



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

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TRUSTED NEWS AND RESPECTED VIEWS

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THOMAS DEAD AFTER SECOND SHOOTOUT WITH POLICE IN 24 HOURS

Story on Page 2



CalvinAir Helicopters, pictured here flying over historic English Harbour, has signed on as the latest sponsor of Antigua Sailing Week 2022. *Story on Page 23.*

Local News

POINTE PRESS
THE OFFICIAL AND AUTHORIZED NEWSPAPER OF THE POINTES

Thomas dead after 2nd shootout with police in less than 24 hours

The hunt for convicted kidnapper and robber Shanell Thomas came to a dramatic end late Wednesday night.

Less than 24 hours after police exchanged gunfire with Thomas in New Winthropes on Wednesday at about 1:30am, another shootout occurred between them in the vicinity of the horse racing track in Cassada Gardens.

This time however, Thomas was not as lucky as he was riddled with bullets

fired by the police in the exchange that took place Wednesday night.

Thomas was transported to the Sir Lester Bird Medical Centre where he succumbed to his injuries.

In the predawn hours of Wednesday, the police and Thomas exchanged gunfire after he was identified and stopped while driving in a vehicle in New Winthropes.

Thomas evaded capture, fleeing into

nearby bushes on foot after opening fire on Special Services Unit patrol officers.

No one was injured in that incident.

Thomas escaped the custody of officers while working at the Prison Farm at Diamond's Estate on Tuesday.

He was serving time at Her Majesty's for the 2017 kidnapping and aggravated robbery of two women.

He was due to be released from prison in 2026.

Frantic search underway for missing 11-year-old

The family of Symone Smith, 11, are pleading for help locating the missing Browne's Avenue child.

Symone, a student of the Mary E. Piggot School, was last seen leaving the campus at about 3pm on Wednesday.

Following her usual rou-

tine, Symone caught a passenger bus, which would normally have dropped her off at Townhouse Mega Store on All Saints Road. On Wednesday however, witnesses say Symone boarded a bus as usual, but her parents say she never made it home.

The licence plate number of the bus she boarded and name of the driver operating it have not been disclosed.

A search which extended into the night was launched to find the missing child.

Anyone with information regarding the whereabouts of



Symone Smith

Symone Smith is being asked to call 728-0904, 723-8486 or the nearest police station.

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ABLP Branch of St. John's Rural East Constituency calls on UPP to condemn verbal abuse of women by its spokespersons

The Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party Branch of the St. John's Rural East Constituency has been informed of a series of disparaging remarks made by a criminal element of the United Progressive Party on the opposition owned Crusader Radio and Facebook page.

The abusive comments, circulated via social media, were made by a criminal deportee from the United States, who is a mouthpiece of the Opposition United Progressive Party. The radio programme (Eye on the Issues – Tuesday 8th February 2022) hosted by a convicted pedophile, questions the intellectual capacity of parliamentary representative for the constituency, the Hon. Maria Browne.

The ABLP Branch of St. John's Rural East Constituency wishes to remind the spokespersons for the Opposition United Progressive Party that the Hon. Maria Browne is an academically and politically accomplished female within the Antigua and Barbuda Labour Party.

The Hon. Maria Browne who holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and an LLB (Hons) degree in Law, is also one of a few celebrated students of the Christ the King High School who has achieved first place in class, every term of every year in every form.



MP Maria Browne

We wish also to remind the UPP mouthpieces that during the 2018 elections, the Hon. Maria Browne on her entry into elective politics in 2018, gained the most votes (2, 175) in the history of elections in Antigua and Barbuda dating back to 1951.

In addition, the Hon. Maria Browne is the youngest person and the youngest female to be elected to the Lower House of Parliament.

The United Progressive Party is also reminded that as Minister for Housing, Lands and Urban Renewal, the Hon. Maria Browne has built more homes in her first term since elected, than the UPP built in its 10 years in office.

The ABLP Branch of the St. John's Rural East Constituency views the vicious verbal attacks on the Hon. Maria Browne by the two criminal elements of the Opposition UPP as attacks on women in general and more so on women

who have worked tirelessly to advance themselves academically and compete in a male centred culture.

The ABLP Branch of the St. John's Rural East constituency calls on the leadership of the United Progressive Party and more so the women who are putting themselves up for elective politics to forcefully condemn and disassociate themselves from the comments of the criminal elements.

We are fully aware that

after the first interview given by Minister Maria Browne for 2022, that the Opposition United Progressive Party and its mouthpieces recognize that their chances at success at the polls due in 2023 are further from their reach than dreamt.

The ABLP Branch and the people of St. John's Rural East intends to return the Hon. Maria Browne to the Lower House of Parliament with a wider majority, voting in their thousands.

Form RLNC 5

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA
REGISTERED LAND ACT, CAP 374

Section 34
of the
Act

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO REPLACE LOST LAND CERTIFICATE

REGISTRATION SECTION	BLOCK	PARCEL
CRABBS PENINSULA & NEIGHBOURING ISLANDS	21 2492A	2

TAKE NOTICE that an application was filed in the Land Registry on 25th day of January, 2022 by Joy Dublin Crown Counsel I within the Ministry of Legal Affairs, Parliament Drive, St. John's, Antigua on behalf of the ANTIGUA PUBLIC UTILITIES AUTHORITY, the Applicant herein, for the replacement of Land Certificate No. 3397/2003 which have been lost and which was dated the 16th day of July, 2003 and issued to Antigua Public Utilities Authority, a statutory body incorporated under the Laws of Antigua and Barbuda with principal office situate at Cassada Gardens in the Parish of Saint John, Antigua and Barbuda being the owner of the above-mentioned properties.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that anyone who objects to the issue of new Land Certificate or who has knowledge of the original Land Certificate must within a period of one (1) month from the Second Publication of this notice in the newspaper inform the Registrar of Lands in writing.

TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that in the absence of any objection or information as to the existence of the original Land Certificate within the time specified, the Registrar of Lands may proceed to cancel the original Land Certificate and issue new Land Certificate in its place without further notice.

Dated the 25th day of January 2022.


REGISTRAR OF LANDS



Couple escape fire at sea, Antiguan sailors rush to their rescue

A couple sailing off the coast of Antigua narrowly escaped serious injury when their yacht caught fire on Wednesday.

While it is as yet unknown what caused the fire, it is suspected that its

source may have been electrical. It is believed to have started in the engine room.

Antiguan sailors who were nearby Sandy Island where the yacht was anchored rushed to render assistance after

clouds of billowing, black smoke were seen wafting through the sky.

The couple, who escaped the blaze with their lives and unharmed, said they were unable to save anything before rushing to the safety of their dinghy.

Concerns over self testing disrupting COVID-19 stats brushed aside

The Chief of Staff in the Office of the Prime Minister has shrugged off concerns that the introduction of COVID-19 testing kits for home use will affect accurate record keeping of positive cases of the virus in Antigua and Barbuda.

It was announced last week that Cabinet had agreed to allow medical professionals and institutions to lawfully import Rapid Antigen COVID-19 Testing (RAT) kits.

This will be possible through adjustments to regulations and will also allow rapid self-testing kits to be imported by individuals who are not medical practitioners, provided the kits are designed and intended for use at home by non-professionals.

