministerial Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS).

The meeting provided an opportunity for ministers to discuss the progress achieved since last November's annual international climate change meeting, COP 26, in Glasgow; priorities and challenges going forward, and ways in which countries can cooperate to accelerate their climate efforts.

The MEF includes countries representing approximately 80 percent of global GDP, population, and greenhouse gas emissions. Other countries with critical input on the climate crisis were also invited to participate.

Other participants included ministers and other high-ranking officials from: Antigua and Barbuda (as

Alliance of Small Island States Chair), Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh (as Climate Vulnerable Forum Chair), Brazil, Canada, China, Egypt (as COP27 President), the European Commission, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands (as the High Ambition Coalition Chair), Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal (as Least Developed Countries Chair), Turkey, United Kingdom, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the office of the U.N. Secretary-General.

Among the main issues discussed were: the dramatic reduction required in the use of coal; the urgent need for a transition to electric vehicles; the decarbonisation of the electricity sector; combating deforestation, and a global pledge to reduce methane emissions by 30 percent by 2020.

Minister Joseph highlighted that the greenhouse gas emission reduction efforts of MEF countries must ensure that no country is left behind, and that old, high emissions technologies do not end up in developing countries.

Discussions on finance acknowledged that there is



Sir Molwyn Joseph

more than adequate investment capital to fund the transition, however there will be a need for partnerships and adequate investment frameworks to ensure the goals are arrived at quickly.

During the meeting, Minister Sir Joseph communicated his appreciation to US Special Envoy Kerry on hosting the important meeting on emissions reduction. He underscored the urgency needed in addressing climate change as scientists predict a 2.7-degree Celsius temperature increase which can spell the end of many island nations and a surge in climate refugees.

The Minister called for rhetoric to translate into actions. MEF countries must

send signals that they are serious about doing something. Climate impacts in the countries include droughts, erosion of coastlines, and hurricanes.

Sir Molwyn called on MEF nations to protect their more vulnerable members with a view to aggressive and sustained mitigation which will circumvent the need for adaptation at all.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who opened the meeting, charged the MEF ministers with considering an "implementation plus" approach.

For Antigua and Barbuda this "implementation plus" approach means addressing climate change while growing the national and regional economy.

Quick on the drawer

By **Tony Deyal**

P.G. Wodehouse, the great English humourist, in “Code of the Woosters” wrote this classic play on words, “I could see that, if not actually disgruntled, he was far from being grunted.” Now that a rapidly weaponising Caribbean has both gone for higher and guns for hire, one either has to bite the bullet or respond in alarm or concern, “Oh shoot!” In Wodehouse words, are you “dis-gun-tled” or merely “gun-tled”?

I am not sure how many of you remember the Carpenters song, “We’ve only just begun” with the unforgettable lines, “Sharing horizons that are new to us / Watching the signs along the way...” Well, I can sing you the song of the present where its only just “big-gun” and the signs along the way are terrifying. The headlines say it all. A recent one in the Gleaner states “Three more guns found as Stadium East operation continues.” Another headline “Guns galore” detailed “an avalanche of murders” where “Killings have surged more than 16 per cent in the first 22 days of the new year with 111 people murdered...” According to the New York Times, in an article on How American Gun Laws Are Fuelling Jamaica’s Homicide Crisis, “Hundreds of thousands of guns sold in the United States vanish because of loose American gun laws. Many reappear on the Caribbean island, turning its streets into battlefields... American firearms are pouring into neighbouring countries and igniting record violence.”

Some of the guns reach Jamaica by way of Haiti. A Gleaner article revealed, “An arsenal of close to 100 brand-new high-powered firearms and hundreds of assorted ammunition were confiscated by the police in Haiti... authorities have indicated that several of them were destined for Jamai-

ca’s criminal underworld.” I wanted to tell my friends at the Gleaner, this was more than an article, it was a “Bulletin.”

The unprecedented rise in the availability of guns is not limited to Jamaica. In late November last year, the Barbados Government Information Service (GIS) reported that for the past three years there was a spike in gun-related murders in that country and it was linked to a rise in gang activity and the easy availability of firearms.

However, in Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela and the US were the major suppliers. However, the Trinidad Express of Sunday January 23, 2022, referring to a recent report by Stanley John, a retired Appeal Court Justice, stated: “‘A thriving well-oiled, white-collar criminal enterprise’ in respect of the grant of firearm user’s licences (FULs) and other restricted licences was being conducted ‘under the nose’ of then commissioner of police Gary Griffith.”

Whether they are sins of commission or the Commissioner, I have always known that despite what the Carpenters believed, it has not just begun. Long before the COVID 19 pandemic, we in the Caribbean have been experiencing a “gun-orrhea” epidemic in which the police have always been involved. In 1953, my father legally acquired a shotgun which he got on the basis of a police-supported claim that he had an estate. Before he had reached man’s estate, he was already working in the sugar estate, but that was as far as he got. However, the gun meant that he had enough in his estate to pay the policeman. In 1989, the day after my father died, a police inspector came to my Mother’s house, demanded the shotgun and took it away with him without leaving a receipt.



Tony Deyal

In 2003, on my way to a new job in Belize, I left my licensed firearm at a police station near the airport. When in 2015 I finally returned to Trinidad, and having been assured by one of my cousins, a policeman, that the firearm was at the station, I went to collect it. I was told by the senior officer that all the guns had been shredded by an American group brought in by the Government. Then later I received the news that there was no record of my leaving a firearm because the police station had been destroyed by a fire. So, I asked, “OK, I can understand the fire, but what about the arm?” Now I am worried that the firearm is still listed as belonging to me and if it is found on the scene of a crime, I might be held responsible and will not only have many questions to answer but, because of this and other articles, might go from police “cuss-tody” to “custody” which, I was told, includes putting your testicles in a drawer and slamming the drawer shut. There is no mention about what happens to your drawers in the process.

A few years ago, I twice wrote to the previous Acting Commissioner laying out the issue of my “missing” gun and my concerns. I never got a reply and my subsequent request, almost a year ago, to be able to buy a firearm

cont’d on pg 7

cont'd from pg 6

based on the licence I had was ignored. Yet, 6,832 firearms licences have been granted in the past three years and one applicant received 20 firearms in one year. In addition, the report states, "Requests for varying sums of money have been made of applicants by police officers attached to the Firearms Permit Section and senior officers in some divisions to assist in the issuance of firearms user's licences."

The Commissioner, who supposedly approved those permits, has threatened legal action. In many ways, the whole scenario is so weird that it reminds me of the Johnny Cash song about

"A Boy Named Sue" versus the Black and Decker ad for Stanley tools which are "dependable any way you cut it."

In 2009, a Trinidad newspaper headline read, "Funeral homes make a killing". This went way beyond the rubric of the National Rifle Association (NRA) of the U.S. that "guns don't kill people, but people kill people". In fact, in addition to the undertakers in the funeral business others making a killing from the killings are gravediggers, hearse drivers, flower-shop owners, tailors, and last, but certainly not least, the gun sources and resources throughout the Caribbean and elsewhere including importers,

exporters, sellers, renters, makers, go-betweens and other facilitators, especially the police at all levels in almost every country. I did a quick check of "Police Officer Charged..." for various crimes. Under Jamaica I got twelve million, two hundred thousand (12,200,000) in .48 seconds. Barbados came up with 1.66million in 46 seconds and Trinidad with 3.6 million.

In considering the firearms acquisition process in the region, as well as basic gun control, I go with what Andy Borowitz, the American satirist said, "Maybe this is crazy, but I think the right to own a gun is trumped by the right not to be shot by one" and "Maybe I'm a

dreamer, but I wish mental health care was as easy to get as, say, a gun." To all this, comedian Chris Rock added, "I think every bullet should cost five-thousand dollars. Because if a bullet cost five thousand dollars we wouldn't have any innocent bystanders." Actually, I would reserve the death penalty for everyone found with bullets in their possession except the Lone Ranger and Clint Eastwood.

**Tony Deyal was last seen saying trying to get back his firearm because he and many other Caribbean people are like Cris Rock who said, "I live in a neighbourhood so bad that you can get shot while getting shot."*



MOTORISTS, CYCLISTS & PEDESTRIANS
LET'S LOOK OUT

THIS WEEK

SAFER PEOPLE

**ALERT TODAY
ALIVE TOMORROW**

#drivesafeantigua

Unplug.
Don't be a distracted walker.

Make eye contact.
Don't walk until traffic stops.

Be bright at night.
Wear reflectors.

A Message from Antigua and Barbuda Transport Board

Trevor Walker tells developers to pay their taxes or leave Barbuda

Barbudan MP Trevor Walker wants developers to abide by the laws of the sister isle and pay their taxes to the Barbuda Council.

He was blunt in saying if they insist on going against what is required of them, they can leave.

Addressing the financial struggles being experienced by the Barbuda Council, Walker reminded council members on Friday that the challenges they continue to face is due in part to some developers not following the laws of the sister isle as it relates to the payment of taxes.

He said taxes from businesses there should be paid to the Council. However, some are choosing to make all payments to central government, thereby crippling the operations of the decision making body.

“When we came to office Mr. Chairman and took over the Council in 2018, I must remind us that Barbuda Belle was paying all their taxes to Antigua, ABST everything, and it was this very Council not Trevor Walker, this very Council that sat down and said listen that cannot continue.

“We took action and



Barbudan MP Trevor Walker wrote to them and wrote to the Inland Revenue Department, pointing out the law as to what should happen to those taxes.”

According to Walker, after that was done, it took approximately seven months before Barbuda Belle complied. But they did, and since 2013, all taxes, averaging \$ 30,000 a month from the hotel, have been paid to the Barbuda Council.

The same was done with Nobu Barbuda, resulting in the business paying the Council taxes for the month of December, 2021. Addi-

tionally, Walker announced the business also paid back taxes for last year.

However, the Barbudan MP said there is non-compliance from developers affiliated with the Peace, Love and Happiness (PLH) project.

“I want to send a message to PLH. You think you’re getting away with paying over four million US dollars a year to the government of Antigua and Barbuda. But the time will come when we’re not only going to get that money, but we’re going to ask for it retroactively,” Walker warned.

He maintains the taxes from PLH should be paid into the coffers of the Barbuda Council, adding, “it is unfair that you have a prime development on Barbuda with deep pockets, and they pay everything in Antigua”.

Trevor Walker is of the opinion that the provision of jobs is not enough and cautioned PLH that while they may have “big friends” the election was coming.

“I want to say that where I stand, I might be quiet, I might not say much, but when it comes to PLH, PLH must fall in line, or pack dem georgie bundle and know way dem fu go.”

The MP stated that according to the prime minister, the richest company in the Caribbean has established itself in Barbuda; yet, the Council is struggling to pay its employees and cannot execute its functions in an effective manner.

He also argued that tonnage dues have exceeded \$ 2 million and despite writing to the authorities, there has been no progress in getting those monies.

Walker said Barbuda cannot be the bread basket for Antigua, when everything is being sent to mainland Antigua.

A&B named fifth best honeymoon destination in 2022

The popular destination review site Big 7 Travel has named Antigua and Barbuda the 5th best destination to honeymoon in 2022 on its list of fifteen.

Big seven analysed search trends on popular search engines including Google, social media to determine the most popular destinations for honeymoon travel based on the parameters travellers placed greatest priority on.