Asked whether the move



Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst

will likely lead to less reporting from those who test positive, Ambassador Lionel 'Max' Hurst said there will be no change from the existing norm.

"What we know is that those people who have showed up in places-not only doctors' offices but also at the hospital, requiring a test because they don't feel well, those are the peo-

ple whose data enter into the dashboard, so that you will know what the numbers are.

"Now I am no statistician, but they will always tell you when you are doing testing of any sort that you are going to miss a percentage, and the statisticians know how to add to the numbers, or subtract from the numbers in order to get a more accurate picture."

Ambassador Hurst contends if everyone reports to health officials every time they test positive for the virus, then the dashboard will be a perfect picture of figures on the state of the illness in the country. But in reality, that may not be, since not everyone with COVID-19 report their test results.

Chief of Staff Hurst reminded that the purpose of home testing COVID-19 kits is to assist in ensuring the virus does not spread in households. For any other use, the rapid test will have to be done by a medical professional or by businesses that are authorised to do so.

They will not be accepted for entry into Antigua and Barbuda and will likely be invalid if presented in other countries.

A&B marks cruise milestone with arrival of seven ships



Five of the seven ships to call on Tuesday

Antigua and Barbuda made history Tuesday when it welcomed a record seven cruise ships to its shores.

The history making event is all the more significant as this was achieved as the nation is still facing the fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grandeur of the Seas of Royal Caribbean International, Britannia of P&O Cruises, Norwegian Epic of Norwegian Cruise Line, MS Mein Schiff 2 of TUI Cruises and Celebrity Equinox of Celebrity Cruises were

docked at the Nevis Pier, Heritage Quay Pier and the new fifth berth, while Star Legend of Windstar Cruises and Royal Clipper were berthed at Falmouth Harbour.

In all, Antigua and Barbuda played host on Tuesday to 5,405 passengers.

Rawle Reynolds, Operations Manager – Pier Services was ecstatic at the achievement.

“Today is historical for Antigua and Barbuda as we are able to accommodate five ships in the St. John’s

Harbour and two ships at Falmouth. It shows that the cruise lines have not selected us by chance but have confidence in us as a destination,” he remarked.

He went on to address the economic benefit of continued confidence in both the country’s cruise sector and health policies.

“We have meticulously planned our port-side welcome to provide a superior guest experience and through collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Wellness and the Environ-







Operations Manager – Pier Services, Rawle Reynolds

ment we ensure that all protocols are in place and adhered to.

“Tour operators, taxi drivers, restaurants, shops, vendors, ship provisioners and suppliers would all benefit from today’s ship calls.

“Although the season started very modestly, it has greatly accelerated. Since our vaccination rate is commendable and our health protocols are strongly observed, these are amongst the reasons why we would be the destination of choice, Reynolds explained.

Thu 10 Day	Thu 10 Night
81° 	74° 
24%  E 17 mph	23%  E 17 mph
Partly cloudy skies. High 81F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy skies. Low 74F. Winds E at 10 to 20 mph.
Humidity 70%	Humidity 74%
UV Index 10 of 10	UV Index 0 of 10
Sunrise 6:35 am	Moonrise 1:07 pm
Sunset 6:07 pm	Moonset 1:46 am
	Waxing Gibbous

The CFATF publishes AML/CFT report on Antigua and Barbuda

Recently, the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force (CFATF) published Antigua and Barbuda's 3rd Follow-Up Report and Technical Compliance Re-rating in addressing the AML/CFT deficiencies identified in its 2018 Mutual Evaluation Report.

The Follow-Up report indicates that of the 40 Financial Action Task Force Recommendations, the country now has 36 Recommendations rated either Compliant or Largely compliant, one of only a few countries in the region to achieve this level of compliance, giving it at the time of publication, the third highest rating in the region after the Cayman Islands and Bermuda.

The re-rating exercise requires that the country's AML/CFT/CPF legal framework meet the international standards of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The National Oversight Committee on Financial Action (NOCFA) chaired by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Gaston Browne is committed and actively working to ensure that the country is properly prepared for the new up-

coming round of re-ratings of the remaining areas of concern that the CFATF has recommended for improvement to bring the legal framework fully up to international standards.

The preparations involve updating law and policy to meet the criteria set out in the FATF Methodology and its Recommendations, the results of which will be submitted to the CFATF by end of April 2022 for assessment.

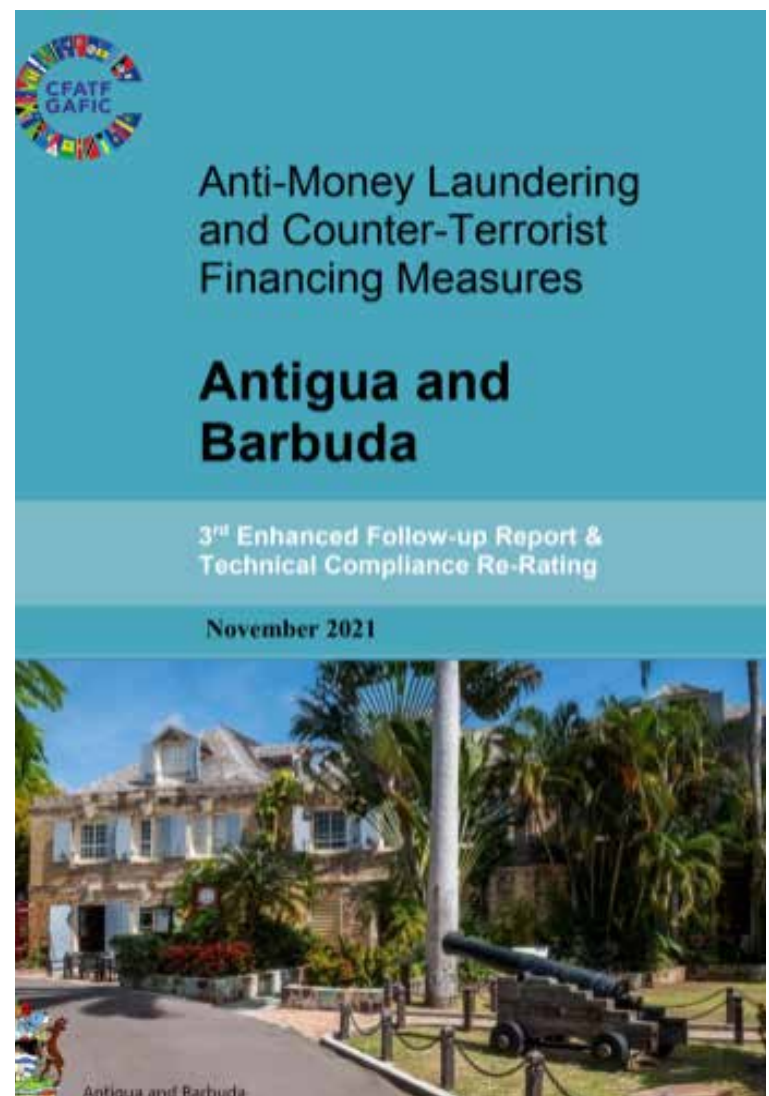
After the re-rating application is decided on at the CFATF Plenary, there will commence an intense and detailed process of preparation for the next Mutual Evaluation scheduled to take place in 2025.

The Director of the ONDCP, Lt. Col Edward Croft commented on the publication of the CFATF Report, saying that he is "pleased with the results which reflect the accomplishment of a tremendous amount of work and expresses appreciation to all stakeholders for their contributions and support. It should be noted however that there remains a lot of work to be done and we seek the continued assistance of the Government,

the Regulators, law enforcement agencies, the Supervisory authorities, Inland Revenue, the Central Bank, Office of the DPP, Intellectual Property office, Legal Affairs, financial institutions and non-financial institutions in pursuit of continued improvement towards meeting the FATF international standards."

The recent results strengthen the country's ability to recover from the downturn in the economy due to the pandemic.

Investors often check updated reports of a country's AML/CFT/CPF status in the international community in determining the risk associated with investing in the country.



Jno-Baptiste to receive treatment at HMP

The woman who was discovered in the home of homicide victim Jane Finch last October will have to undergo psychiatric treatment at Her Majesty's Prison.

In the All Saints Magistrate's Court yesterday, a prosecutor informed Magistrate Ngaio Emanuel-Edwards that Brittany Jno-Baptiste will have to be treated while incarcerated at the prison since the Clarendon Psychiatric Hospital is filled and will not be able to accommodate her.

Jno-Baptiste was remanded and is scheduled to return to Court on 27th April, 2022, when the magistrate will be updated



Brittany Jno-Baptiste in an earlier appearance before the All Saints Magistrates' Court

on the progress of the defendant's treatment.

The 21-year-old is charged with burglarising the home of 66-year-old Jane Finch of Piccadilly with intent to commit a felony.

A psychiatrist concluded last month that the young woman was unfit to answer any charges against her because of her psychiatric disorder. It was recommended she undergo six months of treatment, after

which, the case against her may be able to proceed once she responds to the treatment.

Officers from Dockyard Police Station discovered Brittany Jno-Baptiste on 4th October, 2021 in Finch's home.

That evening, Jane Finch had made a desperate appeal for help on Facebook posting that a young woman was trying to break into her house by breaking the windows.

Finch was later found dead. An autopsy concluded that her death was as a result of head injuries she had sustained.

To date, no charges have been laid in Finch's murder.

BARBUDA EXPRESS

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THANK YOU!



UPDATED SCHEDULE

Ex-police & businessman accused of bribing rape victim to face High Court

The no case submission of two men accused of trying to bribe a teenage rape victim was dismissed on Wednesday by Magistrate Conliffe Clarke.

The men, one of whom is a former police officer, will now have the matter heard in the High Court after it was determined during the committal hearing that sufficient evidence exists for the case to proceed.

The matter will be tried in the May assizes.

According to the facts presented, the 18-year-old victim was offered a bribe by the police officer who was initially charged with



her rape. In exchange, the victim was to discontinue the case against him.

The alleged police rapist reportedly continued to harass his victim who wrote to the Director of Public Prosecutions requesting that the matter be withdrawn.

The matter was in fact withdrawn by High Court Justice Ian Morley in May

2020.

However, the DPP ordered a police investigation to determine the circumstances under which the victim requested the matter be withdrawn. It was as a result of this investigation that the alleged bribery and harassment were revealed.

The officer involved is now facing a charge of per-

verting the course of justice.

The accused co-defendant, who is also facing a charge of perverting the course of justice, is a businessman who intervened to the victim's father on behalf of the alleged rapist. The businessman reportedly asked the teen's father to speak to the mother in an attempt to convince her to drop the matter.

Andrew O'Kola represents the businessman while the police officer is represented by Wendel Robinson.

Both men will remain on bail which was granted last May by Justice Morley.

Lady Williams appoints Romancier Edwards as Acting President of Halo Generation Y

Co-founder of the Halo Foundation, Her Excellency Lady Sandra Williams, has appointed Romancier Edwards as Acting President of Halo Generation Y.

Edwards, who is an involved member of the youth team, has served in middle management positions at various organisations in Antigua and Barbuda.

She holds a Bachelor of Business Administration from Monroe College in New York.

Her interests include organising events and activities, donating to the less fortunate and mentoring and tutoring within the community.

In December 2014, Their Excellencies Sir Rodney Williams and Lady Williams founded The Halo Foundation, a non-profit organisation managed by a voluntary Board of Direc-

tors.

One of the main goals of this umbrella charity organisation is to bring greater attention to the social welfare needs of the less fortunate citizens of Antigua and Barbuda. The organisation provides advocacy and support to 37 local charities under the patronage of the Governor General and spouse, that are dedicated to addressing Youth and Education, Health and Social Welfare, The Environment, Culture and the Arts, and Civic and Community Initiatives.

The youth arm of the Foundation, known as Generation Y, undertakes to assist all the charities under Halo through the leadership and resourcefulness of its young and dynamic team of volunteers. One area of particular concern is that of youth at risk, and the eradication of bullying in schools.



Romancier Edwards



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The Format

3-persons scramble

The Package

One round of 18 holes green fees
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Morning Snack with juice, coffee or tea from **(8:30am)**
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Two drinks tickets
Ice cold bottled water in coolers on the course

Prizes

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Closest to the pin on holes number 2, 8, 11, 13 & 15
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Feature

The Omicron Variant and the HR Professional

HRPAB feels that human resource (HR) professionals are almost as 'front line' as it gets.

HR practitioners are exposed to large numbers of employees daily, particularly in the larger organizations, while performing their duties.

They attend more than their fair share of meetings and their offices are often crowded. So, are they more at risk to exposure to the latest variant of COVID-19, Omicron?

The Omicron variant is the among the newest scientifically identified mutation of the virus.

First isolated and named in South Africa, it has spread just as quickly as its predecessors and has now been identified in almost every corner of the globe including our Antigua and Barbuda.

While information is still being received, reviewed, updated, and disclosed, this variant is reported to be more contagious than its predecessors however with milder symptoms.

According to experts at the World Health Organization (WHO), this new variant is not as deadly as the Delta variant but up to three times more contagious.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the United States, the Omicron variant



is spreading more easily than the original SARS-CoV-2 virus and anyone with the Omicron infection can spread the virus to others, even if they are vaccinated or do not have symptoms.

They say that current vaccines are expected to protect against severe illness, hospitalizations, and deaths due to infection with the Omicron variant.

However, breakthrough infections in people who are fully vaccinated and reinfections in persons who were infected with earlier strains, are being reported.

How do we respond to all this? By now, we should be masters at modeling safe pandemic behavior.

The tried and proven safety precautions of correctly wearing a mask, frequently washing and sanitizing hands, practicing good hygiene and sneezing and coughing etiquette as well as maintaining social distancing are just as effective in curbing the spread of this latest variant.

By now we should be consistently practicing these behaviors and encouraging complete compliance from employees. HRPAB encourages its members to continue to practice these measures, without fear.

We also encourage our members to continue to practice total wellness - mind, body and spirit - and engage in mindful activities which will preserve our mental wellness.

When having meetings, particularly where your workspaces have windows or the capability to allow for the circulation of fresh air, choose this option.

Remind employees of all pandemic protocols and continue to enforce them.

Maintain those testing regimes that you have established at your workplaces and continue to advocate for vaccination, even though the regulations and mandates have been relaxed, somewhat.