The twin island destination was described as offering “untouched, virgin beaches” which are “truly breath-taking and make for a perfect honeymoon location”.

The news has been welcomed as a “remarkable” “honour” by Chief Executive Officer of the the Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Colin James.



Photo credit: Shutterstock

Edged out for the top spot by New England, USA, Greece, Zanzibar and the Maldives, James said, “...that speaks volumes to the product that we

have on island”.

“There are things like no residency requirement meaning people can walk off a cruise ship and get married the same day.

“We have a host of properties on island and companies that cater to the romance market so it is so effortless and easy,” James continued.

Gospel Artist Samuel Dyer passes away

Trinidad born music minister Samuel Dyer has died.

Dyer was well known throughout the region, including in Antigua and Barbuda, where he was popular among the congregation of St. John’s Pentecostal Church.

The circumstances surrounding his passing are unknown, but reports are that he died in hospital yesterday.

Samuel Dyer, who lived in Antigua and Barbuda many years ago, is the brother of Esther Dyer, former lead female vocalist of Red Hot Flames.

According to his biography, at 5



Samuel Dyer

years old, Samuel and his brother Eustace, formed the musical group ‘Dyer Brothers’ which afforded him the op-

portunity to travel the region performing.

In later years, he returned to the church pursued gospel music, becoming a recording artiste.

There is an outpouring of grief on social media from those who knew Dyer and were inspired and blessed through his ministry.

The news also came as a shock to those in Antigua and Barbuda who knew him.

He has left to mourn his wife, three children, siblings and thousands of followers.

Can COVID-19 vaccines help prevent long COVID?

By Dr. Amir Khan

With treatment options for long COVID still limited, and new symptoms coming to light all the time, we look at whether being vaccinated offers protection against it.

Although most people make a full recovery from a COVID-19 infection, for some the symptoms can last weeks or even months, a condition known as long COVID. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), long COVID is defined as a condition that occurs in “individuals with a history of probable or confirmed SARS CoV-2 infection, usually three months from the onset of COVID-19 with symptoms that last for at least two months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis”.

It is estimated that up to one in 10 people who get infected with SARS-CoV-2 will suffer symptoms of long COVID which may vary from mild to severe. A study carried out by the University of Washington put the incidence of long COVID even higher, showing up to 30 percent of those who tested positive for COVID-19 had symptoms months later.

The symptoms of long COVID can vary and many are still coming to light. The most common include extreme fatigue, shortness of breath, chest pain, palpitations, poor memory, joint pains, headaches, depression, anxiety, nerve pain, loss of sense of smell and taste,



abdominal pain, loose motions and sickness.

Scientists are still looking into why some people develop long COVID while others do not. An Australian study published this month looked at blood samples of those who tested positive in the initial wave of the pandemic. They found evidence of persistent inflammation in those who remained symptomatic and were suffering from long COVID. They compared the blood samples with those who did not have COVID-19 and found the presence of elevated levels of proteins called interferons long after the virus had been cleared. They also concluded that people did not have to have severe symptoms in the acute phase of the COVID-19 infection to suffer from long COVID.

Other studies have found elevated levels of immune cells called cytokines and autoantibodies in blood samples taken from those suffering from long COVID. These can cause the immune system to attack normal healthy body tissue instead of the virus, as well as cause inflammation leading to ongoing symptoms.

It is fair to say there are more questions than answers when it comes to the causes of long COVID at present, and treatment options are limited. With any disease, prevention is better than a cure and long COVID is no different. So, can the COVID-19 vaccines reduce the risk of getting long COVID?

Although the vaccines do not completely remove the risk of contracting COVID-19, they have been shown to be effective in preventing serious

illness from it. With Omicron, we are seeing more breakthrough infections in vaccinated people, and while they are less sick than they would have been had they been unvaccinated, we know the severity of illness does not correlate with the chances of getting long COVID.

In the initial weeks after being vaccinated, a person will have high levels of neutralising antibodies. These tend to stop the virus in its tracks before it has a chance to infect lots of cells, thereby reducing the risk of long COVID in the future. We have seen these wane over time, and it is thought longer acting memory immune cells then take over, which are slower to respond, allowing time for the virus to infect some cells before they are galvanised into action to

cont'd on pg 11

cont'd from pg 10

kill the virus and the infected cells. This level of infection may be enough to trigger long COVID in some.

According to one study, being fully vaccinated does reduce a person's chances of getting long COVID. Of the 592 fully vaccinated people with COVID-19, who continued to provide data for more than a month, 31 went on to get long COVID (defined as illness lasting 28 days or more after a positive test). It accounted for 5 percent of the cohort. Meanwhile, in the unvaccinated group, this figure was about 11 percent. This indicates the vaccines were able to cut the risk of developing long COVID after a breakthrough infection by more than half.

However, another study that analysed the health records of more than 10,000 people with breakthrough infections found vaccination did not protect against several conditions associated with long COVID. The vaccinated group was compared with a control group comprising people who had not had any COVID-19 vaccines and found similar rates of long COVID in both sets. The study is yet to be peer-reviewed.

This highlights the need for more data on long COVID in both vaccinated and unvaccinated populations. If vaccines are not the answer to long COVID, then what is?

Clearly reducing the chances of contracting the virus in the first place is key. We then go back to measures that governments must focus on to make indoor spaces safe for all. This means massive investment in clean air in workplaces, indoor social spaces and schools. Air filters and mask wearing remain effective measures when it comes to infection reduction.

As many countries declare an end to restrictions, it may feel to some that the pandemic is approaching its final phases. But for people suffering from long COVID, it is far from over and it is vital that research and funding go into finding causes, treatments and cures for this potentially disabling condition.