We are mindful that we are nearly two years into this

pandemic that was declared on March 11, 2020, and we were hopeful that better days were ahead before Omicron emerged.

But let's not panic colleagues. The continued mutation of the virus is to be expected and is not a reason to fear. We must continue to be responsible and have faith as we learn to live with the disease.

As HR practitioners and employers, we must remain agile and adaptable as we manage the effects of this ever-changing pandemic on our daily operations.

As protocols change and certain restrictions are relaxed, we reiterate the importance of a watchful eye, nimble responses and continued efforts to keep employees safe against the evolving virus.

In addition to staying the course on, and improving our safety and health measures, we are encouraged to maintain clear communication with employees about the latest COVID-19 developments. Being transparent about how our organizations are handling the pandemic is important and helps everyone to remain calm.

The Human Resource Professionals of Antigua and Barbuda (HRPAB) is a registered non-profit, professional
cont'd on pg 11

Cycling safety

Whether you're a driver or a cyclist, we all have a role to play in sharing the road responsibly.

Cyclists, like pedestrians, are vulnerable to significant injuries or death in crashes with cars.

While the top contributing factors attributed to crashes with cyclists are driver distraction and failure to yield, there are things that both drivers and cyclists can do to help everyone stay safe.

Sharing the road with cyclists

On average, nearly four out of five crashes involving cyclists occur at intersections. When driving, you can help reduce the chances of a crash by sharing the road safely and following these tips:

Don't get distracted. Watch for cyclists on the road and make eye contact if you can, so they can anticipate your next move.

Yield the right-of-way. Yield to cyclists and signal well in advance before executing any manoeuvres.

Look out. Shoulder check for cyclists before turning right and watch for oncoming cyclists before turning left. Scan for cyclists before you enter the roadway from an alley or get in and out of a parking spot.

Keep a safe distance. Maintain at least three seconds behind cyclists and at least one metre when passing a cyclist. Don't risk side-swiping or running a cyclist off the road.

Dooring is dangerous. To avoid dooring a cyclist, both drivers and passengers must shoulder check



before opening doors.

Safety tips for cyclists

Be safe on the road when you're cycling with these simple tips:

Start at the top. Wearing an approved bicycle helmet that meets safety standards. Focus on how it fits: the helmet should sit level on your head (not tilted back) with the front edge one inch or less above your eyebrows to protect your forehead and should be snug so it can't roll off of your head when the chin strap is secured.

Follow the rules of the road. Make sure you obey all traffic signs and signals and adhere to the rules of the road.

Shoulder check. Use hand signals and shoulder check in advance before taking any turns. Remember, drivers sometimes fail to yield right-of-way.

Reflect on safety. Be extra visible with reflective gear on your bicycle pedals and wheels.

Use caution around parked vehicles. Be aware of people in vehicles as well as taxis to avoid getting hit by an opening door. Try to keep at least one metre away from parked vehicles.

Protect yourself before cycling

Always wear an approved bicycle helmet that meets safety standards and occasionally check for signs of wear.

Remember to plan for poor weather or low light conditions. Your bicycle must be equipped with a front white headlight and a rear red light/reflector. Be extra visible with reflective gear on your pedals and wheels.

Be aware of road markings and what they mean in the area that you're cycling in.

cont'd from pg 10

association dedicated to the advancement of the HR profession for national development. We began informally from 2009 and legally registered in 2011. HRPAB's growing membership represents private and public organizations as well as independent consul-

tants specializing in one or more areas of human resource management and development. Membership is offered for three categories: professional, non-professional, and honorary. You may contact us via email at hrpro.ab@gmail.com or on Facebook and Instagram @HRPro268.

Parenting

Raising your daughter as a single dad

Raising children is not easy, even for the most seasoned parents. And being a single father to a daughter can be particularly daunting, as you navigate all the social situations, complex feelings, and developmental changes your daughter experiences throughout her youth—without a firsthand understanding of some of what she's going through.

Whatever the circumstances of your family situation, the challenges in raising a daughter as a single parent are similar. There will be obstacles along the way, and you won't always know the right answer, but that's true of every parent. This advice can help smooth the path for yourself and your daughter.

Don't Go It Alone

While you are completely capable of raising your daughter alone, never underestimate the importance of inviting a female mentor into your daughter's life. Sometimes, a grandmother, aunt, or other family member can take on that role. Or enlist the help of a mom with a daughter the same age as yours. You also can ask for help from a female church youth leader, Girl Scout leader, or athletic coach.

Finding a strong and capable female role model is important to your daughter's success growing up. By having a woman walk alongside her, she will learn how to become confident and independent. Consequently, helping your daughter find and con-



Photo credit: Hero Images / Getty Images

nect with a mentor is one of the most important gifts you can give her. It offers another layer of support and encouragement for your daughter. Every child needs to be surrounded by people who believe in her and support her.

Keep Lines of Communication Open

Many men take an "I must fix this" mentality in their lives and relationships. They tend to listen long enough to identify a problem, and then offer a solution. Often, your daughter won't want you to fix her problems. Instead, she will want you to listen and understand what she is experiencing.

Learn how to be empathetic and compassionate, and your daughter will continue to come to you as a shoulder to lean on. This requires time, patience, and

a willingness to make it a priority. But good communication is one of the most important things you can do to build a strong relationship with your daughter.

Teach Them to Be Problem Solvers

Children need help in developing problem-solving skills. When your daughter is faced with a challenge or a difficult choice, help them think through the issue. Encourage them to examine all of her options and come up with several alternatives for dealing with the problem.

While this process can feel counterintuitive, especially if you are a take-charge kind of person, allowing your daughter to develop some independence and autonomy will serve her well throughout life. Plus, she will appreciate the time you take to help her think

through different issues in a rational and constructive way. Remember, you are empowering your daughter when you help her develop these skills.

Don't Rescue or Be Overprotective

While it is natural for fathers to want to make everything okay for their children, it is not healthy for your daughter in the long run. Allow her to experience some of life's problems and challenges without rescuing her or trying to shield her from pain.⁸ If you are overprotective, your daughter will either rebel or become dependent, and neither of those outcomes is positive.

It's also important to give your daughter some space and respect her privacy. Allow her to take some limited risks. All these things will

cont'd on pg 13

cont'd from pg 12

help her gain self-confidence and learn to believe in her abilities. And, in the meantime, you will build a bond of mutual trust because you have demonstrated that you believe in her as well.

Be Involved in Their Life

Your daughter needs to feel your support, especially if you are her only parent. So be available to her as much as you can. Take an interest in the things that she's interested in. For instance, if she loves the stars, take her to a planetarium. Watch a meteor shower together. Talk about the latest discoveries and research regarding the stars and the planets. Showing her that you're interested in her passions demonstrates that ultimately, you're interested in her.

You can also show support by:

- Attending her athletic contests and school events
- Being around the house when she has friends over
- Being home in the evenings if you can

- Helping her with her homework and asking about her day

- Spending time together doing what she enjoys, whether that's going to the movies, hiking, baking, and so on

The key is to be involved and present in her life to build a strong dad-daughter bond.

Don't Shy Away From the Big Issues

Sometimes helping a daughter through the transition of puberty can be a single dad's greatest emotional challenge. The best approach is to be upfront and honest about what she's experiencing in terms of hormones, emotions, and menstruation. When you don't know the answers to your daughter's questions, look for them. Do your research.¹¹ Enlist the help of her trusted female mentor if you feel overwhelmed and unsure of what to say. But make an effort.

Don't ignore what they're experiencing or pretend it isn't happening.

If you're feeling especially awkward talking about hormones, menstruation, sex, and other similar topics, explain this before having your daughter talk to her mentor. If you don't, she might think there's something wrong with her or question your relationship. Open and honest communication is always the best policy.

Also, don't give up on fatherly hugs simply because she is growing up. Girls often feel unsure about how their body is changing, and they need to know that your love has not changed. They may be older, but deep down they still want to be your little girl. Being a constant source of love and support in your daughter's life will help her get through this challenging time.

It can be overwhelming to raise a daughter alone. But you can do it if you are sensitive to your daughter and her needs, and invest time in your relationship with her. In the end, you'll find great satisfaction in raising a wonderful daughter.



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Regional News

Haitian Prime Minister involved in planning the President's assassination, says judge

CNN: In the early morning hours of July 7, 2021, Haitian President Jovenel Moïse was assassinated in the presidential residence.

More than two dozen armed men swarmed the president's compound where they encountered little to no resistance from security forces there to protect the president.

Moïse was shot 12 times and killed. His wife, Martine Moïse, was also shot multiple times but survived.

The man in charge of organising the assassination squad, according to Haitian authorities, was a former Haitian anti-corruption official named Joseph Felix Badio, who was on the run.

But on that early September night, those undercover officers thought they knew exactly where Badio would be: at a meeting with Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry, inside his official residence in the capital.

A confidential informant had told the officers that Henry would meet with Badio that night. Since the assassination, the pair had already met twice in-person, according to investigators.

For weeks, Haitian investigators believed that Henry himself was involved in both the planning of the assassination and a subsequent cover-up.

A private meeting between Henry and one of the top suspects in the case, they believed, would help connect



Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry, seen at a ceremony honoring the late Haitian President Jovenel Moïse, in Port-au-Prince on July 20, 2021. [Photo credit: CNN]

those dots.

The plan was to arrest Badio when he left the house and then, at a later date and with proof of the meeting in hand, arrest Henry as well. But Badio never showed up.

Henry stayed inside all night, and after sunrise, the officers decided to abandon their mission.

Investigators told CNN they later learned that word of the would-be raid had leaked. Badio and Henry had been tipped off, they said, so the pair called it off.

The failed raid is just one example of Haitian investigators being thwarted in their attempts to investigate the assassination of the president.

Multiple law enforcement sources have told CNN one man lies at the center of much of that obstruction: Ariel Henry.

Those sources say they have laid out a series of questionable actions that, they say, detail the Prime Minister's alleged involvement in the assassination: both in plotting Moïse's death and in helping

orchestrate the subsequent cover-up. And, when two of the top judicial authorities sought potential charges against him, they were fired.

"Henry is at the center of everything," one investigator told CNN. "All he has done since taking over as PM is obstruct (the investigation)."

CNN's calls to Henry have not been returned, although he has previously denied any involvement in the assassination. The Prime Minister has often described solving the murder case as a personal mission.

"Nothing. Absolutely nothing. No political maneuver, no media campaign, no distraction can deter me from this goal to bring justice for President Moïse," Henry told world leaders at the United Nations General Assembly in September.

The official case looking into the assassination is still proceeding in Haiti, but practically, it is all but dead. It has produced no new arrests, no new suspects or any evidence since August but technically,

it continues.

Dozens of suspects arrested in the first few weeks after the assassination are still being held in a Haitian prison. None of them have been formally charged.

Until recently, Judge Garry Orélien was the top judicial official in Haiti overseeing the case.

In a recording taken in the fall of 2021, when he was still presiding over the investigation, Orélien makes his views on Henry's involvement very clear.

"Ariel (Henry) is connected and friends with the mastermind of the assassination. They planned it with him. Ariel is a prime suspect of Jovenel Moïse's assassination, and he knows it," Orélien said in the recording, obtained exclusively by CNN.

CNN has verified the recording by comparing it to other known recordings of Orélien and through extensive conversations CNN has had with him, as well as from voice messages. Orélien did not know he was being recorded.

"I don't recall talking to anyone about the case in great detail," said Orélien when asked about the recording. "Lots of people are trying to influence the case and I will not play their game."

Henry became prime minister on July 20 after a power-sharing agreement was brokered in the wake of

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Staff ready for school to start in Barbados

Barbados Today - Some teachers and ancillary staff are in favour of returning to the classrooms on February 21.

President of the National Union of Public Workers (NUPW) Kimberley Agard told Barbados TODAY that the teachers represented by that union are ready to resume face-to-face teaching in the next two weeks.

She made the comments following a five-hour virtual meeting yesterday with key stakeholders including Education Minister Kay McConney, Chief Education Officer Dr Ramona Archer-Bradshaw, Chief Medical Officer The Most Honourable Dr Kenneth George and Head of the COVID-19 Monitoring Unit Ronald Chapman along with other union heads and delegates.

Agard said even with the high number of COVID-19 cases on the island teachers were still eager to return to their respective schools.

"We do not represent the lion share of teachers, however, we still have teachers within our membership; the ancillary staff we represent and of course the School Meals Service. The members



President of NUPW Kimberley Agard [Photo credit: Barbados Today]

that we spoke to are in favour of the face-to-face classes. The teachers primarily recognize the importance of the face-to-face classes in the learning and development of the students," she told Barbados TODAY.

However, Agard said while her members were anxious to get back to the classrooms there were several concerns they first wanted addressed.

She said they wanted uniformed protocols across all of the island's schools, better trained monitors, and adequate supplies.

The NUPW president said after listening to the concerns raised, the Ministry of Education promised that they would be addressed.

"Teachers want to ensure that there will be a standard procedure across the board which will be adhered to by all of the institutions and that the established protocols would not be left to the whim and fancy of the particular principal at the school," Agard pointed out.

"They were also concerned about the availability of supplies such as alcohol and disinfectants and wipes, because in some cases the teachers said they had to buy those supplies themselves after not getting them on time or for some reason at the schools. Also of concern was the functioning of the monitors because it was understood that some monitors are not as vigilant at some schools.

"But the assurance was given from the Ministry of Education that the monitors will be trained again and that the supply issue would be addressed and that there would be a standard protocol for the principals and teachers to follow across the board," Agard added.

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Moïse's death.

Moïse had nominated Henry to the post two days before he was killed, but Henry had not yet been sworn in at the time of Moïse's death. In mid-July, the American, French, European Union and other embassies in Haiti all called for Henry to lead the country in the interim, paving the way for him to take power.

But it didn't take long for questions to arise about Henry's alleged connections to at least one of the assassination's participants, or his alleged attempts to shut down the investigation and cover it

up.

In early August, just a couple of weeks after Henry's inauguration, police investigators produced an initial report on the assassination, as required by Haitian law.

In that report, Haiti's then-top prosecutor Bedford Claude, said that there was clear evidence that phone calls were made between Henry and Badio, a top suspect in the assassination, in the hours after the President's murder.

Claude went public with the evidence in early September, barring him from leaving the country and requesting in a letter that Henry appear for

formal questioning.