I believe that taking a vaccine or any medical treatment should always be down to individual choice. People should be able to make an informed decision that involves balancing out the benefits of any

medical intervention against any risks. When it came to the COVID-19 vaccines, for me and the majority of those who were offered the jabs, the balance swung very much in favour of the benefits and we got vaccinated. Some others, however, decided not to.

These decisions have been more difficult given there is a flood of misinformation online. The decision then is no longer informed, but misinformed. To counteract this, governments have invested in public health campaigns, so that people have access to the correct information based on scientific evidence. Despite all of this, many people choose not to get vaccinated and that is fine, it is their choice. But with vaccine passports and mandates introduced in some countries, especially for travel purposes, this choice has started to have consequences for those who remain unvaccinated.

We are not living in normal times, we have had two years of a global pandemic which has claimed millions of lives worldwide. This is a simple and very sad fact.

The vaccines have been shown to be an effective tool in protecting against further loss of life from COVID-19. They may not prevent the transmission of the virus, but they significantly reduce severe illness and therefore the burden on healthcare systems.

At the height of the pandemic, many healthcare systems across the world were dealing with so many COVID-19 patients that they had to put a temporary stop to other medical treatments. This has created a huge backlog of patients needing treatment for non-COVID related medical conditions and we need to get on with treating them.

By not being vaccinated, people are increasing the risk they pose to their country's healthcare system. They are more likely to get sick and end up in hospital. In order to protect healthcare systems and those who are vaccinated, many countries have introduced strict rules, restricting the freedoms of those who choose to remain unvaccinated. Some have gone as far as making vaccinations mandatory, something I understand but remain uncomfortable about.

Tennis player Novak Djokovic en-

countered these rules when he flew into Australia to participate in the Australian Open tournament.

On January 4, Djokovic put up an Instagram post stating, "I'm heading Down Under with an exemption permission." He was referring to the exemption form issued by Tennis Australia, which granted him temporary medical exemption from the country's vaccine requirements on the grounds of a previous infection. In the letter, the organisers of the Australian Open said the exemption had been approved by a panel of medical experts and by the authorities in the state of Victoria, where the tournament was being held.

The previous infection being referred to was when Djokovic tested positive for COVID-19 on December 16, 2021.

When he got to Australia on January 5, 2022, he was detained by the country's border force. After a period of detention, a judge quashed the government's decision to cancel his visa on the grounds that it was unreasonable to do so. The decision caused uproar across the world, with many people saying he was getting special treatment for being an elite athlete. This did not come as a surprise, especially since Australians have had to endure some of the strictest pandemic restrictions in the world, with many unable to travel to see family for two years.

And then a day after Djokovic was included in the Australian Open draw, his visa was cancelled for a second time by the government, a decision that his legal team challenged without success. The player was eventually deported, and his bid to win his 21st men's tennis Grand Slam title ended before he had the chance to play a single game.

It has been a complicated saga, but also an important one. Djokovic chose not to get vaccinated and he had the right to do so. But the rules apply to each one of us, and none of us is exempt from them. There are some people who cannot have the vaccines for legitimate reasons, such as having severe allergies to the contents of the vaccine. But those who choose not to have the vaccines for non-medical reasons must be prepared to face the consequences, and no amount of looking for loopholes will help.



Jelani Duncan

SKNDF soldier arrested in connection with double homicide

Basseterre, ST. KITTS - A St. Kitts and Nevis Defence Force soldier has been arrested in connection with two homicides.

According to police, ballistics testing proved that Jelani Duncan's gun had been used in two unsolved murders.

Police have not indicated if the gun used was his personal firearm or a government issued service weapon.

Duncan once served as a member of Prime Minister Dr. Timothy Harris' security detail.

Region urged to brace for La Niña patterns during the next three months

CMC – The Barbados-based Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum (CariCOF) says a persistent La Niña pattern is expected to continue during the core dry season, which should drive increasing dry spells across the northwest section of the region.

In its latest outlook, the agency said that for the period February to April the La Niña pattern will continue to Aruba, Bonaire, and Curaçao (ABC islands) and Belize where seasonal rainfall is expected to be usual or drier.

La Niña refers to “a cold event”.

And during a La Niña year, winter temperatures are warmer than average in the south and cooler than normal in the north

“A higher frequency of wet days and wet spells are forecast for the eastern Caribbean where rainfall is expected to be at least as wet as or wetter than the usual, which should taper the chances of wildfire and promote water reservoir capacity,” CariCOF said.

It said extreme wet spells for the region are not expected to feature prominently during the upcoming season.

It said the end of 2021 stood out in terms of a quiet cessation to the hurricane season along with dry seasonal rainfall anomalies for much of the eastern Caribbean.

Heat discomfort progressively decreased along the three-month period as the Caribbean transitioned out of the



During a La Niña year, winter temperatures are warmer than average in the south and cooler than normal in the north. [Photo credit: Gleaner]

2021 heat season.

According to CariCOF, rainfall totals from February to April are likely to be at least as high as usual in the ABC islands, Lesser Antilles, and the Guianas, but likely the usual or drier in the Bahamas and Cuba.

It said that as of January 1 this year, shorter-term drought has developed in Antigua, Barbados, western Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, United States Virgin Islands (USVI), Guadeloupe, Guyana, Martinique, St Lucia, and St Vincent.

It said moderate to longer-term drought has developed in The Baha-

mas, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, throughout the Leeward Islands, Martinique, while by the end of February, short term drought may develop or continue in Barbados, western Belize, Dominica, Dominican Republic, northern Haiti, northern Puerto Rico, St Vincent, and the USVI.

The entity said that long-term drought, at the end of May, is evolving western Cuba, Dominica, Guadeloupe, Martinique, and USVI and might possibly develop or continue in Antigua, southern Belize, Dominican Republic, western Puerto Rico, St Lucia, St Vincent, and Saint Martin.