"It is confirmed you, Ariel Henry, had multiple phone calls, especially two on July 7, (about two hours after the president was assassinated) at 4:03 AM and 4:20 AM with one of the main suspect(s) wanted in the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, Joseph Felix Badio," Claude said in the letter.

Claude told CNN shortly after the letter was released that he was discussing charges against Henry with a judge.

Henry declined to appear for questioning, and later, Henry told CNN he had "no recollection" of a phone call,

"or if it took place."

He said the allegations by Claude and his boss, Justice Minister Rockefeller Vincent, were merely political.

Several days later, Henry fired Claude and Vincent.

Vincent, the justice minister, has gone into hiding in Haiti, fearing for his safety. He spoke to CNN in the fall about Henry from an undisclosed location.

"He should resign. And we are still waiting for him to resign," he said. "Because on the night of the president's death, a few hours later ... he had phone conversations with the president's assassin," Vincent said.

China denies allegations that Chinese companies pay bribes for contracts in Guyana

CMC - China Wednesday condemned what it said were attempts to “smear and attack China-Guyana cooperation” as it dismissed suggestions that some Chinese companies have been paying bribes to acquire large contracts in Guyana.

On Tuesday, the leader of the opposition People’s National Congress Reform (PNCR), Aubrey Norton, called on the police to launch an investigation into allegations by a Chinese businessman and lobbyist that he had paid bribes to Vice President Bharrat Jagdeo to facilitate Chinese business dealings here.

“I will like to call on the Guyana Police Force to investigate the allegations. It is law enforcement’s responsibility to, when allegations of this nature are made, they should investigate,” Norton told a news conference.

Jagdeo in an interview broadcast on Monday night, rejected claims of kickbacks to facilitate Chinese investors doing business in Guyana.

In the interview with the US-based Vice News that was broadcast on his Facebook page, Jagdeo admits helping people but denied ever taking bribes.

“I help people out but doesn’t mean for consideration. It does not mean for bribe because I believe that we have a mission to help as many as possible move forward in Guyana,” he



Chinese company located in Guyana. [Photo credit: CMC]

said, while admitting that he knows a gentleman whose name is Mr. Su and who is his friend and his tenant.

But Jagdeo insisted that Su would be lying on him if he told the reporter those allegations.

Jagdeo, during the interview, accused the reporter of coming to Guyana to make someone look corrupt based on claims by an anonymous person or her fabrication.

In a statement, the Chinese Embassy here referred to the “fabrication” made during the interview noting that when the journalist from Vice News interviewed Jagdeo, “she was found to come to Guyana with predetermined agenda and tried to smear and attack China-Guyana cooperation, as well as Chinese companies.

“The Chinese Embassy is strongly dissatisfied with and firmly opposed to such violation of professional ethics.”

It said China “highly appreciates that the Government of Guyana upholds the one-China principle and

keeps developing cordial relations with China.

“China-Guyana friendly cooperation, featuring equality, mutual benefit, innovation, openness, and benefits for the people, is in accordance with the interests of the two countries and two peoples, not against any third party, nor should it be influenced by a third party.

“Chinese companies operating in Guyana are following the local laws, international practices, and market rules, participating in big projects through open and fair competitions, which is beyond reproach,” the statement added.

Meanwhile, negotiations for the construction of the new Demerara Harbour Bridge have shifted to the second-ranked bidder on the list of pre-qualified firms after talks between the government and China State Construction Engineering Corporation Ltd. were scrapped over the company’s high cost to build the modern structure.

The new firm is a Joint Venture (JV) company

between China Railway Construction Corporation (International) Ltd., China Railway Construction (Caribbean a) Co. Ltd, and China Railway Construction Bridge Engineering Bureau Group Co. Ltd (China & Trinidad and Tobago).

Public Works Minister Juan Edghill told the online publication, News Room, that the initial company had proposed to construct the bridge at a price of US\$256.6 million but upon examination of the total cost, the interest among variables was just “too high.”

“You have to look at the term sheet, the overall and that was what was kind of problematic,” the Public Works Minister told the News Room.

Edghill had also informed Parliament on Tuesday that the government has aside GUY\$21 billion (One Guyana dollar=US\$0.0054 cents) for the construction of the new Demerara Harbour Bridge including fair compensation to property owners.

“We have to look at the fact that you’re building this bridge and if somebody is bringing total financing and they have to recoup their financing, the price of tolls will go out of whack,” he told legislators, adding that the amount would include Guyana’s contribution for the construction of the bridge at the best price in two years.

New York joins several other U.S. states in rolling back mask mandates as infections fall

New York Times- Gov. Kathy Hochul will drop New York's stringent indoor mask mandate on Wednesday, ending a requirement that businesses ask customers for proof of full vaccination or require mask-wearing at all times, and marking a turning point in the state's coronavirus response, according to three people briefed on her decision.

The decision will eliminate a rule that prompted legal and interpersonal clashes over mask wearing, especially in conservative parts of New York. It was set to expire on Thursday and would have required renewing.

Ms. Hochul is expected to let the mask mandate lapse just as a crushing winter surge in coronavirus cases is finally receding. But it was as yet unclear whether the governor would renew or drop a separate mask mandate in New York schools that expires in two weeks.

Still, the easing of New York's pandemic restrictions on businesses comes as Democratic-led states from New Jersey to California have announced similar moves this week, in a loosely coordinated effort that is the result of months of public-health planning, back-channel discussions and political focus groups

that began in the weeks after the November election.

The moves highlight how even local officials who installed sweeping safety measures early in the pandemic are now preparing to live permanently with the virus.

"This is not a declaration of victory as much as an acknowledgment that we can responsibly live with this thing," Gov. Philip D. Murphy of New Jersey, a Democrat who imposed some of the nation's toughest pandemic-related mandates, said on Monday. Under Mr. Murphy's new policy, which will take effect the second week of March, students and school employees in the state will no longer be required to wear masks.

Shortly after the New Jersey announcement on Monday, the Democratic leaders in California, Connecticut, Delaware and Oregon separately said they would also end some mask mandates.

Connecticut will permit students and staff members to stop wearing masks in schools by no later than Feb. 28; Delaware will end mask mandates in schools by March 31. Oregon and California announced the end to mask mandates at



Gov. Kathy Hochul of New York in Brooklyn last month. She is dropping the state's indoor mask mandate this week. [Photo credit: New York Times]

indoor public spaces.

The moves to eliminate mask mandates in these states come as the number of reported cases has dipped to its lowest level since the highly contagious Omicron variant touched off a wave of cases in December.

As of Tuesday, the daily average of new cases in the United States dropped to around 240,000, the lowest that figure has been since late December, according to a Times database.

Though the daily average of hospitalizations has steadily declined since its peak on January 20, the daily average of deaths linked to the virus has hovered at nearly 2,600 since January 27.

Peru's president swears in fourth cabinet in six months



Peru's President Pedro Castillo, left, swears in Anibal Torres as his new prime minister [Photo credit: AP]

Al Jazeera - Peruvian President Pedro Castillo has sworn in his fourth cabinet since taking office six months ago, replacing his latest prime minister who lasted three days on the job.

The latest reshuffle comes amid continued internal struggles within the government that have defined the left-wing leader's first months as president.

Castillo has also faced attacks from far-right opposition groups – who have sought unsuccessfully to impeach him – and from Peru's ruling Marxist Free Peru party, under which he was elected but has since distanced himself. The party has condemned the president's more centrist economic policies.

On Tuesday, Castillo
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UN court orders Uganda to pay \$325m in reparations to DR Congo

Al Jazeera - The International Court of Justice orders Kampala to pay the damages which is a fraction of the \$11bn demanded by Kinshasa.

The UN's top court on Wednesday ordered Uganda to pay the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) \$325m in reparations over a brutal war between the African neighbours that began in the late 1990s.

"The court notes that the reparation awarded to the DRC for damage to persons and to property reflects the harm suffered by individuals and communities as a result of Uganda's breach of its international obligations," the court's president, US judge Joan E Donoghue, said.

The compensation order



A Congolese man looks at the destruction of the Tshopo neighbourhood of Kisangani, where Rwandan and Ugandan armies had battled for a week before the Rwandans succeeded in pushing the Ugandan soldiers out in June 2000. [Photo credit: AP]

came more than 15 years after the UN court ruled in a complex, 119-page judgement that fighting by Ugandan troops in DRC breached international law. In 2005 the ICJ ruled that Uganda

had to pay reparations, but they were never paid.

The sum awarded was well below the request for more than \$11bn in damages DRC had demanded for the occupation of its

volatile northeastern Ituri region.

The court broke down the compensation into different categories of damages. It assessed \$225m for "loss of life and other damage to persons" that included rape, conscription of child soldiers and the displacement of up to 500,000 people.

It assessed another \$40m for damage to property and \$60m for damage to natural resources, including the plundering of gold, diamonds, timber and other goods by Ugandan forces or rebels they supported.

The ruling by the Hague-based court is a blow to DRC after a long legal battle for compensation over the devastating 1998-

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swore in as prime minister Anibal Torres, a 79-year-old who has been the head of the justice ministry since the current government took power in July.

That came a week after Castillo, a school teacher who campaigned on restructuring the Latin American country's economy to better serve the poor, swore in his third cabinet following the surprise resignation of Prime Minister Mirtha Vasquez due to disagreements over promotions in the police force.

In his place, Castillo appointed lawyer and parliamentarian Hector Valer Pinto, who left the role after Lima media reported that his wife and daughter had denounced him in 2016 for alleged domestic violence.

In the latest shuffle, Castillo also

named Hernan Condori, a doctor with experience in the Amazon Indigenous territories, as his health minister amid a surge in cases of the Omicron coronavirus variant.

He named nuclear physicist Modesto Montoya environment minister amid an ongoing disaster in Peru's capital following the mid-January spill of 11,900 barrels of oil into the Pacific Ocean

Castillo left previously appointed finance minister Oscar Graham and foreign minister Cesar Landa in their posts.

Political analyst Eduardo Ballon told the daily La Republica that Castillo's cabinet woes were "the continuation of a longstanding crisis" in Peru's political system.

Since 2017, the country has faced bouts of political instability as legisla-

tors pushed repeated impeachment, or "vacancy" motions, in Congress to remove presidents.

The country had three presidents in five days in November 2020.

Torres now has 30 days to get a vote of confidence from Congress for the new cabinet, or he will be forced to make a fifth round of appointments.

Castillo's incoming Prime Minister Torres has notably been in favour of sending former President Alberto Fujimori, in power from 1990 to 2000, to a common prison instead of his current special prison to serve out his 25-year sentence for his role in killings by death squads.

Fujimori is the father of Castillo's rival, former presidential candidate Keiko Fujimori.

North Korea boasts of 'shaking the world' by testing missiles that can strike the US

CNN - North Korea boasted on Tuesday that it is one of only a handful of countries in the world to field nuclear weapons and advanced missiles and the only one standing up to the United States by "shaking the world" with missile tests.

International tension has been rising over a recent series of North Korean ballistic missile tests, actions long banned by the United Nations Security Council. January was a record month of such tests, with at least seven launches, including a new type of "hypersonic missile" able to maneuver at high speed.

Also among the tests was the first firing since 2017 of a Hwasong-12 intermediate-range ballistic missile, capable of striking US territories in the Pacific Ocean.

A statement from North Korea's Foreign Ministry said a series of tests since New Year represented "remarkable achievements" that strengthened North Korea's "war deterrence."

It also cited the Hwasong-15, the longest-range intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) ever launched by North Korea, which hasn't been fired since its first test in 2017, and is believed to have the range to deliver a nuclear warhead anywhere in the US.

"In today's world where many countries waste time dealing with the United States with submission and blind obedience, there's only our country on this planet that can shake the world by firing



North Korea tests a missile on January 27 in photo released by state media. [Photo credit: CNN]

a missile with the US mainland in its range," it said.

"There are more than 200 countries in the world, but only a few have hydrogen bombs, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and hypersonic missiles," it said.

Asked to comment, the US State Department repeated past statements that it harboured no hostile intent towards North Korea and urging a return to dialog, calls Pyongyang has persistently ignored.

A State Department spokesperson also called North Korea a threat to international peace and security and global non-proliferation efforts.

"The United States has a vital interest in deterring (North Korea), defend-

ing against its provocations or uses of force, limiting the reach of its most dangerous weapons programs, and above all keeping the American people, our deployed forces, and our allies safe," the spokesperson said.

North Korea celebrated the anniversary of the founding of its army on Tuesday, a holiday that has occasionally featured major military parades with missiles and other weapons in previous years.

There were no reports of a parade this year, however, and state media said the day was marked by senior military leaders visiting the mausoleum of the country's former rulers, among other events.

US and South Korean officials have said they fear the launch of the Hwasong-12 on January 30 could be a step toward fully resuming tests of North Korea's ICBMs or nuclear weapons. North Korea has not conducted a nuclear test or fired an ICBM since 2017.

Talks to persuade Pyongyang to give up or limit its arsenal in return for sanctions relief have been stalled since 2019.

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2003 conflict that left thousands of people dead.

Judge Donoghue said there was "insufficient evidence to support the DRC's claim of 180,000 civilian deaths for which Uganda owes reparation".

"The court considers that the evidence presented to it suggests

that the number of deaths for which Uganda owes reparations falls in the range of 10,000 to 15,000 persons," she added.

At its height, the conflict drew in nine African countries, with Uganda and Rwanda backing rebel forces against the Kinshasa government as they jostled for control of the mineral-rich Ituri region.

Sports News

ANTHONY AND HARRISON
POINT PRESS

Chelsea's unvaccinated players set to miss away Champions League tie

Chelsea's unvaccinated players look set to miss next month's Champions League tie at French club Lille after Uefa updated its Covid-19 rules.

France does not allow unvaccinated people to enter the country. But it was hoped that Chelsea could move the second leg of their last-16 tie to a neutral venue in order to use their whole squad.

However, new rules issued by UEFA on Tuesday now mean that a switch will not be possible.

Chelsea will host Lille in the first leg on 22 February with the return leg in France on 16 March.

The club, which is in Abu Dhabi for the Club World Cup, has not disclosed who or how many players are unvaccinated.

Manager Thomas Tuchel, who



tested positive for coronavirus on Saturday and is not yet in Abu Dhabi, has previously said: "At some point, everybody who is not vaccinated will face some consequences."