Montserrat lifts curfew, limit on crowd sizes increased

Loop - The government of Montserrat announced that it will be relaxing some of its coronavirus (COVID-19) protocols.

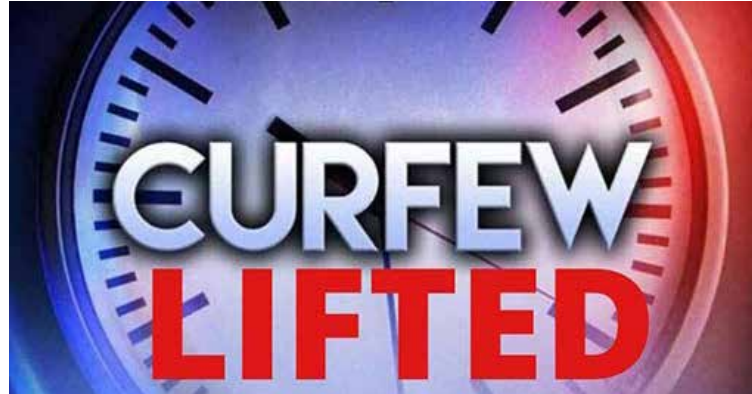
A new public health order comes into effect on February 1 and it will see the nightly curfew removed, restrictions on crowd sizes increased to 25 for the next two weeks, and schools can reopen.

Public servants will also return to their offices.

Mask wearing in public areas and social distancing remain in place.

Premier Joseph Farrell said the decision to adopt these new public health measures was taken after observing a fall in new COVID-19 infections.

This month was Mont-



serrat's worse in its battle against COVID-19 as there were approximately 116 new infections.

Health officials had suspected that the omicron variant was behind the surge.

Genomic sequencing of samples confirmed the island was dealing with both delta and omicron.

Delta was found to be the dominant strain.

But, Health and Social

Services Minister Charles Kirnon noted "if it was omicron, it might have been worse."

A review will be done in the next two weeks to determine if crowds can be increased.

Farrell also advised that his cabinet is considering imposing a mandatory COVID-19 test requirement for frontline public servants regardless of their vaccina-

tion status.

The premier urged Montserratians to take personal responsibility during the pandemic.

Farrell called out event organisers who fail to adhere to COVID safety measures and said their actions will not be tolerated.

"That cannot continue. People, who announce these things, must adhere to the rules or else we will shut them down. You can't pretend or announce that you are going to follow the protocols and don't do them," Farrell stated.

"My countrymen, recklessness in this COVID environment is not an option. We are in this together and together we can all help control the spread of this virus."

Criminals impersonate police superintendent, rob and assault victims

Jamaica Gleaner- Criminals in Jamaica have reportedly stolen the identity of police superintendent Hopton Nicholson, and other people and have been luring unsuspecting victims.

The police say criminals have been using the name and photographs of the superintendent and others to create fake pages on several platforms and dating sites.

The victims, believing that they are communicating with the senior cop, have reportedly been lured to various places across the corporate area, St Catherine and St Mary where they are tricked, robbed and in some instances, sexually assaulted.

So far, investigators have identified 11 persons across three parishes who fell victim to these illegal activities.

The police say Nicholson has stated that the accounts connected to these criminal incidents do not belong to him.

He is reportedly cooperating with investigators from the Counter Terrorism and Organised Crime Investigations Branch who are probing a case of identity theft.

The police are appealing to people to be extremely vigilant when communicating with others online, especially those they are meeting for the first time in the digital space.



So far, investigators have identified 11 persons across three parishes who fell victim to these illegal activities. [Photo credit: JFC Facebook page]

Kuwait suspends flights to Iraq after Baghdad airport attack

Al Jazeera - Kuwait suspended flights to Iraq for a week starting Sunday citing security fears after a rocket attack targeted Baghdad International Airport.

Iraqi authorities, meanwhile, announced an attacker was apprehended.

Kuwait Airways, the country's main carrier, said in a statement on Saturday that flights to Iraq were temporarily suspended based on instructions from the Kuwaiti Civil Aviation Authority because of "current conditions".

Six rockets were fired on Friday at the Iraqi capital's airport, causing damage to one runway and two civilian planes but no ca-



Following the attack, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi urged the international community not to impose restrictions on travel to Iraq [Photo Credit: Reuters]

sualties.

It was the latest in a

string of attacks the United States blamed on Iran-linked armed groups.

Iran condemned "the targeting of Baghdad airport" in an attack it said aimed to "destabilise" Iraq.

"Such suspicious actions have created insecurity and unrest in Iraq, paving the way for the ill-wishers and the insurgents, and affecting the government's services to the Iraqi citizens," Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement on Saturday.

The attack was not immediately claimed but Iraqi authorities said they apprehended a suspect at a

checkpoint near the northern province of Kirkuk en route to Erbil in the Kurdish-run semi-autonomous region.

Following the attack, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi urged the international community not to impose restrictions on travel to Iraq, while Iraqi Airways said the attack did not cause any disruptions and flights would continue.

Separately, Iraq's military said late Saturday it had killed nine ISIL (ISIS) fighters suspected of staging a deadly ambush in the northern province of Diyala.