"If players are not allowed to travel

to France, this can create problems for us in not being able to use key players."

Earlier this month, the Premier League said 80% of its players had been double jabbed

Pat Cummins says no issues with Justin Langer

Australia Test captain Pat Cummins has said the players never had an issue with recently departed head coach Justin Langer's "intensity", but believes the team would benefit from a "more collaborative" approach.

Last week, Langer resigned after rejecting Cricket Australia's short-term contract offer.

Cummins told a news conference it was time "for a different direction."

"A big theme this summer was to be more calm, more composed," said Cummins. "That has been the feedback from the players, staff and Cricket Australia that that's the direc-



tion we want to take the team."

Langer, who took over in 2018 following the Australia ball-tampering scandal, won the T20 World Cup and the Ashes in the last

three months of his tenure. However, prior to his departure, reports in Australia suggested the 51-year-old did not have the support of the dressing room, with players said to be unhappy

with his leadership style.

Former Australian cricketers including Ricky Ponting, Shane Warne, Adam Gilchrist and Matthew Hayden criticised Cricket Australia for "pushing" Langer out of the job. But in a statement released shortly before he addressed reporters at a news conference, Cummins said he was "sticking up for his teammates".

"Justin has acknowledged that his style was intense. And it was. He has apologised to players and staff for his intensity. I think the apology was unnecessary because the players, we were Ok with Justin's intensity."

India eased past West Indies in 2nd ODI



India defeated West Indies by 44 runs in the second One-day International at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad.

The Caribbean side won the toss and decided to field. India led by Yadav who scored 64 and Rahul 49 steered the host to 237 for 9.

Alzarri Joseph and Smith were the pick of the West Indies bowlers with two scalps each.

In response West Indies was bowled out for 193 with Brooks the pick of the batsmen with 44 and Hosein 34.

The final match of the series will be played on 11 February.

Serena Williams preparing for retirement from tennis

Serena Williams is “prepared” for retirement from tennis.

The 40-year-old star has admitted she’s been getting herself ready to step away from the sport “for over a decade” after following the advice of her father Richard Williams, who is played by Will Smith in biopic “King Richard.”

She told Entertainment Tonight, “I’m prepared for that day, I’ve been prepared for that day for over a decade.

“You know at the end of the day, I think it’s really important to always have a plan and that’s kind of what I did. I always had a plan.”

Serena - who has four-year-old daughter Olympia with her husband Alexis Ohanian - has a wealth of business ventures aside from her tennis career, and she admitted sometimes her



Serena Williams with her husband and daughter

packed schedule can be overwhelming.

She added: “It is a balancing act and some days it’s harder than the oth-

ers. I definitely want to have more kids, it’s just like, balance is key, you know, and just trying to find that balance.”

FIA aware of new leaked footage of Masi and Red Bull

The FIA say they are aware of radio messages between a Red Bull chief and race director Michael Masi that have raised fresh questions over the outcome of the Abu Dhabi title decider, according to reports.

Max Verstappen, 24, snatched the Formula One world championship from rival Lewis Hamilton, 37, in dramatic fashion two months ago, with supporters calling into question the decision-making of Masi in the final knockings of the race. Having led from the start of the race, a safety car was deployed with five laps remaining following a collision involving Nicholas Latifi.

Hamilton looked set to coast to victory with five lapped cars separating himself and Red Bull Verstappen. However, Masi ordered the lapped cars to unlap

themselves, resulting in Verstappen closing the gap on his British rival. With the Dutchman on a fresher set of Tyres, he was able to pass Hamilton on the final lap to win the championship.

Masi has been accused of giving into pressure applied by Red Bull chief Christian Horner and sporting director Jonathan Wheatley, resulting in his decision not to follow the FIA rules and allow the cars to pass. And video footage of a conversation between Masi and sporting director Wheatley appears to provide further evidence of the race director reacting to Red Bull's demands. In radio messages, Masi is heard receiving advice from Wheatley on how to deal with the lapped cars with Red Bull desperate for a final-lap shootout.

Masi takes on the mes-



Michael Masi

sages from Wheatley, then decides to instruct the five lapped cars to unlap themselves. When questioned by Mercedes chief Toto Wolff, Masi is heard repeating the same language used by Wheatley in the previous message.

Wheatley first says: "Those lapped cars; you don't need to let them go right the way around and catch up with the back of the pack. You only need to let them go, and then we've got a motor race on our hands."

The Australian responds before making his decision.

When Wolff demands a reason for that controversial call, Masi replies: "Toto it's called a motor race, OK?"

The BBC reports that the FIA have access to all radio communication from Abu Dhabi so are aware of the footage.

They are due to release the findings of their inquiry into the controversial ending to the season finale at a meeting of the F1 Commission next Monday.

West Ham United footballer Kurt Zouma's two Pet cats removed



Kurt Zouma

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has taken West Ham defender Kurt Zouma's pet cats away after videos emerged on social media of him kicking and slapping one of them.

The RSPCA is liaising with Essex Police about the incident.

"The two cats are now in RSPCA care," said a charity spokesperson.

The Premier League club say they have fined Zouma "the maximum amount possible" and the fee will be donated to animal welfare charities.

More than 150,000 people have

signed an online petition calling for Zouma to be prosecuted, while one of West Ham's sponsors, Vitality, has suspended its deal with the Club.

West Ham said Zouma "willingly complied with the steps taken in the initial stage of the process, including delivering his family's two cats to the RSPCA for assessment.

The RSPCA spokesman added: "Our priority is and has always been the wellbeing of these cats.

West Ham United have condemned Kurt's actions but noted that Zouma is very sorry and remorseful.

Antigua Sailing Week gets support from Calvinair Helicopters



CalvinAir Helicopters has joined a growing list of local corporate supporters as the newest sponsor of Antigua Sailing Week (ASW) 2022.

Founded in 2019, CalvinAir Helicopters offers the best in aerial tour experiences & helicopter charters supported by state-of-the-art aircraft, and friendly experienced staff.

Based on the island of Antigua, their operation provides services from two convenient heliports; one near St. John's and the other just outside of Jolly Harbour.

Additionally, they operate a hangar at the V. C. Bird International Airport as well as heliports in Barbuda. CalvinAir Helicopters is licensed as both an Air Operator as well as an Approved Maintenance Organisation.

Commenting on the partnership ASW, Chief Executive Officer of CalvinAir Helicopters, Mark Fleming



said, "We are very proud to have our brand associated with one of the premier Caribbean regatta events. Having contributed to last year's virtual edition of ASW, we were happy to have the opportunity to up our support by partnering for the return of this incredible event."

ASW organisers noted that they are delighted that the event is so high-

ly valued and supported by local corporate entities.

"Antigua Sailing Week is entering an exciting phase as we regain momentum after two consecutive cancellations and a global pandemic. This partnership is a testament to the high regard that corporations have for ASW. We welcome CalvinAir Helicopters' commitment and look forward to building a long-term partnership that will enhance the ASW experience for all our participants," explained ASW president, Alison Sly-Adams.

The 53rd edition of Antigua Sailing Week will take place from April 30th to May 6th and attracts crews and yachts from across the globe. A fleet of 70 boats are already lined up with 3 months still to go until the start of the Peters & May Round Antigua Race followed by Antigua Sailing Week – April 30th to May 6th.