The gunmen stormed
cont'd on pg 15

Weekend Crossword Answers

A RINGING ENDORSEMENT By Mary Jersey

1	U	2	S	3	U	4	A	5	L	6	U	7	P	8	P	9	E	10	D	11	E	12	N	13	D
14	P	15	O	16	N	17	G	18	O	19	P	20	A	21	R	22	T	23	Y	24	R	25	O	26	E
27	S	28	P	29	R	30	I	31	N	32	G	33	B	34	R	35	E	36	A	37	K	38	O	39	V
40	A	41	L	42	G	43	A	44	E	45	P	46	L	47	E	48	A	49	T	50	E	51	D	52	
53	M	54	O	55	V	56	E	57	L	58	A	59	V	60	A	61	N	62	I	63	N	64	E	65	
66	I	67	V	68	E	69	W	70	A	71	T	72	E	73	R	74	I	75	N	76	G	77	C	78	A
79	D	80	E	81	L	82	T	83	A	84	E	85	E	86	R	87	I	88	E	89		90		91	
92	I	93	N	94	S	95	I	96	L	97	A	98	R	99	D	100	E	101	C	102	103	104	105	106	107
108		109	M	110	E	111	L	112	E	113	E	114	A	115	S	116	C	117	118	119	120	121	122	123	
124	S	125	C	126	O	127	U	128	R	129	I	130	N	131	G	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139	140	
141	142	143	144	145	146	147	148	149	150	151	152	153	154	155	156	157	158	159	160	161	162	163	164	165	
166	167	168	169	170	171	172	173	174	175	176	177	178	179	180	181	182	183	184	185	186	187	188	189	190	
191	192	193	194	195	196	197	198	199	200	201	202	203	204	205	206	207	208	209	210	211	212	213	214	215	
216	217	218	219	220	221	222	223	224	225	226	227	228	229	230	231	232	233	234	235	236	237	238	239	240	
241	242	243	244	245	246	247	248	249	250	251	252	253	254	255	256	257	258	259	260	261	262	263	264	265	
266	267	268	269	270	271	272	273	274	275	276	277	278	279	280	281	282	283	284	285	286	287	288	289	290	
291	292	293	294	295	296	297	298	299	300	301	302	303	304	305	306	307	308	309	310	311	312	313	314	315	
316	317	318	319	320	321	322	323	324	325	326	327	328	329	330	331	332	333	334	335	336	337	338	339	340	
341	342	343	344	345	346	347	348	349	350	351	352	353	354	355	356	357	358	359	360	361	362	363	364	365	
366	367	368	369	370	371	372	373	374	375	376	377	378	379	380	381	382	383	384	385	386	387	388	389	390	
391	392	393	394	395	396	397	398	399	400	401	402	403	404	405	406	407	408	409	410	411	412	413	414	415	
416	417	418	419	420	421	422	423	424	425	426	427	428	429	430	431	432	433	434	435	436	437	438	439	440	
441	442	443	444	445	446	447	448	449	450	451	452	453	454	455	456	457	458	459	460	461	462	463	464	465	
466	467	468	469	470	471	472	473	474	475	476	477	478	479	480	481	482	483	484	485	486	487	488	489	490	
491	492	493	494	495	496	497	498	499	500	501	502	503	504	505	506	507	508	509	510	511	512	513	514	515	
516	517	518	519	520	521	522	523	524	525	526	527	528	529	530	531	532	533	534	535	536	537	538	539	540	
541	542	543	544	545	546	547	548	549	550	551	552	553	554	555	556	557	558	559	560	561	562	563	564	565	
566	567	568	569	570	571	572	573	574	575	576	577	578	579	580	581	582	583	584	585	586	587	588	589	590	
591	592	593	594	595	596	597	598	599	600	601	602	603	604	605	606	607	608	609	610	611	612	613	614	615	
616	617	618	619	620	621	622	623	624	625	626	627	628	629	630	631	632	633	634	635	636	637	638	639	640	
641	642	643	644	645	646	647	648	649	650	651	652	653	654	655	656	657	658	659	660	661	662	663	664	665	
666	667	668	669	670	671	672	673	674	675	676	677	678	679	680	681	682	683	684	685	686	687	688	689	690	
691	692	693	694	695	696	697	698	699	700	701	702	703	704	705	706	707	708	709	710	711	712	713	714	715	

North Korea missile tests: Biggest launch since 2017

BBC - North Korea has conducted what is thought to be its biggest missile launch since 2017.

The weapon was apparently an intermediate range missile which reached an altitude of 2,000 km before coming down in the Sea of Japan.

Japan, South Korea and the US have all condemned the launch, the seventh test this month.

The UN prohibits North Korea from ballistic and nuclear weapons tests, and has imposed strict sanctions.

But the East Asian state regularly defies the ban, and leader Kim Jong-un has vowed to bolster his country's defences.

Experts suggest multiple reasons lie behind the spate of launches, including political signalling of strength to global and regional powers, a desire by Kim Jong-un to pressure the US back into long-stalled nuclear talks and also the practical need to test out new engineering



North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, visited a munitions factory last week. [Photo credit: Reuters]

and military command systems.

The timing is also seen as significant, coming just before the Winter Olympics in China, and ahead of the South Korean presidential election in March.

And the tests have also surged as the faltering North Korean econo-

my struggles under US-led sanctions, pandemic-related difficulties and decades of mismanagement.

South Korea reported that the launch took place at 07:52 local time on Sunday (22:52 GMT) off North Korea's east coast.

Japanese and South Korean officials estimated that the missile reached an altitude of 2,000km (1240 miles) and flew for 30 minutes to a distance of 800km (500 miles).

The United States called on North Korea to "refrain from further destabilising acts".

January was already

one of the busiest months on record for North Korea's missile programme, with several short range missiles fired into the sea.

South Korea's president, Moon Jae-in, said the latest flurry of tests was reminiscent of the heightened tensions in 2017, when North Korea conducted several nuclear tests and launched its largest missiles, including some that flew over Japan.

According to South Korean news agency Yonhap, the missile appears to be similar to the Hwasong-12 missile that the North tested in 2017.

cont'd from pg 14

an army barracks before dawn while the soldiers slept inside and killed 11.

The fighters were killed with three F-16 airstrikes, with more operations planned to root out sleeper cells, Iraq's military said.

Iraq is witnessing an uptick in IS-related attacks. Fighters have long exploited the security vacuum across a band of disputed territory in northern Iraq.

US East Coast blanketed by 'bombogenesis' snowstorm

BBC - Parts of the US East Coast have been battered by blizzard conditions and heavy snowfall, sparking transport chaos and power cuts for thousands.

Five states declared an emergency hours before piles of snow and high winds blasted the area on Saturday.

Some areas of Massachusetts have seen as much as 2.5ft (75cm) of snow, with locals told to hunker down inside.

Nearly 6,000 US flights were cancelled across the weekend, with conditions expected to lighten on Sunday.

Forecasters warn cold temperatures will remain a problem throughout much of the north-east, with the snowstorm set to move on to the state of Maine.

The storm, known as a Nor'easter, has hit parts of New York and Massachusetts with heavy snowfall, coastal flooding and blizzard conditions.

The city of Boston got 23.6in (60cm) of snow on Saturday - matching a previous one-day record.

By Saturday night, more than 80,000 homes in the state of Massachusetts were still without electricity.

Cape Cod was one of the worst hit regions, with every customer in the town of Provincetown losing power



People were warned to stay home as the storm swept in. [Photo credit: Reuters]

on Saturday. Coastal storm surge flooding was also reported in Nantucket.

Local meteorologist Matthew Cappucci told the BBC the sheer volume of snow was a problem, with 8-10cm of snow falling each hour at one point.

"No road crew in the world could handle this, and that means all the roadways are essentially shut down."

The National Weather Service (NWS) confirmed on Saturday that the storm had undergone bombogenesis, meaning that colder air mixed with warmer sea air, leading to a swift drop in atmospheric pressure. The process leads to a so-called bomb cyclone.

The NWS in Boston warned that people should only travel in an emergency.

"If you must travel, have a winter survival kit

with you. If you get stranded, stay with your vehicle."

The powerful storm began to hit the country's coast in the early hours of Saturday morning, with millions of residents urged to stay home across much of the weekend.

Parts of New York state saw 2ft (61cm) of snow, with workers struggling to manage thick blankets covering popular New York City tourist spots like Times Square.

A blizzard warning was issued throughout the north-east, the first time such an alert has been issued since 2018.

Some 75 million people are in the path of the storm. The governors of New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Rhode Island and Virginia declared states of emergency, telling residents to stay

off the roads for their own safety.

"It's high winds, heavy snow, blizzard conditions - all the elements of a classic Nor'easter," New York Governor Kathy Hochul said on Saturday. She warned that freezing temperatures would continue to cause problems after the snow had stopped.

Police in New Jersey's Atlantic City pleaded with residents not to "make it harder on our first responders by venturing out", while Governor Phil Murphy said that the state's famous shoreline "is getting clobbered" by the storm.

In Connecticut bus operations have been suspended until Sunday, while Rhode Island Governor Dan McKee has announced the closure of several bridges due to "dangerous conditions".

Despite the warnings some people were determined to enjoy themselves in the snow. In New York, children played on sleds in Central Park and a snowball fight broke out in Washington Square Park.

Florida, usually known for its mild winters, is also expected to see some of its coldest temperatures in years, which could lead to iguanas - a cold-blooded lizard species - to become immobilised and fall out of trees.

Tom Brady: NFL great expected to retire after winning seven Super Bowls

BBC - Tom Brady, one of the greatest players in NFL history, is expected to retire.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback, 44, has won seven Super Bowls in an astonishing career spanning 22 seasons.

It was widely reported on Saturday evening that he had decided to retire, but his company TB12 Sports then deleted a tweet confirming the news.

And later, speaking to the NFL Network, Brady's father Tom Brady Sr said his son had not yet "made a final decision".

Brady, a five-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player, won six titles with the New England Patriots before his final triumph with the Buccaneers last year.

His most recent game was a 30-27 defeat by the Los Angeles Rams in the play-offs, when his heroics narrowly failed to end with the Bucs successfully fighting back from 27-3 down.

Brady, a three-time NFL season MVP, has a year remaining on his contract and has previously talked about playing beyond his 45th birthday, which is a month before the start of next season.

As first reported by ESPN, Brady's decision to retire would be based on several factors, including family and health.

The NFL paid tribute to Brady on Twitter with a series of #ThankYouTom messages.

In a statement to NFL.com, his agent Don Yee said: "I understand the advance speculation about Tom's future.

"Without getting into the accuracy or inaccuracy of what's being reported, Tom will be the only person to express his plans with complete accuracy. He knows the realities of the football



Tom Brady, an American footballer retires after 22 seasons. [Photo credit: New York Post]

business and planning calendar as well as anybody, so that should be soon."

The NFL Network's Ian Rapoport reported that Brady does intend to retire but "the pushback appears to be based on timing, rather than his eventual decision".

Earlier, a post on the social media account of TB12 Sports - the fitness and training company set up by Brady and his personal trainer Alex Guerrero - listed his achievements, and finished: "22 incredible seasons. Thank you for it all, Tom Brady."

Brady has played in 10 Super Bowls, including a miraculous comeback from 28-3 down against the Atlanta Falcons in 2017, and had a perfect 16-0 regular season with the Patriots in 2007.

He won a Super Bowl in three different decades.

Asked about his future after the defeat by the Rams, Brady said: "I haven't put a lot of thought into it. We'll just take it day by day and see where

we are at."

"The greatest professional athlete we have seen"

"Tom Brady should be the first player in history to be in the Hall of Fame while he's still playing," two-time Super Bowl champion Osi Umenyiora told BBC One after Brady won his seventh ring in February 2021.

"What this man has done is almost beyond belief, almost beyond words. I cannot describe the level of difficulty, what it took for this man to do what he's done."

"Every single year this guy's been doubted, every single year this man rises to the top like a phoenix. This guy is the greatest professional athlete we have seen in history, and this goes for any sport. And I'm not just saying that to be hyperbolic."

"What this guy is doing in the quarterback position - the hardest position to play in sports - winning over and over again... my hat's off to this guy."

Barty and Djokovic keep No.1 ranking; Collins into top 10

AP — Newly crowned Australian Open women's singles champion Ash Barty has maintained her more than two-year grip on the number one ranking after winning her third major title with a straight sets victory over Danielle Collins on Saturday.

Barty, winner of the French Open in 2019 and Wimbledon the following year, has extended her ranking points lead over incumbent No.2 Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, with French Open champion Barbora Krejčíková rising one spot into third after making the quarterfinals in Australia for the first time.

Poland's Iga Świątek moves up five places into fourth after making her first major semifinal outside of a clay court, while 28-year-old Collins jumps up 20 places to be in the top 10 for the first time after an impressive run to her maiden Grand Slam final.

"It's been an amazing fortnight for you," said Barty of the American in her post match speech after Saturday's final. "You're in the top 10 and it's absolutely where you belong. I know you will be fighting for many more of these in the future."

In the men's rankings, Italy's Mat-



Ash Barty of Australia poses with the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup [Photo credit: AP News]

teo Berrettini is the only mover inside the top 10, climbing to a new career high of No.6 after making the semifinals at Melbourne Park for the first time, with Russia's Andrey Rublev dropping to seventh.

Novak Djokovic, with 20 grand slam titles, will continue as No. 1 despite missing the Australian Open after being deported for not meeting the country's strict COVID-19 vaccina-

tion rules.

Russia's Daniil Medvedev maintains second irrespective of his result against Rafael Nadal in the Australian Open men's final to be played later Sunday.

Nadal, tied with Djokovic and Roger Federer with 20 grand slam titles, stays fifth, behind Germany's Alexander Zverev and Greece's Stefanos Tsitsipas.



Frank Lampard

Frank Lampard offered Everton job

Everton have offered their vacant managerial role to Chelsea legend Frank Lampard.

Lampard, 43, has been out of work for a year after being sacked as Chelsea manager last January, leaving the

Blues after 18 months in charge.

Rafael Benitez was sacked after winning just one of his last 13 games.

Former Toffee Wayne Rooney was also in contention for the role but turned down the chance

to talk with Everton as he wants to stay at Championship strugglers Derby.

Lampard could be appointed as Everton manager by the time they next play on 5 February against Brentford in the FA Cup.

Rafael Nadal beats Daniil Medvedev in Australian Open final

Rafael Nadal has captured a record 21st grand slam title with an extraordinary 2-6, 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 fightback in Melbourne.

The 35-year-old Spaniard has been at the centre of some of sport's most incredible triumphs but this surely goes down as the most amazing Grand Slam victory of his illustrious career.

In the absence of deported Novak Djokovic and the injured Roger Federer in Melbourne, Nadal has moved one ahead of his great rivals in the race to finish with the most major men's singles titles.

On Saturday Asheigh Barty beat Danielle Collins to win the Australian Open title, ending the nation's 44-year wait for the Grand Slam women's singles champion.



Raphael Nadal

The top seed Australian fought back from 5-1 down in the second set to win 6-3, 7-6 (7-2) on a jubi-

lant Rod Laver Arena. The 25 year old Queenslander has won the title without dropping a set in Melbourne.

Desmond Haynes broadens pool



Desmond Haynes [John Walton - EMPICS | Credit: PA Images via Getty Images]

Former West Indies opening batsman, Desmond Haynes, who replaced former teammate Roger Harper last month as New Chief Selector says, professionalism and fairness will be the benchmark of his tenure as he moves to "broaden the pool" in particular the white-ball format.

Haynes, who awarded Barbados highest national honour, The Order of Freedom, during Republic Day celebrations last November said the major objectives of the new panel is to transition players excelling in Test cricket into the one-day set up in order to

strengthen the Caribbean team fortunes.

The Barbadian pointed to the fact the regional side has a very small pool to choose from unlike India who are picking from 1.2 billion.

He noted that if players are performing in the longer version of the game it's important they are integrated into 50-over cricket for the West Indies, broadening the pool to choose from.

The new chairman added, "The aim is to make sure we act in a professional manner giving every cricketer in the region a fair chance."

Alzarri Joseph: Most wickets in ODIs

West Indies fast bowler Alzarri Joseph has been in fine form post 2019 World Cup bagging the most wickets of any bowler representing the top ten teams.

The Antiguan took 40 wickets at an average of 25.45 ahead of Australia's Adam Zampa with 32 and South Africa's Tabraiz Shamsi 25.

Also taking his place in the top six bowlers over the period is Jamaican Sheldon Cottrell in fifth position with 23 behind Mustafizur Rahman on 24 and ahead of the lanky Australian speedster Mitchell Starc 23. Joseph is presently participating in the West Indies tour of India.

In the 2016 ICC Under-19 World Cup Joseph announced himself on the global stage, taking 13 wickets in just six matches to finish as the highest wicket-taker of the tournament for the West Indies while leading the Caribbean side to the ICC Under-19 World Cup Championship.



MOST WICKETS IN ODIs

BOWLER	WKTS	AVG
ALZARRI JOSEPH	40	25.45
ADAM ZAMPA	32	23.5
TABRAIZ SHAMSI	25	26.92
MUSTAFIZUR RAHMAN	24	23.62
SHELDON COTTRELL	23	30.69
MITCHELL STARC	23	33.39

POST 2019 WORLD CUP (TOP TEN TEAMS)

Alzarri Joseph

